



Part 1 (Lesson 10)

## **The Bible's Proclamation of Who Jesus Christ Is**

*Jesus Christ is the central character of the entire Bible. He is of course the focus of the New Testament. He is also the focus of the Old Testament. There is a reason why we call our faith "Christianity". It is all based on the person of "Christ"! In this lesson we will look at Who the Bible says Jesus Christ is. In doing so we will also be reminded of one area of confirming evidence that the Bible is the Word of God. The internal unity seen within the Bible confirms to us that it is the Word of God!*

### **I. Fulfilled Messianic Prophecies**

A. There are over 300 Messianic Prophecies (prophecies about the coming Messiah) found in the Old Testament that were fulfilled by Jesus Christ in the New Testament. Though some claim that Jesus of Nazareth was not the Messiah, ("Messiah" in Hebrew is equivalent to "Christ" in Greek) the fact that He fulfilled all of these prophecies shows clearly that He was and is the Messiah (the Christ)! Below are just a few of the prophecies that were fulfilled by Jesus Christ. Look at the passage and write in your own words the prophecy that was given. **(Answers are clearly seen in each passage.)**

B. Genesis 3:15 \_\_\_\_\_

C. Psalm 78:2 \_\_\_\_\_

D. Isaiah 7:14 \_\_\_\_\_

E. Micah 5:2 \_\_\_\_\_

F. Zechariah 9:9 \_\_\_\_\_

G. Zechariah 11:12-13 \_\_\_\_\_

H. Isaiah 53:6-7 \_\_\_\_\_

- I. Isaiah 53:9 \_\_\_\_\_
- J. Psalm 22:1 \_\_\_\_\_
- K. Psalm 22:7-8 \_\_\_\_\_
- L. Psalm 22:18 \_\_\_\_\_
- M. Daniel 7:13-14 \_\_\_\_\_

*Note that Daniel 7:13-14 is a Messianic prophecy that Jewish people in Jesus' day held to with great anticipation. It revealed the triumphant dominion of the Messiah who would come. In this prophecy Daniel referred to the Messiah as one like "a Son of Man". Because of this the term "Son of Man" was distinctly known at that time as referring to the Messiah. It is interesting that Jesus is called the "Son of Man" 85 times in the 4 New Testament gospels and the book of Acts. This is a clear declaration that He is the Messiah (the Christ)! Here are a few examples you can view. (Matthew 12:40) (Matthew 20:28) (Matthew 24:30) (Mark 14:62) (Acts 7:55-56)*

## II. Types and Shadows

A. The Old Testament points forward to Jesus Christ! Any time we see the term "scriptures" in the New Testament it is speaking of the Old Testament. Look at these passages and notice what is said about how Jesus can be found in the Old Testament.

2 Timothy 3:15 (King James or NIV) **(The O.T. can give us wisdom and can lead us to salvation which is found through faith in Jesus Christ.)**

John 5:39 **(The O.T. testify about Jesus Christ)**

Luke 24:27 **(The law and the prophets in the O.T. explain things about Jesus Christ.)**

Acts 8:32-35 **(The O.T. reveals the suffering and sacrifice of Jesus for our sin.)**

Acts 17:2-3 **(Paul used the O.T. to show how Jesus would suffer, die and be resurrected.)**

B. One of the ways the Old Testament points to Jesus Christ is through many "types and shadows". These are things that picture Jesus Christ and/or something He will accomplish. Look up the following passages and list the "type" that is seen and what it refers to.

Exodus 12:13	<b>(The Passover)</b>	(1 Corinthians 5:7)
Numbers 21:6-9	<b>(The Brazen Serpent)</b>	(John 3:14-15)(Galatians 3:13)
Joshua 2:18-19	<b>(The Scarlet Cord in Rahab's Window)</b>	
Exodus 16:4	<b>(Manna From Heaven)</b>	(John 6:48-51)
Exodus 17:6 & Numbers 20:8	<b>(Water From the Rock)</b>	(1 Corinthians 10:1-4)

Notice that after Moses struck the rock the first time he was told to simply speak to the rock after that. How does this picture the life we receive from Jesus? **(In the same way Jesus was stricken once to bring us life. Now we speak to Him to receive life from Him.)**

### III. The Deity of Jesus Christ

A. The Gospel of John is dedicated to showing us Who Jesus Christ is! Notice the following examples of how this book of the Bible reveals the deity of Jesus Christ.

