

Did Jesus Christ Claim To Be God?

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Introduction

Who is this man Jesus Christ of Nazareth? Many people disagree about who Jesus Christ really was or is. Was He just a great teacher? Was He just one of the prophets of God? Is He actually the God of all creation? There has been much debate on this topic for centuries. People have sacrificed their lives for their belief on this subject.

The issue over whether Jesus Christ claimed to be God was the key reason for His rejection by the Jewish religious establishment of His day. This rejection led to His suffering and death. It is also true that there are those today who think Jesus was a great man, great teacher, and great prophet, but they think He was not God. However, how could Jesus be a great man, great teacher, or great prophet of God, and claim to be God if He weren't?

Some have said that Jesus Christ never claimed to be God. Therefore, the belief that He is God is not warranted. This book is written to testify that not only is Jesus Christ God but that He Himself testified that He is God. Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. (John 14:6) He would never be deceptive about this or any other issue as He is the Truth. The Holy Scriptures also testify that Jesus is God.

The divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ is essential to our understanding of God and His Christ, the Anointed One. How important is this doctrine? As we will see, it is fundamental to the Christian faith. This is not something that we can treat lightly and believe or not believe. It goes to the very core of Christianity and whether we truly believe in Jesus Christ. This, of course, has ramifications regarding our salvation.

So, it is very important that we are clear regarding the divinity of Jesus Christ. As Christians, we must know the truth and then teach the truth as Christ is the "Truth". We will therefore examine the Word of God in this book to determine the truth about Jesus and whether He is who He claimed to be. We need to remember that Jesus Christ is the incarnate Word of God. Jesus is the Author of the Holy Bible.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (John 1:1)

Therefore what is said in both the Old and New Testaments is authored by Christ Himself.

And the Word became 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 1:14)

Let us be blessed by the Lord as we study His Word on this all important topic.

Chapter 1

First Things First

As I start this book, I would like to offer the reader something of immense value. Perhaps you are not a Christian but have decided to read this book out of curiosity. If that is the case, I would like to make a plea for you to consider the man called Jesus of Nazareth who is the Christ or Anointed One of God. Consider the following historical facts about Him:

He was born some 2,000 years ago in poverty.

He was trained as a common carpenter.

He was never educated.

He never wrote a book.

He never traveled more than about 150 miles from His birth place.

He owned no possessions other than the clothes He wore.

He was executed on a cross between two thieves as a common criminal.

He had twelve disciples most of whom were murdered because of their belief and witness of who He claimed to be.

Yet this man is proclaimed by the largest religion in the world to be God who came in the flesh. He is without a doubt the most famous and influential person who has ever lived. The dates we use are either before his birth (BC) or after it (AD). This ought to make everyone, whether a Christian or not, pause and reflect upon this man and give great credence to the biblical account of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, the Savior of the world.

⁴² Then they said to the woman, "Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world." (John 4:42)

Jesus gave us the greatest sermon ever preached, the Sermon on the Mount. (Matthew 5-7) He taught us the Golden Rule to treat others the way we want to be treated. (Matt. 7:12) He taught us the two greatest commandments. We should love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and love others as ourselves. (Matt. 22:37-40) He has been called a great prophet and teacher of God. This much is universally accepted. However, is He God?

We have only three possibilities to consider in answering this question. First, He lied about who He was. Second, He was insane. Third, He is who He claimed to be, the Son of God and equal with God.

Let's examine the first two possibilities. How could a man who taught such lofty and godly principles of love toward God and man be a deceiver or insane? Why would He have gone to the cross and died a tortuous death by scourging and crucifixion for a cause He knew to be false? Why would His disciples sacrifice their lives for a cause they knew was false? Neither the first nor second options make sense and therefore are not credible possibilities.

This leaves us only with option three: that He was who He claimed to be, very God come in the flesh. Here is what I would like you to consider about this man whom the Bible testifies of.

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)

If you are not a believer in Jesus Christ, it is my hope and prayer that after reading this book you would become His disciple and follower. There is nothing more important in this life than to become a child of God. There is only one way to the Father and that one and only way is to have saving faith in Jesus Christ.

⁶ *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. (John 14:6)*

Part of believing in Jesus (John 3:16) is to believe in who He was and is. We will be looking at that in greater detail in this book.

Chapter 2

Did Jesus Deny that He Was God?

As stated before, there are many who have said that Jesus never claimed to be God therefore He is not the Almighty One. They refer to some of His words that seem to them to indicate that He is actually denying His divinity.

Let us look at some of those verses that seem to indicate that Jesus said He was not God. Remember that Jesus is the eternal Word of God (John 1:1-2) so whatever Scripture says is what Jesus is testifying to.

The First Born

He is the image of the invisible God, the first born over all creation.
(Col. 1:15)

And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the first born from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. (Col. 1:18)

At issue with these verses are the words, "...*the first born...*" These few words seem to imply that Jesus had a beginning, when He was born, and therefore was not the eternal God. However, what is often missed is that these words refer to Jesus as being the first person to have received a glorified body after death. He was the first person to be resurrected into a glorified body therefore He is "the first born from the dead". Later, at the return of Christ to Earth, all Christians who have died will receive their glorified bodies as will all Christians who are living. However, Jesus was the first one born into a glorified body. Those who have received their glorified bodies will never die again.

Other people in Scripture were raised from the dead. Most notable of those was Jesus' good friend Lazarus whom He raised from the dead.

On all these occasions, the people came back to life but in their same flesh-and-blood bodies; they later died again. Jesus is the first and only One who was raised from the dead and received His glorified, eternal body.

