

Lesson Three: Jesus the Christ

Christianity is unlike any other religion, because it is more than a religion—it is the story of the life of the Son of God. Christ is Christianity is Christ. He is the main subject of each book of the New Testament, and fulfills all the promises of God in the Old Testament. From His incarnation to His Second Coming (Revelation 17:14), He is the God-man, Christ Jesus in glory, exalted above all creatures, having “all power in heaven and in earth”. Matthew 28:18

During His earthly ministry, He claimed to be God in human flesh. He is what He claimed, or He is not. (Revelation 1:8). Before His claim can be denied, there are some things that must be accounted for:

- His virgin birth
- His holy, sinless life
- His many miracles
- His vicarious death
- His bodily resurrection

1) **The Deity of Jesus Christ** (John 1:1) 1) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

The deity of Jesus Christ, or His God nature, is established in the New Testament. Some of the facts are:

- a) **He is called God by the apostle John** (John 1:1)
- b) **He is called God by the apostle Thomas** (John 20:28).
- c) **He is called God by God the Father** (Hebrews 1:8).
- d) He claimed to be God in that **He was with the Father before creation** (John 17:5)
- e) **He claimed to be God in that He was before Abraham.** Abraham rejoiced to see My day...” (John 8:51-59)
- f) **He received worship, and only God is to be worshipped** (Matthew 14:33). Angels refused worship (Revelations 22:8, 9). Man refused worship (Acts 10:25,26)
- g) **He forgives sin** (Mark 2:5-11). Only God can forgive sin.
- h) **He is creator and maker of all things** (Colossians 1:16)
- i) **He is Sustainer of all things** (Hebrews 1:3). Only God can control the universe.
- j) **He claimed to have “all authority ... in heaven and on earth”** (Matt. 28:18).
- k) **He walked upon the blue waters of Galilee,** commanded the winds and the waves, healed the sick, raised the dead, gave sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, cast out demons, made the lame to walk, turned water into wine, and fed five thousand with the lunch of a lad

2) **The Humanity of Jesus Christ** (Romans 1:3) **3**“concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh,”

Notes: **The Humanity of Jesus Christ is seen in His human parentage** (Matthew 2:11)

- a) **He developed as a normal human being** (Luke 2:52)
- b) **He was subject to all the sinless infirmities of the human nature:**
 - **He hungered** (Matthew 4:2)
 - **He was thirsty** (John 19:28).
 - **He was weary** (John 4:6)
 - **He wept** (John 11:35)
 - **He was tempted** (Hebrews 4:15)

Jesus is man, and yet He is more than man. He is not God and man, but the God-man. He is God in human flesh. His two natures are put together in such a way that the two natures become united in one person, having a single consciousness and will.

- 3) **The Virgin Birth of Jesus Christ – (Luke 1:26-35) 26)** Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, **27)** to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. **28)** And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored *one*, the Lord *is* with you; blessed are you among women!" **29)** But when she saw *him*, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. **30)** Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. **31)** "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. **32)** "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. **33)** "And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." **34)** "Then Mary said to the angel "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" **35)** "And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.

Notes: **The virgin birth of Jesus Christ is without duplicate in history.** It was by virgin birth that God became man, one person but two natures: God nature and the nature of man-man without sin (Hebrews 4:15). The union of the two natures became the God-man Christ Jesus.

- a) **The first hint of the virgin birth is found in** (Genesis 3:15). The One to defeat Satan was to be born of "the seed" of the woman. This is a biological miracle: there is no "seed" of the woman. From this, we are to understand that One was to be born of a woman without a human father (Luke 1:34,35)
 - b) **Isaiah prophesied of the coming Christ** (Isaiah 7:14).
 - c) **Isaiah prophesied of Christ** (Isaiah 9:6, 7). This means that God gave His only begotten Son who was with Him from eternity, and the Child Jesus was born of a virgin. God gave His Son "unto us."
 - d) **According to prophecy, He was to be born in Bethlehem** (Micah 5:2)
- 4) **The Death of Jesus Christ (Philippians 2:8).** And being found in the appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of death*, even the death of the cross.

Notes: **The death of Jesus Christ is mentioned more than 120 times in the New Testament** and is spoken of many times by the prophets in the Old Testament.

- a) **The death of Jesus Christ was Vicarious** (Matthew 20:28). He was God's substitute for sinners (2 Corinthians 5:21). On the cross, Christ was made sin for the sinner, the sinner is made righteous.
- b) **The death of Jesus Christ was natural** (John 19:31-37). By a natural death, we mean that His spirit and soul were separated from His body.
- c) **The death of Jesus Christ was unnatural** (Romans 6:23). By an unnatural death, we mean that since He was sinless, in that He "committed no sin" (1 Peter 2:22)
 - i) **"had no sin"** (1 John 3:5)
 - ii) **"knew no sin"** (2 Corinthians 5:21)
 - iii) **before He could die**, He had to be "made sin for us." Therefore, His death was unnatural.
- d) **The death of Jesus Christ was preternatural** (Revelation 13:8). By this, we mean that the death of Jesus was not an afterthought with God; it was the forethought of God.
- e) **The death of Jesus Christ was supernatural** (John 10:17, 18). Jesus said, "No one takes life from me." Then He said, "I lay it down of Myself". "I have power to take it up again." This He did on the cross, after three days and three nights, He took life up again when He arose from the dead.