B. The purpose of the Gospel of John is seen in John 20:30-31. What is the revealed purpose? **(That we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Also, that by believing in His Name we may receive life.)**

C. What is revealed about Jesus Christ in the first few verses of the Gospel of John? (John 1:1-3, 14) **(He is God and He is the Creator of all things. He is also the Word and He became flesh and dwelt among us.)**

D. There are 23 "I AM" statements in the Gospel of John that are not found in any of the other Gospels. These reveal the deity of Jesus Christ. To understand the significance of these statements look at Exodus 3:14-15. How does God refer to Himself here when He is speaking to Moses? **("I AM")** The Name "LORD" which is "Yahweh" or "Jehovah" means "the self-existent One" and is related to "I AM". Often in the Old Testament descriptive terms were added to the Name Jehovah to describe God such as "Jehovah Shalom" (The Lord God your peace) or "Jehovah Jireh" (The Lord God your provider). In the Gospel of John this same pattern is seen referring to Jesus Christ. Sometimes descriptive terms are added and sometimes "I AM", referring to Jesus stands alone. Make notes regarding the following examples.

John 6:35 **(Jesus said “I am the bread of life.”)**

John 10:9 **(Jesus said “I am the door”)**

John 10:11 **(Jesus said “I am the good shepherd”)**

John 11:25 **(Jesus said “I am the resurrection and the life”)**

John 14:6 **(Jesus said “I am the way, the truth and the life”)**

John 8:24 (Note – The word “he” is not in the original but was added by the translators)

**(Jesus said that unless we believe that He is “I Am” we will die in our sins.)**

John 8:56-58 **(Jesus said that before Abraham was born “I Am”, declaring His deity.)**

John 18:4-6 (Note – The word “he” is not in the original but was added by the translators)

**(When Jesus said “I Am” the power of God knocked the entire group to the ground.)**

E. How is the deity of Jesus seen in Philippians 2:5-8? **(Jesus existed in the form of deity but He laid aside His deity in order to become a bond-servant and lay down His life upon the cross for our sin.)**

(Note – There are many other places in the Bible where the deity of Jesus Christ can be seen. These are just a few examples of references we can find.)

#### IV. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ

A. Note from 1 Corinthians 15:17 how important the resurrection of Jesus Christ is!

**(If Jesus did not rise from the dead our faith is worthless and we are still in our sins.)**

B. What key evidence for the resurrection do you see in 1 Corinthians 15:3-8? **(Jesus appeared to witnesses after He rose from the dead including Peter, James, the 12 Disciples, a group of 500 people and Paul)**

C. What were the disciples of Jesus like as they observed His crucifixion? (Mark 14:50-52)  
(Luke 22:54-62) **(They were hiding out in fear)**

(Notice the disciple did not bury Jesus. The disciples were not the first to find that He had risen from the grave because they were hiding out, afraid for their own lives.)

D. What did Peter do a few weeks later in Acts 2:14-41? **(He stood boldly in public and proclaimed Jesus as the resurrected Savior of the world.)**

(Notice in verse 14 that the other disciples were with Peter as he boldly proclaimed Christ.)

History shows that the disciples of Jesus continued to boldly proclaim Christ, so much so that they were instrumental in establishing the New Testament church. How could they go from being afraid and hiding to boldly proclaiming Christ, even though it cost them their lives? The best explanation is that they saw the risen Christ, just as the Bible says. The largest religion in the world was established. This is historical fact. The explanation for the reactions of the disciples and many others in the early church who gave their lives for their faith, is they knew that Jesus Christ had truly risen from the dead!

E. Who were the first witnesses of Christ's resurrection that we are told about in the biblical account? (Luke 24:1-10)(John 20:1) **(Mary Magdalene and other women)**

*This is important because in that time women were not even allowed to testify in a court of law. No one trying to make up a convincing story would have women as the witnesses. This is another piece of evidence that the Bible's account of the resurrection of Jesus Christ is true!*

## V. Beyond Deity – Who Is Jesus?

As mentioned earlier in this lesson, Jesus Christ is the central character of the entire Bible. Note the descriptions of Jesus in the following passages and note how this is significant to our Christian faith.

A. John 1:29, 36 **(Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world)**

B. 1 Peter 2:6-8; Luke 20:17-18 **(Jesus is the cornerstone which our faith is built upon.)**

D. Revelation 19:11-21 (Jesus is the coming victorious King Who will defeat all the enemies of the Kingdom of God.)

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