

A. "The Word of God" as a Person: Jesus Christ

Sometimes the Bible refers to the Son of God as "the Word of God." In Revelation 19:13, John sees the risen Lord Jesus in heaven and says, "The name by which he is called is The Word of God." Similarly, in the beginning of John's gospel we read, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1). It is clear that John is speaking of the Son of God here, because in verse John 1:14 he says, "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father." These verses (and perhaps 1 John 1:1) are the only instances where the Bible refers to God the Son as "the Word" or "the Word of God," so this usage is not common. But it does indicate that among the members of the Trinity it is especially God the Son who, in his person as well as in his words, has the role of communicating the character of God to us and[...]"

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Genesis 1:1-3 (NASB) 1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters. 3 Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

John 1:1-5 (NASB) The Deity of Jesus Christ

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 came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. 5 The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

Revelation 19:13-15 (NASB) 3 He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses.

1 John 1:1-4 (NASB) 1 What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life— 2 and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us— 3 what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with

His Son Jesus Christ. 4 These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete.

There are several ways the “Word” is used throughout Scripture.

1. Reference to Jesus
2. Speech by God...Decrees
3. Personal address to someone
4. God speaking through humans
5. The written word

John 1:9-11 (NASB) 9 There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. 11 He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him.

Colossians 1:13-20 (NASB) The Incomparable Christ

13 For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. 17 He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. 18 He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. 19 For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, 20 and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.

To begin all things regarding Christ, we must understand the eternality of God and the existence of Christ with the Father. Without that, the substitutionary death of Christ does not have the power of redemption. It would have served only as a human martyrdom to some cause no different than anyone who gave their life for a cause or country.

The fact that he is God, a member or an expression of the Trinity, is necessary and powerful. The mystery of the “how” is beyond human comprehension and remains the most powerful mystery of eternity. I am not sure that it will ever be revealed as to how it works. Faith in this dimension is the ultimate surrender to his sovereignty.

So, if we would add the information hidden in scripture together, we would come to this conclusion. There are the three in one revealed

throughout the written word. So, in eternity, before the creation, there was one who is expressed as God, the Word, and the Spirit.

We do not express it as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit until after the incarnation. The trinity expressed in these intimate terms can only happen after the word becomes flesh. We then have this intimate relationship expressed in more human terms.

All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. Revelation 13:8

The plan of God was established before the foundation of the world. His crucifixion was planned as the sacrifice for the sin of the world before even one human was created, before light was commanded to be, before the waters were separated.

And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

John 17:5

This verse (John 17:5) speaks of the sovereignty of God in His pre-planning and provision for the breakdown of humanity through sin. Obviously, the rebellion of Lucifer had been accomplished and the heavens polluted with his sin. God knew that in the creation of the physical universe every effort would be made by Satan to pollute and destroy that which He was going to create in His image. The destruction of mankind, which has been created in His image, is paramount in the plan of Satan. Every being bearing the image of God is to be broken and destroyed. This may be in the retaliation against God as expressed in Ezekiel 28 and Isaiah 14. The attempt of Lucifer to supplant God, and his ultimate demise and destiny, urges the destruction of humankind in vengeance.

Throughout the New Testament the demonic recognize who Jesus is and their destiny and the time clock set for their end to happen. It is not the atheist form of, "things will go on and there is no god." These creatures know who he is and that there is a time clock ticking to bring the end of all evil and their ability to act.

So, the life of Christ is not just the journey of a man across the face of the earth and the study of a limited timeframe or the study of a religious man who affects history to this day.

This study is of a God-Man who lived and met all the expectations of mankind and the demand for justice by God. The Christ, the anointed one, brings the eternal balance back and makes a way for the eternal plan of God to be realized in justice and equity.

B. The Virgin Birth

The conception and birth of Jesus is one of the hinge points of our faith. There are several, but this one begins the process.

The condition of man at the point of his creation was perfect. He had intimate access to God in the Garden of Eden. This condition continued for some time. There was one stipulation to maintaining the sweet fellowship with God. It was to not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The tree provided a point of free will, of choice, for mankind. It also gave the enemy the point at which he had to concentrate his temptation.

The assumption that Adam sinned within a matter of days or hours, to me, seems implausible. The commandment would have been very fresh in the mind, and heart of both Adam and Eve. It seems to me that it was some time between the command and the fall. Reason: Eve could not quote the command properly. She generalized and incorrectly quoted even though it was close to the original command.

The temptation was given in a manner that appealed to their spirituality. The idea of being like God was tantalizing even though they were like God, except for the knowledge of the difference between good and evil. In a state where everything was good, it was hard to quantify evil.

Adam held a position of rulership, known or unknown, an authority that exceeded any authority known to man since. He was the progenitor of all humanity. His bloodline and Eve's are in every person, to this day. The art of tracing ancestry has come to the point where the blood or even saliva can be traced to continents and regions. Traveling far enough back, it would lead us all back to the blood of Adam through the sons of Noah.

The target for the fall was Adam, not Eve. The first created, the progenitor, the authority, was the target. To reach him and cause him to fall would damn the seed and pollute the blood to the point where it could only reproduce the same fallen condition. When Eve was approached, Satan appealed to the spiritual sensitivity of the woman. Her motive seemed, to be good, yet, Paul says in Timothy...

1 Timothy 2:13-14 (NASB) For it was Adam who was first created, and then Eve. 14 And it was not Adam who was deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.

Eve responded to the desire to know. She observed the fruit and saw that it was good. The problem was not going to be the fruit, as being poisonous, but the disobedience of choice.

Note, however, that the eyes of the woman were not opened when she ate of the fruit...

Genesis 3:6-7 (NASB) When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.

Again the target was Adam; the temptation came to the woman, to reach the man. Notice that it was not until Adam took the bite that both of their eyes were opened. It does not mean they were blind, but that they were protected from thoughts and understandings of the evil that is present in the universe.

This means that evil was already present. Lucifer had already rebelled against God. He was producing evil everywhere, He was particularly looking to invade mankind to cohabit with him, either within him through possession or by polluting the world system around him.

The fall of man was not just a mistake made by Adam; it was treason against the kingdom of God as manifested in the Garden. The fellowship of perfection was damaged beyond repair, having polluted the Holy of Holies in the heavenlies. Mankind was driven from the Garden of Eden, and the Holy of Holies became inaccessible.

To solve this problem, God began to teach them of blood sacrifice. Animals were killed, blood shed, covering of shame and sin was instituted to remind man of his condition and to show what it takes to appease God and his justice. This practice was a tutorial, it was not a solution.

The plan laid before the foundations of the world was in play. This did not catch God unaware or "flat-footed." The immediate response by God spoke of the consequences of the rebellion and exposed the first Messianic prophecy.

We find that the temptation came to the woman, and through the woman would come the redeemer...

Genesis 3:15-16 (NASB) 15 And I will put enmity
Between you and the woman,
And between your seed and her seed;
He shall bruise you on the head,
And you shall bruise him on the heel.”
16 To the woman He said,
“I will greatly multiply
Your pain in childbirth,
In pain you will bring forth children;
Yet your desire will be for your husband,
And he will rule over you.”

Satan had been notified that there is one coming who would destroy his headship and usurpation of Adam's authority. And this One coming would destroy him, but Satan would bruise his heel.

The woman will have increased pain in childbirth. One cannot understand an increase of something that never happened. There would be no understanding of the increment without having experienced it beforehand. I contend that there were many offspring of Adam and Eve before the fall. This would explain how Cain found a woman to marry and that societies were in place at that time.

The word “desire” can have a couple of intentions...one being to long after and two, an implication of wanting to replace his position...

“Susan Foh has effectively argued that the word translated “desire” (Heb. teshûqāh) means “desire to conquer,” and that it indicates Eve would have a wrongful desire to usurp authority over her husband.²⁰ If this understanding of the word “desire” is correct, as it seems to be, then it would indicate that God is introducing a conflict into the relationship between Adam and Eve and a desire on Eve's part to rebel against Adam's authority.”

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“The sense here is that Adam will misuse his authority by ruling harshly over his wife, again introducing pain and conflict into a relationship that was previously harmonious. It is not that Adam had no authority before the fall; it is simply that he will misuse it after the fall.

So in both cases, the curse brought a distortion of Adam's humble, considerate leadership and Eve's intelligent, willing submission to that leadership which existed before the fall."

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What does this have to do with Jesus? Everything!

Romans 5:12-14 (NASB) 12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned— 13 for until the Law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. 14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the offense of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.

1 Corinthians 15:22 (NASB) 2 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.

The situation then is that all are dead. The need for a redeemer was evident.

Job 19:25-27 (NASB) 25 "As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives,
And at the last He will take His stand on the earth.
26 "Even after my skin is destroyed,
Yet from my flesh I shall see God;
27 Whom I myself shall behold,

The concept of a redeemer is prevalent from the beginning. Job declares it and his book is the oldest book of the bible chronologically.

The idea of a redeemer resides in almost all cultures, ancient and modern. The practice of human sacrifice has its roots in atonement and pacification. While it is perverted and misunderstood, it still resides in the cultures and human psyche.

Resident in mankind is the need for someone to appease God and pay the price for the offenses of man. The only departure from that is modern Atheism which denies any need of redemption or eternal life.

The plan of God for redemption began before the fall and begins God's expectation of man at the fall. Then throughout history there is preparation for the coming of the redeemer, through many Messianic prophecies. These prophecies prepare man to expect certain things of the Messiah. The Anointed One has numerous prophetic prerequisites than man should be looking for. This Messiah has to be a man, to qualify

for the justice of God. He has to be perfect. The Messiah could not be a woman due to the authority creation order. "Primogeniture."

The Messiah being perfect, sinless, male, no Adamic nature, requires the establishment of a new human race, the second Adam. The second Adam had to be like the First Adam. He had to have all the potentials that Adam had, including the possibility of failure. He could not be a super human. He had to experience temptation, tiredness, desire, hunger etc. He needed all these commonalities, yet live his life without sin. How could this be accomplished?

Luke 1:34-35 (NASB) Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" 35 The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God."

We have the human vessel, Mary. The seed would be provided by the overshadowing, creative power of the Holy Spirit. This is referred to as the "Immaculate Conception." Mary becomes pregnant by the Holy Spirit. This is where the arguments of theologians and unbelievers take hold. They cannot conceive of a woman becoming pregnant without the intercourse of man. However, God created a man from dust to begin with. Why would this be any more miraculous than that?

But, if the conception was not by the Holy Spirit and was by just a man such as Joseph, we are still lost since the blood of Jesus would be Adamic in nature and the same death that was Adam's would be the death of Jesus. There would be neither redeemer nor redemption. The whole of Christianity would be based on a hoax.

The conception was of the Holy Spirit and was revealed to Joseph when he was in doubt and was considering divorcing her. He held that word in such high regard that he did not consummate his marriage until after Jesus was born.

Medically, this begins to build the wonderful revelation of the conception and growth of the baby in Mary's womb. Blood is not formed until the egg is fertilized. The egg is neutral as to blood. However, the first thing that happens after conception is the formation of blood. This baby had the second Adam blood, so, the baby is not carrying Adamic sin and death. He has what I call "God blood." He is carrying life and eternity. Mary's blood did not affect him even though she was coursing Adamic blood through her veins. The blood of the mother and the blood of the baby never intermingle. The feeding of the child is done through osmosis by transferring nutrients from the mother to the child, but there is never a co-mingling of blood ever in the process of gestation and birth.

This means that when Jesus was born, he was totally free of the Adamic nature. He established an entirely new human race in his blood. Thus, as he walked the earth and grew into adulthood, he was tempted, but does not sin. His statements about the devil having nothing in him is true. The statement that he *gives* his life; it is not *taken*, is true. His passing through crowds without them being able to take him was because they had nothing in him.

When he says he gives his life as a ransom, it is true.

The fact of the pure blood of Jesus explains the many incidences in his life where it would seem he was about to be arrested, or killed. He was impervious to the attempts on his life because of his pure "God Blood."

So, when it came to the cross, he willingly gave himself for mankind. He became the primogeniture of eternal life. He did not marry, nor did he have children. The mix of the two Adams would have been catastrophic. Instead, he became the beginning of a new race, whereby those caught in the Adamic treason and sin and death, are rescued, redeemed through the blood of Jesus. The way into this "Jesus Race," is through adoption which is executed by the Holy Spirit. It is how we are able to cry, "Abba, Father."

The Virgin Birth then is one of the hinges of eternal life. It is not the only one, but it is severely important and is one area where there can be no compromise or doubt.