All we have to do is to look at the verses between these two to see Jesus' deity.

For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. (Col. 1:16-17)

This is referring to Jesus who is the Creator of all things, and "He is before all things". He created all things in heaven and Earth. He holds all things together by His wise Providence. Only God could have done this. Jesus Christ is clearly God.

If Jesus is God Why Didn't He Know the Time of His Return?

One day Jesus' disciples came to Him for answers to some important questions.

³ *Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" (Matt. 24:3)*

Jesus responded to their question about when He would return as follows:

But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. (Mark 13:32)

If Jesus is God and all-knowing, how could He not have known when He would be returning to Earth for Christians?

To explain this, I would like to borrow a passage from my previous book, Free Grace or Free Will? God's Free Salvation Plan, p.86.

"Jesus Christ possessed two natures. One was His human nature and one was His divine nature. We see His human nature when He "wept" at Lazarus' funeral, when He asked his Father to remove the cup at the Garden of Gethsemane, and when He tired, was thirsty, and needed rest and sleep. In the garden, His divine side knew it was the Father's will for Him to suffer the cross, yet His human side requested that this cup be removed. (Matt. 26:39) We see also that Christ's human side did not know the time of His return in power and glory to the Earth after His resurrection (Mark 13:32), yet His divine side, of course, did know this fact."

Although Jesus was all-knowing, He supernaturally had this one piece of information blocked out of His mind. We are not told why in Scripture. He thought it was good not to know this date in His humanity. This does not negate His divinity. It just shows His humility while in the flesh. Jesus was all-knowing as He knew the very thoughts of men.

Once when a paralyzed man was brought to Jesus to be healed, He told the man his sins were forgiven.

³ And at once some of the scribes said within themselves, "This Man blasphemes!" ⁴ But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? ⁵ For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise and walk'? ⁶ But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins"—then He said to the paralytic, "Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house." ⁷ And he arose and departed to his house. (Matt. 9:3-7)

Only God, who is omniscient, can know the very thoughts of men. This proves Jesus was God.

Only God is Good

Once a young man approached Jesus with a very important question regarding how one could obtain eternal life.

Now behold, one came and said to Him, "Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life? So He said to Him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments." (Matt. 19:16-17)

After a casual reading of these two verses, we are left with the impression that Jesus is denying that He is God. What Jesus says here about no one being good agrees with the Scriptures.

"...there is none who does good, no, not one." (Rom. 3:12)

Jesus is not denying His divinity. His question to this one who came to Him is to teach him and us something very important. He is teaching us that if you call Him good, you must also call Him God for no one is good other than God. Jesus is saying here that He is God because He is good.

Jesus also called Himself "good" which proves He considered Himself God.

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep." (John 10:11)

The Father is Greater than Jesus

²⁸ *You have heard Me say to you, 'I am going away and coming back to you.' If you loved Me, you would rejoice because I said, 'I am going to the Father,' for My Father is greater than I. (John 14:28)*

When Jesus states that the Father is greater than He is, He is not denying His own deity. As I have already written in this book, while on earth Jesus possessed two natures, one divine and one human. It was in His humanity that the Father was greater than Jesus. Our Lord humbled Himself and became a lowly man. Jesus subordinated Himself to the Father when He came to Earth to serve and not be served. In His humility and humanity, He voluntarily for a short time gave up His glory that He had with the Father in eternity past. His glory did break through once in His humanity in His transfiguration on the mount which was witnessed by His disciples, Peter, James, and John.

¹ Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; ² and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. ³ And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. (Matt. 17:1-3)

In this episode, we see the glory of His deity break forth. Although He gave up His glory for a brief time in His humanity, this revelation of His glory before these three disciples was proof that He was God.

Made a Little Lower than the Angels

⁹ But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone. (Heb. 2:9)

In His humanity, Jesus was made a little lower than the angels. As a man, He needed rest and sleep, became hungry and thirsty, and could suffer pain and death. His body could be at only one place at a time. Angels are far more powerful than mankind. In his birth as a man, He was made a little lower than the angels. Yet, He was still God in the flesh. Only God could do the miracles that He did such as raising people from the dead.

Was John the Baptist Greater than Jesus?

¹¹ "Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. (Matt. 11:11)

Does the fact that Jesus was also born of a woman mean that John the Baptist is greater than He was and thus Jesus could not be God? Jesus was not including Himself in those born of a woman. Except Christ, everyone who was born of a woman had an earthly father. Jesus' conception took place by the power of the Holy Spirit.

³⁴ Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?"³⁵ And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. (Luke 1:34,35)

John the Baptist answered this issue himself about who was greater when he said the following about Jesus:

³⁰ He must increase, but I must decrease. ³¹ He who comes from above is above all; he who is of the earth is earthly and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all. (John 3:30,31)

¹¹ I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. (Matt. 3:11)

Is Jesus Saying Only the Father is God?

³ And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. (John 17:3)

¹⁷ Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.'" (John 20:17)

Jesus Christ, as God the Son, is co-equal with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. More will be said about this later in this book. Again, in His humanity Jesus subordinated Himself to His Father as the Son. Therefore it is entirely appropriate that Jesus, as God the Son, talk about His Father as His God.

Chapter 3

"I AM"

Moses Talks to God at the Burning Bush

In Genesis chapter 46, we read that Jacob and his family of 70 left Palestine because of famine and traveled to Egypt and lived in the land of Goshen. Joseph, the beloved son of Jacob, was the Prime Minister of Egypt. However, after Joseph died and was buried, the Egyptians enslaved the Israelites in fear of their rapidly growing population. After some 400 years, it was time for God to send them a deliverer.

