

# THE DEITY OF CHRIST

## *A Biblical Study*

For any who may doubt the deity of *Christ*, the following two-part Biblical study briefly explores some of the most compelling Scriptural proof...

### PART I

*John 5:17-18* But Jesus answered them, **My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.** Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.

*John 10:30-33* **I and my Father are one.** Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him. Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me? The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God.

*Philippians 2:5-6* Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God...

Jesus did not hesitate to claim equality with God the Father. The Greek word for equal in *John 5:18* is *isos*, as in an *isosceles*, or equal-sided, triangle. Jesus was and is "in the form (very nature) of God," and therefore was not blaspheming by claiming to be God. The disbelieving Jews had correctly heard Jesus making this claim to full deity, even though they rejected His claim. Is Jesus God? The *Apostle Paul* clearly identified Jesus as "being in the form (very nature) of God".

*Isaiah 42:8* I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.

*Isaiah 48:11c* ...I will not give my glory unto another.

*John 17:5* (Jesus prayed) **And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.**

In *Isaiah*, God says that He will not give away His glory to another. Yet Jesus, in *John 17*,

is expecting to receive again the divine glory He shared with the Father before the world began. If *Jesus* were not deity, this would be a contradiction.

*Micah 5:2 But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.*

*Jesus*, whose earthly birth is prophesied here, is said to be “*from of old, from everlasting*”. He is not a created being, but rather, He has existed from all eternity.

*Revelation 1:8, 17-18 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty... And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.*

*Revelation 22:12-13, 16 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last... I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star... I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.*

Note the glorious titles of “*the Alpha and the Omega,*” “*the Beginning and the End,*” “*the First and the Last,*” “*the Almighty,*” “*the Lord God, who is, and who was, and who is to come.*” All these titles are of Deity and each one is specifically applied to *Jesus*. The *Book of Revelation* is the revelation of *Jesus the Divine Son*.

*Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*

*Matthew 1:23 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.*

*Isaiah* gave us this glorious prophecy of *Jesus*’ virgin birth. *Matthew* amplifies the prophecy by identifying this promised Son as “*Immanuel — which means ‘God with us.’*” *Jesus* is “*GOD with us*”! “*A son*”, yes. But also “*God*”! This is a clear, straightforward affirmation of the divinity of *Jesus Christ*.

*Isaiah 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.*

*Jesus, the prophesied son, "will be called...Mighty God."*

*John 20:27-28 Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.*

The Apostle Thomas correctly addressed Jesus as "My Lord and my God." Is Jesus God? That is precisely how the Apostle Thomas described Him, with no contradiction offered by Jesus.

*Psalm 45:6 Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: the sceptre of thy kingdom is a right sceptre.*

*Hebrews 1:8 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.*

"Thy throne, O God" — The Old Testament Hebrew word used here is Elohim, used for "God" well over a thousand times in the Bible. This exact scripture from the Psalm is quoted in Hebrews and is applied to Jesus the Son. Jesus is God! Not just "a god," as some would have us believe. The New Testament Greek word for "God" that is specifically applied to Jesus in Hebrews 1:8 is Theos, used for "God" over 1,300 times in the New Testament. So is Jesus "God"? That's precisely what God the Father called Him!

*John 1:1, 14 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...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.*

Jesus is called "the Word", the Logos, of God. As the Logos, He is the manifestation or expression of God to us, "the image of the invisible God" (Colossians 1:15). "(He is) the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person" (Hebrews 1:3). He was "begotten of the Father." As the Logos, Jesus "the Word was with God, and the Word [Jesus] was God."

*Exodus 34:14 For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous Go...*

*Matthew 4:10 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.*

*Hebrews 1:6 And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.*

In Exodus, God commands that He alone be worshiped. *Jesus* reiterated the commandment to worship God only. Yet God the Father's command in *Hebrews 1:6* that His angels worship the Son indicates that the Son is indeed God. If *Jesus* were not Deity, God in the flesh, this would be idolatry.

*1 Timothy 3:16 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.*

“*GOD was manifest in the flesh*”, clearly taken in context is referring *Jesus*.

*Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.*

*Hebrews 3:4 For every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God.*

*Colossians 1:15-17 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.*

*John 1:1-3, 10 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 any thing made that was made... He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.*

The Bible speaks of both God the Father and *Jesus* being Creator of all. *Jesus* is Deity, the Co-Creator.

*John 5:22-23 For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.*

*Jesus* is to be given equal honor with the Father.

*Matthew 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost...*

In His Great Commission baptismal command, *Jesus* said to baptize in the name (not “names”) of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. There is a strong implication of co-equality among Father, Son and Holy Spirit in this verse.

*Psalms 23:1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.*

*Ezekiel 34:31 And ye my flock, the flock of my pasture, are men, and I am your God, saith the Lord GOD.*

*John 10:14 I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.*

*Hebrews 13:20 Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant.*

Often in the Old Testament God is referred to as the Shepherd of His flock, His people. Jesus said of Himself, “*I am the good shepherd.*”

*Acts 20:28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.*

“...*God...His own blood*”! The blood of *Jesus Christ*, shed for our redemption, is called God’s own blood. The blood of Deity, nothing less.

*Isaiah 8:13-14 Sanctify the LORD of hosts himself; and let him be your fear, and let him be your dread. And he (the Lord Almighty) shall be for a sanctuary; but for a stone of stumbling and for a rock of offence to both the houses of Israel, for a gin and for a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.*

*1 Peter 2:4, 7-8a To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious...Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence...*

It is evident that the “*stone*” that causes men to stumble and [the] “*rock of offense*” of *Isaiah* and *Peter* are one and the same. The wording in the Old and New Testaments is

identical. Peter knows Him as *Jesus Christ*; *Isaiah* calls Him “*The Lord Almighty*”. The name “*the Lord Almighty*” is used in the Bible, then, to identify both *God the Son* and *God the Father*.

*Exodus 3:13-14 And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them? And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.*

*John 8:58-59 Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am. Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.*

•A disclaimer seems to be in order here. We are not teaching that *Jesus Christ* IS the Father (He is not). We are asserting, as the Scriptures teach, that *Jesus* is God AND that the Father is God. To pursue that line of thought any farther necessitates a study of the doctrine of the Trinity — a classic and valid truth of orthodox Christianity, but not the subject of this study. In this undertaking we are establishing that the Scriptures affirm the full deity of *Jesus Christ*, the Son of God. Again, we are not suggesting that *Jesus* is the Father (He is not), but that *Jesus* is fully God (“true man and true God,” as the early Christians declared) and thereby coequal and coeternal with God the Father.

## PART II

God identified Himself to Moses by the name “I AM”. Jesus identified Himself to the Jews as that very same “I AM”. The Jews knew exactly what He was claiming and sought to stone Him for such perceived blasphemy — that is, His (true) claim to be the “I AM” who spoke to Moses.

*Isaiah 11:1-2 And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD...*

*Jeremiah 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. 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.*

*Jesus Christ* is the Lord's Branch from the line of David. Jeremiah prophesied that the name of this Branch would be "The Lord our Righteousness" — in Hebrew, JEHOVAH-TSIDKENU. The divine name JEHOVAH is applied to *Jesus Christ*.

*Isaiah 40:3 The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.*

*Mark 1:1-3 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God; As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.*

*Isaiah* speaks of a messenger preparing the way for "the Lord". Mark shows that *Isaiah's* prophecy spoke of John the Baptist's preparing for the coming of *JESUS!* Truly He is "our Lord". It is small wonder that *Thomas*, beholding the resurrected Son, could cry, "My Lord and my God!" (*John 20:28*). It is quite evident from his words that the apostle *Thomas* had correctly perceived the deity of *Jesus Christ*.

*Hebrews 3:3-4 For this man was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as he who hath builded the house hath more honour than the house. For every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God.*

In verse 3 *Jesus* is the builder. In verse 4 God is the builder of all.

*Isaiah 48:12-13, 17 Hearken unto me, O Jacob and Israel, my called; I am he; I am the first, I also am the last. Mine hand also hath laid the foundation of the earth, and my right hand hath spanned the heavens: when I call unto them, they stand up together... Thus saith the LORD, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the LORD thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go.*

*Revelation 1:17-18 And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.*

*Jesus*, the resurrected, ever-living Son of God, calls Himself "the First and the Last", a divine title ascribed to "the Lord thy God" in *Isaiah*.