Again, all heresies are meant to destroy this Jesus and his divine appointment with man. They are designed to destroy his divinity or his humanity. Man cannot stand the fact of a God-Man.

The incarnation of John 1:14 is the test of anyone's faith. Without it, we are lost.

"But far worse than desertion by even the closest of human friends was the fact that Jesus was deprived of the closeness to the Father that had been the deepest joy of his heart for all his earthly life. When Jesus cried out "Eli, Eli, lama sabach-thani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matt. 27:46), he showed that he was finally cut off from the sweet fellowship with his heavenly Father that had been the unfailing source of his inward strength and the element of greatest joy in a life filled with sorrow. As Jesus bore our sins on the cross, he was abandoned by his heavenly Father, who is "of purer eyes than to behold evil" (Hab. 1:13). He faced the weight of the guilt of millions of sins alone."

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“4) Bearing the Wrath of God: Yet more difficult than these three previous aspects of Jesus’ pain was the pain of bearing the wrath of God upon himself. As Jesus bore the guilt of our sins alone, God the Father, the mighty Creator, the Lord of the universe, poured out on Jesus the fury of his wrath: Jesus became the object of the intense hatred of sin and vengeance against sin which God had patiently stored up since the beginning of the world.

Romans 3:25 tells us that God put forward Christ as a “propitiation” (NASB) a word that means “a sacrifice that bears God’s wrath to the end and in so doing changes God’s wrath toward us into favor.” Paul tells us that “This”

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“was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins; it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies him who has faith in Jesus” (Rom. 3:25 – 26). God had not simply forgiven sin and forgotten about the punishment in generations past. He had forgiven sins and stored up his righteous anger against those sins. But at the cross the fury of all that stored-up wrath against sin was unleashed against God’s own Son.”

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C: Jesus' Incarnation: Prophecies Fulfilled

Genesis 3:15 (NASB) 15 And I will put enmity
Between you and the woman,
And between your seed and her seed;
He shall bruise you on the head,
And you shall bruise him on the heel.”

This prophecy was given to the serpent indicating the future of his kingdom and the result of his action against mankind. Jesus comes as the son of God and the son of man. The head was a reference to the ruler ship or authority. The heel was indicative of the walk of man on earth. So Jesus comes as the seed of woman. Interesting the description that the seed was of the woman. Man provides the seed for reproduction, but here the prophecy indicates the woman without the man, speaking of something miraculous.

Genesis 9:26 (NASB) 26 He also said,
“Blessed be the Lord,
The God of Shem;
And let Canaan be his servant.

The reference to the “God of Shem” speaks of the family through which the redeemer would come. Of the three major families of the earth, Shem would carry the lineage to the Messiah. Shem is the father of all Semitic families. Canaan was the son of Ham. The Canaanites were those who lived in the current Palestinian area. They were all the “ites” that were to be expelled and annihilated when the Hebrews came to occupy the Promised Land.

Genesis 12:3 (NASB) 3 And I will bless those who bless you,
And the one who curses you I will curse.
And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”

Moving along, we see the descendency narrowing to a family, a particular lineage which is Abraham. The promise or prophecy is that all the families of the earth would be blessed. The Messiah is the blessing to all the nations of the earth. This promise has held true through the ages, but is particular prophetically to the Messiah.

Genesis 17:21 (NASB) 21 But My covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you at this season next year.”

Again, this promise is narrowed to only the descendants of the chosen man and the chosen woman. The Messiah would not come through any of the children of Abraham, but only the one born to Sarah. This once again narrows the view and makes us focus on this branch of Abraham's family.

Genesis 28:14 (NASB) 14 Your descendants will also be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and in you and in your descendants shall all the families of the earth be blessed.

This promise and prophecy has two fulfillments as do most prophecies. Not only are the Jews going to multiply and be spread across the earth in the dispersion (diaspora), but the birth of Christianity and the people of faith have spread across the earth and multiplied by the 1000's and have reached billions of people. Christians have blessed the world in many ways including schools, hospitals, inventions, humanitarian works and care. Christians have elevated the place of women and children, orphans and widows.

Genesis 49:8-10 (NASB) 8 "Judah, your brothers shall praise you;
Your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies;
Your father's sons shall bow down to you.
9 "Judah is a lion's whelp;
From the prey, my son, you have gone up.
He couches, he lies down as a lion,
And as a lion, who dares rouse him up?
10 "The scepter shall not depart from Judah,
Nor the ruler's staff from between his feet,
Until Shiloh comes,
And to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.

In this prophetic blessing given by Jacob at his death, Judah is noted as the son through whom the Messiah would come. Jesus comes from the house of Judah and the scepter of eternal rulership is his. The obedience of the peoples of the earth will come to Jesus. We see further clarity of this in Revelation and his kingdom is described more fully. So, now we know that Messiah will come through the tribe of Judah.

Isaiah 11:1-5 (NASB) 1 Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse,
And a branch from his roots will bear fruit.
2 The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him,
The spirit of wisdom and understanding,
The spirit of counsel and strength,
The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
3 And He will delight in the fear of the Lord,

And He will not judge by what His eyes see,
Nor make a decision by what His ears hear;
4 But with righteousness He will judge the poor,
And decide with fairness for the afflicted of the earth;
And He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth,
And with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked.
5 Also righteousness will be the belt about His loins,
And faithfulness the belt about His waist.

Isaiah now lets us know that the Messiah will come from the House of Jesse. A branch from his roots will come forth and rule. Of course, we see David as one who came forth, but it speaks of the Messiah coming from this lineage. The description of the characteristics are amazing. Most scholars and students of the Bible describe these as the seven spirits of God. Jesus, the Messiah would have all these operating in Him. One could say they were resident in Him since He was God. The important thing is that they would be manifested to the world.

Jeremiah 23:5-6 (NASB) 5 “Behold, the days are coming,” declares the Lord,
“When I will raise up for David a righteous Branch;
And He will reign as king and act wisely
And do justice and righteousness in the land.
6 “In His days Judah will be saved,
And Israel will dwell securely;
And this is His name by which He will be called,
‘The Lord our righteousness.’

Jeremiah now declares that from David would come a righteous branch. This again clarifies the lineage and keeps the follower on track what to look for. We know the Messiah must come from the lineage of David. Prophetically this prophecy tells us of the strength of the Messiah’s rule and kingship. The Messiah would be called, “The Lord our righteousness.” A prescription only due divinity.

Micah 5:2 (NASB) 2 “But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
Too little to be among the clans of Judah,
From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel.
His goings forth are from long ago,
From the days of eternity.”

The prophecies continue to become more specific. Now Micah indicates where the Messiah would be born. Of all the cities and villages, Bethlehem is chosen. Bethlehem would be a very small village. Yet, the prophet says this is the place where Messiah would be born and come

forth from. And the term “eternal” is being used to further indicate the God side of this ruler.

Isaiah 9:6-7 (NASB) 6 For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us;

And the government will rest on His shoulders;

And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

7 There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace,
On the throne of David and over his kingdom,

To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness
From then on and forevermore.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this.

Isaiah again let's us see into the nature of the Messiah. The descriptors show us the power of his kingdom. Also the eternal nature is the kingdom is spoken of. There is no defeat or end to this kingdom. The term here is “forevermore.”

(NASB) Numbers 24:17 “I see him, but not now;

I behold him, but not near;

A star shall come forth from Jacob,

A scepter shall rise from Israel,

This seems to indicate the star of Bethlehem and the rulership of the Messiah. Moses is seeing down through the ages to the Messiah. There were glimpses that were given to the men of God through the ages. Enoch saw, Moses saw, Job saw, and of course, the prophets got glimpses as well.

Isaiah 7:14 (NASB) 14 Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign:
Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.

Isaiah expands on the Gen. 3:15, seed of the woman, prophecy and speaks of the virgin bearing a son.

Psalms 72:10-11 (NASB) 10 Let the kings of Tarshish and of the islands
bring presents;

The kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.

11 And let all kings bow down before him,

All nations serve him.

David sees the Millennial kingdom and the kingdom to come and that all nations will serve the Messiah. This kind of prophetic word causes us to

speculate to the eternal kingdom of the Messiah and its relationship with others nations.

Jeremiah 31:15 (NASB) 5 Thus says the Lord,
"A voice is heard in Ramah,
Lamentation and bitter weeping.
Rachel is weeping for her children;
She refuses to be comforted for her children,
Because they are no more."

This prophecy is fulfilled as Herod the Great commands the extermination of children in the Bethlehem area of two years of age and younger as he responds to the jilting of the Magi. His goal was to kill the Messiah.

(NASB) 1 When Israel was a youth I loved him,
And out of Egypt I called My son.

Amazingly, we have the birth in Bethlehem and the call out of Egypt. The call out of Egypt is the result of the warnings of God to Joseph about Herod the Great's maniacal obsession with intrigue and murdering any threat to his rule.

Isaiah 53:2-3 (NASB) 2 For He grew up before Him like a tender shoot,
And like a root out of parched ground;
He has no stately form or majesty
That we should look upon Him,
Nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him.
3 He was despised and forsaken of men,
A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;
And like one from whom men hide their face
He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

Isaiah reveals the common upbringing of Jesus. He lived maybe not in poverty, but certainly meagerly. Also, his physical appearance was not so that he was head and shoulders above everyone or more humanly handsome than others. The Bible seems to indicate that he was not well accepted by his siblings until after his resurrection and ascension.

The power of all these prophecies is that no one human being could plan to fulfill this many prophecies. Also, the span of the prophecies eliminate even the thought of collusion of the writers.

The record of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham:

Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers. Judah was the father of Perez and

Zerah by Tamar, Perez was the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram. Ram was the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon. Salmon was the father of Boaz by Rahab, Boaz was the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse. Jesse was the father of David the king.

David was the father of Solomon by Bathsheba who had been the wife of Uriah. Solomon was the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa. Asa was the father of Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah. Uzziah was the father of Jotham, Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah. Hezekiah was the father of Manasseh, Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah. Josiah became the father of Jeconiah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

After the deportation to Babylon: Jeconiah became the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel. Zerubbabel was the father of Abihud, Abihud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor. Azor was the father of Zadok, Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud. Eliud was the father of Eleazar, Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob. Jacob was the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, by whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah.

So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations.

Thus when reading the genealogy we understand why Matthew was so diligent to list the descendants showing the fulfillment of prophecies. To the Jew, this was of paramount importance and for us it shows the power of God through millennia.

D. The Humanity of Jesus

It is imperative that Jesus be fully human as well as fully divine. This mystery is as complex as the concept of the trinity, but is equally necessary for the salvation of man.

The purpose of the genealogies of Matthew and Luke were to provide evidence to the ancestry of Jesus being in the lineage of King David. Without this evidence the messiahship of Jesus would be suspect and easily denied.

Luke's gospel has a lineage of 77 and Matthew has only 42, but both emphasize the relation to David. The ancestry of Mary comes through David's son Nathan who was the third son of he and Bathsheba. She had 5 sons with David, the first dying in infancy. Solomon was the next birth and is the lineage Joseph. Luke goes back to Adam and Matthew starts with Abraham.

In the references below we will see how Mary and Elizabeth could be kinswomen and how the Tribe of Levi and the Tribe of Judah would intermarry at times. However, it is demanding that Mary be of the tribe of Judah since the messiah would be the Lion of the Tribe of Judah.

The 42 years of three 14 generations have been debated and studied for centuries starting very early in church history. There are numerous explanations but none of them seem to fully satisfy the desire for a nice neat package.

There needs to be an understanding that at the writing of the New Testament the church was already under attack from views that were struggling with grace, with the humanity of Jesus, with the divinity of Jesus, and the trinity. The attacks were many and for centuries the core values of faith were and still are under those attacks. The battle for orthodoxy is continual and seems to be fought in every generation to some degree.

The drive of the human mind is to reduce everything to human comprehension and scientific reduction. The arena of the spiritual is hard to grasp and the possibilities of the supernatural are not readily embraced. It is hard for the human to live with mystery, complexity, and the unexplainable. We resist the immaterial, the immortal, and the eternal.

First, the King James translation of the term *syngenis* as “cousin” (Luke 1:36) is unwarranted and somewhat misleading to those who normally interpret the word to mean “first cousin.” The Greek term *syngenis* simply means “relative” (NKJV, NASB, NIV) or “kinswoman” (ASV, RSV). It is “a general term, meaning ‘of the same family’” (Vincent, 1997). Thus, Mary and Elizabeth may have been first cousins, or they may have been fourth cousins. All we know for sure is that they were kin.

