



Jesus is God Manifested in the Flesh

One of the most challenging questions asked of anyone is recorded by Matthew. It is, “*What think ye of Christ: whose son is he?*” **Matt 22:42**. What about His divinity? Was Jesus God? John in his gospel builds an unanswerable argument designed to prove that Jesus of Nazareth is the divine Son of God. And he frankly declares that he wrote his book that his readers “*might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing*” they “*might have life through his name.*” **John 20:31**.

Let us first see if Christ existed before coming to this world. The first words of John’s gospel reveal that God the Son is coeternal with God the Father. “*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made.*” **John 1:1-3**. That Word which took part in the creation of the world was Jesus. **John 1:14** “*And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*”

Jeremiah called the Messiah “THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS” in Jer. 23:5-6. The Hebrew Yahweh (Jehovah), “the self-existent One” is here applied to the Messiah. The text shows both His power and divine nature. **Jer 23:5-6** “*Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. ⁶ In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE Lord OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.*”

Let us look at how the Father addresses the Son in **Heb 1:8-9** “*But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom. ⁹ Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.*”

Here the Father addresses the Son reverently, calling Him God. This may be considered the climax in the argument on the position and dignity of Christ. There can be no higher testimony to the deity of Christ than this apostrophe of the Father to the Son. In the most solemn manner Christ’s Godhood is affirmed, and this by the Father Himself. Man’s salvation and the whole plan of redemption are based on the deity of Christ. If Christ is not God in the highest sense and in His own right, our faith is in vain and salvation becomes impossible.

As we consider the history of the church since the days of the apostles, we see the need of emphasis on the deity of Christ. Many there are today who revere Christ and in their own way esteem Him highly, who nevertheless refuse to give Him the place that is rightly His. They fail to understand that the deity of Christ is the central fact in the plan of redemption, and that “*Neither is there salvation in*

any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”
Acts 4:12.

Jesus prayed that He might return to His former glory. **John 17:5** “*And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.*” Then there is Christ’s own witness where He says in **John 8:58** “*Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.*”

The Prophet Isaiah calls Christ the Father in **Isa 9:6** “*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.*”

John the Baptist testimony of Jesus in **John 1:15, 30** “*John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me.*”
³⁰ “*This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me.*”

Paul says of Christ in **Col 1:17** “*And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.*”

The Scriptures teach that Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born in the flesh of a virgin. According to Scripture this is how the incarnation of Jesus was made possible. “*And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.*” **Luke 1:35**

The Father, son, and Holy Spirit worked together in the act of incarnation. Incarnation has to do with Christ becoming man. The incarnation of Christ did not in any way annul His divinity. The Scripture says, “*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.*” **1 Tim 3:16**. When Christ was born the announcement of the angels to the shepherds referred to Him as the Saviour. **Luke 2:11** “*For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.*”

Matthew speaks of Him as “Emmanuel...God with us.” **Matt 1:21-23** “*And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. 22 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, 23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.*”

Hebrews gives a reason why Christ became a man. Christ must become man so completely and fully, that it can never be said that He is a stranger to any temptation, any sorrow, any trial or suffering that men must pass through. **Heb 2:17** “*Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.*”

Upon three occasions during the life of Christ the Father’s voice was heard from heaven testifying of His Son—at His baptism, **Matt 3:17** “*And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*” at the Transfiguration, **Matt 17:5** “*While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.*”; **2 Peter 1:16-18** “*For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷ For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. ¹⁸ And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.*”, and

as He departed from the Temple for the last time, **John 12:28** “Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.”

Let’s see how Jesus demonstrated he had the power of God, and He is the Son of God, and that He is God the Son:

