

# APPROVED UNTO GOD

## THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST

In our Christian Worldview, who do you think was the most important person who ever lived?

Jesus

### I. Who is Jesus?

Matt. 16:13 -16 "When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?'

They replied, 'Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.'

'But what about you?' he asked. 'Who do you say I am?'

Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.'"

Jesus satisfies.

John 6:35 "Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'"

A. What does the name, "Jesus", mean? God saves

*Matt. 1:21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."*

B. What does the title, "Christ" mean? Messiah (promised one)

*Matt. 2:4 "When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born."*

*Isaiah 7:14 "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel."*

### II. Jesus is God

A. Read John 1:1,2. Who is the "Word"? God - Jesus

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning."

B. How old is Jesus? (Refer to John 8:58.) eternal

"'Very truly I tell you,' Jesus answered, 'before Abraham was born, I am!'"

Gen. 1:26 *"Then God said, 'Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.'"*

C. The Word (Jesus) was God! Other verses where Jesus is called God are:

1. John 20:28 *"Thomas said to him, 'My Lord and my God!'"*
2. Romans 9:5 *"Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of the Messiah, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen."*
3. John 10:30 *"I and the Father are one."*

D. Read these verses and list what Jesus could do only if He was really God.

1. John 1:3; Colossians 1:16 create  
John 1:3 *"Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made."*  
Col. 1:16 *"For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him."*
2. Mark 2:5-7 heal, forgive sins  
*"When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, 'Son, your sins are forgiven.' Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves. 'Why does this fellow talk that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?'"*
3. Matthew 14:33; Hebrews 1:6 be worshipped  
Matthew 14:33 *"Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'"*  
Hebrews 1:6 *"And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, 'Let all God's angels worship him.'"*
4. Luke 9:47, Luke 6:8, John 2:24-25 knowledge, know what he knew  
Luke 9:47 *"Jesus, knowing their thoughts, took a little child and had him stand beside him."*  
Luke 6:8 *"But Jesus knew what they were thinking and said to the man with the shriveled hand, 'Get up and stand in front of everyone.' So he got up and stood there."*

John 2:24-25 *“But Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he knew all people. He did not need any testimony about mankind, for he knew what was in each person.”*

5. Acts 1:22, Romans 1:4, Philippians 3:10 power to overcome death and the grave

Acts 1:22 *“... For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection.”*

Romans 1:4 *“...and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.”*

Philippians 3:10-11 *“I want to know Christ – yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup>and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.”*

6. 1 Corinthians 15:17, *And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins*

***The resurrection answers 3 important questions***

- a) Is God real ?  
b) Is Christianity true ?  
c) Is there life after death ?

III. Jesus is Man

- A. What does “incarnation” mean? God becoming man

Read John 1:14 and Philippians 2:5-8. According to these verses, what did Jesus choose to do? Temporarily set aside his Godly powers

John 1:14 *“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”*

*Philippians 2:5-8 “In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage, rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death - even death on a cross!”*

Temporarily set aside His Godly powers

B. Read the following verses and list some of the ways that Jesus was like us.

1. Galatians 4:4 He was born.  
“But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law...”
2. Luke 2:40, 52 He grew.  
“And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him...And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.”
3. Luke 4:2 He was tempted and was hungry  
“...where for forty days he was tempted by the devil...”
4. John 4:6 He got tired.  
“...Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well.”
5. John 11:35 He wept (had emotions).  
“Jesus wept.”
6. Hebrews 5:2 He was subject to weakness.  
“He is able to deal gently with those who are ignorant and are going astray, since he himself is subject to weakness.”
7. Matthew 27:46, 50 He felt pain  
“About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, ‘Eli, Eli lema sabachthani?’ (which means, ‘My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?’) ...And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.”

C. Why did Jesus have to become man?

1. I Peter 2:24 to substitute for us on the cross  
“He himself bore our sins’ in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; ‘by his wounds you have been healed.’”
2. II Corinthians 8:9; Mark 10:45. What was His purpose in coming?  
to serve and to save  
II Corinthians 8:9 “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.”  
  
Mark 10:45 “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

3. It was necessary that Jesus be both God and man if His death was to give us salvation.

IV. Besides being Savior, Jesus is...

Read the following verses. What do they tell us about Jesus' present activity?