Second, Mary and Elizabeth could have been from different tribes and still have been first cousins. It may be that their mothers were sisters. Their mothers could have been from the tribe of Judah **or** Levi. As commentator Matthew Henry noted: “Though Elisabeth was, on the father’s side, of the daughters of Aaron (v. 5), yet on the mother’s side she might be of the house of David, for those two families often intermarried, as an earnest of the uniting of the royalty and the priesthood of the Messiah” (1997).

However Mary and Elizabeth were related, tribal heritage among the descendants of Jacob was passed down through fathers, not mothers (cf. Ruth 4:18-22); children were always of their father’s tribe, not their mother’s. Thus, Elizabeth and Mary were descendants of Aaron and David, respectively, by way of their fathers’ ancestry, and not necessarily of their mothers’.

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The Genealogies of Matthew and Luke

by	Dave Miller, Ph.D.
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First, Matthew reported the lineage of Christ only back to Abraham; Luke traced it all the way back to Adam. Second, Matthew used the expression “begat;” Luke used the expression “son of,” which results in his list being a complete reversal of Matthew’s. Third, the two genealogical lines parallel each other from Abraham to David. Fourth, beginning with David, Matthew traced the **paternal** line of descent through Solomon; Luke traced the **maternal** line through Solomon’s brother, Nathan.

A fifth factor that must be recognized is that the two lines (paternal and maternal) link together in the intermarriage of Shealtiel and Zerubbabel. But the linkage separates again in the two sons of Zerubbabel—Rhesa and Abiud. Sixth, the two lines come together once again for a final time in the marriage of Joseph and Mary. Joseph was the end of the **paternal** line, while Mary was the last of the **maternal** line as the daughter of Heli.

The reason Joseph is said to be the “son” of Heli (Mary’s father) brings forth a seventh consideration: the Jewish use of “son.” Hebrews used the word in at least five distinct senses: (1) in the sense used today of a one-generation offspring; (2) in the sense of a descendant, whether a grandson or a more remote descendant many generations previous, e.g., Matthew 1:1; 21:9; 22:42 (“begat” had this same flexibility in application); (3) as a son-in-law (the Jews had no word to express this concept and so just used “son”—e.g., 1 Samuel 24:16; 26:17); (4) in accordance with the Levirate marriage law (Deuteronomy 25:5-10; cf. Matthew 22:24-26), a deceased man would have a son through a surrogate father who legally married the deceased man’s widow (e.g., Ruth 2:20; 3:9,12; 4:3-5); and (5) in the sense of a step-son who took on the legal status of his step-father—the relationship sustained by Jesus to Joseph (Matthew 13:55; Mark 6:3; Luke 3:23; 4:22; John 6:42).

Notice carefully that Joseph was a direct-line, blood descendant of David and, therefore, of David's throne. Here is the precise purpose of Matthew's genealogy: it demonstrated Jesus' **legal** right to inherit the throne of David—a necessary prerequisite to authenticating His Messianic claim. However, an equally critical credential was His **blood**/physical descent from David—a point that could not be established through Joseph since “after His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child **of the Holy Spirit**” (Matthew 1:18, emp. added). This feature of Christ's Messiahship was established through His mother Mary, who was also a blood descendant of David (Luke 1:30-32). Both the blood of David and the throne of David were necessary variables to qualify and authenticate Jesus as the Messiah.

Once again, the Bible's intricate complexities shine forth to dispel the critic's accusations, while simultaneously demonstrating its own infallible representations. The more one delves into its intricacies and plummets its intriguing depths, the more one is driven to the inescapable conclusion that the Bible is, indeed, the Book of books—the inspired Word of God.

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Matthew speaks of 42 generations. Luke has 77 generations mentioned. Each was authenticating the life and ministry of Jesus as the true Son of God and Son of Man.

While we are emphasizing the humanity of Jesus in this section of the teaching, we are not minimizing the divine. But in order to proclaim the miracle of who Jesus is, we must fully appreciate and declare his humanity.

(NASB) Introduction, The Incarnate Word 1 John 1:1

1 What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life—

Here the apostle John is emphasizing that he knew the full humanity of Jesus. He declares that all sensory revelations said that Jesus was human. He saw him, he touched, he observed the daily life of a human being including the tiredness, the hunger, the bodily functions of existence. He got dirty, he smelled, he needed a bath, he needed to use the “necessary room.” He probably had rough hands having worked with wood. He was probably well muscled from lifting wood and walking etc.

Starting with the Gospel of John 1:14, the word became flesh, we observe the journey of the human, Jesus.

HE HAS A HUMAN BODY

He is born naturally.

Luke 2:6-7 (NASB) 6 While they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth. 7 And *she gave birth to her firstborn son*; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

He is growing physically and mentally and spiritually.

Luke 2:40 (NASB) 40 The Child continued *to grow and become strong*, increasing in wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.

He is becoming wiser and his physical stature is increasing, becoming an adult.

Luke 2:52 (NASB) 52 And Jesus kept *increasing in wisdom and stature*, and in favor with God and men.

Here is tired, weary, exhausted from travel.

John 4:5-6 (NASB) 5 So He *came to a city of Samaria called Sychar, near the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph; 6 and Jacob's well was there. So Jesus, *being wearied from His journey*, was sitting thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour.

He is thirsty.

John 19:28-30 (NASB) 28 After this, Jesus, knowing that all things had already been accomplished, to fulfill the Scripture, *said, "*I am thirsty*." 29 A jar full of sour wine was standing there; so they put a sponge full of the sour wine upon a branch of hyssop and brought it up to His mouth. 30 Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

Here he is hungry. He needs food to sustain his body.

Matthew 4:2 (NASB) 2 And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then *became hungry*.

He is weak from the stress and trials of the temptations.

Matthew 4:11 (NASB) 11 Then the devil *left Him; and behold, angels came and began to minister to Him.

He is so weak that another has to carry his burden.

Luke 23:26 (NASB) 26 When they led Him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, coming in from the country, and placed on him the cross to carry behind Jesus.

He died. He expired. The body died.

Luke 23:46 (NASB) 6 And Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit." Having said this, He breathed His last.

After his resurrection he is still human.

Luke 24:39 (NASB) 39 See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have."

John 20:20 (NASB) 20 And when He had said this, He showed them both His hands and His side. The disciples then rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

John 20:27 (NASB) 27 Then He *said to Thomas, "Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing."

HE HAS HUMAN EMOTION AND HEART

Matthew 8:9-10 (NASB) 9 For I also am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to this one, 'Go!' and he goes, and to another, 'Come!' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this!' and he does it." 10 Now when Jesus heard this, *He marveled* and said to those who were following, "Truly I say to you, I have not found such great faith with anyone in Israel.

Matthew 26:38 (NASB) 38 Then He *said to them, "My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death; remain here and keep watch with Me."

John 11:33-35 (NASB) 33 When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, *He was deeply moved in spirit and was troubled*, 34 and said, "Where have you laid him?" They *said to Him, "Lord, come and see." 35 *Jesus wept*.

John 12:27 (NASB) 27 "Now My soul has become troubled; and what shall I say, 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour.

John 13:21 (NASB) 21 When Jesus had said this, He became troubled in spirit, and testified and said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, that one of you will betray Me."

Hebrews 5:7-8 (NASB) 7 In the days of His flesh, He offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears to the One able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His piety. 8 Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered.

HE HAS A HUMAN MIND (THE MIND BOGGLING GOD-MAN)

Luke 2:52 (NASB) 52 And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

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

John 21:18-19 (NASB) 18 Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to gird yourself and walk wherever you wished; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and someone else will gird you, and bring you where you do not wish to go." 19 Now this He said,

signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He *said to him, "Follow Me!"

John 6:38-40 (NASB) 38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. 39 This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. 40 For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day."

Matthew 26:39 (NASB) 39 And He went a little beyond them, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will."

JESUS, THE HEALER OF MANKIND

1 Timothy 2:5 (NASB) 5 For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,

Hebrews 2:17-18 (NASB) 17 Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. 18 For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.

Hebrews 4:15 (NASB) 15 For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.

Jesus experienced everything that the first Adam did, but without sin. He knows the pain of the human body, the struggle of the human heart, and the decisions of the human will. Man is conflicted, Jesus was tempted in all ways. He dealt with the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and prevailed over the conflicts winning the battle of God's justice.

E. The Divinity of Jesus

In researching for this section there were so many good resources that I have included them.

First, we will look at some of the early heresies that arose and their errors.

We will start by looking at the many attempts against the humanity and divinity of Jesus. Then we will move on to a really thorough article from Dr. Bird from AnswersinGenesis.org.

Antinomianism: Any view which holds that Christians are freed by grace from obligations of any moral law. Nicolaitans held that the spirit was opposed to matter and since matter did not count, the body was unimportant. The Gnostics particularly separated the spiritual and physical to the point that matter became evil and fleshly lusts were just a part of the response of the flesh; yet the spirit could remain pure. The earliest condemnation was at the Council of Trent. (1545)

Audianism: The belief that God was anthropomorphic. Came out of Syria. Condemned at the Council of Nicea in 325 AD.

Barallot: Believed to hold all things in common, including wives and children. Was condemned because of moral sin and their love of sensual pleasure.

Donatism: Often really considered a schism rather than a heresy. They held that the church should be a gathering of saints. They were rigorous in their practice. They held that martyrdom of the supreme Christian virtue. Following the persecutions, they refused to receive back the ones who had recanted their faith during duress. They continued to be aa force in North Africa until the conquest by the Arabs. Augustine dealt with them during his lifetime. A subset of Donatism were the Circumcellions who were violent and militant.

Euchites: 1. Believed the essence of the trinity could be known by the carnal senses. 2. That the threefold God reduced himself to a single human being in order to unite with the perfect souls of men, 3. God has taken different forms to reveal himself to man, 4. all things of God have to relate to the senses of man. Condemned in 376 AD

Ebionites: A Jewish sect that required the acceptance and practice of Jewish rites. They accepted Jesus as the Messiah, but not the son of God. Early on, Justin Martyr dealt with the fallacies of this sect and heresy.

Gnosticism: This heresy takes many forms, but denies one or the other of the characteristics of Jesus as fully divine and fully human. This error expressed knowledge as the goal of spirituality and that there were levels of knowledge, some of which only a few could reach. Also, it categorized beings into emanations and echelons, Christ being the first echelon after God. This heresy persists to this day in new age religions and eastern religions. This has been condemned from the beginning by the apostles themselves. This is probably the evidence of the first seal having been opened, the spirit of antichrist.

Iconoclasm: The belief that all icons were idols and should be destroyed. This was condemned in 787.

Marcionism: This was the earliest of dualism in Christianity. They believed in the God of the New Testament that Jesus was the savior and Paul the chief apostle. They rejected the Old Testament as being a God of wrath. This was condemned as early as 207 AD. This dualism is common in Gnostic teaching and is expressed in various forms.

Montanism: They believed that the prophecies of the Montanists superseded and fulfilled the doctrines proclaimed by the apostles. They encouraged ecstatic prophecy, viewed that any Christian who fell could not be redeemed. It was condemned as early as 177 AD.

Pelagianism: The belief that original sin do not taint human nature and that mortal will is still capable of choosing good or evil without Divine aid. This was condemned in 418 AD. The final condemnation came in 431 at the Council of Ephesus.

All scriptures have been inserted by me and are italicized and underlined for ease of study.

The Divinity of Jesus Revealed in the New Testament

by [Dr. Mark Bird](#) on December 19, 2017

Introduction

I've heard many people, especially Jehovah's Witnesses, say that the Bible does not teach that Jesus is God. In response to that claim, I took a deep dive into Scripture, particularly the New Testament, to see how much evidence there really is for the deity of Jesus. What I found was astounding. There is overwhelming evidence that the NT authors intended to present Jesus as God come in the flesh. In this "article," I'm providing a resource for you to use next time someone challenges you on this issue.

I go through the books or sections of the New Testament noting different times that Jesus is revealed as God. Though this is not an exhaustive list, I have identified more than 120 verses or passages that express the divinity of Jesus in some way. Some of the verses taken by themselves are not absolute proof of his divinity, but when viewed along with the many other passages on the subject, they strengthen the case for the deity of Christ.

Jesus is either claiming to be God, accepting or demanding worship, claiming to possess attributes that only God can possess, claiming to do things that only God can do (and then doing miracles to prove it), or others are making these claims about Jesus.