When Moses stood before God at the burning bush, the Lord told him He was sending him to Pharaoh to bring the children of Israel out of bondage in Egypt. Moses asked God what name he should call Him when talking to the Israelites.

¹⁴ *And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" (Ex. 3:14)*

God was referring to Himself as the eternal I AM. He is the eternal present. He has always existed and will always exist. Only God can make that claim. For a mere human to falsely make that claim would be blasphemy.

"Before Abraham was, I AM"

Now let us fast forward to the New Testament during Jesus' earthly ministry. Jesus had many disagreements with the Jews and the Jewish religious leaders consisting of the scribes, Pharisees, and Sadducees. During one such disagreement, Jesus said the following:

⁵¹ *Most assuredly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he shall never see death.* ⁵² *Then the Jews said to Him, "Now we know that*

You have a demon! Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and You say, 'If anyone keeps My word he shall never taste death.' ⁵³ *Are You greater than our father Abraham, who is dead? And the prophets are dead. Who do You make Yourself out to be?"* (John 8:51-53)

The Jews here misunderstood Jesus. He was saying that whoever keeps or believes in His word has eternal life and will never taste spiritual death in hell and the lake of fire. He was not referring to physical death. Then the Jews focused on the central issue of their conflict with Jesus. They asked Him if He were greater than Abraham or the prophets. Abraham was revered by the Jews. He was called Father Abraham for he was the first Jew. Probably the most revered and respected persons for the Jews were Abraham, Moses, and Elijah.

The Jews directly asked Jesus if He was greater than their father Abraham or the prophets that would include Moses and Elijah. Then they asked the really key question. "Who do You make Yourself out to be?" Jesus is about to answer that question for them. His reply also answers the question in the title of this book.

⁵⁶ *Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad.*" ⁵⁷ *Then the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?"* ⁵⁸ *Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM."* ⁵⁹ *Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.* (John 8:56-59)

Since the Jews had so much reverence for their father Abraham, Jesus answered their question by telling them He was greater than Abraham. He told them that Abraham rejoiced to see His day and was glad. The Jews, after hearing Jesus, felt they had trapped Him in His own words since only a crazy man with a demon would make such a preposterous statement. Jesus was not yet fifty years old in His physical body so there was no way Jesus could have personally known Abraham.

Jesus explains to them how He could make that statement. He told them "... before Abraham was, I AM." Jesus used the very same name for Himself that God told Moses to call Him. These Jews understood

that Jesus was telling them that He was God because they took up stones to kill Him for what they perceived was blasphemy. It wasn't blasphemy because, in the case of Jesus, it was the truth. Jesus is the eternal God, the great "I AM".

Other "I Am" Sayings of Jesus

There are other verses in the Bible when Jesus speaks of Himself as being the "I am" of the Bible. Note the following verses:

⁵¹ *I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.*" (John 6:51)

Jesus is the "I am" that came down from heaven which speaks to His deity. Jesus is alive and well; He is the Living Bread who came down from heaven, the abode of God. How is Jesus the Living Bread? As we read of Him in the Scriptures, pray to Him, believe in His atoning sacrificial death for us, and live our lives in obedience to Him we partake of Him and thus eat of His Bread or Flesh.

⁹ *I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.* (John 10:9)

Jesus is the "I am" that is the only Door through which a person can enter paradise or heaven. Salvation can only happen if a person enters through Him. We must have saving faith in Jesus who is the Door of salvation.

¹¹ *"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.* (John 10:11)

Jesus is the "I am" who is the Good Shepherd. Jesus died for His sheep. His deity is attested to by the fact that He claimed that He is the Good Shepherd and there is no one good but God. (Matt. 19:17)

³⁶ *do you say of Him whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God'?* (John 10:36)

Jesus Christ taught that He was the "I am", the Son of God. The Jews understood what He meant by this title. He meant that He was actually God, equal with God as God's Son. This certainly would have been blasphemy unless it was the truth.

⁶ *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.* (John 14:6)

This verse shows the sovereign power of God as Jesus is the "I am" who is the way, the truth, and the life. The only way to the Father is by and through Jesus.

Jesus is the "I am" that represents the true vine or main trunk of the tree. The power of God flows through Him to us. Without Him, we can do nothing. We have no spiritual ability unless we have Jesus.

¹ *"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³ You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. ⁵ "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.* (John 15:1-5)

Jesus clearly taught that He was the eternal God by stating that before Abraham was, "I AM".

Chapter 4

The Son of Man

Early in my Christian experience, I never thought too much about the fact that Jesus often referred to Himself as the Son of Man. I knew He was the Son of God. However, this title He used didn't seem to me that important. Later, I felt that Jesus used this title to show His kinship with mankind which was true. However, what I ultimately learned was that this title He used was an Old Testament scriptural proof of His deity. While some of the prophets in the Old Testament referred to themselves as "son of man", Jesus referred to Himself as "the Son of Man".

Daniel's Vision

In chapter seven of his book, Daniel describes a vision he has. In this vision, he mentions the Son of Man.

¹³ " *I was watching in the night visions,
And behold, One like the Son of Man,
Coming with the clouds of heaven!
He came to the Ancient of Days,
And they brought Him near before Him.*

¹⁴ *Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom,
That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him.
His dominion is an everlasting dominion,
Which shall not pass away,
And His kingdom the one
Which shall not be destroyed.*

In this vision, Daniel mentions the Ancient of Days who is God the Father. Who then is this Son of Man? These verses describe Jesus Christ as the Son of Man.