- A. Hebrews 4:14, 15; 1 Timothy 2:5 Great High Priest

*Hebrews 4:14 "Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are - yet He did not sin."*

*1 Timothy 2:5 "For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus,"*

We pray:

To the Father

By the power of the Holy Spirit

In the Name of Jesus Christ the Son

- B. Ephesians 1:20-22; Philippians 2:9-11 Sitting at the right hand of God, exalted

*Ephesians 1:20-22 "He exerted when He raised Christ from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God place all things under His feet and appointed Him to be head over everything for the church,"*

*Philippians 2:9-11 "Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."*

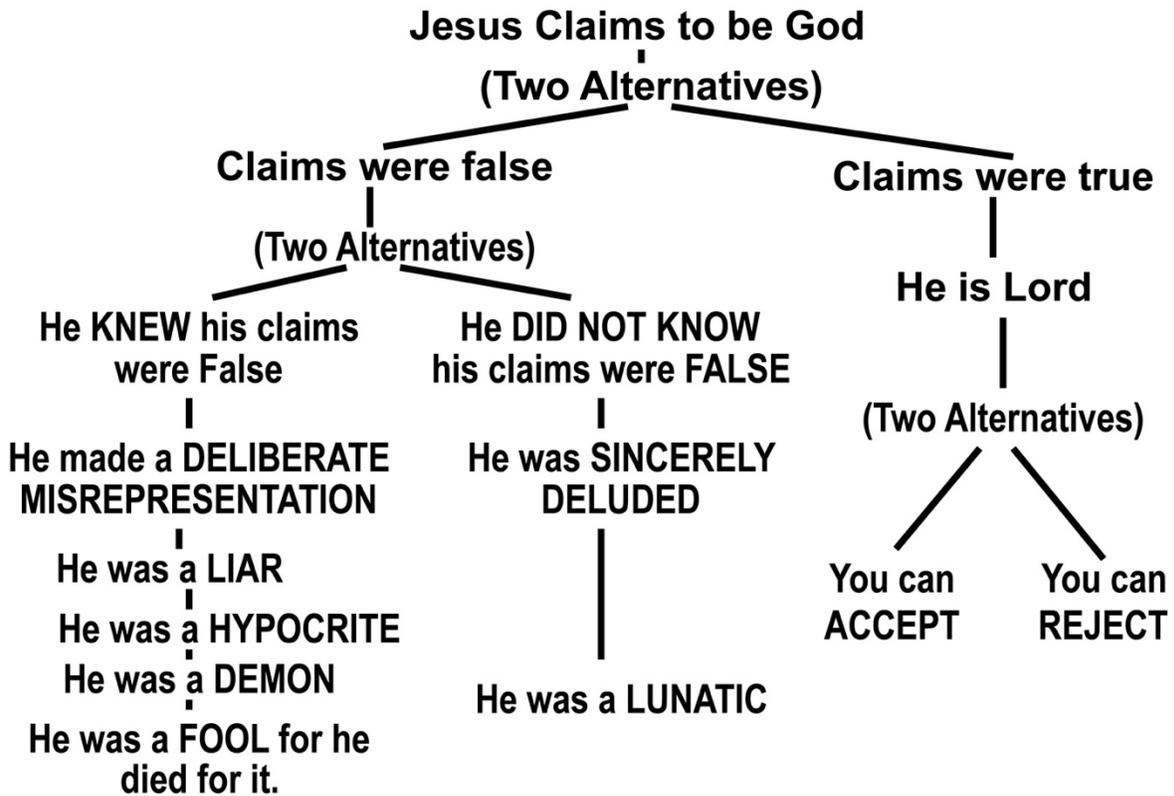
V. Who do you think Jesus is?

C. S. Lewis, in *'Mere Christianity'*, says there are three options:

A. Option #1 \_\_\_\_\_ *liar* \_\_\_\_\_

B. Option #2 \_\_\_\_\_ *lunatic* \_\_\_\_\_

C. Option #3 \_\_\_\_\_ *Lord* \_\_\_\_\_



**Conclusion:** The Bible teaches that Jesus is God's only begotten Son, the unique God-man. The most important question is how we personally respond to who Jesus is (Matthew 16:16).

Jesus is Lord of the world and of the church. Is He Lord of your life?