The Synoptic Gospels

In the synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke), I referenced only the first time an event occurred or a saying was made.

Jesus Is Called "God with Us"

His name is to be called Emmanuel, which means "God with us" ([Matthew 1:23](#)).

Matthew 1:23 (NASB) 23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which translated means, "God with us."

"Emmanuel" describes the concept of the incarnation—God becoming man. Jesus being called "God with us" is consistent with John 1, which refers to Jesus as the Word who was with God, and who was God, and who became flesh ([John 1:1, 14](#)).

(NASB) John 1: 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. John 1:14 (NASB) 14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Jesus Is Identified with Yahweh

John the Baptist fulfills Isaiah 40 as he preaches the kingdom. "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord'" ([Matthew 3:3](#)). *Matthew 3:3 (NASB) 3*

For this is the one referred to by Isaiah the prophet when he said,

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness,

'Make ready the way of the Lord,

Make His paths straight!'" The one who was coming would be God himself. We can deduce that Jesus is Yahweh because John the Baptist, as the forerunner of Jesus,

fulfills the Old Testament prediction that he would prepare the way for Yahweh ([Isaiah 40:3](#)). *Isaiah 40:3 (NASB) 3 A voice is calling, "Clear the way for the Lord in the wilderness; Make smooth in the desert a highway for our God.*

Jesus Healed or Performed Other Miracles

In the gospels, we see that Jesus healed many people and demonstrated power over nature in other ways. The question is whether Jesus acted as God or simply as a prophet requesting the Father to perform the works. The words of Jesus and the reaction of those impacted by these miracles suggest that Jesus was acting as God and not simply as a prophet.

- He healed the demon possessed, epileptics, and paralytics ([Matthew 4:23–24](#)). *Matthew 4:23-24 (NASB) 23 Jesus was going throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people.*
- *24 The news about Him spread throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all who were ill, those suffering with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, paralytics; and He healed them. The healings had to be accomplished with divine power.*
- A leper came to worship Jesus, saying, "If you will, you can make me clean." Jesus healed the leper by touching him and saying, "I will; be clean" ([Matthew 8:3](#)). *Matthew 8:3 (NASB) 3 Jesus stretched out His hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing; be cleansed." And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.* Jesus did not refuse the worship of the leper; this means he must either be God or ungodly. His healing of the leper demonstrated that he was not ungodly, and it helped to prove that he is God himself.
- He healed many more who were sick, and cast out demons with a word ([Matthew 8:5–17](#)). *Matthew 8:5-17 (NASB) 5 And when Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, imploring Him, 6 and saying, "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, fearfully tormented." 7 Jesus *said to him, "I will come and heal him." 8 But the centurion said, "Lord, I am not worthy for You to come under my roof, but just say the word, and my servant will be healed. 9 For I also am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to this one, 'Go!' and he goes, and to another, 'Come!' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this!' and he does it." 10 Now when Jesus heard this, He marveled and said to those who were following, "Truly I say to you, I have not found such great faith with anyone in Israel. 11 I say to you that many will come from east and west, and recline at the table with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven; 12 but the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." 13 And Jesus said to the centurion, "Go; it shall be done for you as you have believed." And the servant was healed that very moment.*
- *Peter's Mother-in-law and Many Others Healed*
- *14 When Jesus came into Peter's home, He saw his mother-in-law lying sick in bed with a fever. 15 He touched her hand, and the fever left her; and she got up and waited on Him. 16 When evening came, they brought to Him many who were*

demon-possessed; and He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were ill. 17 This was to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet: "He Himself took our infirmities and carried away our diseases."

- On a stormy night at sea, Jesus appears walking on the water toward the disciples' boat. Peter asked Jesus if he could come meet him. Jesus said, "Come." and Peter walked on the water until he began to be afraid. As he was sinking, he cried, "Lord, save me." Jesus caught him and rebuked him for doubting ([Matthew 14:22–31](#)). Matthew 14:22-31 (NASB) 22 Immediately He made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead of Him to the other side, while He sent the crowds away. 23 After He had sent the crowds away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray; and when it was evening, He was there alone. 24 But the boat was already a long distance from the land, battered by the waves; for the wind was contrary. 25 And in the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea. 26 When the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. 27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid."
- 28 Peter said to Him, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." 29 And He said, "Come!" And Peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water and came toward Jesus. 30 But seeing the wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" 31 Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and *said to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" Peter had enough faith in Jesus as "Lord" to be empowered to walk on water!
- When they got into the boat, the wind ceased ([Matthew 14:32](#)). Matthew 14:32-33 (NASB) 32 When they got into the boat, the wind stopped. 33 And those who were in the boat worshiped Him, saying, "You are certainly God's Son!" The response of the disciples was that they worshipped him, calling him the Son of God ([verse 33](#)). They treated him as God because he acted as God.
- At Gennesaret, the men brought all who were sick, and they begged Jesus that they might only touch the hem of his garment. And as many as touched his garment were made well ([Matthew 14:36](#)). Matthew 14:36 (NASB) 36 and they implored Him that they might just touch the fringe of His cloak; and as many as touched it were cured. Here was divine power exuding from Jesus.
- When the woman with the issue of blood touched Jesus, he immediately knew "in himself that power had gone out from him" ([Mark 5:30](#)). Mark 5:30 (NASB) 30 Immediately Jesus, perceiving in Himself that the power proceeding from Him had gone forth, turned around in the crowd and said, "Who touched My garments?" Jesus sensed his divine energy being used, and the woman was healed of her disease.
- When Jesus healed the great multitude, "power came out from him and healed them all" ([Luke 6:19](#)). Luke 6:19 (NASB) 19 And all the people were trying to touch Him, for power was coming from Him and healing them all. Jesus can be said to have healed because power went out from him to do the work.

Raised the Dead

Jesus raised Jairus' daughter from the dead (Matt. 9:23-26), Matthew 9:23-26 (NASB) 23 When Jesus came into the official's house, and saw the flute-players and the crowd in noisy disorder, 24 He said, "Leave; for the girl has not died, but is asleep." And they began laughing at Him. 25 But when the crowd had been sent out, He entered and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. 26 This news spread throughout all that land. showing he had divine power over death. He also raised from the dead the son of the widow of Nain ([Luke 7:14](#)): Luke 7:14-15 (NASB) 14 And He came up and touched the coffin; and the bearers came to a halt. And He said, "Young man, I say to you, arise!" 15 The dead man sat up and began to speak. And Jesus gave him back to his mother. another demonstration of his power over death.

Showed Uniqueness in Wisdom and Divine Authority

Matthew shows how Jesus exercised divine authority (or claims to) in Matthew 5, 9, 10, 12, 21, and 22.

- Jesus taught the beatitudes in Matthew 5. He said that he came not to destroy the law but fulfill it. He taught that murder and adultery begin in the heart. He taught that marriage is sacred and binding. In doing so, he forbade oaths, said to go the second mile and to love your enemies (Matthew 5). Jesus clarified the law, emphasizing that it must be kept in the heart. The divine authority to do this is assumed.
- He called his disciples and gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness, and all kinds of disease ([Matthew 10:1](#)). (NASB) MT.10:1 Jesus summoned His twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every kind of disease and every kind of sickness. He had the divine authority to give his disciples power over unclean spirits and disease.
- Jesus went into the temple, driving out the money changers. He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer'" ([Matthew 21:13](#)). Matthew 21:13 (NASB) 13 And He *said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer'; but you are making it a robbers' den." He certainly acted with authority here. Was he even suggesting that the temple was his house?
- Jesus silenced the Sadducees by the way he answered the question about the Resurrection ([Matthew 22:23-33](#)). Matthew 22:23-33 (NASB) 23 On that day some Sadducees (who say there is no resurrection) came to Jesus and questioned Him, 24 asking, "Teacher, Moses said, 'If a man dies having no children, his brother as next of kin shall marry his wife, and raise up children for his brother.' 25 Now there were seven brothers with us; and the first married and died, and having no children left his wife to his brother; 26 so also the second, and the third, down to the seventh. 27 Last of all, the woman died. 28 In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife of the seven will she be? For they all had married her."
- 29 But Jesus answered and said to them, "You are mistaken, not understanding the Scriptures nor the power of God. 30 For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. 31 But regarding the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God: 32 'I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? He is

not the God of the dead but of the living.” 33 When the crowds heard this, they were astonished at His teaching. Again we see the unique wisdom and authority of Jesus.

- No one could answer him, and from that day no one dared to question him anymore ([Matthew 22:46](#)). *Matthew 22:46 (NASB) 46 No one was able to answer Him a word, nor did anyone dare from that day on to ask Him another question.* Jesus made a distinct impression on them as the authoritative Son of God.
- Jesus taught in the synagogue of his own country and the people there were astonished, saying, “Where did this man get this wisdom and these mighty works?” ([Matthew 13:54](#)). *Matthew 13:54 (NASB) 54 He came to His hometown and began teaching them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished, and said, “Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers?”* Jesus was unique in his wisdom and in his miracles.
- The Pharisees marveled at the way Jesus responded to their question about paying taxes to Caesar ([Matthew 22:21](#)). *Matthew 22:21 (NASB) 21 They *said to Him, “Caesar’s.” Then He *said to them, “Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s; and to God the things that are God’s.”* Jesus was unique in his wisdom and authority.

This was also demonstrated in Mark. Jesus went into the synagogue and taught. “And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes” ([Mark 1:22](#)). *Mark 1:22 (NASB) 22 They were amazed at His teaching; for He was teaching them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.* The authority he spoke with was unique.

Claims Authority over Sabbath

He said that he, the Son of Man, is lord of the Sabbath ([Matthew 12:8](#)). *Matthew 12:8 (NASB) 8 For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.”* As God, he exercised continual lordship over the Sabbath. He was in control.

Demons Were Afraid

A man in the synagogue had an unclean spirit, who cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God” ([Mark 1:24](#)). *Mark 1:24 (NASB) 24 saying, “What business do we have with each other, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!”* The demons realized that Jesus lived and operated as God; they were afraid he was going to use his power to destroy them.

The demon-possessed men coming out of the tombs said to Jesus, “What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?” ([Matthew 8:28–34](#)). *Matthew 8:28-34 (NASB) 28 When He came to the other side into the country of the Gadarenes, two men who were demon-possessed met Him as they were coming out of the tombs. They were so extremely violent that no one could pass by that way. 29 And they cried out, saying, “What business do we have with each other, Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?” 30 Now there was a herd of many swine feeding at a distance from them. 31 The demons began to entreat Him, saying, “If You are going to cast us out, send us into the herd of swine.” 32 And He said to them, “Go!” And they came out and went into the swine, and the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea and perished in the waters. 33 The herdsmen ran away, and went to the city and reported everything, including what had*

happened to the demoniacs. 34 And behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw Him, they implored Him to leave their region. The demons recognized someone who could cause them agony with his divine power.

Jesus Forgives Sins

[Matthew 9](#) is a powerful chapter that conclusively shows that Jesus is God, and that he operated as God while on earth. Jesus told someone his sins were forgiven. Then to prove that he had the divine authority to forgive sins, he performed a physical miracle. The miracle would have needed to be from the same source as the forgiveness, if it was going to confirm Christ's authority to forgive. Jesus would not have acted in his divine nature to forgive and then heal the paralytic as merely an anointed human. The healing demonstrated his divine power to heal and forgive.

- According to this passage, Jesus told a paralytic, "Your sins are forgiven" ([Matthew 9:2](#)). Matthew 9:2 (NASB) 2 And they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralytic, "Take courage, son; your sins are forgiven." Only God can forgive sins. Jesus must be acting as God here.
- The scribes said within themselves, "This man is blaspheming" ([Matthew 9:3](#)). Matthew 9:3 (NASB) 3 And some of the scribes said to themselves, "This fellow blasphemes." The scribes knew that forgiving sins was a divine activity.
- Jesus knew their thoughts ([Matthew 9:4](#)). Matthew 9:4 (NASB) 4 And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, "Why are you thinking evil in your hearts?" Jesus being aware of what people are thinking seems to point to his omniscience, which is affirmed elsewhere.
- Jesus said to them that he was going to prove that the Son of man had power on earth to forgive sins. Then he healed the paralytic ([Matthew 9:2](#)). Matthew 9:2 (NASB) 2 And they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralytic, "Take courage, son; your sins are forgiven." Jesus proved that he had the power to forgive sins by exercising power to heal. The two actions had to go together for one to be proof of the other. Both had to flow from Christ's own essence as God the Son.

