

"Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel"
(Isaiah 7:14).

WHO WAS JESUS CHRIST (Lesson 15)

Christology: A branch of theology that is focused upon the study of the nature and person of Christ.

The literal Hebrew translation of Immanuel is *with us God*. In English, "God with Us." Some prefer the direct translation because God didn't want anything to come between us and Him.

Jesus asked this question of his disciples. First, He asked, "*Whom do men say that I am?*" (Mark 8:27). Matthew records a little more detail, "*Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?*" (Matthew 16:13). To which they replied that some believed he was John the Baptist. Others thought he was Elijah, Jeremiah or one of the prophets (Matthew 16:14). But, Jesus wanted a more personal answer, "*But whom say ye that I am?*" (Matthew 16:15) and Peter replied, "*Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.*" (Matthew 16:16).

While in exile on the rock of St. Helena Napoleon Bonaparte, the conqueror of civilized Europe had time to reflect on the measure of his accomplishments. He called Count Montholon to his side and asked him, "Can you tell me who Jesus Christ was?" The count declined to respond. Napoleon countered:

"Well then, I will tell you. Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne and I myself have founded great empires; but upon what did these creations of our genius depend? Upon force. Jesus alone founded His empire upon love, and to this very day millions will die for Him. . . . I think I understand something of human nature; and I tell you, all these were men, and I am a man; none else is like Him: Jesus Christ was more than a man. . . . I have inspired multitudes with such an enthusiastic devotion that they would have died for me . . . but to do this is was necessary that I should be visibly present with the electric influence of my looks, my words, of my voice. When I saw men and spoke to them, I lightened up the flame of self-devotion in their hearts. . . . Christ alone has succeeded in so raising the mind of man toward the unseen, that it becomes insensible to the barriers of time and space. Across a chasm of eighteen hundred years, Jesus Christ makes a demand which is beyond all others difficult to satisfy; He asks for that which a philosopher may often seek in vain at the hands of his friends, or a father of his children, or a bride of her spouse, or a man of his brother. He asks for the human heart; He will have it entirely to Himself. He demands it unconditionally; and forthwith His demand is granted. Wonderful! In defiance of time and space, the soul of man, with all its powers and faculties, becomes an annexation to the empire of Christ. All who sincerely believe in Him, experience that remarkable, supernatural love toward Him. This phenomenon is unaccountable; it is altogether beyond the scope of man's creative powers. Time, the great destroyer, is powerless to extinguish this sacred flame; time can neither exhaust its strength nor put a limit to its range. This is it, which strikes me most; I have often thought of it. This it is which proves to me quite convincingly the Divinity of Jesus Christ."

So, Jesus is a man, as he loved to call himself *the son of man*. But, as Napoleon insisted, he is more than a man, He is God Himself. He is also “the Christ,” the Son of the living God as well. This revelation came direct to Peter from the Father in heaven who is also God. In fact, the revelation of the identity of Jesus Christ is the foundation from which the Church is built upon.

Mat 16:17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, **Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.**

Mat 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

I. HIS NATURE

This is all so confusing for many. Can Jesus be both God and man? Is he the Son of God, a member of the Godhead with the Father and the Holy Spirit as proponents of the Trinity Doctrine argue? According to the Encyclopedia Britannica, 1911 edition, the Trinity Doctrine was an immersing doctrine of the church in 250 AD.

Trinitarians believed that God is one being but He has eternally existed in the form of three persons, The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit. However, the majority of believers at the time were Unitarians, believing as the Jews did that God is only one being, *Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord.* (Mark 12:29) Because of the influence of the Gnostics, the Unitarians later split into two groups, the Adoptianists and Modalists.

The Adoptianists were influenced by the Gnostics and believed that Jesus was a man chosen of God, on whom the Holy Spirit rested in a quite unique sense, and who after his death on the cross through his oneness of will with God, became divine. He was a god, not the God. This belief is held by Jehovah witnesses today and it became known as the Arian heresy in the 3rd Century.

The Modalists believed that Jesus was one of three manifestations of the one God of the Old Testament. God was the Father in creation, the Son in redemption and the Holy Ghost in regeneration. This seems to be the doctrine of the Apostles which was not a controversy in the early church.

1Ti 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

God was manifest (seen) in the flesh of Jesus:

Joh 14:7 If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.

Joh 14:8 Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us.

Joh 14:9 Jesus saith unto him, **Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?**

Who was the Father?

Mat 1:18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.
God was justified in the Spirit (to show or regarded as a spirit)

Joh 4:23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

Joh 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

Seen of Angels (His invisible image):

Col 1:12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

Col 1:13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

Col 1:14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

Col 1:15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

Col 1:16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

Preached to the Gentiles and believed on in the world:

Heb 1:1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

Heb 1:2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

Heb 1:3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

Col 2:8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

Col 2:9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

Col 2:10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

Conclusion: So Jesus is both God and man – He is God manifest in the flesh - The Spirit of God dwells within Him and he is the image of the invisible God.

He is the fulfillment of Jacob's vision - A ladder that reaches from heaven to earth.

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GOD MANIFEST IN THE FLESH

1 TIM. 3:16

AS THE SON OF GOD, THE FLESHLY, HUMAN MAN:

- BORN A BABY, OR SON MATT. 1:23-25
- INCREASED IN WISDOM LUKE 2:52
- GREW HUNGRY MATT. 4:2
- WAS A SERVANT PHIL. 2:7
- DWELT ON THE EARTH JOHN 1:14
- PRAYED LUKE 22:44
- SACRIFICE FOR SINS HEB. 9:26
- HE DIED JOHN 19:30

THREE BEAR RECORD IN
HEAVEN - THE FATHER, THE
WORD, AND HOLY GHOST,
AND THESE THREE ARE ONE

1 JOHN 5:7

WORD WAS MADE FLESH
AND DWELT AMONG US

JOHN 1:14

I AND MY FATHER ARE ONE

JOHN 10:30



WHEN YOU HAVE SEEN
ME, YOU HAVE SEEN
THE FATHER

JOHN 14:9-11

IF YE BELIEVE NOT THAT
I AM HE, YE SHALL DIE
IN YOUR SINS

JOHN 8:24

AS THE SPIRIT, THE GREAT ETERNAL GOD:

- BORN THE MIGHTY GOD IS. 9:6
- KNOWETH ALL THINGS JOHN 21:17
- FED MULTITUDES MATT. 14:19-21
- KING OF KINGS REV. 19:16
- CREATED THE EARTH COL. 1:16-17
- ANSWERS PRAYER JOHN 14:13-14
- FORGAVE SINS MARK 2:5-7
- HE AROSE LUKE 24:1-6

I AM THE FIRST, AND THE
LAST, AND BESIDE ME
THERE IS NO GOD

IS. 44:6

BEFORE ME THERE WAS NO
GOD FORMED, NEITHER
SHALL THERE BE AFTER ME

IS. 43:10

Mark Lowry wrote the lyrics to the song “Mary Did You Know” which was made popular by Clay Aiken. The song presents who Jesus was from the perspective of Mary, His mother:

Mary, did you know that your Baby Boy would one day walk on water? Mary, did you know that your Baby Boy would save our sons and daughters? Did you know that your Baby Boy has come to make you new? This Child that you delivered will soon deliver you.

Mary, did you know that your Baby Boy will give sight to a blind man? Mary, did you know that your Baby Boy will calm the storm with His hand? Did you know that your Baby Boy has walked where angels trod? When you kiss your little Boy you kissed the face of God? Mary did you know...