

Lesson 3

Jesus Christ

Who is Jesus Christ?

Jesus Christ is the second Person of the Godhead, the Son of God. One of the most important events in history was the *incarnation*. This is when God became man. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God** . . . And **the Word was made flesh**, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth" (John 1:1,14). Jesus Christ "made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was **made in the likeness of men**" (Philippians 2:7).

Another very important doctrine in the Bible is the *Deity of Christ*. The word "deity" refers to a divine nature or Godhood. Jesus Christ is both God and man. He has two natures, but is one Person.

Jesus Christ is God

Some proofs of the Deity of Jesus Christ include:

He is eternal

Jesus Christ's existence did not begin when He was born in Bethlehem. He was present when the world was created. Though Abraham lived about two thousand years before the birth of Christ, "Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, **Before Abraham was, I am**" (John 8:58). The Father loved the Son **before the foundation of the world** (John 17:24). We previously quoted John 1:1 which states that Jesus Christ was "**in the beginning**" and Micah 5:2 says He is "**from everlasting**."¹

He is called God

We refer again to John 1:1, which speaking of Jesus Christ, says: ". . . and the Word was **God**." Thomas acknowledged this when he said to Jesus, "My Lord and my **God**" (John 20:28). Notice the words that God the Father spoke to Jesus Christ: "But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O **God**, is for ever and ever . . ." (Hebrews 1:8).

He is omnipresent

¹ Isaiah 9:6-7; John 1:15; John 17:5; Hebrews 1:11-12; I John 1:1

(present in all places at the same time)

While **on earth**, Jesus Christ said: "And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man **which is in heaven**" (John 3:13). Thus, He was in heaven while on earth. He promised His disciples "**I am with you alway**" (Matthew 28:20).

He is omniscient

(knows all things)

His disciples said: "Now are we sure that thou **knowest all things**, and needest not that any man should ask thee: by this we believe that thou camest forth from God" (John 16:30). In Christ "are hid **all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge**" (Colossians 2:3). The Samaritan woman testified: "Come, see a man, which **told me all things that ever I did**: is not this the Christ?" (John 4:29). Jesus Christ knew the thoughts of men (Luke 11:17). He knew how He would die (John 12:33).²

He is omnipotent

(has unlimited power)

He upholds "all things by the word of his **power**" and is called "The **mighty** God" and "the **Almighty**" (Hebrews 1:3; Isaiah 9:6; Revelation 1:8). He has power over demons (Mark 5:11-15), disease (Luke 4:38-41), and death (Matthew 9:11-25).³

He is immutable

(never changes)

Speaking of Jesus Christ, Hebrews 1:12 states: ". . . they shall be changed: but **thou art the same**, and thy years shall not fail." "Jesus Christ **the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever**" (Hebrews 13:8). [He does not change in His eternal Deity, character, and plans. However, He does change in His form and ministry. For example, He "took upon him the form of a servant" (Philippians 2:7).]

He forgave sins

² Matthew 16:21; Luke 6:8; John 2:24-25; John 13:1; John 21:17

³ Matthew 21:19; Luke 7:12-16; John 2:3-11; John 11:38-44

"And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; **thy sins be forgiven thee**" (John 9:2). Only God can forgive sins (Mark 2:5-7; Luke 7:47-49).

He will raise the dead in the resurrection

"And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and **I will raise him up at the last day**" (John 6:40).⁴ This is not just raising to life a dead person such as the raising of Lazarus (John 11:38-44). Those raised in the resurrection will have been decomposed, but will be raised, never to die again (I Corinthians 15:52).

He will execute eternal judgment

"For the Father judgeth no man, but **hath committed all judgment unto the Son**" (John 5:22).⁵

He was called Emmanuel

"Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, **God with us**" (Matthew 1:23).

Review Questions

True or False

1. Jesus Christ is the second Person of the Trinity.
2. Jesus Christ had no beginning and will have no end.
3. Since Jesus Christ has a physical body, He can only be in one place at a time.
4. Jesus Christ has unlimited power.

⁴ John 5:25-29; John 6:39; John 6:54

⁵ Acts 10:41-42; Acts 17:31; Romans 14:10; II Corinthians 5:10; Revelation 19:15

Multiple Choice

5. The Bible tells us that Jesus Christ forgave sin. This proves that He is:

- a. A man
- b. A priest
- c. God
- d. A prophet

6. The *incarnation* of Christ means that:

- a. God became man
- b. Mary was a virgin
- c. Christ ascended into heaven
- d. Jesus Christ never changes

7. The doctrine of the Deity of Christ means that:

- a. Jesus lived a good life
- b. Jesus Christ is God
- c. Jesus Christ died on the cross
- d. Jesus came in the likeness of man

Fill in the Blanks

8. God the Father called Jesus Christ ___.

9. "Now are we sure that thou _____ all things"

10. "They shall be changed: but thou art _____"

For Further Study

1. Why is the doctrine of the Deity of Christ so important?

2. What do we learn about Jesus Christ in John 1:3 and Hebrews 1:10?

3. What does Revelation 22:13 tell us about Jesus Christ?

4. When Jesus Christ is called the "Son of Man," does this mean that He is only a man? Explain your answer. Read Matthew 9:6 and John 5:27.
5. What name is given to God the Father in Matthew 4:7? What name is given to Jesus Christ in Matthew 7:22? (Also see Matthew 11:25 and Matthew 8:2)
6. Some religions teach that the name "Son of God" means that Jesus Christ cannot actually be God. Is this true? Explain your answer. Read John 5:18 and John 10:30-33.
7. How is the equality of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit seen in the following verses? Read Matthew 28:19 and II Corinthians 13:14.
8. A person who accepts worship is either God or a deceiver. What can you conclude about Jesus Christ in Matthew 14:33 and Matthew 28:9?
9. What did Jesus Christ say about Himself? Why is this important? Read John 10:30 and John 14:9.
10. List five names given to Jesus Christ in Isaiah 9:6-7.

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