

WEEK NINETEEN

I Know Jesus Is God

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"But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name." John 20:21

If Jesus was not the Son of God as He claimed He was, then He is the greatest imposter of all time and the Christian Faith is nothing but meaningless sham and must be discarded upon the rubbish heap of false religion.

We are facing a most important question tonight that is, How may I know that Jesus is the Son of God? The whole weight

of the Christian teaching hangs by this one thread. If it cannot stand the test of truth, then all of the alleged verities of the centuries come tumbling down.

We do not hope to convince anyone by logical argument that Jesus is the Christ. We do not arrive at this conviction by mere human reasoning; the knowledge that Jesus is the Christ must and will come by means of divine revelation. When Jesus asked the disciples, "Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?" Peter gave his inspired answer, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of

the living God." And Jesus immediately informed Peter that his answer was a revelation. He said Peter was incapable of arriving at this conclusion by the process of his own reasoning; his mind was too limited to fathom such an infinite truth, as so He said, "Flesh and blood has not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven." He was saying, "Peter, you didn't get this merely at the college or seminary but by divine revelation.." It was not, Jesus said, a discovered truth but a revelation.

THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST:
PRE-EXISTENCE

TAKE HEED

The next several weeks, we will examine the Doctrine of Christ also known as Christology. This is a systematic approach to understanding Who Jesus is. We will explore both Old and New Testament Scriptures to learn the basis of what we believe about Jesus.

During the course of this study you will be given Scriptures to look up and questions to answer. This will help to insure that our conclusions are bible based not man made. The Scripture references will be given in bold followed by the question.

1 Timothy 4:16: What two things does Paul tell Timothy to do with doctrine?
1. _____
2. _____

1 John 4:1: Why should we try the spirits?

2 Peter 2:1: What do false deny?

2 Timothy 4:3-4: What warnings do we receive?

The systematic study of these great doctrines concerning Christ helps us to recognize and avoid false teaching which permeates the world today.

According to Ephesians 4:11-15 why did God give us apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers?

For the _____ of the saints.
For the _____ of the ministry.
For the _____ of the body of Christ and so that we might not be carried about with every wind of _____.

Answer the following questions from **1 Timothy 4:1-7, 13-16.**

What do seducing spirits spread?

What does Paul command Timothy to give attendance to?
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

What two things does Paul tell Timothy to do with doctrine?
1. _____
2. _____

The study of these great doctrines aids us in the fulfillment of God's commands to teach; to study and to be ready to give an answer.

Matthew 28:20: What are we commanded to teach? _____

2 Timothy 2:15: Why should we study?

1 Peter 3:15: What should we be ready to do? _____

These Scriptures have taught us the importance of sound Bible doctrine. Many believers and "Christian leaders" shy away from doctrine. They avoid it because they believe it is divisive. In a sense, they are right. It does divide. It does separate. It separates the true followers of Christ from those who wish to reinvent God. Someone once said, "God mad man in his own image and man returned the favor."

Many people have a preconceived idea of what God should be like and try to put Him in their little box. They redefine Jesus and attribute to Him the characteristics that they like and ignore those they despise.

Sometimes people redefine Jesus based not simply on what they want Him to be

but on what they think is reasonable for Him to be. If they do not understand the doctrine of the trinity they simply deny it. If they do not have faith in miracles they explain them away.

A Jehovah's Witness recently explained that the Trinity was not possible because Jesus prayed to the Father. He asked, "Would you talk to yourself?" Of course, I answered that I would! His faulty reasoning supported His false doctrine.

Matthew 22:42: What did Jesus ask the Pharisees? _____

Matthew 16:15, Mark 8:29, Luke 9:20: What did Jesus ask His disciples?

These are the most important questions a person can answer. Your response will not only determine the course of your life but also your eternity. These questions should not be answered by one's feelings or intuition. We must have an authority behind our conclusions.

John 5:39: What did Jesus say was the source of our knowledge about Him?

John 20:21: Why did John write his gospel? _____

During the course of our study we will examine His preexistence, incarnation, deity, miracles, parables, crucifixion, resurrection and second coming. We will take note of prophecies concerning Him and what the Bible teaches about the doctrine of the Trinity.

While we may quote scholars, pastors, authors and other authorities, our final authority will always be the Word of God.

I trust that this portion of our study on the Life of Christ will be a rewarding experience in your Christian walk.

Day
1

APPLICATION

What is the greatest truth you have learned from God's Word today and how can you apply it to your life?

PREINCARNATION

The word incarnation means enfleshment. This word refers to the act of God becoming a man. It is used to describe the work of the Holy Ghost when He overshadowed Mary and she conceived the infant Christ. This is the moment when He planted the infant Jesus in her womb.