Jesus and the Clouds

Clouds play an important role in both Jesus' ascension after His resurrection and in His future return to Earth.

⁹ *Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.* ¹⁰ *And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel,* ¹¹ *who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."* (Acts 1:9-11)

Daniel's vision mentions that the Son of Man comes with the clouds of heaven. Jesus, in His ascension, was taken up to heaven in a cloud. It is interesting that in verse 11 the men in white apparel, i.e., angels, mention to the disciples that Jesus would come back in like manner as He went into heaven. He would come back to Earth one day in the clouds.

¹⁶ *For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.* ¹⁷ *Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.* (1 Thess. 4:16-17)

⁷ *Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.* (Rev. 1:7)

The Kingdom of Christ

The remaining verses of Daniel's vision refer to the kingdom and dominion that was given to the Son of Man. We see this dominion and kingdom in the following verses concerning Jesus Christ, the Son of Man:

²⁸ *So Jesus said to them, "Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. (Matt. 19:28)*

⁹ *Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹ and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Phil. 2:9-11)*

In the preceding verses Jesus is worshiped by everyone. Only God can receive such worship. In the following verses, Jesus, the Son of Man, is described in terms reserved only for God:

¹⁴ *that you keep this commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing, ¹⁵ which He will manifest in His own time, He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, ¹⁶ who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen. (1 Tim. 6:14-16)*

⁸ *But to the Son He says: "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom. (Heb. 1:8)*

Notice in Heb. 1:8 that God the Father calls Jesus, who is His Son, "O God".

The Ancient of Days

In the vision of Daniel chapter 7, we are also given a description of the Ancient of Days or of God the Father.

⁹ *" I watched till thrones were put in place,
And the Ancient of Days was seated;
His garment was white as snow,
And the hair of His head was like pure wool.
His throne was a fiery flame,
Its wheels a burning fire;*

*¹⁰ A fiery stream issued
And came forth from before Him.
A thousand thousands ministered to Him;
Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him.
The court was seated,
And the books were opened.*

Notice how similar this is to the description of Jesus Christ, the Son of Man, in Revelation chapter 1.

¹² Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³ and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. ¹⁴ His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; ¹⁵ His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; ¹⁶ He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.

Because I didn't fully understand the meaning of the title the Son of Man, as a young Christian, I felt that it was not as important as the title of the Son of God. However, after studying the verses I mentioned here, I realized how important the title Son of Man is in proclaiming the deity of Jesus Christ.

Chapter 5

The Son of God

Another title that Jesus used to describe Himself was Son of God. This was probably the one title that got Him in the most trouble with the Jewish religious authorities. They clearly understood that when Jesus accepted the title Son of God He was proclaiming that He was equal to God. For a man to say falsely he was the Son of God would be committing blasphemy against God. This was punishable by death. The Jewish religious establishment never considered that He could be telling the truth and actually was the Son of God. People today who say that the title Son of God just meant that Jesus was a son just like we are sons or children of God have devalued the true meaning of that precious title.

A Paralyzed Man Healed

In Jerusalem, there was a pool of water called Bethesda having five porches. Many people who were sick, blind, lame, or paralyzed would lie near this pool. Scripture records that at times an angel would come and stir the water, and the first person into the pool after that stirring would be healed of his infirmity. There was a man there one day who had been paralyzed for thirty-eight years. Let's see from Scripture what happened when this man met Jesus.

⁶ *When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be made well?"* ⁷ *The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me."* ⁸ *Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk."* ⁹ *And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the Sabbath.* ¹⁰ *The Jews therefore said to him who was cured, "It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful*

for you to carry your bed.”¹¹ He answered them, “He who made me well said to me, ‘Take up your bed and walk.’”¹² Then they asked him, “Who is the Man who said to you, ‘Take up your bed and walk?’”¹³ But the one who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, a multitude being in that place.¹⁴ Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, “See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you.”¹⁵ The man departed and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well. (John 5:6-15)

Jesus had just done a wonderful miracle by healing this man who had been paralyzed for thirty-eight years. Now let’s see how the Jews responded to this blessed event.

¹⁶ For this reason the Jews persecuted Jesus, and sought to kill Him, because He had done these things on the Sabbath.¹⁷ But Jesus answered them, “My Father has been working until now, and I have been working.”¹⁸ Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God. (John 5:16-18)

The Jews wanted to kill Jesus because He had done this wonderful work on the Sabbath. However, they also wanted to kill Him because He was calling God His Father therefore claiming to be the Son of God and making Himself equal to God. They were right. Jesus was claiming equality with God because, as the Son of God, He was God. He would not deny that.

⁵ Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,⁶ who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,⁷ but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. (Phil. 2:5-8)

In Philippians 2:6 Jesus is said to be in the form of God. This means He is God. The verse goes on to say that Jesus did not think that He

was stealing from God to claim He was equal with God. This again means that Jesus is God and that He believed He was equal with God.

The Witness of the Angel Gabriel

³⁰ Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. ³³ And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" ³⁵ And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. (Luke 1:30-35)

Gabriel, one of the chief angels mentioned in Scripture, appeared to Mary, the mother of Jesus before He was born to announce that she would give birth to the Son of God. What a great moment in human history. A poor Jewish girl was informed that she would be the mother of the King that would rule forever and would be the very Son of God. What a wonderful honor would be hers.

The Witness of the Demons

In the temptation of Christ in the wilderness, Satan tried to get Jesus to prove that He was the Son of God by performing miracles at his command.