Jesus also forgave the sins of the woman who anointed him with oil. In reaction to his pronouncement, the people at the table said, "Who is this, who even forgives sins?" ([Luke 7:49](#)). Luke 7:48-50 (NASB) 48 Then He said to her, "Your sins have been forgiven." 49 Those who were reclining at the table with Him began to say to themselves, "Who is this man who even forgives sins?" 50 And He said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace." The observers marveled at Christ's divine authority to forgive.

Accepted Worship

Jesus accepted worship, after saying that only God is worthy of worship ([Matthew 4:10](#)). Matthew 4:10 (NASB) 10 Then Jesus *said to him, "Go, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.'" If he was a holy man who was not divine, he would have stopped people from worshipping him. Of course, it's possible for someone to accept worship as a pretender, but Jesus backed up his own claims of deity, as pointed out many times in this article.

- A ruler came to worship him ([Matthew 9:18–26](#)). *Matthew 9:18-26 (KJV) 18 While he spake these things unto them, behold, there came a certain ruler, and worshipped him, saying, My daughter is even now dead: but come and lay thy hand upon her, and she shall live. 19 And Jesus arose, and followed him, and so did his disciples.*
- *20 And, behold, a woman, which was diseased with an issue of blood twelve years, came behind him, and touched the hem of his garment: 21 For she said within herself, If I may but touch his garment, I shall be whole. 22 But Jesus turned him about, and when he saw her, he said, Daughter, be of good comfort: thy faith hath made thee whole. And the woman was made whole from that hour. 23 And when Jesus came into the ruler's house, and saw the minstrels and the people making a noise, 24 He said unto them, Give place: for the maid is not dead, but sleepeth. And they laughed him to scorn. 25 But when the people were put forth, he went in, and took her by the hand, and the maid arose. 26 And the fame hereof went abroad into all that land.* Since Jesus accepted this, he must have viewed himself as God.
- After Jesus walked on water, those in the boat came and worshipped him, saying, “Truly You are the Son of God” ([Matthew 14:33](#)). *Matthew 14:32-33 (NASB) 32 When they got into the boat, the wind stopped. 33 And those who were in the boat worshiped Him, saying, “You are certainly God’s Son!”* Their worship of him as God was an acknowledgement that he was acting as God in his miracles.
- While the women were on their way to tell the disciples that Jesus had risen from the dead, Jesus himself met them, saying “Greetings!” So they came and took hold of his feet and worshipped him ([Matthew 28:9](#)). *Matthew 28:9 (NASB) 9 And behold, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshiped Him.* Jesus was worshipped—as God. There’s no indication here that he tried to stop his worshippers from honoring him as God. Instead, he told them not to be afraid and asked them to go tell the disciples to meet up with him.
- When the disciples later saw Jesus, they worshipped him ([Matthew 28:17](#)). *Matthew 28:17 (NASB) 17 When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some were doubtful.* Again, Jesus received worship. In fact, he declared at that point that all authority in heaven and earth had been given to him (vs. 18).

Jesus Showed Amazing Knowledge

- Jesus rebuked the cities in which he had done his mighty works, saying, “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes” ([Matthew 11:21](#)). *Matthew 11:21 (NASB) 21 “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles had occurred in Tyre and Sidon which occurred in you, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.* Jesus showed that he had access to divine omniscience by knowing how people would have responded under different conditions.

- Jesus knew thoughts ([Matthew 12:25](#)), Matthew 12:25 (NASB) 25 And knowing their thoughts Jesus said to them, "Any kingdom divided against itself is laid waste; and any city or house divided against itself will not stand. a divine action.
- Jesus told two of his disciples, "Go into the village in front of you and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to Me." ([Matthew 21:1-3](#)). Matthew 21:1-3 (NASB) 1 When they had approached Jerusalem and had come to Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, 2 saying to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied there and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to Me. 3 If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord has need of them,' and immediately he will send them." Jesus knew where the donkeys were.
- Jesus helped his disciples catch a huge load of fish by telling them to let down their nets for a catch ([Luke 5:1-7](#)). Luke 5:1-7 (NASB) 1 Now it happened that while the crowd was pressing around Him and listening to the word of God, He was standing by the lake of Gennesaret; 2 and He saw two boats lying at the edge of the lake; but the fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing their nets. 3 And He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little way from the land. And He sat down and began teaching the people from the boat. 4 When He had finished speaking, He said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." 5 Simon answered and said, "Master, we worked hard all night and caught nothing, but I will do as You say and let down the nets." 6 When they had done this, they enclosed a great quantity of fish, and their nets began to break; 7 so they signaled to their partners in the other boat for them to come and help them. And they came and filled both of the boats, so that they began to sink. Jesus' supernatural knowledge and power is active here.
- Jesus told one of the criminals he was crucified beside, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise" ([Luke 23:43](#)). Luke 23:43 (NASB) 43 And He said to him, "Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise." Jesus was able to understand the heart of the criminal, give him the assurance of his salvation, and predict his future.

Jesus Predicted the Future

Though the ability to accurately predict the future is not by itself proof of Jesus' deity (God sometimes revealed the future to prophets who were mere humans), this knowledge of the future is what you would expect of someone who claimed to be God and backed it up with his miracles. If he were God, he would be able to predict the future.

- Jesus predicted to his disciples that he would go to Jerusalem, suffer at the hand of the Jewish leaders, be killed, and rise from the dead the third day ([Matthew 16:21](#)). Matthew 16:21 (NASB) 21 From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day. Jesus knew the future.
- Jesus said that some would not die before they saw the Son of Man coming in his kingdom ([Matthew 16:28](#)). Matthew 16:28 (NASB) 28 "Truly I say to you, there

are some of those who are standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.” Jesus knew the future and predicted his glorification, or transfiguration.

- Again Jesus predicted his arrest, beatings, death, and Resurrection ([Matthew 20:18](#)). Matthew 20:18 (NASB) 18 “Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of Man will be delivered to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn Him to death, Jesus knew about these events beforehand.
- Jesus warned about false Christs and false prophets that would come. The true Son of Man would appear again like the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west ([Matthew 24:3–28](#)). Matthew 24:3-28 (NASB) 3 As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?”
- 4 And Jesus answered and said to them, “See to it that no one misleads you. 5 For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will mislead many. 6 You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for those things must take place, but that is not yet the end. 7 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes. 8 But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs.
- 9 “Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name. 10 At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another. 11 Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many. 12 Because lawlessness is increased, most people’s love will grow cold. 13 But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved. 14 This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.
- Perilous Times
- 15 “Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), 16 then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains. 17 Whoever is on the housetop must not go down to get the things out that are in his house. 18 Whoever is in the field must not turn back to get his cloak. 19 But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! 20 But pray that your flight will not be in the winter, or on a Sabbath. 21 For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will. 22 Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short. 23 Then if anyone says to you, ‘Behold, here is the Christ,’ or ‘There He is,’ do not believe him. 24 For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect. 25 Behold, I have told you in advance. 26 So if they say to you, ‘Behold, He is in the wilderness,’ do not go out, or, ‘Behold, He is in the inner rooms,’ do not believe them. 27 For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes even to the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be. 28 Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.

- Jesus predicted a tribulation after which the Son of Man would come in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. Jesus said that at that time he would send his angels with the great sound of a trumpet and gather in the elect ([Matthew 24:29–31](#)). *Matthew 24:29-31 (NASB) 29 “But immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 30 And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory. 31 And He will send forth His angels with A great trumpet and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.* Not only did Jesus know what is going to happen in the future, but he also had the authority to send his angels and gather in the elect. The only one with that kind of authority would be God.
- At the Last Supper, Jesus accurately predicted that Judas would betray him ([Matthew 26:20–25](#)). *Matthew 26:20-25 (NASB) 20 Now when evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the twelve disciples. 21 As they were eating, He said, “Truly I say to you that one of you will betray Me.” 22 Being deeply grieved, they each one began to say to Him, “Surely not I, Lord?” 23 And He answered, “He who dipped his hand with Me in the bowl is the one who will betray Me. 24 The Son of Man is to go, just as it is written of Him; but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born.” 25 And Judas, who was betraying Him, said, “Surely it is not I, Rabbi?” Jesus *said to him, “You have said it yourself.”*
- Jesus predicted that Peter would deny him three times that night ([Matthew 26:30–35](#)). *Matthew 26:30-35 (NASB) 30 After singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.*
- *31 Then Jesus *said to them, “You will all fall away because of Me this night, for it is written, ‘I will strike down the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered.’ 32 But after I have been raised, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.” 33 But Peter said to Him, “Even though all may fall away because of You, I will never fall away.” 34 Jesus said to him, “Truly I say to you that this very night, before a rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.” 35 Peter *said to Him, “Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You.”* All the disciples said the same thing too. It happened as Jesus had predicted.
- Jesus predicted the destruction of Jerusalem and the great tribulation ([Mark 13:2](#)). *Mark 13:2 (NASB) 2 And Jesus said to him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left upon another which will not be torn down.”*

Though God can reveal the future to anyone, in the case of Jesus, his foreknowledge does seem to point to his own possession of divine omniscience, in light of his claim to deity, along with the accuracy of the fulfillment of his prophecies.

Claimed Equality with Father

He told his disciples, “So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, him I also will deny before My Father who is in heaven” ([Matthew 10:32–33](#)). *Matthew 10:32-33 (NASB) 32 “Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. 33 But whoever denies Me before men,*

I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven. Jesus puts himself on the same level as the Father. He is speaking as God.

Claimed a Unique Relationship with the Father

He said that no one knows the Son except the Father and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son decides to reveal him ([Matthew 11:27](#)). *Matthew 11:27 (NASB) 27 All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.* This indicates a unique relationship that the Father has with the Son. It also shows the authority that the Son possesses to reveal the Father to others.

Claimed the Ability to Give Rest to Anyone

Jesus invited anyone who is weary to come to him, and he would give them rest ([Matthew 11:28](#)). *Matthew 11:28 (NASB) 28 "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.* Only as a divine being could he give rest to all who come to him. Jesus had the ability to embrace anyone and everyone simultaneously.

Claimed That He Could Be Blasphemed Against

Jesus said that blasphemy against the Holy Spirit would not be forgiven, though blasphemy against the Son of Man could be ([Matthew 12:31-32](#)). *Matthew 12:31-32 (NASB) 31 "Therefore I say to you, any sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven people, but blasphemy against the Spirit shall not be forgiven. 32 Whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.* The Son of Man could be blasphemed, which indicates his deity.

Required Submission

Jesus told his disciples that if anyone wanted to come after him, he had to deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Jesus ([Matthew 16:24](#)). *Matthew 16:24 (NASB) 24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.* Jesus required others to submit to him as Lord of their lives.

Jesus Seen in His Glory as God the Son

Jesus was transfigured on the high mountain, while Peter, James, and John looked on. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. Moses and Elijah appeared and talked to Jesus. While they were talking, a bright cloud came over them, and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Listen to him" ([Matthew 17:5](#)). *Matthew 17:5 (NASB) 5 While he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud said, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!"* Jesus is seen in his glory as God the Son, as distinct from the Father, and he is identified as God's Son by God the Father himself.

Indicated That He Can Be in Multiple Locations Simultaneously

He said, "For where two or three are gathered in My name, there am I among them" ([Matthew 18:20](#)). *Matthew 18:20 (NASB) 20 For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst.* Jesus indicated that he was omnipresent while on the earth. He could be anywhere where people were gathered in his name.

He also said, “And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age” ([Matthew 28:20](#)) *Matthew 28:20 (NASB) 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*—a claim to omnipresence. Jesus could not be with his disciples after he left the earth, unless he was also omnipresent in his deity.

Claimed to Be Lord

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question, saying, “What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” He said to them, “How is it then that David, in the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying, ‘The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet?’” (Matthew 22:41–45)

Jesus referred to himself as the Lord of David, as well as the Son of David. This is an indication of both Christ’s humanity and deity.

Claimed to Be Messiah, a Divine Person

When asked at the trial, “Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?” ([Mark 14:61](#)), *Mark 14:61 (NASB) 61 But He kept silent and did not answer. Again the high priest was questioning Him, and saying to Him, “Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?”* Jesus answered in the affirmative in several ways. He said, “I am.” He then referred to himself as the Son of Man and said he would return in the clouds of heaven. He also said that he would be sitting on the right hand of the Power, indicating he would have the authority to rule the world. These claims allude to [Daniel 7:13–14](#), *Daniel 7:13-14 (NASB) 13 “I kept looking in the night visions,*

And behold, with the clouds of heaven

One like a Son of Man was coming,

And He came up to the Ancient of Days

And was presented before Him.