The existence of Jesus prior to His incarnation is referred to as preincarnation. Often preachers will refer to the preincarnate Christ. He existed long before He was incarnated. He existed in eternity past and even revealed Himself several times in the Old Testament as the following Scriptures will indicate.

Another related word is preexistence. This may refer to His existence before His birth and extend even to before creation or even time itself.

A man once asked, "When did Jesus realize He was God?" I responded by asking, "When did He forget?"

This man's erroneous question was based on a philosophy that does not recognize the eternal existence of Jesus. The Ebionites believed that God chose Jesus to be the Messiah and the consciousness of that came upon Him at His baptism. Arius of Alexandria taught that Jesus was a creation of God but not equal with God. Certain forms of Gnosticism taught that the divinity of Christ came on Jesus at His baptism and left before the His death.

Contrary to these false beliefs, the Scriptures teach that Jesus is coequal with the Father and has existed with Him throughout all of eternity past. Observe the following Scriptures that demonstrate His existence prior to the foundation of the world.

Micah 5:2: What does this prophetic passage say of Christ's origin?

John 17:5: Since when did Jesus share glory with the Father? _____

John 17:24: Since when did the Father love Jesus? _____

1 Peter 1:18-20: Since when was Jesus ordained to be a sacrifice for sin? _____

John 1:1: When was the Word? _____

John 1:14: What happened to the Word? _____

John 8:58: How did Jesus date Himself in relation to Abraham? _____

Not only did Jesus exist before the foundation of the world but He was also active as its Creator.

John 1:1-3: What was made by Him? _____

Colossians 1:16-17: What was created by Him? _____

Ephesians 3:9: By whom were all things created? _____

Hebrews 1:1-2: What did the Son make? _____

Is there any doubt that the Scriptures clearly teach that Jesus existed prior to His birth? _____

The miracle is not the Jesus existed prior to His birth but that He would leave His glory in heaven with the Father and humble Himself to be made in the fashion of mankind.

Galatians 4:4-5: Why did God send His Son? _____

Philippians 2:7: How did Jesus take upon Himself the form of a servant? _____

If we strip away the preexistence of Christ we strip away His deity. If He did not exist prior to His birth then God did not become a man. If God did not become a man then Jesus is not God unless man can become God. If man can become God then nearly every major doctrine of the bible is false. The preexistence of Christ is crucial to a complete understanding of the deity of Jesus. Satan would love to deceive many into believe that God did not love the world enough to become a man and die for the sins of the world. However, the only way to come to this conclusion is to deny the Scriptures.

1 Timothy 3:16: How did God manifest Himself? _____

1 John 4:2-3: How does John contrast those who confess that Jesus is the Christ come in the flesh with those who deny this truth? _____

DAY
2

APPLICATION

What is the greatest truth you have learned from God's Word today and how can you apply it to your life?

THE ANGEL OF THE LORD

From Genesis to Malachi, Jesus wasn't merely standing by waiting for His "turn at bat." He was not an idle observer watching the Father work waiting for His chance. Jesus was very active in the Old Testament as the Angel of the LORD.

Jesus identified Himself as the Angel of the LORD in John 8:58. Keep in mind that the Angel of the LORD is literally the Angel of Jehovah.

Out of great reverence for the name of God, the King James translators substituted the title "LORD" in all caps whenever the name Yahweh or Jehovah appeared.

Jesus identifies Himself as Jehovah of the Old Testament.

Exodus 3:2: Who appeared to Moses?

Exodus 3:14: What name did He give to Moses for Himself?

The Hebrew root of this word is the source for the name originally written, YHWH which has no vowels. Two derivations of this have appeared: Yahweh and Jehovah. Regardless of the spelling, pronunciation or translation, this name describes the Self-Existent One.

John 8:58: Who claimed this title?

Paul identifies Jesus as the Angel of the Lord. It was Jesus that led them out of Egypt as a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. At the crossing of the Red Sea, He removed and went behind them to confound their enemy. Paul declares that this was Jesus Christ.

Exodus 13:21-22: How did the Lord lead His people?

Exodus 14:19: Who was it that went before and behind the camp of Israel?

1 Corinthians 10:1-4: As the Apostle Paul recounts this event, who does he proclaim as that Rock or Pillar?

There can be no doubt that the Apostle Paul identifies Jesus as the Angel of God! He testifies that it was Christ that travelled with the camp of Israel in their journey. This reveals to us the unity of the Father and the Son.

John 10:30: Who is one?