*Titus 1:3-4 But hath in due times manifested his word through preaching, which is*

*committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Saviour; To Titus, mine own son after the common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour.*

Note: “*God our Savior*” (vs. 3) and “*Christ Jesus our Savior*” (vs. 4). *Jesus Christ* is God; *Jesus Christ* is also the Savior.

*Mark 2:5, 7 When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, **Son, thy sins be forgiven thee**... Why doth this man thus speak blasphemies? who can forgive sins but God only?*

*Jesus* obviously possessed the authority to forgive sins, an authority that belongs uniquely to God.

*Isaiah 43:12b, 14-15 ... ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, that I am God... Thus saith the LORD, your redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; For your sake I have sent to Babylon, and have brought down all their nobles, and the Chaldeans, whose cry is in the ships. I am the LORD, your Holy One, the creator of Israel, your King.*

*Hosea 11:9b ...for I am God, and not man; the Holy One in the midst of thee: and I will not enter into the city.*

*Mark 1:24 Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God.*

*Acts 3:14-15 But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you; And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses.*

“*The Holy One*”, a title applied often to Jehovah (or Yahweh) God, is specifically applied in the New Testament to *Jesus Christ*.

*Deuteronomy 10:17 For the LORD your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, which regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward:*

*1 Timothy 6:15 Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;*

*Revelation 17:14 These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.*

Jesus is called “*Lord of lords*” and “*King of kings*” —titles ascribed elsewhere in Scripture to God.

*Isaiah 45:22-23 Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else. I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear.*

*Philippians 2:10-11 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

In the act of bowing the knee to and confessing *Jesus*, we are worshiping God, for He has said, “*every knee shall bow*” and “*every tongue should confess*”.

*Deuteronomy 32:3-4 Because I will publish the name of the LORD: ascribe ye greatness unto our God. He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.*

*1 Corinthians 10:1, 4 Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea...And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.*

“*Our God...the Rock*”, of whom *Moses* wrote, is said by the *Apostle Paul* to be *Jesus*. A related truth clearly reinforced by *Paul’s* statement is the preexistence of Christ prior to His earthly incarnation.

*John 5:21 For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will.*

*Jesus* the Son possesses the same life-giving power that God the Father has. The power to bring life from death is uniquely a prerogative of divinity.

*Joel 2:32 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call.*

*Acts 4:10-12 Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of*

*Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*

The *Prophet Joel* exhorts us to call upon the divine name — the Lord (Hebrew = Jehovah, or Yahweh) — for salvation. *Peter* quotes this exact verse (Acts 2:21) and tells us (Acts 4:12) that salvation is found in the name of *Jesus Christ*. The *Apostle Paul* similarly urges that “*that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father*” (Philippians 2:11).

*Hebrews 7:1, 3 For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him... Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually.*

*Melchizedek*, who appeared to *Abraham* in *Genesis 14*, is a “Christophany,” an appearance of a being representing *Jesus*. The writer to the *Hebrews* in chapter seven makes this same association. And of this remarkable being who is “*like the Son of God*” the author describes as “*having neither beginning of days, nor end of life*”. This is another powerful declaration of the eternal preexistence of *Jesus Christ* — a trait only applicable to a fully Divine Being. None short of Deity can claim eternal existence both past and future.

*1 John 5:20 And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.*

“*...Jesus Christ. This is the true God*”, is as unmistakable a declaration of the divinity of *Jesus Christ* as one can find in the Scriptures.

*Titus 2:13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ...*

The *Apostle Paul* recognized *Jesus* as “*our great God and our Savior*”. This is a forthright assertion of the deity of Christ.

*2 Peter 1:1 Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:*

The *Apostle Peter*, too, an earthly companion and disciple of the Son of God, fully understood the identity of our “*God and Savior Jesus Christ*”.

*Romans 9:5 Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.*

“*Christ, who is over all, GOD blessed for ever*”, could the deity of Christ be expressed more plainly than this?

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—B.W.

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