¹ Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. ³ Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." ⁴ But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: ' He shall give His angels charge

over you,' and, ' In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God. (Matt. 4:1-7)

Jesus would not let Satan tempt Him to act. Jesus is the Sovereign One, and He used the Word of God against Satan to defeat him in these temptations.

¹¹ *And the unclean spirits, whenever they saw Him, fell down before Him and cried out, saying, "You are the Son of God." (Mark 3:11)*

In this verse, we see that whenever a demon came into contact with Jesus he testified that He was the Son of God. They feared Him as they would the Father. Jesus has the authority to cast these demons into the lake of fire to receive eternal torment. He will do that at the appointed time.

²⁸ *When He had come to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, there met Him two demon-possessed men, coming out of the tombs, exceedingly fierce, so that no one could pass that way. ²⁹ And suddenly they cried out, saying, "What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?" (Matt. 8:28,29)*

The Witness of Peter

¹³ *When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?"*

¹⁴ *So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. (Matt. 16:13-17)*

This was Peter's great confession of who Jesus Christ is. He clearly testifies that Jesus is the Son of the living God, the Son of God. Notice

that this information was not something that Peter thought up on his own. It came only to him by the direct revelation from God.

The Witness of Martha

²³ *Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."* ²⁴ *Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."*

²⁵ *Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. ²⁶ And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ She said to Him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."* (John 11:23-27)

In this passage, we see Jesus coming to Martha and Mary at Bethany after their brother had died. When Martha came to speak to Him she made this great confession of who He was in verse 27. Before Jesus brought back Lazarus from the dead, Martha believed that Jesus was the Christ or Anointed One, the Son of God. Jesus proceeded to prove that not only was He the Son of God but that He was God Himself by bringing back Lazarus from the dead. Only God has the power to bring someone back from the dead.

⁴³ *Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" ⁴⁴ And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Loose him, and let him go."* (John 11:43-44)

Here we see the miracle that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, performed by raising Lazarus from the dead. He did this as God, by His own authority. When Scripture records men performing miracles in the New Testament, they did these miracles not by their own authority but in the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

¹⁸ *And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. (Matt. 28:18)*

Jesus before Caiaphas

When Jesus stood in judgment before Caiaphas, the High Priest, our Lord was questioned repeatedly. Finally, Caiaphas asked Him directly if He was the Christ, the Son of God.

⁶² *And the high priest arose and said to Him, "Do You answer nothing? What is it these men testify against You?"* ⁶³ *But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest answered and said to Him, "I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!"* ⁶⁴ *Jesus said to him, "It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven."* ⁶⁵ *Then the high priest tore his clothes, saying, "He has spoken blasphemy! What further need do we have of witnesses? Look, now you have heard His blasphemy!"* ⁶⁶ *What do you think?" They answered and said, "He is deserving of death."* (Matt. 26:62-66)

Jesus answered the High Priest with authority by saying not only was He the Christ, the Jewish Messiah, but that He was the Son of God who Caiaphas himself would one day see sitting on the right hand of God and coming in the clouds. The High Priest charged Christ with blasphemy which is a spoken sin against God. The people there said that Jesus was deserving of death. Again, the Jews understood that by Jesus claiming to be the Son of God He was claiming to be equal to God.

Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God. (John 5:16-18)

If He had not been the Son of God, it would have been blasphemy. However, Jesus spoke the truth because He is the Truth and the Son of God.

The Witness of the Centurion

⁵⁴ *So when the centurion and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, "Truly this was the Son of God!" (Matt. 27:54)*

The Roman centurion, a man who was in charge of a hundred soldiers, was there that day when Jesus was crucified. He was to guard Jesus and the two thieves to make sure they did not get away.

Why did the centurion confess that Jesus was the Son of God when he was standing nearby the cross guarding Christ? The reason is because he heard Jesus say some amazing things on the cross that he had never heard another man say in such personal suffering.

³⁴ *Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." (Luke 23:34)*

What an amazing thing for a man who was being crucified to say. What personal strength He had to be able to make such a statement when He was being tormented, mocked, and murdered by these people. What display of love. This statement most assuredly made a lasting impression on this centurion.

³⁹ *Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, "If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us." ⁴⁰ But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, "Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? ⁴¹ And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong." ⁴² Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." ⁴³ And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise." (Luke 23:39-43)*

The centurion also must have listened to this discussion between the two thieves and Jesus. The thief who believed in Jesus while our Lord was being crucified must have had an impact on this soldier. When Jesus told the believing thief that he would be in paradise with Him that very day not only was it a source of great comfort to the thief it must have influenced the soldier greatly.

⁵⁰ And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. ⁵¹ Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, ⁵² and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; ⁵³ and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many. ⁵⁴ So when the centurion and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, "Truly this was the Son of God!" (Matt. 27:50-54)

After listening to the amazing words of Jesus who was suffering and in great pain, the centurion was then impacted by what he saw happen following the death of our Lord. He saw the darkness that came over the land, the earthquake, and the collective fear of the people. He said also that Jesus was a "righteous man". (Luke 23:47) All this led to the Roman centurion confessing that Jesus Christ was truly the Son of God. I believe this Roman soldier was saved that day by his faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God.

Chapter 6

The First and the Last

The title of the First and the Last is reserved only for One Being, God Himself. The meaning of this title really speaks for itself. The First and the Last is referring to the eternal God who has no beginning or end. There is no one who existed before God, and no one will outlive God. God is the eternal "I AM" as we learned earlier. God has always been and will always be the eternally present God. As the Creator, God made or created all beings.