14 “And to Him was given dominion,

Glory and a kingdom,

That all the peoples, nations and men of every language

Might serve Him.

His dominion is an everlasting dominion

Which will not pass away;

And His kingdom is one

Which will not be destroyed. a clear messianic passage. The high priest considered Jesus’ response blasphemy and condemned him to death!

John

Jesus Called God

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

The Word is not just with God; he is God. So who is the Word? [Verse 14](#) makes it clear that the Word is Jesus: “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” ([John 1:14](#)). God had become man in the person of Jesus.

The Son’s Divine Glory Revealed

We have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)

Somehow God the Son's divine glory was revealed while he was on the earth in the flesh.

Miracles Manifested Divine Glory

At the wedding of Cana, Jesus turned the water into wine. "This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And His disciples believed in him" ([John 2:11](#)). *John 2:11 (NASB) 11 This beginning of His signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory, and His disciples believed in Him.* Christ's miracles demonstrated his glory—as the only begotten Son of God.

Said to Have Unique Relationship with the Father

No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known. (John 1:18)

Jesus is God, has a unique intimate relationship with God the Father, and has revealed the Father to us.

John the Baptist Said Jesus Forgives Sin

John the Baptist declared of Jesus, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" ([John 1:29](#)). *John 1:29 (NASB) 29 The next day he *saw Jesus coming to him and *said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Jesus is the Savior, who takes away our sin.*

Jesus Forgave Sin

Jesus told the woman caught in adultery, "Neither do I condemn thee; go and sin no more" ([John 8:11–12](#)). *John 8:11-12 (NASB) 11 She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "I do not condemn you, either. Go. From now on sin no more."*

Jesus Is the Light of the World

12 Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life." Jesus was asserting the divine authority to forgive sins.

Evidenced Omnipresence and Omniscience

Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God!" (John 1:47–51)

This passage seems to point to Jesus' omniscience and omnipresence. Nathaniel's response to Jesus' amazing knowledge was appropriate. Jesus is the Son of God! Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he was doing. But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people and needed no one to bear witness about man, for he himself knew what was in man. (John 2:23–25)

Jesus knew the hearts of men, an indication of Christ's omniscience.

Jesus told the woman (he had not met before) that she had had five husbands in addition to the man she was living with at the time ([John 4:18](#)). *John 4:18 (NASB) 18 for*

you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; this you have said truly." Jesus knew details about the woman's life that he could not have known without access to divine omniscience. The woman said that Messiah would "tell us all things" when he comes. Jesus said that he was that Messiah. The Samaritan woman said to the men of the city, "Come, see a man who told me all things that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" ([John 4:29](#)). John 4:29 (NASB) 29 "Come, see a man who told me all the things that I have done; this is not the Christ, is it?" The woman thought that Jesus knew everything about her because he was Messiah. Jesus answered the disciples, "Did I not choose you, the twelve? And yet one of you is a devil" ([John 6:70](#)). John 6:70 (NASB) 70 Jesus answered them, "Did I Myself not choose you, the twelve, and yet one of you is a devil?" Jesus knew the heart of Judas. Jesus knew that Lazarus was dead before he heard the news ([John 11:11-14](#)). John 11:11-14 (NASB) 11 This He said, and after that He *said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I go, so that I may awaken him out of sleep." 12 The disciples then said to Him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." 13 Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that He was speaking of literal sleep. 14 So Jesus then said to them plainly, "Lazarus is dead,. This suggests omniscience at work. His disciples said to him, "Now we know that you know all things, and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God" ([John 16:30](#)). John 16:30 (NASB) 30 Now we know that You know all things, and have no need for anyone to question You; by this we believe that You came from God." Jesus' disciples affirmed Christ's omniscience, acknowledging that he came from God. After the Resurrection, Jesus asked Peter three times, "Do you love me?" And Peter answered, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you" ([John 21:15-19](#)). John 21:15-19 (NASB) 15 So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus *said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?" He *said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He *said to him, "Tend My lambs." 16 He *said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" He *said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He *said to him, "Shepherd My sheep." 17 He *said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus *said to him, "Tend My sheep.

Our Times Are in His Hand

18 Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to gird yourself and walk wherever you wished; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and someone else will gird you, and bring you where you do not wish to go." 19 Now this He said, signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He *said to him, "Follow Me!" Peter affirmed Jesus' omniscience. Then Jesus predicted how Peter was going to be killed ([John 21:18](#)). John 21:18 (NASB) 18 Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to gird yourself and walk wherever you wished; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and someone else will gird you, and bring you where you do not wish to go." Out of his foreknowledge, Jesus accurately predicted Peter's future.

John the Baptist Said Jesus Is Above All

John the Baptist said of Jesus, “He who comes from above is above all” ([John 3:31](#)). *John 3:31 (NASB) 31 “He who comes from above is above all, he who is of the earth is from the earth and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all. Jesus is above all.* He must have been God—while he was on the earth, he was above all.

Jesus Was the Giver of Living Water

Jesus told the Samaritan woman, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water” ([John 4:10](#)). *John 4:10 (NASB) 10 Jesus answered and said to her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.”* Christ, as God, was able to give the woman living water, spiritually.

Claimed to Give Eternal Life

Jesus said that “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life” ([John 4:13–14](#)). *John 4:13-14 (NASB) 13 Jesus answered and said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.”* Only God could give eternal life.

Since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him ([John 17:2](#)). *John 17:2 (NASB) 2 even as You gave Him authority over all flesh, that to all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life.*

Jesus had the (derived) authority to give eternal life.

I give them eternal life, and they will never perish ([John 10:28](#)). *John 10:28 (NASB) 28 and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.*

Jesus claimed to be giving his followers eternal life. Only God could do this. This is a present-tense activity. Jesus is constantly exercising his divinity in giving spiritual life to his followers.

Did What the Father Does

Jesus said, “My Father is working until now, and I am working.’ This is why the Jews were seeking to kill him because not only was he breaking (their man-made regulations added to) the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God” ([John 5:17](#)). *John 5:17 (NASB) 17 But He answered them, “My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working.”* Jesus’ statement was construed as a claim to deity. God the Father was working and God the Son was working—while Christ was on the earth.

Claimed to Have the Same Life-Giving Power as the Father

For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom He will ([John 5:21](#)). *John 5:21 (NASB) 21 For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to whom He wishes.*

Jesus claimed to have the same power as God the Father, and he claimed to be using it.

Claimed Power to Raise Himself

I lay down my life that I may take it up again. . . . I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again (John 10:18).

Jesus claimed to have the power to raise himself from the dead and claimed that he would actually do so.

Claimed That He Would Raise Himself from the Dead

Jesus predicted, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up" ([John 2:19](#)). *John 2:19 (NASB) 19 Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."* According to [verse 21](#), *John 2:21 (NASB) 21 But He was speaking of the temple of His body.* Jesus was referring to his body. So according to this passage, Jesus predicted that he would raise himself from the dead.

Must Be Honored with the Same Honor That Is Given to the Father

For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. (John 5:22–23)

Jesus deserves the same honor as God the Father deserves. Jesus rules with divine authority.

Son Has Life in Himself

For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. (John 5:26)

It is by the Father that the Son has life, yet the Son has life in himself, not in the way that we have life.

Claimed to Be the Light of the World

After forgiving the woman caught in adultery, Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. He who follows me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life" ([John 8:11–12](#)). *John 8:11-12 (NASB) 11 She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "I do not condemn you, either. Go. From now on sin no more."*

Jesus Is the Light of the World

12 Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."

Before Jesus healed the man blind from birth, Jesus said, "As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." Then Jesus gives sight to the man ([John 9:5](#)). *John 9:5 (NASB) 5 While I am in the world, I am the Light of the world.* A claim to be the light of the world is a very high claim. Jesus was claiming to be the ultimate source of spiritual knowledge. And he backed up this claim by miraculously opening someone's physical eyes.

Claimed to Know All His Followers

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. (John 10:3–4)

I know my own, and my own know me (John 10:14).

Only as a divine person could Jesus know each person who belongs to him. These statements also show the ownership of the flock by the divine Shepherd.

Claimed to Be Equal to the Father

Immediately after saying that no one could pluck his sheep out of his Father's hand, Jesus said, "I and my Father are one" ([John 10:29–30](#)). *John 10:29-30 (NASB) 29 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. 30 I and the Father are one.*" He identified himself completely with God the Father. He claimed to be of the same nature as the Father. The Jews considered what he said blasphemy since they understood him to be making himself God. They tried to kill him ([John 10:31–33](#)). *John 10:31-33 (NASB) 31 The Jews picked up stones again to stone Him. 32 Jesus answered them, "I showed you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you stoning Me?" 33 The Jews answered Him, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy; and because You, being a man, make Yourself out to be God."*

Jesus continued to make his case that he was equal to God the Father, saying, "The Father is in me, and I am in the Father" ([John 10:38](#)). *John 10:38 (NASB) 38 but if I do them, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, so that you may know and understand that the Father is in Me, and I in the Father.*" This is another way Jesus stated his equality with God the Father. He relates to God as only one who was also God himself could. The Jews again tried to kill him for what they thought was blasphemy, but Jesus, possibly using divine powers, escaped from their hands ([John 10:39](#)). *John 10:39 (NASB) 39 Therefore they were seeking again to seize Him, and He eluded their grasp.*

Jesus Is the Resurrection and the Life

Jesus told Martha that Lazarus would rise again. Martha indicated that she believed Lazarus would rise in the Resurrection in the last day. Jesus responded, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live" ([John 11:23–25](#)). *John 11:23-25 (NASB) 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 on the last day." 25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies,* Christ possessed the inherent power to raise the dead, both spiritually and physically.

After Jesus wept over Lazarus and then went to the tomb, he had the stone taken away and prayed, for the sake of those who stood by ([John 11:33–39](#)). *John 11:33-39 (NASB) 33 When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, He was deeply moved in spirit and was troubled, 34 and said, "Where have you laid him?" They *said to Him, "Lord, come and see." 35 Jesus wept. 36 So the Jews were saying, "See how He loved him!" 37 But some of them said, "Could not this man, who opened the eyes of the blind man, have kept this man also from dying?" 38 So Jesus, again being deeply moved within, *came to the tomb. Now it was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. 39 Jesus *said, "Remove the stone." Martha, the sister of the deceased, *said to Him, "Lord, by this time there will be a stench, for he has been dead four days." Then Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." And he came*

*out of the grave (John 11:43–44). John 11:43-44 (NASB) 43 When He had said these things, He cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth." 44 The man who had died came forth, bound hand and foot with wrappings, and his face was wrapped around with a cloth. Jesus *said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."* Jesus, using his power as the Resurrection and the Life, raised Lazarus from the dead.

Claimed Ability to Defeat the Devil and Draw Everyone to Himself

Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself. (John 12:31–32)
Jesus will defeat the devil and draw everyone to himself through his death and Resurrection. Only a divine being could accomplish this.

Showed Divine Authority to Give Commandments

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another. (John 13:34)

Jesus had the divine authority to give a new commandment.

Said We Must Believe in Him as We Do the Father

Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. (John 14:1)

Jesus put himself on the same level as God the Father; if we believe in the Father, we must believe in Jesus as well. If his disciples were to trust in him as they were to trust in God the Father, then Jesus is also God.

Revealed the Father

If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen Him. (John 14:7)

Because Jesus is God manifested in the flesh, he was able to reveal God the Father to his disciples. To know Jesus is to know the Father since Jesus is of the same nature as the Father, and Jesus reveals the heart of the Father through his own words and actions.

Claimed Ability to Answer Prayer

Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it. (John 14:13–14)

Jesus is inviting us to pray to him, saying that he will answer prayer. We pray to Jesus and expect him to answer because he is God.

Authorized Answers to Prayer

Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full. (John 16:24)

To ask in Christ's name is to ask with Christ's authority. Because he is God, Christ can authorize the answer to prayer.

Promised That Our Prayers Will Be Answered If We Abide in Him

If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. (John 15:7)

If Jesus is promising that our prayers will be answered if we abide in him, then he is claiming to be divine.

Claimed the Ability to Live Where His Followers Live

If anyone loves me, he will keep my word; and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. (John 14:23)

If the Father and Son can come and make their home with each of us, they must be omnipresent.