Only God in the form of man could die a vicarious, natural, unnatural, preternatural, and supernatural death.

- 5) **The Resurrection of Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:1-20):** **1)** Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. **2)** And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it. **3)** His countenance was like lightning and his clothing as white as snow. **4)** And the guards shook for fear of him, and became as dead *men*. **5)** But the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. **6)** "He is not here; for He is raised, as He said. Come; see the place where the Lord lay. **7)** "And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you." **8)** So they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to bring His disciples word. **9)** And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, "Rejoice!" So they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him. **10)** Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid, Go and tell My brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me." **11)** Now while they were going, behold, some of the guards came into the city and reported to the chief priests all the things that had happened. **12)** When they had assembled with the elders and consulted together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers. **13)** saying, "Tell them, 'His disciples came at night and stole Him away while we slept.' **14)** "And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will appease him and make you secure." **15)** So they took the money and did as they were instructed; and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day. **16)** Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. **17)** When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. **18)** And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **19)** "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, **20)** "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." **Amen.**

Notes: **Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life"** (John 11:25). The resurrection of Jesus Christ was the doctrine of the disciples, the faith of the true believer, the courage of the martyr, the theme of every sermon, and the power of every evangelist.

Luke tells us that we have "many infallible proofs" of His resurrection (Acts 1:3). Let us look at some of these "infallible proofs".

- a) **After His resurrection He appeared first to Mary Magdalene** (John 20:11-18).
- b) **He appeared to the women returning from the tomb** (Matthew 28:5-10)
- c) **Then He appeared to Peter** (Luke 24:34)
- d) **To the Emmaus disciples** (Luke 24:13-31)
- e) **To the apostles, Thomas not present** (Luke 24:36-43)
- f) **Again to the apostles, Thomas present** (John 20:24-29)
- g) **To the seven by the Sea of Tiberius** (John 21:1-23)
- h) **To over five hundred brethren** (1 Corinthians 15:6)
- i) **He was seen of James** (1 Corinthians 15:7)
- j) **He was seen again by the eleven apostles** (Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 1:3-12)
- k) **He was seen of Stephen, the first martyr** (Acts 7:55)
- l) **He was seen of Paul on his way to Damascus** (Acts 9:3-6; 1 Corinthians 15:8).

Many of these eye witnesses died martyr's deaths because they preached the resurrection of Jesus Christ. They were glad to die for a living Christ. They had the "infallible proofs."

When Jesus was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane, all of His disciples “forsook Him and fled” (Matthew 26:56). From this time until after His resurrection, the disciples lived in fear. They did not believe that He would rise from the dead (John 20:9). Without the Resurrection, the cross would have been the end of Christianity. After the death of Jesus, we see His disciples dejected, discouraged, and defeated. The death of Jesus meant the end. How do we account for the great change that came into their lives three days and three nights later? The only logical explanation is that they had the “infallible proofs” that He had risen from the dead, and was alive forevermore. They saw Him, talked with Him touched Him, and ate with Him.

Now look at some “infallible proofs” according to circumstantial evidence:

- a) **The change that came into the lives of the disciples after the Resurrection-from fear to unlimited courage.** They rejoiced in persecution (Acts 5:40-42)
- b) **The early church began to worship on the first day of the week, the day of the Resurrection.** It was not a law-it was spontaneous (Acts 20:7). For almost two thousand years, the church has worshipped on the first day. For the Christian, every Sunday is Easter
- c) **The early Christians went everywhere with the word of the Resurrection** (Acts 8:1-4)
- d) **The empty tomb – for if Jesus is not alive, what happened to His body?** The Roman guards were paid to say, “His disciples came at night, and stole Him away while we slept” (Matthew 28:12-13).

First, the disciples were afraid. If they stole His body, then how do you account for the fact that they all suffered, and most of them died martyrs’ deaths? Would not one of them reveal the hiding place to save his own life?

Second, no one was ever arrested or tried for stealing the body of Jesus. It is evident that the governing officials did not believe the story of the guards.

Third, the guards could have been put to death for sleeping while on watch.

Fourth, if they were asleep, how could they know who “stole” the body?

Fifth, had the enemies of Jesus moved the body, they could have produced it and ended Christianity!!

The linen clothes found in the empty tomb are proof of the Resurrection (John 20:1-10). Had anyone stolen the body, they would not have removed the linen clothes from a three day old dead body. When John saw the linen clothes, he knew that a miracle had taken place. Jesus came out of the clothes, and they collapsed without disturbing the folds. They were left in the empty tomb; and when John saw and believed that Jesus had risen from the dead.

- 6) **The Ascension and Second Coming of Jesus Christ (Acts 1:9-11):** 9) Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of sight. **10)** And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, **11)** who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go up into Heaven.”

Notes: **After forty days of instructing His disciples, the risen Christ ascended up on high and is seated at the right hand of the Father** (Hebrews 10:12). Two men brought the message of His second coming to the apostles (Acts 1:11). The message of the second coming of Jesus is so important, that it is mentioned over 300 times in the New Testament.

- a) **He is coming to take His church to be with Him** (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; John 14:1-6)

- b) **He is coming to judge the nations** (Matthew 25:31-46)
- c) **He is coming to save Israel** (Romans 11:25,26)
- d) **He is coming to sit upon the throne of David** (Luke 1:31-33; Isaiah 9:6,7)
- e) **He is coming to bring righteous government to this earth again, “Even so, come, Lord Jesus”** (Revelation 22:20)