False prophets who deny the biblical teaching of the Trinity redefine this passage to mean that they are one in "purpose" rather than essence. However, we can clearly see that Paul says not only that Jesus in one in purpose but that He is that very God who led His people in the wilderness.

Tomorrow we will explore some specific appearances of Jesus as the Angel of the Lord. But before we do this we should understand how to recognize His appearance. What is the difference between the appearance of an angel as a created being and the Angel of the LORD?

Harry Carr gives us three ways by which we can discern when the appearance of an angel was indeed a pre-incarnate appearance of Christ. Another term for this is theophanies.

(1) He will say or prophesy something that only God is capable of doing or predicting.

(2) He will reveal something known only to God.

(3) He will accept worship and praise

that is due only to God.

Ordinary angels will not receive the worship that belongs to the Lord. If an angel refuses worship you can be sure that it is not Him.

As we examine the preincarnate existence of Jesus as the Angel of the LORD, we should be encouraged to know that Jesus was not, is not and never will bear the label of some new fangled, fad like religious leader. He was and is more than a good teacher or wise philosopher. He was not someone who simply showed up on the scene for thirty-three years and made a significant impact on society.

Jesus is God. He always was, is and always will be.

Hebrews 13:8: What does this verse teach us about the consistency of Christ?

Revelation 1:8: Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet much like our A and Z. What do we learn about Jesus in this passage?

The eternity of Jesus inspires confidence in those who love Him. Because He always was we have no reason to doubt that He is and always will be. Mohammed is dead. Gautama Buddha is dead. The founder of every ancient religion is dead. The founder of every modern religion will die. Jesus lives!

Just as Jehovah Jesus was active and involved with His people in times past so too He is involved with His people today.

John 14:16-18: Who is the Comforter?

Matthew 28:20: When is Jesus with us?

Hebrews 13:5: When will He forsake us?

DAY
3

APPLICATION

What is the greatest truth you have learned from God's Word today and how can you apply it to your life?

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

As we discovered in yesterday's study, Jesus is Jehovah. He identified Himself with the Angel of the Lord that appeared to Moses. (John 8:58, Exodus 3) There is a tendency to fail in recognizing Jesus in the Old Testament passages. In fact, Christians of this age sometimes fail to realize that Old Testament believers were Christians too!

It sounds absurd to some if we refer to Abraham, Noah, Isaiah, Daniel and other Old Testament saints as Christians since Jesus Christ had not yet come in the flesh. However, we must never forget that they still anticipated the Messiah which is still the Old Testament term for Christ.

Daniel 9:25-26: Who was Daniel anticipating? _____

Isaiah 53:5: Who was Isaiah obviously speaking of? _____

These examples should suffice to prove the point that they worshipped Christ just as we do. The only difference is that we look back to Christ while they looked ahead in faith. So it is legitimate to refer to those who anticipated Christ's coming as Christians.

Although Jesus had not yet come in the flesh, He did make appearances in bodily form. As you envision what you are reading, you should clearly picture the Angel of the LORD as Jesus Christ. You should see Jesus speaking with Adam and Eve as well as Abraham, Hagar, Joshua, Gideon and Manoah. This will help you to visualize the continuity of the Scriptures and the preexistence of Christ.

As we examine the following passages, you should see Jesus just as clearly as you do in the New Testament. The same One Who walked in the garden in the cool of the day is the same One Who would hang on the cross of Calvary. He is the same One Who will descend in the clouds with a shout and will rule the nations. We do not worship three God's but rather One who has manifested Himself as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. When we see One we have seen the other.

John 14:8-11: What does Jesus say about the Father and the Son? _____

Genesis 2:7-9, Colossians 1:16-17: How do these verses relate to one another? _____

Genesis 3:8-10: In what way do we learn of the LORD's physical presence in the Garden? _____

Genesis 16:7-10: Who had an encounter with the preincarnate Christ? _____

Genesis 18:1: To whom did the LORD appear? _____

In what form did He appear? _____

Genesis 18:2: How did he respond? _____

Genesis 18:9-15: What miracles did the LORD say He was about to perform? _____

Joshua 5:13: Describe the man Joshua saw. _____

Joshua 5:14: How did this man describe Himself? _____

What was Joshua's response? _____

Joshua 5:15: Did this man receive/expect worship? Explain. _____

Judges 6:11: Where did the Angel of the LORD sit? _____

Judges 6:12: How did He refer to Gideon? _____

Judges 6:19-22: How did the LORD receive Gideon's offering? _____

How did Gideon see the LORD? _____

Judges 13:17:-20: Who saw the Angel of the LORD? _____

What was incredible about their sacrifice? _____

As we study Jesus' appearances in the Old Testament, we see a clear consistency with the character of Christ in the New Testament. When we consider that Isaiah and so many others anticipated the first coming of Christ with joyful expectation, how much more should we look forward to His second coming! When we see the great work He did in the lives of Abraham, Sarah, Joshua, Gideon and others, why should we doubt that Jesus Christ can work in and through us as well. We may well feel inadequate as Moses did or wonder just who He's speaking to with such high expectations as Gideon did. But rest assured: just as the power was not in them but in the Lord, so to we are enabled through Christ.

