

THE NATURE OF CHRIST

Christology is the study of Jesus Christ. Christ is the Greek form of the Hebrew word messiah and means anointed one. Jesus is the long awaited for messiah who came according to prophecy.

I. The Divinity of Christ.

A. Jesus is God.

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

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.

This is a prophecy of Christ who is called the mighty God. There is only one mighty God; Jesus is THE MIGHTY GOD.

B. Jesus is not a lesser God than the Father.

Phillipians 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 is God and is equal with God the Father. This subject will be covered in greater detail in the section: The Trinity of God.

C. The devil has attacked the truth of the Deity of Christ.

- 1) Deity -- God; the Supreme Being. or infinite self-existing Spirit. - Webster
- 2) A common denominator of the cults is to deny the Deity of Christ.
 - a) Mormons teach Jesus is not God.
 - b) Jehovah's Witnesses teach Jesus is a lesser god than the Father.
 - c) Muslims deny that Jesus is the Son of God.
 - d) Other cults teach Jesus was just a prophet or great teacher.
- 3) The devil knows if he can get man to doubt the Deity of Christ then the foundation of their faith is destroyed. If Jesus is not God then He is a liar and the Bible is not true.

II. The eternal existence of Christ.

A. Jesus is not a created being.

B. Jesus is the Alpha and Omega.

Revelation 1:7-8 -- Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen. 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.

This Scripture tells us that Jesus is the Alpha and Omega. Alpha is the first letter of the Greek alphabet and Omega is the last signifying that Jesus is the first and the last. Jesus is the one who was pierced and is coming with the clouds. Jesus is the Lord which is, and which was, and which is to come. The context of the Scripture clearly reveals that Jesus is the one speaking and declaring that He is the Alpha and Omega.

C. Jesus is everlasting.

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.

III. The Humanity of Christ.

A. Jesus came in the flesh.

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. -- John 1:14

According to the law of the kinsman redeemer only the next of kin could pay the price of redemption. Jesus the everlasting Word became a man to fulfill the part of the kinsman redeemer and pay the price for fallen humanity with His Divine blood upon the cross.

Ephesians 1:7 -- In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

B. Jesus was born as a babe of the virgin Mary.

Matthew 1:18: - Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

Mary was the chosen vessel to birth the Christ, but that which was conceived within her was not of man, but of the Holy Ghost. The blood of Jesus is Divine and not tainted by the sin of fallen humanity.

C. Jesus was all man and all God at the same time.

Colossians 2:9 -- For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

The wood overlaid with gold in the furniture of the Tabernacle typifies this dual nature of Christ. Wood is a type of humanity while Gold typifies the Divine nature of God. As a man Jesus limited Himself to a human body to be in one location at one time, yet within Him was the fullness of God. The humanity of Christ became tired and hungry and needed to rest as do all men. Jesus was our supreme example of prayer and desired fellowship with the Father. He would often arise early to pray and commune with the Father.

Hebrews 4:15 -- For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

THE PRE INCARNATE CHRIST

The incarnation refers to Christ taking on the form of a man.

Phillipians 2:7 -8 -- But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

I. Christ existed before He became flesh.

A. Christ was not known by the name Jesus until His birth in Bethlehem.

Matthew 1:21 -- And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

B. In the beginning was the Word. The Word of God reveals to us that Christ always was and existed in the beginning with God. -- John 1:1

C. Jesus had glory with the Father before the world was created.

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

John 8:58 -- Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.

II. Old Testament appearances of Christ.

John 1:18 -- No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.

According to the context of this Scripture no man hath seen God the Father at any time. This would include the time period of the Old Testament. The Father reveals Himself to humanity through the Son in both Old Testament and New Testament times. Even though in the Old Testament Christ had not yet been manifested in the flesh, He still existed with the Father and appears in the Old Testament to humanity as God. And since we know from Scripture that no man hath seen God the Father at any time these Old Testament appearances of God could only have been Christ who is the eternal declaration of the Father.

A. Captain of the host of the LORD.

Joshua 5: 14-15 And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his

sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries? And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the LORD am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my lord unto his servant? And the captain of the LORD'S host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so.

This was Holy ground because the Christ who is God was standing on it.

B. The Angel of the Lord.

Throughout the Old Testament the Angel of the Lord is ascribed the attributes of Deity.

Genesis 16:10 -- And the angel of the LORD said unto her, I will multiply thy seed exceedingly, that it shall not be numbered for multitude.

Genesis 22:11 -- And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I.

Genesis 22:15-17 -- And the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies;

Genesis 31:11 -- And the angel of God spake unto me in a dream, saying, Jacob: And I said, Here am I.

Genesis 31:13 -- I am the God of Bethel, where thou anointedst the pillar, and where thou vowedst a vow unto me: now arise, get thee out from this land, and return unto the land of thy kindred.

Exodus 3:2 -- And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed.

Numbers 22:35 -- And the angel of the LORD said unto Balaam, Go with the men: but only the word that I shall speak unto thee, that thou shalt speak. So Balaam went with the princes of Balak.

Judges 2:1 - And an angel of the LORD came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said, I made you to go up out of Egypt, and have brought you unto the land which I sware unto your fathers; and I said, I will never break my covenant with you.

Judges 6:12 - And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him, and said unto him, The LORD is with thee, thou mighty man of valour.

C. The man who wrestled with Jacob.

Genesis 32:24 -- And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day.

D. JEHOVAH appeared to Abraham

Gen 18:1 -- And the LORD appeared unto him in the plains of Mamre: and he sat in the tent door in the heat of the day;

Jehovah God appears to Abraham as described in this passage of Scripture. We understand from John 1:18 that Abraham could not have seen God the Father. The only logical conclusion is that Abraham met with the Christ who is man's declaration of God in both the Old and New Testaments.