Old Testament References

⁴ *Who has performed and done it, Calling the generations from the beginning? ` I, the LORD, am the first; And with the last I am He.'"* (Isaiah 41:4)

⁶ *" Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, And his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: ` I am the First and I am the Last; Besides Me there is no God. (Isaiah 44:6)*

¹² *" Listen to Me, O Jacob, And Israel, My called: I am He, I am the First, I am also the Last. ¹³ Indeed My hand has laid the foundation of the earth, And My right hand has stretched out the heavens; When I call to them, They stand up together. (Isaiah 48:12,13)*

These Old Testament verses clearly refer to God. God is claiming the title of being the First and the Last. He is saying also that there is no other God besides Him. We also see in Isaiah 44:6 that both the Father and His redeemer, Jesus Christ the Son, are both referred to as the First and the Last. Christ has redeemed us from our sins. For someone to claim being the First and the Last would be blasphemy if it were not true.

New Testament References

The Alpha and the Omega

Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. Therefore the Alpha and the Omega appropriately mean the beginning and the end. We see these words used in the first chapter of the book of Revelation. The book of Revelation is the revelation of Jesus Christ. Jesus gave His testimony to the angel who then gave it to the Apostle John.

⁷ *Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.* ⁸ *"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."* (Rev. 1:7-8)

Verse 8 tells us who the Alpha and the Omega is. He is the Beginning and the End. He is the Almighty who is the eternal God "who is and who was and who is to come, The Almighty". This is the same person who is the being referred to as the "First and the Last". We also note in verse 7 that He was pierced. Jesus' side was pierced on the cross.

⁹ *I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.* ¹⁰ *I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet,* ¹¹ *saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," and, "What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."* (Rev. 1:9-11)

Who was speaking to John behind him with a loud voice saying that He was the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last? Whoever said these words had to be God for they refer to the eternal God. Let's look at the following verses in the book of Revelation to show us who is speaking these words to John.

¹² *Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands,* ¹³ *and in the midst of the*

seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. ¹⁴ His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; ¹⁵ His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; ¹⁶ He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. ¹⁷ And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. ¹⁸ I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. (Rev. 1:12-18)

Now we understand who is speaking to John. We know it has to be God because only God is the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, and the First and the Last. Interestingly, we see in verse 13 that when John turns to look at who is speaking to Him he sees "One like the Son of Man". We know that the Son of Man is Jesus Christ. The description of the Son of Man here is very similar to the description of God, the Ancient of Days, in Daniel's vision which we saw earlier. (Dan. 7:9-10) The last sentence confirms this is Jesus who is speaking to John as the First and the Last. Jesus, who is alive, did die when crucified but then was resurrected and now lives forever. God the Father never died. This can only be referring to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, Jesus speaks to us again in the last chapter of the Bible.

¹² "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. ¹³ I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last." (Rev. 22:12-13)

These two verses are clearly referring to our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus is the One who is coming back to Earth one day in the clouds of heaven. Jesus is the One who will reward us at that time. Jesus applies these three titles to Himself showing He is God.

Yes, Jesus is the First and the Last, the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the Almighty God. Praise God, Amen!

Chapter 7

The Almighty God and Everlasting Father

⁶ *For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isa. 9:6)*

A Child is Born, A Son is Given

Isaiah 9:6 is one of the most well-known passages in Scripture. The key to answering the question of the title of this book is this first part of verse 6. Who is this child that is born? Who is this Son who is given? Whoever this Person is will be the one who is referred to in the rest of these verses. Let's move backwards in Isaiah a couple of chapters to get more information regarding this Child.

¹⁴ *Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel. (Isa. 7:14)*

This Son or Child spoken of will have a miraculous conception for the Child's mother will conceive as a virgin. His name will be called Immanuel which means God with us. Therefore this Child is being called God. What else do the Old Testament Scriptures tell us about this Child?

² *" But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting." (Micah 5:2)*

This Child who would be born in Bethlehem would be eternal. His goings forth is from everlasting.

It is clear beyond a doubt that these prophecies were all fulfilled in Jesus Christ of Nazareth.

²¹ *And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.”* ²² *So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying:* ²³ *“Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.”* ²⁴ *Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife,* ²⁵ *and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS. (Matt. 1:21-25)*

This Child would be eternal. His existence would have no beginning nor ending. We have already seen in the previous chapter of this book that Jesus Christ is the First and the Last, the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of this prophecy of Isa. 9:6 as He is the Child who was to be born and the Son who was given by the Father to us as our Savior and Lord.

Jesus is the Mighty God and Everlasting Father

Isaiah 9:6 declares that this Child and Son will be the Mighty God and Everlasting Father. From the preceding verses and others in this book, we see that it is Jesus Christ who truly is the Mighty God and Everlasting Father. Seeing Jesus is seeing the Father.

⁷ *“If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him.”* ⁸ *Philip said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.”* ⁹ *Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”* ¹⁰ *Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.* ¹¹ *Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves. (John 14:7-11)*

Conclusion

Isaiah 9:6 conclusively proves that Jesus Christ is the Mighty God and Everlasting Father. Every Christian denomination agrees that the Child and Son referred to at the beginning of verse 6 is Jesus Christ. Who else could it be referring to? Since it is referring to Jesus Christ, then Jesus must be the one called Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and The Prince of Peace. There can be no doubt that Jesus Christ is "the Mighty God, Everlasting Father".

Chapter 8

"My Lord and My God!"

Now we will be looking at our Lord's disciple named Thomas. He has often been referred to as doubting Thomas because He would not believe that Jesus was raised from the dead unless he saw Him for himself.

