

# JESUS – GOD AND MAN

## THE JOURNEY TOWARD UNDERSTANDING

### PART ONE: THE BIBLICAL WITNESS



“The doctrine of the person of Christ is crucial to the Christian faith. It is basic to soteriology [i.e., the doctrine of salvation], for if our Lord was not what He claimed to be, then His atonement was a deficient, not sufficient, payment for sin.”

(Charles C. Ryrie, *Basic Theology*)

## I. Biblical Evidence for the Deity of Christ

### A. Jesus is Presented as the “Son of God”

“Son of...” has the sense of being “of the order of...” or “of the nature of...”

1 Kings 20:35. “Sons of the prophets” *were* prophets

Nehemiah 12:28. “Sons of the singers” *were* singers

Acts 4:36. Barnabas was the “Son of Encouragement”

“In Jewish usage the term ‘Son of...’ did not generally imply any subordination, but rather equality and identity of nature. ... Thus for Christ to say, ‘I am the Son of God’ (John 10:36) was understood by His contemporaries as identifying Himself as God, equal with the Father, in an unqualified sense.”

(J. Oliver Buswell, *A Systematic Theology of the Christian Religion*)



## B. Jesus Performs Divine Acts

- Matthew 8:26-27

<sup>26</sup> He replied, “You of little faith, why are you so afraid?” Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm.

<sup>27</sup> The men were amazed and asked, “What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!”

Psalm 89:9

<sup>9</sup> You rule over the surging sea;  
when its waves mount up, you still  
them.

Psalm 107:28-29

<sup>28</sup> Then they cried out to the LORD in their  
trouble,  
and he brought them out of their distress.  
<sup>29</sup> He stilled the storm to a whisper;  
the waves of the sea were hushed.  
<sup>30</sup> They were glad when it grew calm,  
and he guided them to their desired haven.

- Matthew 14:25-27

<sup>25</sup> During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. <sup>26</sup> When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. “It’s a ghost,” they said, and cried out in fear.

<sup>27</sup> But Jesus immediately said to them: “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.”

Job 9:8

<sup>8</sup> He alone stretches out the heavens  
and treads on the waves of the sea.

- Hebrews 1:6

<sup>6</sup> And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, “Let all God’s angels worship him.”

Revelation 19:10

<sup>10</sup> [When John saw the angel in his vision, he writes,] At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “Do not do it! ... Worship God!...”

## C. “Jesus” is Used Interchangeably With “Yahweh” (God’s Personal Name)

- Romans 10:13

<sup>13</sup> ...everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Joel 2:32

<sup>32</sup> ...everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved...



[Note: “LORD” in all-capital letters signifies translation of the divine name, “Yahweh”]

• Luke 1:76

<sup>76</sup> And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High;  
for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him...

Malachi 3:1

“[Yahweh says] See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me.”

## D. Jesus Shares the Same Nature as the Father

• Romans 9:5

<sup>5</sup> ...Christ, who is God over all...

• Philippians 2:6

<sup>6</sup> [Christ Jesus is] in very nature  
God...

• Colossians 1:19

<sup>19</sup> For God was pleased to have all  
his fullness dwell in him...

• Colossians 2:9

<sup>9</sup> For in Christ all the fullness of the  
Deity lives in bodily form ...

• Titus 2:13

<sup>13</sup> while we wait for ... the glorious  
appearing of our great God and  
Savior, Jesus Christ...

• John 10:30

<sup>30</sup> “I and the Father are one.”

Grammatically, the statement identifies Jesus and the  
Father in *perfect unity* – both in *action* and in *nature*

John 10:33

<sup>33</sup> “We are ... stoning you ...” replied the Jews, “...for blasphemy,  
because you, a mere man, claim to be God.”

• John 1:1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,  
and the Word was God.

Problem: “...the Word was God” is ambiguous

Possibly “the Word was *a god*.” (I.e., *a lesser god, less divine than the Father*)  
(Jehovah’s Witnesses opt for this translation)

Possibly “The Word was God.” (I.e., *God Himself, fully divine*)  
(Christians opt for this translation)

How do we know which is correct?

Context is key!

John uses “God” many more times in John 1 (Cf. 1:1, 2, 6, 12, 13, etc.)

Every other occurrence of the word for God clearly means *God*

John’s theology never speaks of *a lesser god*.

## II. Biblical Evidence for the Humanity of Christ

### A. Jesus' Genealogy Shows His Connection To Humanity

- Matthew 1:1-17

A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of David, the son of Abraham: <sup>2</sup> Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, <sup>3</sup> Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar, Perez the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram, <sup>4</sup> Ram the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, <sup>5</sup> Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse, <sup>6</sup> and Jesse the father of King David.

David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife, <sup>7</sup> Solomon the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam the father of Abijah, Abijah the father of Asa, <sup>8</sup> Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat the father of Jehoram, Jehoram the father of Uzziah, <sup>9</sup> Uzziah the father of Jotham, Jotham the father of Ahaz, Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, <sup>10</sup> Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, Manasseh the father of Amon, Amon the father of Josiah, <sup>11</sup> and Josiah the father of Jeconiah and his brothers at the time of the exile to Babylon.