E. The fourth man in the fire.

Daniel 3:25 -- He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.

F. Melchisedec

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;

To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace;

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.

Names, Offices, and Attributes of Christ

I. The Names of Christ

A. Jesus

Jesus is the Greek transliteration of the Hebrew name "Joshua" which means "Jehovah is salvation". Some try to erroneously claim that since Jesus is a Greek rendition of a Hebrew name that it is not the true name of the Christ. The devil hates the name of Jesus. There has been much personal testimony of the power of the name of Jesus to heal the sick, raise the dead and to cast out devils. This writer has seen the demons flee at the name of Jesus spoken in English, Spanish, and Swahili; the demons know the power of the name of Jesus.

Mark 16:17 -- And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

Philippians 2:10 -- That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

Acts 4:10 -- 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.

Acts 4:12 -- Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

B. The Word

The Apostle John particularly uses the Word in reference to Christ who is the eternal living Word of God. Jesus not only spoke the Word; He is the Word that was made flesh, ascended to heaven, is seated at the right hand of the throne of God, and is coming back in power.

Revelation 19:13 -- And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

C. Son of God

The use of the Son of God refers to the Divine nature of Christ. Joseph was not the father of Jesus: the Scripture tells us plainly that Jesus was conceived of the Holy Ghost. The living eternal word took upon Him the form of man that He might redeem man. Remember that Jesus existed before He was born of the virgin Mary; Nebuchadnezzar declared the form fourth man in the fire is like the Son of God.

Peter received a revelation from the Father of who Jesus is.

Matthew 16:16 -- And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

D. Son of Man

This refers to the humanity of Christ. Jesus was God manifested in the flesh.

E. Son of David

This has reference to the royalty of Christ as King and rightful heir to the throne of David. Jesus is a direct descendent of King David as listed in the genealogies of both Matthew and Luke. The accounts follow from the line of Joseph who was not the natural father, but would have been the legal line of succession to the throne. The prophets declared the messiah would come from the lineage of David and the throne of David would be established forever.

Isaiah 11:1 -- And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:

2Samuel 7:16 -- And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever.

F. Lord

The Greek word Kurios rendered Lord is used to refer to a lord ruler or master. Jesus is the King of kings and Lord of lords.

G. Christ

Christ is the Greek from of the Hebrew Word "Messiah" which literally means the anointed one. Jesus is the Messiah.

II. The Offices of Christ

A. Prophet

Jesus not only spoke for God as a prophet; He spoke as God thus completely fulfilling the office of a prophet.

B. Priest

Jesus offered Himself as the supreme sacrifice for our sin, and ever lives to make intercession for the saints of God. He is our great high priest.

Hebrews 7:25 -- Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

Hebrews 9:14 -- How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

C. King

Jesus was the legal heir to the throne of David and is seated now on the right hand of the throne of God. Jesus is the King of kings.

III. The Attributes of Christ

Jesus is God and has the same moral and non moral attributes as God the Father. Christ the man limited Himself to a human body while He was on the earth, but the resurrected, exalted Christ must have the same attributes as God the Father. Anything less would make Jesus less than God. The glorified Christ is not limited to a physical body. Jesus must be omnipresent like the Father and the Holy Ghost. Jesus said that He would be in the midst of the saints that are gathered together in His name.

Matthew 18:20 – For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

THE WORK OF CHRIST

I. The ministry of Christ

A. Jesus had compassion on the sick and healed all that came unto Him.

Act 10:38 – How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

B. Teaching and preaching the Word of God.

Matthew 4:23 – And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.

C. Bringing deliverance to the captives.

Luke 4:18 – The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

Matthew 8:16 – When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick:

II. The redemptive work of Christ

The most important work of Christ was to purchase redemption for man through His death upon the cross. The Word became flesh for the purpose of dying for lost humanity.

A. The death of Christ

1) Satisfied the penalty of sin according to the Law of God.

Romans 6:23 – For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Corinthians 15:3 – For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

- 2) Appeased the judgment of God through the sacrifice of the Divine blood of the Lamb of God.

Romans 3:25 – Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

The Greek word here rendered propitiation refers to the Mercy seat. The Mercy seat is the place where the High priest sprinkled the blood of a lamb on the Day of Atonement to satisfy the wrath of God against the sins of the people. Jesus became our Mercy seat when He offered Himself as the pure spotless Lamb of God and shedding His blood as the supreme sacrifice for the sin of humanity.

- 3) Defeated the power of death.

Matthew 12:40 – For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

Hebrews 2:14 – 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;

Jesus went into the region of the dead to defeat death. Death could not hold the Son of God. Jesus defeated the devil that had the power of death. Jesus stripped the devil of his power and authority and took the keys of death away from the devil.

Revelation 1:18 – 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.

B. The resurrection of Christ

The resurrection of Christ is the event that separates Jesus from other religious leaders and false messiahs. Buddah, Mohamed, Sun Myung Moon and other false messiahs are in the grave. There is an empty tomb in Jerusalem where Jesus lay for three days, but when the three days were fulfilled Christ arose victorious over death, hell and the grave.

III. The continued intercession of Christ

Romans 8:34 – Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

Jesus ascended back to heaven and is at the right hand of the Father who ever lives to make intercession for us. The Scripture tells us that Jesus our Great High Priest is still interceding for us in heaven.

The Old Testament high priest interceded for the people on the Day of Atonement sprinkling the blood of a lamb on the Mercy Seat for the sins of the people. Jesus offered Himself once shedding His Divine blood for the sins of humanity. The blood of Jesus still has the power to make the vilest sinner clean. The Father views the justified saint through the redemptive work of Christ. Jesus is still our Great High Priest.

Hebrews 7:25 – Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.