1 Timothy 1:12: Who is the Enabler and why? _____

DAY
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APPLICATION

What is the greatest truth you have learned from God's Word today and how can you apply it to your life?

LOOKING AHEAD

Statisticians have concluded that the odds of even five prophecies concerning Christ being fulfilled in one man are 1/206,500,000,000,000 (1/206 trillion 500 billion). Statisticians call this statistical impossibility. Time and space do not permit an exhaustive account of the Old Testament prophecies concerning Christ. However, the following should suffice to demonstrate that the Old Testament was constantly pointing towards the incarnation of Jesus the Messiah.

Genesis 3:15 is known as the "proto-evangelium" or first mention of the Gospel. The Lord is speaking to Satan, that old serpent. He is looking a little more than four thousand years down the road. Satan thought he had won already. He had convinced mankind to sin against his Creator in disobedience, defiance and self will. Only two people existed and they had both defied God and trusted the devil. He was happy. They had aligned themselves with him. But the story was not over.

Another day was coming. Satan did not realize that God was already prepared for this moment.

A plan of redemption was already in place.

A sacrifice was already prepared. A descendant of the woman would offer Himself as a substitute.

Ironically, offspring are always referred to as the seed of the man and never the woman. However, because of the virgin birth, Christ would not be considered the seed of Adam.

Genesis 3:15: Who would experience the fatal wound to the head? _____

Who would experience a temporary wound to the heel? _____

Notice these prophecies concerning

Christ. Each of them was fulfilled in perfect detail.

Micah 5:2: Where was the Savior to be born? _____

Luke 2:1-7: Where was Jesus born? _____

Isaiah 7:14: What would be special about the Messiah's conception and birth? _____

Luke 1:26-34: How did Mary fit this description? _____

Isaiah 9:6: What would be upon His shoulders? _____

1 Timothy 6:15: How is Jesus described? _____

Jeremiah 23:5: Of whose seed would the Righteous Branch be? _____

Matthew 1:1: Whose son was Jesus? _____

Daniel 9:24-26: Who is the Messiah not cut off for? _____

A detailed examination of the seventy-weeks is beyond the scope of this study. However, a few brief points should be made.

First, let us note that this relates to the Jews: "thy people."

Then let us understand that these are weeks of years. One week is equal to seven years. The clock begins when the command is given to rebuild Jerusalem. This occurs in Nehemiah 2:1-8 or 445 B.C.

There are three divisions of weeks: 7 weeks or 49 years, 62 weeks or 434 years, and 1 week or seven years.

The first division of weeks (49 years) takes us to the close of the Old Testament with Malachi. The next 62 weeks (434 years) have been calculated by Sir Robert

Anderson to bring us directly to the day Jesus rode into Jerusalem and presented Himself as the Messiah. This was of course followed by the crucifixion. Not many years after Jerusalem was destroyed (70 A. D.).

The seventieth week of Daniel is yet future and still deals with Israel. This will be the Tribulation period.

We should never be amazed at the accuracy of God's Word! It should be something assumed by every believer.

Zechariah 9:9: How will Jesus enter into Jerusalem? _____

Matthew 21:1-11: How did Jesus enter Jerusalem? _____

Zechariah 12:10: Who shall they look upon? _____

John 19:33-34: What did the soldier do to Jesus? _____

Isaiah 53:7: How would he answer? _____

Mark 14:60: How did Jesus answer the High Priest? _____

Mark 15:4: How did Jesus answer Pilate? _____

Isaiah 53:9: What two types of people would the Messiah be associated with in His death? _____

Matthew 27:38: Who was Jesus crucified with? _____

Mark 15:43-46: Who cared for the body of Jesus? _____

It is no mere coincidence that Jesus literally fulfilled each of these prophecies and more. It would take more faith for a learned person to deny Jesus than to believe in Him. God's Word has never failed. God's Word will never fail.

DAY
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APPLICATION

What is the greatest truth you you have learned from God's Word today and how can you apply it to your life?



TABLE TALK



PASTOR'S MESSAGE