

BACK TO BASICS CLASS

05 Who Is Jesus?

I. Introduction

A. The importance of understanding who Jesus is

1. His identity is the ROCK on which the church is built - Mtt. 16:18
2. Our accepting his revealed identity is closely tied with our salvation - Jn. 8:24
3. Knowing Jesus allows us to begin experiencing eternal life NOW - Jn. 17:3

B. Some Popular Religious Views of Jesus

1. Jehovah's Witnesses

- a. Jesus was the 1st son and created thing of Jehovah God
- b. He had a pre-human existence as Michael the archangel;
- c. Jesus was not raised in the flesh, but only as a mighty immortal spirit

2. Mormonism

- a. Jesus (or "Jehovah") was and is the first born of the spirit children of the God Elohim [the chief among the planet-ruling gods of the universe];
- b. All the rest of Elohim's spirit children are juniors in status - including Lucifer, the spirit brother of Jesus

3. Christian Science

- a. Jesus is the offspring of Mary's self conscious communion with God
- b. "Jesus" was the human man, and "Christ" was the divine idea
- c. If Jesus the man had never existed, it would make no difference
- d. Matter is unreal - "Jesus" was the name given to the idea of "God" which was conceived in the mind of the virgin mother.

II. Logical Options as to His Identity

A. He was just a man like any other man that ever lived

1. The Biblical Prob: *This view ignores the scriptural affirmation of his pre-existence, i.e., Jn. 1:1, 14; 6:38; 8:58; Phil. 2:6-7.*

B. He was a created being of a different order - i.e., an angel

1. The Biblical Prob: *This view ignores the scriptural instruction that all order of created being is to worship Jesus (Phil. 2:9-10, Heb. 1:3-10); as well as the prohibition given to men regarding worshipping angels (Rev. 19:10)*

C. He was actually the One True God manifest in human flesh

1. The Biblical Prob: *There is actually no Biblical problem with this view as will be demonstrated below.*

III. Biblical Demonstration That Jesus Was and Is Indeed God

A. He is directly referred to as "God" in the Scripture

1. Jn. 1:1 - *The Word was God (Gk: "kai Theos en o logos" = and God was the word). The focus is that this Word is completely God.*
2. Jn. 20:28 - Thomas: *"My Lord and my God!"*
3. Acts 20:28 - *The church of God which **He purchased with His own blood***
4. Heb. 1:8 - *Thy throne, O God, is forever (the Father is addressing the Son!!)*
5. Isa. 9:6 - . . . a child . . . a son . . . His name . . . *Mighty God, Eternal Father*

B. He is called "the Lord" in the Bible

1. Rom. 10:9; Phil. 2:11 - *importance of recognizing Jesus as LORD*
2. 1 Cor. 2:8 - *they crucified **the LORD** of Glory*
3. Isa. 44:6 & Psalm 24:8-10 - *the Messiah is called the LORD (Jehovah) of hosts, the King of Glory*

C. He is called "The (not "a") Holy One" - Acts 3:14

1. "The Holy One" = One of the titles exclusively used of Jehovah God - Isa. 48:17

D. He himself claimed other exclusive titles of Jehovah as His

1. *The "Alpha & Omega"*

- a. Rev. 1:8 - *The LORD GOD is the Alpha & Omega*
- b. 22:12-13, 16, 20 - *Jesus is the Alpha & Omega*

2. *The "First and Last"*

- a. Isa. 41:4; 44:6; 48:12 - *The LORD GOD is the First and the Last*
- b. Rev. 1:17-78; 2:8; 22:12-13 - *Jesus is the First and the Last*
- c. *SO - either there are two "First and Lasts" and two "Alpha and Omegas" (which is linguistic suicide) . . . or . . . the same being is speaking in both cases.*

3. *The Great "I AM"*

- a. Ex. 3:13-15 - *The memorial name of the LORD GOD is "I AM"*
- b. Jn. 8:52-59; 8:24 - *Jesus claimed God's Name, "I AM" for himself*

E. He received the worship of others

1. Mtt. 14:33; Jn. 20:28; Heb. 1:6 (C.F. Luke 4:6-8 - Worship only the LORD GOD)

F. His Works demonstrate His deity

1. Jesus created all things - Jn. 1:3; Col. 1:16

2. Jesus sustains the physical laws of the universe - Col. 1:17; Heb. 1:3

3. Jesus forgives the sins of men - Mk. 2:5-7; Col. 3:13 (c.f. 1:3; Eph. 4:32); Eph. 1:7-8

4. Jesus claimed to answer prayer - Jn. 14:13-14

5. Jesus claimed to be able to give rest to our soul - Mt. 11:28 (c.f. Ps. 23)

6. Jesus claimed to be the one who gives eternal life to His followers - Jn. 10:28

7. Jesus raised himself from the dead - Jn. 2:19-22

a. *The Father (1 Thes. 1:9-10) and the Spirit (Rom. 8:11) are also said to have raised Jesus*

IV. Biblical Overview of the Life of Jesus

A. Prophecied

B. Word became Flesh

C. Virgin Born

D. Sinless

E. Crucified

F. Raised Again

G. Ascended

H. Coming Again