²⁴ Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." (John 20:24-25)

Thomas said that unless he could put his finger in the holes of Jesus' hands and his hand into His side he would not believe. Let's see what happened next.

²⁶ And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!" ²⁷ Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing." ²⁸ And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." (John 20:26-29)

In this passage, we see that Jesus appeared to His disciples again but with Thomas present this time. He tells Thomas not to be unbelieving but to put his finger in His hands and his hand in His side. Notice how Thomas responds to Jesus. He calls Him, "My Lord and my God". Thomas clearly states that Jesus is "God". If Thomas were not telling the truth, Jesus, who is the Truth, would have corrected Thomas so

that he would not be committing blasphemy against God. However, Jesus did not correct Thomas.

Jesus accepted the title of God!

Chapter 9

Only God Can Be Worshiped

The Ten Commandments

There is one thing we can be sure of from the Bible. There is only one God and only He can be worshiped. The first two of the Ten Commandments given to Israel state God's position very clearly as to who can be worshiped.

And God spoke all these words, saying:

² *"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. ³ "You shall have no other gods before Me.*

⁴ *"You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; ⁵ you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, ⁶ but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments. (Ex. 20:1-6)*

Satan Tempts Christ to Worship Him

When Satan was tempting Jesus in the wilderness, he tried to get Jesus to worship him.

⁸ *Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹ And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'" (Matt. 4:8-10)*

Jesus made it clear that only God can be worshiped. To fall down on our knees and give worship, prayer, and praise to anyone other than God is idolatry. It is expressly forbidden by God.

Christ's Disciples Would Not Accept Worship

The disciples of Jesus understood this and forbade others to show forms of worship toward them.

²⁴ And the following day they entered Caesarea. Now Cornelius was waiting for them, and had called together his relatives and close friends. ²⁵ As Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshiped him. ²⁶ But Peter lifted him up, saying, "Stand up; I myself am also a man." (Acts 10:24-26)

⁸ And in Lystra a certain man without strength in his feet was sitting, a cripple from his mother's womb, who had never walked. ⁹ This man heard Paul speaking. Paul, observing him intently and seeing that he had faith to be healed, ¹⁰ said with a loud voice, "Stand up straight on your feet!" And he leaped and walked. ¹¹ Now when the people saw what Paul had done, they raised their voices, saying in the Lycaonian language, "The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!" ¹² And Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. ¹³ Then the priest of Zeus, whose temple was in front of their city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates, intending to sacrifice with the multitudes. (Acts 14:8-13)

¹⁴ But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard this, they tore their clothes and ran in among the multitude, crying out ¹⁵ and saying, "Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men with the same nature as you, and preach to you that you should turn from these useless things to the living God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all things that are in them, ¹⁶ who in bygone generations allowed all nations to walk in their own ways. (Acts 14:14-16)

Did Jesus Allow Others to Worship Him?

The answer to this question is a resounding yes. Many people in Scripture worshiped Jesus, and He never once told them not to. Here are but a few examples of the many people who worshiped Christ.

Jesus was worshiped as a baby by the wise men from the east:

And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. (Matt. 2:11)

Jesus was worshiped before and after His miracles:

When He had come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed Him. ² And behold, a leper came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean."³ Then Jesus put out His hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing; be cleansed." Immediately his leprosy was cleansed. (Matt. 8:1-3)

Once Jesus walked on water approaching a boat His disciples were in.

²⁸ And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." ²⁹ So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!"³¹ And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³² And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.³³ Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God." (Matt. 14:28-33)

Even demons worshipped Jesus:

⁶ When he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and worshiped Him. ⁷ And he cried out with a loud voice and said, "What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God that You do not torment me." (Mark 5:6-7)

Jesus was worshiped after His resurrection:

⁹ *And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, "Rejoice!" So they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell My brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me."* (Matt. 28:9-10)

Jesus was worshiped at His ascension:

⁵⁰ *And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. ⁵¹ Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³ and were continually in the temple praising and blessing God. Amen.* (Luke 24:50-53)

There are many more examples in Scripture that show that Jesus was worshiped by others, yet, in every case, He never told them to stop. No created being should ever worship another created being.

All worship must go to the Creator who is God.

Even Angels Refused to be Worshiped

John twice mistakenly fell down to worship an angel and was told not to do that:

⁹ *Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'" And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God." ¹⁰ And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."* (Rev. 19:9,10)

⁸ *Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things. ⁹ Then he said to me, "See that you do not do that. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God."* (Rev. 22:8,9)

All Forms of Worship are Reserved for God Alone

Worship is bowing down to someone or some image, praying to that being or image, giving reverence, or adoration. These things are strictly forbidden to be done to created beings whether they are on Earth or in heaven. Only God can receive such worship or reverence.

Everyone Will Worship Jesus One Day!

⁹ Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹ and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Phil. 2:9-11)

These verses make it absolutely clear that one day every being in heaven and Earth will worship the Lord Jesus. This proves that Jesus is God because only God can be worshiped. (Matt. 4:10)

Chapter 10

The Creator

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. (Gen. 1:1)

Although there are many who reject a divine Creator of the universe, the Scripture is very clear it is God who has made all things by His spoken Word. (Gen. 1:1-31) The Bible declares that God created the heavens and the Earth.

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. (John 1:1-3)

¹⁴ And the Word became 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 1:14)

These verses attest to the fact that Jesus Christ is the Word of God. They prove that Jesus, the Word, is God. They also prove that Jesus made everything that has come into existence.