Gave Peace

“Peace I leave with you” (John 14:27). *John 14:27 (NASB) 27 Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.* As a divine person, Christ left peace with his followers—and continues leaving peace with us.

Claimed to Be Someone That All of Us Can Abide In

Abide in me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. (John 15:4)

For us not to be able to bear fruit unless we abide in Jesus must mean that he is divine. Notice he says this even before his Resurrection. He was enabling his followers to bear fruit while he was on the earth.

Claimed That We Can Do Nothing Apart from Him

I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit; for without me you can do nothing. (John 15:5)

For Christ to claim that we can do nothing apart from him is a claim to be God himself. Called Lord and God

When Thomas saw Jesus and heard him speak for the first time after the Resurrection, he exclaimed, “My Lord and my God!” (John 20:28). *John 20:28 (NASB) 28 Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!”* Thomas acknowledged that Jesus is Lord and God. Then Jesus mildly rebukes Thomas for not believing in him sooner (John 20:29). *John 20:29 (NASB) 29 Jesus *said to him, “Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed.”* Instead of rejecting the ascription of deity, Jesus accepted Thomas’ declaration by saying he should have believed sooner.

Acts

Authority to Heal

Being called into question for raising the lame man, Peter answered, “Let it be known to all of you. . . that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by him this man stands here before you well” (Acts 4:10). *Acts 4:10 (NASB) 10 let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by this name this man stands here before you in good health.* This verse teaches that God the Father raised Jesus from the dead, yet it is through the authority of Jesus that a healing took place. This shows that Jesus is God as well. Others Heal by Jesus’ Power

Peter finds a man named Aeneas, who was paralyzed, and said to him, “Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed.” And immediately he rose. ([Acts 9:33–34](#)). *Acts 9:33-34 (NASB) 33 There he found a man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden eight years, for he was paralyzed. 34 Peter said to him, “Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; get up and make your bed.” Immediately he got up.* Peter said that Jesus was the one healing Aeneas. This suggests a continuity between the healings that Jesus performed as God during his earthly ministry and the healings that the apostles did; they were all through Christ’s divine power.

Spoke in Visions to Followers

Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord. . . then the Lord spoke to Paul one night in a vision: “Do not be afraid . . . for I am with you.” (Acts 18:8–10)

The Lord is Jesus, who appeared to Paul in another vision. This activity of Jesus is consistent with his divine role while on his earthly mission.

Romans

Said to Be over All, God Blessed Forever

To [the Jews] belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen. (Romans 9:5)

Jesus Christ, who came as a Jewish man, is said to be God himself—the Supreme Being, God over all.

Worked Miracles Through Paul

I have whereof I may glory through Jesus Christ in those things which pertain to God. For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ hath not wrought by me, to make the Gentiles obedient, by word and deed, through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God. (Romans 15:18–19)

Christ worked through Paul by the power of the Spirit.

2 Corinthians

Was Preexistent in Exalted Position

You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you by His poverty might become rich. (2 Corinthians 8:9)

Jesus left the glory of heaven to identify with us. Jesus is preexistent and has an exalted position.

Still Works Mightily in Us

Since you seek proof that Christ is speaking in me. He is not weak in dealing with you, but is powerful among you. (2 Corinthians 13:3)

Jesus must be omnipresent and omnipotent to work powerfully among his people.

Is in Us

Do you not realize . . . that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test! (2 Corinthians 13:5)

Jesus must be omnipresent to live in each of us.

Ephesians

Fills All in All

And [the Father] put all things under [Christ's] feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all. (Ephesians 1:22–23)

The Father gave the Son authority over all, and the Son fills all in all. This indicates that Jesus is divine. If he fills all in all, he is omnipresent.

Gives Us Strength

Be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of his might. (Ephesians 6:10)

The Lord is Jesus who still works mightily in our lives as a divine person, just as he did on his earthly mission.

Philippians

Equal with the Father

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:5–11)

This is a key passage on the incarnation. Though in the form of God and equal with God the Father, Jesus humbled himself to become a man and die (without ceasing to be God). Through the Father's exaltation of him, ultimately everyone will confess that he is Lord.

Will Transform Our Bodies

But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. (Philippians 3:20–21)

Someday Christ will use his divine power to transform our bodies into bodies like his own body.

Colossians

The Image of the Father, Preeminent

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. (Colossians 1:15)

As the one who perfectly represents all the attributes of the Father, Jesus has the preeminence over creation.

Created All Things, Holds All Things Together

For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. (Colossians 1:16–17).

Everything was created by Jesus and for Jesus. That is why he is preeminent. He holds everything in the universe together.

All the Fullness of God Dwells in Him; He Is Preeminent

“And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things. (Colossians 1:18–20)

Jesus is preeminent over all because of the power of the Resurrection. It pleased God the Father that all the fullness of God should dwell in God the Son. It also pleased God the Father that he should reconcile everything to himself by God the Son.

Works Mightily in Us

To [the saints] God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me. (Colossians 1:27–29)

Christ was in Paul, working mightily. He can work in us as well. Christ must be God to be present in each of us, and to work mightily in us.

All the Fullness of God Dwells in Him, Head of All Authorities

For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority (Colossians 2:10)

If the whole fullness of deity dwells in Jesus, he is God. If he is the head of all rule and authority, then he is God.

Hebrews**He Made the World, He Is the Brightness of the Father’s Glory, Upholds All Things, Purged Our Sins**

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high. (Hebrews 1:1–3)

There are several statements in this passage that indicate Christ’s deity. It was through the Son that the Father created the world. He is the brightness of the Father’s glory, the exact imprint of his nature. The Son upholds all things by his power. He purged our sins and sat down on the right hand of God the Father. Jesus is certainly put here on the same level as the Father.

Worshipped by Angels, Called God

Having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, ‘You are my Son, today I have begotten you’? Or again, ‘I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son’? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, ‘Let all God’s angels worship him.’ Of the angels he says, ‘He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire.’ But of the Son he says, ‘Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved

righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”(Hebrews 1:4–13)

Jesus is better than the angels. He is God the Son. He is worshipped by the angels. He is addressed as God (“Your throne, O God, is forever”). The idea that Jesus is God is implicit in “Therefore God, even thy God, has anointed thee.” It could be translated, “Therefore, God the Father, the God of God the Son, has anointed thee (with God the Holy Spirit).”

Saves Us to the Uttermost

[Christ] holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself. (Hebrews 7:24–27)

Because he himself is God and will always make intercession, Jesus is able to save to the uttermost those that come to God the Father by him. Our high priest, Jesus, became one of us, yet he was sinless and therefore did not have to atone for his own sin. Since he is God, he was able to make a full and sufficient sacrifice for our sins.

Jesus Is Eternal, Immutable

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever (Hebrews 13:8).

This speaks of Christ’s eternality and immutability, and therefore his deity.

1 John

He Is Eternal

The life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us (1 John 1:2).

Jesus is Eternal Life, and was revealed to the disciples as Eternal Life. If Jesus is Eternal Life, he is God.

Revelation

Jesus Says He Is the Alpha and Omega and the First and the Last: These Are Titles for Jehovah

I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet saying, “Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches. . . .” Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength. When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, “Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.” (Revelation 1:10–18)

The one who was dead and now lives again is obviously Jesus, who says that he is the First and the Last. This is a clear identification with the “first and the last” of [Isaiah 44:6](#). [Isaiah 44:6 \(NASB\) 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,

And there is no God besides Me. a reference to Yahweh: “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.’”

“Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end . . . I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.”

The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price. . . . He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! (Revelation 22:12–17, 20)

Notice the “first and the last” also calls himself “Alpha and Omega.” In [Revelation 1:8](#) [Revelation 1:8 \(NASB\) 8](#) *“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”* it is the “Lord God” who calls himself Alpha and Omega. So “Lord God,” “first and last,” and “Alpha and Omega” all refer to the same being. In Revelation 22, the Alpha and Omega said he was coming soon. Who is the one coming? It is Jesus. “Come, Lord Jesus!” And the speaking “Alpha and Omega” actually refers to himself as Jesus in [Revelation 22:16](#). [Revelation 22:16 \(NASB\) 16](#) *“I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.”*

Conclusion

The deity of Christ is clearly seen in the New Testament. It is no wonder that the church has always taught that Christ is of the same nature as God the Father. As the Nicene Creed states,

I believe. . . . in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God . . . God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father.

This is a great quote from C.S. Lewis in *Mere Christianity*...

I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: 'I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God.' That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic -- on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg -- or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse. You

can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to. – *Mere Christianity*, pages 40-41.

This truly is God's design. He leaves us no room for waffling. Either you are in totally or out totally. There is no room to be just comfortable with Jesus. His claims and actions are too bold to accept as a bombastic human. He carried his divinity and humanity with such humility that it never fits the pattern of a fake who tries to sell himself as something more than he is. For centuries those opposed to Christianity and to Jesus have tried to be kind in some ways and relegate him to the place of a teacher, a misguided moralist, a prophet, anything other than God incarnate.

The issue comes down to that fact that if you admit that he is God, then you are forced to respond. Either you accept him and worship him or you deny him and take the consequences of his adversaries. Likewise, either way, you are admitting to creation, purpose, and design. The option of evolution or chaotic collision goes out the door.

The preponderance of evidence in the scripture is staggering. The step to eradicate the Bible as a credible book has failed through the years. Historically it is reliable, more so than any other book ever written. Each attempt to prove it to be unreliable has led to further substantiation. Archeology continues to uncover truths that are stated in the scriptures. And the fact that Jesus lived and died is recorded in history books of the period.

A Personal Revelation

Through this study as I was reading it myself in review and then teaching it one evening, I was struck with the intricacies of the plan of redemption. The fine detail to establish the Messiahship of Jesus, the applications of Old Testament prophecies to authenticate his divinity and his humanity is preponderant. I am astounded that the scriptures continue to reveal by the Holy Spirit things that were seemingly hidden. The length that the Father has gone to establish Jesus as His son and to fulfill the Old Testament scriptures to prove to His chosen people that this is truly the Son of God is one of the miracles of the ages. As the study progresses the amazement grows.

Of course I know that maybe many others have seen this, know it, and will wonder why it took me so long. However, I am impressed with what came to me and I would like to share it with you.

Throughout the ministry of Jesus, he refused to be pressured into anything. He worked in such a way that would be foreign to present day Christianity with the big ad campaigns, the pageantry, the TV programs, the fundraising, movies, Facebook, social media, video clips etc., etc. Jesus told the demons who cried out declaring that he was

the Son of God, or that his time was not yet to be quiet. The demonic beings were well aware of who Jesus was. Jesus regularly and immediately quieted them and commanded silence. He would not allow them to proclaim His mission nor his sonship.

On other occasions when humans acknowledged his being the Son of God, he would tell them to keep it a secret.

On numerous occasions, he could have easily led the people into a declaration of his Messiahship. As I look at it, his popularity was so strong that it would have been easy to lead a revolt of some sort. Even the Triumphal Entry could have resulted in an upheaval. Jesus was not looking at the earthly possibilities. His was a diligent, precise, prophetic walk that took him through the fulfillment of everything that God had established in the Old Testament tabernacle and the then current temple.

He kept prophesying that he must go to Jerusalem and there suffer at the hands of the priests, Pharisees, Scribes, and elders. There was no deviating from that plan. Jesus needed to be in Jerusalem at the time of the Passover.

When John the Baptist declared, as Jesus came from the Temptations, "Behold, the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world," he identified Jesus as the perfect lamb of God that would be the perfect propitiation for the pollution of Adam's treason and the defilement of the heavenly Holy of Holies.

However, the plan is very intricate. The lamb that was to be sacrificed at Passover was taken from the special flock for temple use. This flock was cared for and raised in Bethlehem. Every lamb for the Passover would come from Bethlehem. Jesus was born in Bethlehem. The procedure for the celebration of Passover as prescribed in Exodus required the lamb be brought into the temple on the 10th day of the month of Nissan, the first month of the Jewish Calendar. It roughly coincides with the current April. The lamb was kept in the house for the four days till Passover. The lamb was to be sacrificed on the 14th day of Nissan (Abib). Also, the High Priest would go to Bethlehem and bring the lamb to Jerusalem. What we call the Triumphal Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem was the 10th Day of Nissan (Abib). The lamb of God was brought into the temple.

During the four days the lamb was tied to the altar and treated well. Jesus came to the temple every day during the days from the 10th to the 14th. It was during this time that he was questioned and tried by lawyers, priests, and scribes. They were trying to find a flaw in him, but his answers defied their reason and left them speechless. This brought them to the only conclusion they could have to defeat him, death.