- a. He had power to read human hearts; **John 2:24-25** “But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all men,²⁵ And needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man.”
- b. He had power to foretell the future; **John 13:19** “Now I tell you before it come, that, when it is come to pass, ye may believe that I am he.”
- c. He had creative power; **John 6:1-20** “After these things Jesus went over the sea of Galilee, which is the sea of Tiberias.² And a great multitude followed him, because they saw his miracles which he did on them that were diseased.³ And Jesus went up into a mountain, and there he sat with his disciples.⁴ And the passover, a feast of the Jews, was nigh.⁵ When Jesus then lifted up his eyes, and saw a great company come unto him, he saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat?⁶ And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do.⁷ Philip answered him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little.⁸ One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him,⁹ There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?¹⁰ And Jesus said, Make the men sit down. Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand.¹¹ And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would.¹² When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost.¹³ Therefore they gathered them together, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over and above unto them that had eaten.¹⁴ Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world.¹⁵ When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force, to make him a king, he departed again into a mountain himself alone.¹⁶ And when even was now come, his disciples went down unto the sea,¹⁷ And entered into a ship, and went over the sea toward Capernaum. And it was now dark, and Jesus was not come to them.¹⁸ And the sea arose by reason of a great wind that blew.¹⁹ So when they had rowed about five and twenty or thirty furlongs, they see Jesus walking on the sea, and drawing nigh unto the ship: and they were afraid.²⁰ But he saith unto them, It is I; be not afraid.”
- d. He had power to give life; **John 5:21** “For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will.”
- e. He had infallibility of utterance; **John 8:46** “Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?”
- f. He had power to forgive sins; **Mark 2:1-12** “And again he entered into Capernaum, after some days; and it was noised that he was in the house.² And straightway many were gathered together, insomuch that there was no room to receive them, no, not so much as about the door: and he preached the word unto them.³ And they come unto him, bringing one sick of the palsy, which was borne of four.⁴ And when they could not come nigh unto him for the press, they uncovered the roof where he was: and when they had broken it up, they let down the bed wherein the sick of the palsy lay.⁵ When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee.⁶ But there were certain of the scribes sitting there, and reasoning in their hearts,⁷ Why doth this man thus speak blasphemies? who can forgive sins but God only?⁸ And immediately when Jesus perceived in his spirit that they so reasoned within themselves, he said unto them, Why reason ye these things in your hearts?⁹ Whether is it

easier to say to the sick of the palsy, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and take up thy bed, and walk? ¹⁰ But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (he saith to the sick of the palsy,) ¹¹ I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way into thine house. ¹² And immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went forth before them all; insomuch that they were all amazed, and glorified God, saying, We never saw it on this fashion.”

- g. He had the right to receive worship; **Matt 14:33** “Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God.” This is an important point since created beings such as men and angels not to be worshiped. **Acts 10:25-26** “And as Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet, and worshipped him. ²⁶ But Peter took him up, saying, Stand up; I myself also am a man.” **Rev 22:8-9** “And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things. ⁹ Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.” **Matt 4:8-10** “Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; ⁹ And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. ¹⁰ Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.” But Jesus accepted worship of His disciples as Deity. Thomas said of Him, “My Lord and My God.” **John 20:28**. Angels also worship Him according to **Heb 1:6** “And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.” Ultimately all the universe will adore Him; **Phil 2:10** “That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;”
- h. He had the power to raise the dead to life; **John 5:25** “Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.”
- i. He had power to transform hearts; **John 1:12-13** “But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: ¹³ Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.” Only a divine being could truthfully say, “I am the light of the world” **John 8:12**; “I am the resurrection, and the life” **John 11:25**; “I am the door” **John 10:9**; “I am the way, the truth, and the life” **John 14:6**.

Let’s look at Christ being David’s Lord as well as his Son. In Matt. 22:42, Jesus had asked the Pharisees a question; “Saying, What think ye of Christ? whose son is he? They say unto him, The Son of David.” **Matt 22:42**. They answered Him by saying “The Son of David”. Then Jesus answered them back by referring to Psalm 110:1 where David called the Messiah “Lord”. **Ps 110:1** A Psalm of David “The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.” This would indicate the Messiah was older than David. If this be so, then how could the messiah be David’s son and in this position be younger than David? These Jewish leaders were unprepared to answer this question Jesus asked them in, **Matt 22:43-45** “He saith unto them, How then doth David in spirit call him Lord, saying, ⁴⁴ The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool? ⁴⁵ If David then call him Lord, how is he his son?”

The only logical answer to this question was that the One who was to come as Messiah would have existed prior to His incarnation on this earth. Had the Pharisees faced this question properly they would have had to admit Jesus to be the Messiah, the Son of God. However, they were unprepared to answer this question because of their erroneous concepts of the Messiah.

The record of Matthew indicates that Jesus was born of a virgin, **Matt 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.*” And **Matt 1:22-25** “*Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,* ²³ *Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.* ²⁴ *Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife:* ²⁵ *And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.*” Paul declares, “*But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,* ⁵ *To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.*” **Gal 4:4-5**. He is referred to as “*holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners*” **Heb 7:26**. Concerning His relationship to the Father Paul says, “*For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.*” **Col 2:9**. We cannot help but acknowledge, as did the centurion who was watching Jesus when He died, and say, “*Truly this man was the Son of God.*” **Mark 15:39** (last part). He is “*declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.*” **Rom. 1:4**