

Christology—Doctrine of Christ: Prophecies, Humanity, and Divinity of Christ

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*For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified (I Corinthians 2:2). Out of all the revealed teachings in the Bible, which truth is your favorite? Which truth gives you the greatest comfort in troubles? Which truth leads you to offer up spontaneous praise to the Godhead? Which truth reveals the magnitude of God's wisdom? Which truth proclaims the holiness of God like no other? Which is the most important truth for a member of one of the Lord's churches to know? Which is the most important for any saved person to know? All these are one and the same for the Word of God tells us, *Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son (II John 9). To have God is to have everything for.....If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? (Romans 8:31-32).**

I. Why did God send a Messiah?

- A. In His office as Prophet we discover that the Messiah came to reveal the Father to man—*Hebrews 1, John 1.*
- B. In His office as King we discover that the Messiah came to rule God's kingdom—*Hebrews 1.*
 - 1. As the King, He is better than any angel for angels are His servants—*Hebrews 1, 2.*
 - 2. As the King, He is better than Moses for Moses also is a servant in God's house—*Hebrews 3, 4.*
- C. In His office as Priest we discover that the Messiah came to mediate God's best covenant with man—*Hebrews 5-10.*
 - 1. As the High Priest, He is better than priests of the Levities—*Hebrews 7.*
 - 2. As the High Priest, He has a better ministry due to a better sacrifice—*Hebrews 8.*
 - 3. As the High Priest, He mediates a better covenant because it is an internalized covenant—*Hebrews 9-10.*

II. What can we know about the Messiah from His offices?

- A. From His office as prophet, we learn the Messiah's focus in life was the exaltation of God—*I 6 Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me. 17 If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself. 18 He that speaketh of himself seeketh his own glory: but he that seeketh his glory that sent him, the same is true, and no unrighteousness is in him (John 7:16-18); see John 17:1-18; Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God (Hebrews 10:7); 9 Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. 10 Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. 12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you (Matthew 5:9-12).*
- B. From His office as King, we learn the Messiah is Divine—*Hebrews 1-4; Matthew 1*; see also the many Old Testament name comparisons in Scripture.
- C. From His office as High Priest, we learn the Messiah is human—*Hebrews 2-10*.

III. How can we know that Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah of God?

- A. Prophecies concerning the Messiah's divinity are fulfilled in Jesus.
- The Divinity of Jesus is shown in His unique relationship to God.
 - Father-Son relationship.
 - ...Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee (*Psalm 2:7*).
 - God says this to Jesus—*And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased (Matthew 3:17).*
 - Gabriel says this about Jesus—*Luke 1*.
 - John the Baptist says this about Jesus—*John 1*.
 - Paul quotes *Psalm 2:7* in *Hebrews 1:5, 5:5*, and in *Acts 13:33—1:5* *For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?....5:5* So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, *Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee (Hebrews 1:5, 5:5); God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he hath raised up Jesus again; as it is also written in the second psalm, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee (Acts 13:33).*
 - He shall cry,....*Thou art my father, my God....(Psalm 89:26); see John 20:17—Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.*
 - The Divinity of Jesus is shown in His unique display of power. God controls the sea—*Thou rulest the raging of the sea: when the waves thereof arise, thou stillest them (Psalm 89:9); 23 And when he was entered into a ship, his disciples followed him. 24 And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves: but he was asleep. 25 And his disciples came to him, and awoke him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish. 26 And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm. 27 But the*

men marvelled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him! (Matthew 8:23-27).

B. Prophecies concerning the Messiah's life are fulfilled in Jesus.

1. The purpose of Jesus' life corresponds to the purpose of the Messiah's life—to do thy will..(Psalm 40:8).
 - a. Paul shows that this Messianic purpose is the purpose of Jesus—7 *Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God. 8 Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldst not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law; 9 Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second (Hebrews 10:7-9).*
 - b. Jesus teaches His disciples that His purpose is the same as the Messianic purpose—4:34 *Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work....6:38 For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me (John 4:34; 6:38).*
 - c. Jesus prays to the Father and recognizes His purpose is same as the Messianic purpose—*And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt (Matthew 26:39).*
2. The actions of Jesus' life correspond to the actions of the Messiah's life.
 - a. *I have preached righteousness in the great congregation: lo, I have not refrained my lips, O LORD (Psalm 40:9); 19:47 And he taught daily in the temple. But the chief priests and the scribes and the chief of the people sought to destroy him, 48 And could not find what they might do: for all the people were very attentive to hear him. 20:1 And it came to pass, that on one of those days, as he taught the people in the temple, and preached the gospel, the chief priests and the scribes came upon him with the elders (Luke 19:47-20:1).*
 - b. *For the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up; and the reproaches of them that reproached thee are fallen upon me (Psalm 69:9); 16 And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise. 17 And his disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up (John 2:16-17).*
3. The answers of Jesus' life corresponds to the answers to the Messiah's life.
 - a. *An evil disease, say they, cleaveth fast unto him: and now that he lieth he shall rise up no more (Psalm 41:8); But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils (Matthew 12:24).*
 - b. *They that hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of mine head: they that would destroy me, being mine enemies wrongfully, are mighty: then I restored that which I took not away (Psalm 69:4); But this cometh to pass, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, They hated me without a cause (John 15:25).*
 - c. *I am become a stranger unto my brethren, and an alien unto my mother's children (Psalm 69:8); 3 His brethren therefore said unto him, Depart hence, and go into Judaea, that thy disciples also may see the works that thou doest. 4 For there is no man that doeth any thing in secret, and he himself seeketh to be known openly. If thou do these things, shew thyself to*

the world. 5 For neither did his brethren believe in him (John 7:3-5), see also John 1.