It is important to know that the Jewish day begins at Sundown not at sunrise. So 6:00 PM is the beginning of a new day. A side note is that the closer to the equator, the more precise days are. There is little or no twilight. It is daylight and then in a matter of minutes, it is dark. This occurs very close to 6:00 PM everyday.

When Jesus called for his disciples to celebrate Passover and they celebrated in the evening; it was the beginning of the 14th of Nissan (Abib), Passover day. When he is arrested, it is Passover. When he is tried and condemned to death, it is Passover. When he is crucified it is Passover. His crucifixion started at 9:00 AM, the exact same time the lambs were being slaughtered at the temple for the people. There were so many lambs to be slaughtered that it was accomplished throughout the day in three waves. The lambs were slaughtered, the blood passed from priest to priest in round bottom bowls to be cast on the altar at the end of the line. Jesus was crucified at the same time. When they finished the slaughter, the lamb would be hung up in a cruciform style for butchering. Jesus was hung up in a cruciform.

Then at 3:00 PM, the high priest would sacrifice the lamb he brought from Bethlehem. This lamb was for the nation. At 3:00 PM he would cut the throat of the lamb and say, "It is finished." Jesus breathed his last at 3:00 PM as he said, "It is finished."

Jesus would not admit to anyone he was the Christ till he admitted it to the high priest, the high priest that was required to sacrifice the lamb. In Caiaphas condemning him to death, he is bringing about the sacrifice of the lamb of God. While the high priest made the sacrifice at 3:00 PM as the representative of the nation, I believe Jesus was making the sacrifice as the high priest after the order of Melchizedek. Caiaphas in the temple in Jerusalem and Jesus making the sacrifice which would cleanse the eternal temple in heaven.

The phrase, "It is finished," has the same meaning as paying a debt in full. The high priest did this for a nation, covering the sins for another year. Jesus, our high priest after the order of Melchizedek, and of the tribe of Judah, a new order, was stating that the debt was paid in full for the mercy seat in the heavenly temple. This is reiterated by the apostles when stating that Jesus IS the propitiation for our sins. This he did once for all eternity. As Adam had polluted the Holy of Holiness by his one act of treason, Jesus makes restitution by his one act. As death passed to all through Adam, Life passes to all through Christ if they choose Him; it is available to all.

It is interesting that all this took place at the same time, on the same day, one making temporal absolution and the other making eternal absolution.

The message, the timing, the types and shadows, the prophecies, the players on the stage of eternity, all these things coming together synchronically are astounding. Once the veil is removed from the Jewish heart, the impact of all this will cause a rejoicing that makes the heart sing. For those of us who are gentiles, grafted in, fellow heirs, it is ours to discover and marvel at.

THE HEAVENLY WORK OF JESUS

Christ ascended into heaven. It was seen by many witnesses. If we were to view the work of Jesus as purely earthly, we would miss a significant part of his ministry to

mankind. We have seen his humanity, his divinity. We have looked at the prophetic fulfillments and how meticulous they were. Now, we shall research and look at what he is doing in heaven for the time being.

(NASB) "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven."

Jesus has ascended into heaven. But the fact is that he will return. He will come visible to all and as Enoch said, "He will come with 10,000's of his saints." This promise is powerful to his work in heaven. He is awaiting the command from the Father to execute his return and the beginning of the rectification of all things on earth.

LEGAL

There are some serious legal aspects of his work. There is one who accuses the saints day and night. Jesus represents us as our attorney (advocate). We need legal representation since the accusations of the enemy are usually true. We stand before the court of heaven and are represented by Jesus. So, when we are asked our plea, we plead the blood of Jesus. The plea is not "not guilty" that would be a lie. To plea "guilty" puts us in the place of judgement. The plea is the blood of Jesus which has covered our sin and forgiven us. So, the eternal judge now sees us through the blood of Jesus and we are pure, forgiven. We are wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption. Wise, right with God, holy, and redeemed.

1 John 2:1-2 (NASB) 1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; 2 and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.

Propitiation is a legal need of ours. Legally, we need to be not guilty of treason against God. We need to be free of the curse passed down through the Adamic blood. Here we have absolution through the blood of Jesus which pays the ransom, the penalty, the curse. This legal, purchased right Jesus has made available to the whole world.

Philippians 2:9-11 (NASB) 9 For this reason (*because he humbled himself*) also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (*italics mine*)

The Lordship of Jesus is a legal title and place. Homage must be paid to the Lordship of Jesus. This Lordship is not a limited lordship. It is not defined by geographic or political boundaries. This lordship is eternal, universal. He is named Lord of lords, and King of kings. He holds the highest place in all eternity.

Philippians 3:20-21 (NASB) 20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; 21 who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

Citizenship by nature and definition requires a kingdom or state. We have our citizenship in heaven. This requires us to live with the understanding that we have a higher calling and service than our temporal or earthly country of birth. While we may serve our earthly country well, when there is a conflict of command and allegiance, we must choose our true, eternal citizenship.

1 Corinthians 15:24 (NASB) 24 then comes the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power.

This verse indicates that the putting of all things under the feet of Jesus is a function of his work in heaven and on earth in the second coming. He will subject all things and then present them to the Father having restored things to their original intent.

Hebrews 1:1-4 (NASB) 1 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, 2 in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. 3 And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, 4 having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they.

The seat at the right hand is indicative of equality and favor. So, as Jesus said to Phillip, if you have seen me, you have seen the Father.

1 Timothy 2:5-6 (NASB) 5 For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, 6 who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time.

This is one of the most magnificent scriptures and revelations for mankind. The incarnate God remains the incarnate God forever. There will always be the man Jesus who mediates for us. He is the only true mediator for us with God.

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

Revelation 1:17-18 (NASB) "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, 18 and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades.

(NASB) “Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night.

1 Corinthians 1:30-31 (NASB) But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, 31 so that, just as it is written, “Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

Thus there are numerous legal functions that transpire regularly through Jesus for us. I believe it is his nature and he handles all things with ease and alacrity.

HIGH PRIEST MINISTRY

Hebrews 10:11-13 (NASB) 11 Every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins; 12 but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God, 13 waiting from that time onward until His enemies be made a footstool for His feet.

Hebrews 9:27-28 (NASB) 27 And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment, 28 so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him.

Hebrews 2:17-18 (NASB) 17 Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. 18 For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.

Hebrews 4:14-16 (NASB) 14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. 16 Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 7:24-25 (NASB) 24 but Jesus, on the other hand, because He continues forever, holds His priesthood permanently. 25 Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

The priest by definition is one who mediates between one who is lower and one who is higher; the higher being unapproachable by the lower. God the Father in the pure state of perfection cannot be approached by the imperfect and sinful. The holiness would be polluted by such presence. Jesus is the High Priest after the order of Melchizedek and approaches the Father with ease. He has privilege with the Father. He is able to practice before the Father, similar to having stance with the Supreme Court. So Jesus makes intercession for us and keeps us in a holy state able to approach. He is the new and living way into the Holy of Holies.

CHURCH

In Matthew 16:18, Jesus tells Peter that he will build his church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it. That is a promise that continues. Jesus is building his church, which is a great encouragement in the face of opposition and persecution. Whatever happens, we can be confident in the promise that Jesus is building his church.

One way he builds his church is by equipping it. In Ephesians 4:11-12, *Ephesians 4:10-13 (NASB) 10 He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, so that He might fill all things.) 11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.* Paul tells us that Christ gave the apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers to “equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body”. Christ equips believers by giving us Bible teachers who prepare us to do the ministry of building the church.

In Ephesians 5:28-30, *Ephesians 5:28-30 (NASB) 28 So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; 29 for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, 30 because we are members of His body.* Paul tells husbands to love their wives as their bodies. They are to nourish and cherish their own bodies “just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body”. The health of the church depends on Jesus’ ongoing sustaining work.

Matthew 16:18-19 (NASB) 18 I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.”

Also, while in heaven, Jesus continues to build his church. Being omnipresent by His spirit, he is able to continue to build and support his church. The church encompasses

not only those on earth, but those who have gone on into heaven. The church continues to grow and there is prayer support on both sides.

We call the gifts of the Spirit as power tools for the church. The work of the Holy Spirit is supporting the growth of the church. His job is to fill us, lead us, comfort us, challenge us, He works like Jesus standing beside you urging you on.

WHAT DO WE KNOW OF HIS MILLENNIAL REIGN? AND THE AGES OF THE AGES?

Revelation 20:1-6 (NASB) 1 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. 2 And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; 3 and he threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time.

4 Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. 5 The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

This time of reigning for a thousand years on earth and from Jerusalem allows the earth to experience the holy, just, reign of the Christ. Satan has been removed through angelic incarceration. His influence in tempting people, deceiving people is removed for a thousand years. Peace reigns throughout the earth. Injustices are dealt with immediately. Humans are expressing their own fallen nature. This period of a thousand years allows the exposure of the fallen nature of man and that even if Satan is removed that the heart of man is desperately wicked.

Revelation 20:7-10 (NASB) Satan Freed, Doomed

7 When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison, 8 and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore. 9 And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them. 10 And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Isaiah 11:1-9 (NASB) 1 Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, And a branch from his roots will bear fruit.

2 The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him,
The spirit of wisdom and understanding,
The spirit of counsel and strength,
The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
3 And He will delight in the fear of the Lord,
And He will not judge by what His eyes see,
Nor make a decision by what His ears hear;
4 But with righteousness He will judge the poor,
And decide with fairness for the afflicted of the earth;
And He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth,
And with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked.
5 Also righteousness will be the belt about His loins,
And faithfulness the belt about His waist.
6 And the wolf will dwell with the lamb,
And the leopard will lie down with the young goat,
And the calf and the young lion and the fatling together;
And a little boy will lead them.
7 Also the cow and the bear will graze,
Their young will lie down together,
And the lion will eat straw like the ox.
8 The nursing child will play by the hole of the cobra,
And the weaned child will put his hand on the viper's den.
9 They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain,
For the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
As the waters cover the sea.

This passage expressed the nature of the thousand year reign on earth. Note the Bible speaks of the camp of the saints not New Jerusalem. The earthly battle will be on the plains near Jerusalem. The New Jerusalem will take a very large land mass at its base.

Isaiah 11:10 (NASB) 10 Then in that day
The nations will resort to the root of Jesse,
Who will stand as a signal for the peoples;
And His resting place will be glorious.

Previous to the thousand year reign, the Bible speaks of the Battle of Armageddon which precedes the thousand year reign. It is the moment when the armies of the world and the beast and false prophet are defeated and rid from the earth. With this event, the thousand year reign of peace begins with Jesus ruling from Jerusalem.

The thousand year reign is similar to the first thousand years. Death will come for many, but many will live through the entire thousand years. To die at three hundred will be as dying in childhood.

Revelation 19:11-21 (NASB) 11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and

wages war. 12 His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself. 13 He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses. 15 From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. 16 And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."

17 Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and he cried out with a loud voice, saying to all the birds which fly in midheaven, "Come, assemble for the great supper of God, 18 so that you may eat the flesh of kings and the flesh of commanders and the flesh of mighty men and the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them and the flesh of all men, both free men and slaves, and small and great."

19 And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies assembled to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army.

Doom of the Beast and False Prophet

20 And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone. 21 And the rest were killed with the sword which came from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse, and all the birds were filled with their flesh.

This section provides the moment when Satan's crew is removed from the tempting and interference in the affairs of mankind. Jesus, with his resurrected saints, now rule throughout the earth bringing fairness and justice to all. The Prince of Peace rules; yet with a rod of iron. The rod of iron indicates that justice will be swift and true. Absolute truth will be the rule and will be meted the same way.

After this perfect reign of peace and justice, Satan will be loosed for a short period of time, but it will be long enough for him to reach rulers and peoples and sell them on the idea of overcoming the Prince of Peace. Satan organizes an alliance to march on Jerusalem to defeat the Christ. In this move, it reveals the true heart of man; that even without demonic influence, the heart of man is fallen. The deception is strong and the armies gather.

The conclusion of the thousand year reign moves all things to the judgment at the White Throne. Everything comes to a conclusion. Death and hell are brought up and thrown into the Lake of Fire which is called the Second Death. Each person is brought for judgment and only those who have their name in the Book of Life survive the ordeal to be with the Lord forever. All others have their place in the Lake of Fire. Thus, the thousand year reign is man's last, best opportunity to repent and enter the graces of God.