He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. ¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. ¹⁸ And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. (Col. 1:13-18)

These verses could not be any clearer in declaring that Jesus Christ created all things. Not only did Jesus create all things in the Universe, He sustains and maintains everything. Without Christ, all matter would fall apart. The reference that Jesus is the firstborn over all

creation or the first born from the dead just means that Jesus Christ, in His humanity, is the first person to have received his glorified body after having experienced physical death. The rest of believers must wait until the resurrection to receive their glorified bodies. If Jesus has the "preeminence" He would have to be God.

1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, ² has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; ³ who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴ having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. (Heb. 1:1-4)

In these verses from the book of Hebrews, we see that Jesus Christ, God's Son, "made the worlds". He is also the "express image" of God Himself.

Therefore, only God can be the Creator. The verses in this chapter prove that Jesus Christ is the Creator. This makes Him God.

Chapter 11

What about the Holy Spirit?

Most who believe in a Supreme Being believe that God and the Father are One and the same. Nothing much needs to be added to that statement. This book has proven that Jesus Christ is God the Son. The Holy Spirit makes up the third Person of the Holy Trinity. This chapter is not meant to be a thorough study in the Triune Godhead. However, I would like to make some comments about the Holy Spirit and His place in the Trinity. That the vast majority of the Christian church believes in the Trinity is an established fact. Both mainline Protestantism and Roman Catholicism believe in the doctrine of the Trinity. This chapter will be short to comply with the Holy Spirit's desire not to speak about Himself but to give glory to Jesus, the Son of God.

¹³ Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.¹⁴ He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. (John 16:13,14 – KJV)

What is the Trinity?

The Trinity is the Christian belief that there is one God (the Godhead) and that this one God exists as three separate and divine persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. They are not three separate gods which would be a violation of the Bible and the Ten Commandments. The Trinity complies with the monotheism of Scripture that there is only one God. While this teaching is difficult for us to understand, it is a truthful doctrine of God.

These three members of the Godhead all have different roles to play in God's plan. The Father chose those He would save before the

foundation of the world. (Eph.1:4,5; 2 Thess. 2:13; 2 Tim. 1:9) The Son shed His blood in His sacrificial death to provide redemption to everyone the Father had given to the Son. (John 6:39; Eph. 1:7) By the Holy Spirit, God's people are born again by the washing of regeneration. (John 3:3,5; Titus 3:5)

The Holy Spirit is a Person and Not Just a Force

The Holy Spirit is a Person and is referred to with the personal pronouns He, Him, and whom.

And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—¹⁷ the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. (John 14:16,17)

²⁶ *But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. (John 14:26)*

The Holy Spirit can be grieved by us:

³⁰ *And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. (Eph. 4:30)*

The Holy Spirit is linked Equally with God the Father and God the Son – He has a Name – They are One

¹⁹ *Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen. (Matt. 28:19,20)*

⁶ *This is He who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness,*

because the Spirit is truth. ⁷ For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. ⁸ And there are three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one. (1 John 5:6-8)

We see this linkage clearly in verse 7 above.

Therefore, we know that God is One God who exists in three separate divine persons. Christianity is a monotheistic religion.

Chapter 12

How Important is it that We Believe Jesus is God?

Who do you say that Jesus Christ is?

¹³ When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?" ¹⁴ So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. (Matt. 16:13-17)

I think Jesus was testing His disciples when He asked them the questions, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?" and "But who do you say that I am?" He wanted them to respond and focus specifically as to who He really was. Peter's confession that Jesus was the Son of God was the answer that Jesus was looking for. Jesus' point was this: Do you think that I am just a prophet or teacher come from God or do you think that I am the Son of God?

As I have previously mentioned, the Jews sought to kill Jesus because when He said He was the Son of God they understood correctly that He was making Himself out to be equal with God. The ultimate reason why Jesus was crucified by the Jews was because of His claim to be the Son of God.

I now have a question for you. Who do you think that Jesus was or is? Do you think He was just a great prophet or teacher or do you think that He is very God? One day you must stand before Jesus Christ at the judgment and give an account to Him as to what you believed while you were alive on Earth. Are you prepared for how you will answer Him?

Denial or Belief

³² *"Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. ³³ But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven. (Matt. 10:32,33)*

It is very important for us to correctly identify who Jesus Christ really is. If we deny His claim of deity, we are denying the person He was. Scripture tells us that if we deny Him, He will deny us before His Father in heaven. This means that we cannot be saved and receive the blessings of eternal life if we deny that He is very God. The Scripture is clear. Those who reject the person of Jesus Christ will be cast into the lake of fire after the judgment to receive eternal torment. There is no annihilation. The torment in the lake of fire will be felt forever and ever. (Rev. 20:15; Luke 16:19-31; Mark 9:43-48)

¹⁶ *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)*

The only way to escape damnation (perishing) is to believe in the Son of God. Part of that belief in Him is His claim to being equal to the Father. If you just believe He was a great teacher, prophet, or miracle worker, you have missed the mark. The most important thing we are to believe in is His claim to be God the Son. If you deny or disbelieve who He claimed to be, then you have rejected Him by your unbelief.

Chapter 13

Epilogue

I hope that if you have never trusted in Jesus Christ that you would do so after reading this book. Perhaps you are a new Christian and have questioned whether Jesus Christ is God. I hope I have answered that question.

It could be that you are affiliated with a religious organization whose doctrinal position is that while Jesus is the Son of God He is not God. My prayer and hope is that you will study what is written in this book and reconsider your position on this very important matter and your future involvement in that organization.

Let us forever praise the Lord Jesus Christ, God come in the flesh!

Hallelujah!

Amen.