## TITLES OF THE LORD GOD AND JESUS CHRIST

The Lord God	is called <u>Savior</u>	“I, even I, am the Lord, and apart from Me there is no <u>savior</u> .” Isaiah 43:11
Jesus Christ	is called <u>Savior</u>	“... and we know that this man really is the <u>Savior of the world</u> .” John 4:42
God	is called <u>Savior</u>	“...we have put our hope in the living God, who is the <u>Savior</u> of all people...” I Timothy 4:10
Jesus Christ	is called <u>Savior</u>	“but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our <u>Savior</u> , Christ Jesus,...” II Timothy 1:10
The Lord God	is called <u>shepherd</u>	“The Lord is my <u>shepherd</u> ...” Psalm 23:1
Jesus Christ	is called <u>shepherd</u>	“I am the good <u>shepherd</u> ...” John 10:14 “... Lord Jesus, that great <u>Shepherd</u> of the sheep.” Hebrews 13:20
The Lord God	is called <u>I AM</u>	“ <u>I AM</u> has sent me to you.” Exodus 3:14
Jesus Christ	is called <u>I AM</u>	“... before Abraham was born, <u>I AM!</u> ” John 8:58
The Lord God	is called <u>light</u>	“... God is <u>light</u> ...” I John 1:5
Jesus Christ	is called <u>light</u>	“... I am the <u>light</u> of the world ...” John 8:12
The Lord God	is called <u>sinless</u>	“... God is light; in Him there is <u>no darkness at all</u> .” I John 1:5
Jesus Christ	is called <u>sinless</u>	“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet <u>He did not sin</u> .” Hebrews 4:15
The Lord God	is called <u>creator</u>	“For this is what the Lord says— <u>He who created</u> the heavens, He is God...” Isaiah 45:18
Jesus Christ	is called <u>creator</u>	“For in Him all things were <u>created</u> ...” Colossians 1:16

## OTHER ESSENTIAL BIBLICAL DATA

1. “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6 —Here is one of the verses that is recognized by all of orthodox Christianity to be prophetic concerning Jesus for he is the son who was given to us. Yet here he is called “Mighty God, Everlasting Father.”
2. “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” Matthew 28:19—Here we do not see Jesus telling us to baptize in the names (plural) but rather he tells us to baptize in the name (singular), thus placing all three in equality. To have placed the Son and Holy Spirit in equality with the Father without these two having full deity would be blasphemy, of course.
3. Would the being who raised Jesus from the dead please stand up?
  - ⇒ “and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.” I Thessalonians 1:10
  - ⇒ “Jesus answered them, ‘Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.’ ...But the temple He had spoken of was His body.” John 2:19, 21
  - ⇒ In these two verses we see first God the Father raising Jesus from the dead, yet in John we see that it is Jesus who raises himself from the dead—thus again we see the equality of the Father and the Son.
4. “But about the Son he says, ‘Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever...’” Hebrews 1:8—In reading from verse 1 through 10 it is obvious that it is God the Father who is speaking and calling his son “God”.
5. “... He appeared in the flesh ...” I Timothy 3:16
6. “... God; the one and only Son, who is Himself God ...” John 1:18

“and no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he who came down from heaven, even the son of man which is in heaven.” John 3:13 (King James and Amplified) — Here we see Jesus who is on earth telling us he is also in heaven at the same time.

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## MEMORY VERSE #5

*Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*  
*John 20:30-31*

### Commentary

#### Our great high priest

In the fourth chapter, the writer of Hebrews provides us with another title to consider when we think of Jesus. Jesus is presented as a great high priest. In antiquity, high priests functioned as intermediaries. They offered sacrifices for the appeasement of the gods and the sins of the people. They offered intercessions and prayers, pleading the case of the people before God. They stood in the gap between God and the people. Jesus is described as “a great high priest who has passed through the heavens” (4:14). He is a high priest “who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet is without sin.” In Jesus, we have a high priest who is empathetic with our struggles. Jesus’s movement between heaven and earth transformed the role of the priesthood. The lyrics to the song “Lord, we lift your name on high”<sup>1</sup> summarize these Jesus’s journeys. “He came from heaven to earth to show the way, from the earth to the cross our debt repaid, from the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky.” Because of Jesus, the boundaries that have separated humanity from God are permeable. We can approach God because of our great high priest.

#### Easy memorization breakdown

- \* John 20:30-31
- \* *Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples,*
- \* *which are not recorded in this book.*
- \* *But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah,*
- \* *the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*
- \* John 20:30-31

#### Practice writing the verse

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Doctrine of Christ

(Remember to write the reference, too!)