<sup>12</sup> After the exile to Babylon: Jeconiah was the father of Shealtiel, Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, <sup>13</sup> Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, Abiud the father of Eliakim, Eliakim the father of Azor, <sup>14</sup> Azor the father of Zadok, Zadok the father of Akim, Akim the father of Eliud, <sup>15</sup> Eliud the father of Eleazar, Eleazar the father of Matthan, Matthan the father of Jacob, <sup>16</sup> **and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.**

<sup>17</sup> Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Christ.

Verse 16 – “of whom” is *singular* in Greek – Jesus is offspring of *Mary only*

### B. Various Attributes and Experiences of Jesus Demonstrate His Humanity

- Matthew 4:1-2

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup> After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.

- John 19:28

<sup>28</sup> Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.”

- John 4:6

<sup>6</sup> Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about the sixth hour.

- Luke 2:52.

<sup>52</sup> And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

### C. Paul Clearly Calls Jesus a “Man”

- 1 Timothy 2:5

<sup>5</sup> For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus...

- Luke 2:11-12

<sup>11</sup>Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

<sup>12</sup>This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

κυριος (*kyrios*; Lord) **BONUS GREEK LESSON!**

The Greek translation of the Old Testament (“Septuagint”) used κυριος (*kyrios*; Lord) to refer to *Yahweh*. Luke uses it to refer to *Jesus*. Yet here, Jesus, *the Lord*, is a *baby*.

- Colossians 2:9

<sup>9</sup>For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form...

- John 1:1, 14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ... <sup>14</sup>The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

#### IV. But... Difficulties Quickly Arose

“Even before we get out of the pages of the New Testament, Christ comes under fire. During his earthly life and public ministry, the crowds, the religious leaders, even at times his own chosen disciples got him wrong.”

(Stephen J. Nichols, *For Us and For Our Salvation*, 17)

*Denials of Christ as Messiah*

- 1 John 2:22

<sup>22</sup>Who is the liar? It is the man who denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a man is the antichrist—he denies the Father and the Son.

- 1 John 4:2-3

<sup>2</sup>This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, <sup>3</sup>but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

*Denials of the Full Humanity of Christ*

- 2 John 7

<sup>7</sup>Many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist.

# V. Authority and Heresy

## A. Authority

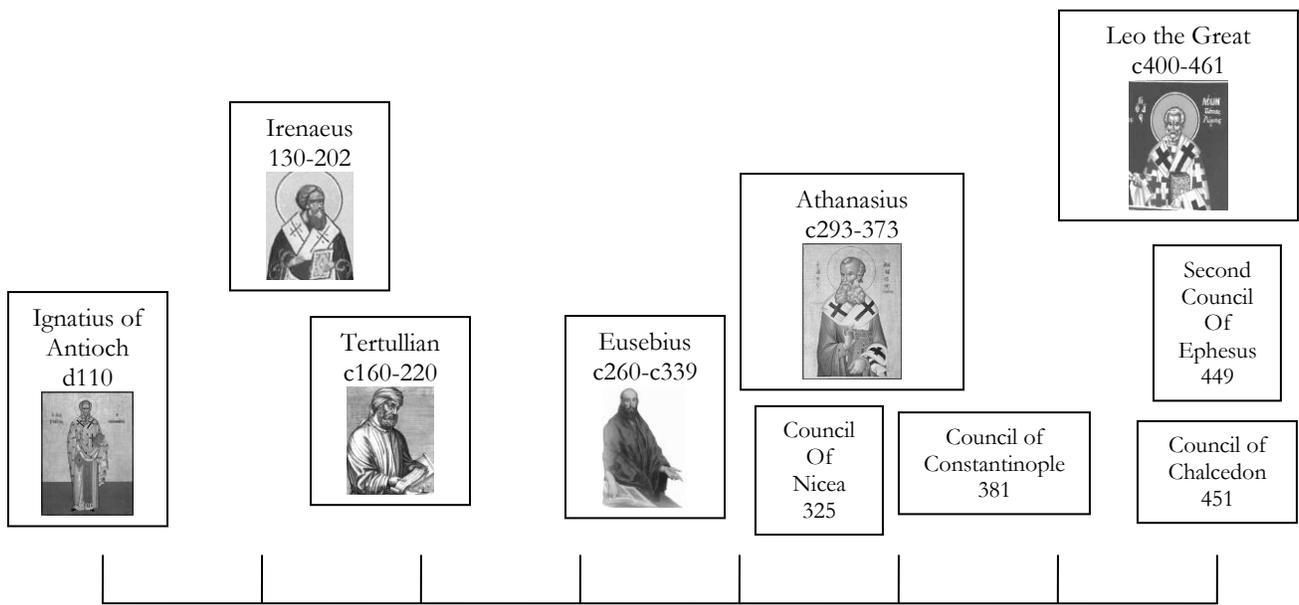
### APOSTOLIC TEACHING vs. False Teaching

## B. Heresy

“Heresy” – from Greek term meaning “sect” or “school of thought”

• 2 Peter 2:1  
But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them...

“Heresy” was any teaching that went against apostolic teaching



100 A.D.    150 A.D.    200 A.D.    250 A.D.    300 A.D.    350 A.D.    400 A.D.    450 A.D.