C. Prophecies concerning the Messiah's death are fulfilled in Jesus.

1. The personal actions around the death of Jesus fulfill prophecy.

a. The actions of enemies.

(1) Devise to hurt Jesus:

(a) *5 Mine enemies speak evil of me, When shall he die, and his name perish? 7 All that hate me whisper together against me: against me do they devise my hurt (Psalm 41:5, 7); 47 Then gathered the chief priests and the Pharisees a council, and said, What do we? for this man doeth many miracles. 48 If we let him thus alone, all men will believe on him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation.....53 Then from that day forth they took counsel together for to put him to death (John 11:47-51); And the chief priests and scribes sought how they might kill him; for they feared the people (Luke 22:2).*

(b) *Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? 2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, 3 Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us (Psalm 2:1-3); 25 Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said, Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things? 26 The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ. 27 For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together, 28 For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done (Acts 4:25-28).*

(2) *Despise Jesus—6 But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people (Psalm 22:6); 39 And they that passed by reviled him, wagging their heads, 40 And saying, Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, save thyself. If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross. 41 Likewise also the chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and elders, said, 42 He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him. 43 He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God. 44 The thieves also, which were crucified with him, cast the same in his teeth (Matthew 27:39-44).*

(3) *Laughed at Jesus—All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head... (Psalm 22:7); And they that passed by railed on him, wagging their heads, and saying, Ah, thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days (Mark 15:29).*

(4) *Looked and stared at Jesus—I may tell all my bones: they look and stare upon me (Psalm 22:17); 36 And sitting down they watched him there (Matthew 27:36); 35 And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also with them derided him, saying, He saved others; let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen of God (Luke 23:35).*

(5) *Gave gall and vinegar to Jesus—They gave me also gall for my meat; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink (Psalm 69:21); Now there*

was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth (John 19:29), see also Matthew 27.

(6) Divided the garments of Jesus—*They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture (Matthew 22:18); see also Matthew 27, Mark 15, Luke 23, John 19.*

b. Friend betrays Him—*Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me (Psalm 41:9).*

(1) Jesus prophecies that a friend will betray Him—*John 13.*

(2) Judas the apostle betrays Jesus—*Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 22.*

(3) Peter indicated that Judas, one of the apostles, betrayed Jesus—*When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? (Acts 1:6.)*

c. God the Father forsook the Messiah, Jesus—*My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring? (Psalm 22:1); And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? (Matthew 27:46).*

2. The physical aspects around the death of Jesus fulfill prophecy.

a. The hands and feet of Jesus were pierced—*For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet (Psalm 22:16); with Luke 24 and John 20.*

b. Jesus suffered severe thirst—*My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death.....I am weary of my crying; my throat is dried: mine eyes fail while I wait for my God (Psalm 22:16; 69:3); After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst (John 19:28).*

c. The bones of Jesus were out of joint, a fact of the method of crucifixion—*I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels (Psalm 22:14).*

d. The disjointment of the bones of Jesus due to crucifixion made them so visible them could be counted, a fact of the method of crucifixion—*I may tell all my bones: they look and stare upon me (Psalm 22:17).*

D. Prophecies concerning the Messiah's continuance are fulfilled in Jesus.

1. Jesus continues through his resurrection—*For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption (Psalm 16:10); 25 For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved: 26 Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope: 27 Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. 28 Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance.....35 Wherefore he saith also in another psalm, Thou shalt not suffer thine Holy One to see corruption (Acts 2:25-28; 13:35).*

2. Jesus continues through his ascension.

a. Jesus led captivity captive—*Thou hast ascended on high, thou hast led captivity captive: thou hast received gifts for men; yea, for the rebellious also, that the Lord God might dwell among them (Psalm 68:18); 7 But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.*

- 8 Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. 9 (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? 10 He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.) 11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teacher (Ephesians 4:7-10).
- b. Jesus let the captives free—19 For he hath looked down from the height of his sanctuary; from heaven did the LORD behold the earth; 20 To hear the groaning of the prisoner; to loose those that are appointed to death (Psalm 102:19-20); 14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; 15 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage (Hebrews 2:14-15).
- c. Jesus did exactly what the Messiah said He would do—I restored that which I took not away [His life] (Psalm 69:4).
- d. Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father—The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool (Psalm 110:1); So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God (Mark 16:19).

IV. What can we learn from the Messiah?

- A. We learn that to do the Father's will is the highest priority in life. This is so that God will be exalted in His total being—6:38 For I [Jesus] came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.....20:21 Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you (John 6:38; 20:21).
- B. We learn that if God so perfectly tended to the affairs of the Messiah's life in order to accomplish His will, God likewise will perfectly attend to the affairs in our lives for our destiny is also part of His will—28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. 29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. 31 What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? (Romans 8:28-30).
- C. We learn that Jesus in the Christ, the Prophet of God and the Son of God. We ought to give earnest heed to the things which we have heard because, The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law (Deuteronomy 29:29); Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son (II John 9).