

Lesson 2

“What We Believe”**3. We believe that Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of the Father,**

- **Conceived of the Holy Ghost [Spirit] and born of the Virgin Mary.**
- **That Jesus was crucified, buried, raised from the dead.**
- **That He ascended to heaven and is today at the right hand of the Father as the Intercessor.**

1. Only Begotten Son of the Father –

- Luke 1:35 “The angel replied, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God.”
- Matt 8:29 demons acknowledged Him: “They began screaming at Him, “Why are you interfering with us, Son of God? Have You come here to torture us before God’s appointed time?”
- Matt 14:33 “Then the disciples worshiped Him. “You really are the Son of God!” they exclaimed.”
- Matt 16:16 “Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

Though Jesus never gave Himself this title, He never refused or rebuked people when they called Him by the title.

There are cult groups who relegate Jesus to be “a” son of god, but not “The Son of God.”

- This phrasing challenges the uniqueness of Jesus as being The Only Begotten Son of God, thus challenging His Deity.
- He is the Son from eternity by nature; we become sons by adoption.

He is worshiped as “The First and the Last”

- Isa. 41:4 “Who has done such mighty deeds, summoning each new generation from the beginning of time? It is I, the Lord, the First and the Last. I alone am He.”
- Isa 44:6 “This is what the Lord says—Israel’s King and Redeemer, the Lord of Heaven’s Armies: I am the First and the Last; there is no other God.”

He is worshiped as “The Alpha and Omega”

- Rev 22:13, 16 “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this message for

the churches. I am both the source of David and the heir to his throne. I am the bright morning star.”

Begotten:

- Eternally begotten of God means “the Son out of the Father”
- The uniting of human nature with the Eternal Word
- The Virgin Birth established the true humanity of Jesus Christ
The Virgin Birth is the vehicle by which deity is manifested in the world.
- Jesus is not the only Son of God; He is the only Begotten Son of God.
- The Son is the Word of the Father meaning; He is the Word of the Father’s decree.
- Phil. 2:5-11 “You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Though He was God, He did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, He gave up His divine privileges, He took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When He appeared in human form, He humbled Himself in obedience to God and died a criminal’s death on a cross. Therefore, God elevated Him to the place of highest honor and gave Him the name above all other names, that at the name of Jesus, every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

1. Designated as equal with God
2. Found in the fashion of a man
3. The form of a servant

2. Conceived of the Holy Ghost [Spirit] and born of the Virgin Mary.

- Matt 1:18 This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit.”
- Matt 2:11 “They entered the house and saw the child with His mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped Him.”
- Matt 13:55 “Then they scoffed, “He’s just the carpenter’s son and we know Mary, His mother, and His brothers.”
- Gal. 4:4 “But when the right time came, God sent His Son, born of a woman, subject to the law.”

Born of woman, He was submitted to the conditions of human life and a human body.

- All of church history records and validates His human/divine birth.

3. **That Jesus was crucified, buried, raised from the dead.**

This belief is the very core and basis of the Christian faith.

According to the Old Testament revelation of a Redeemer, Jesus fulfilled the role of Priest - Prophet – King.

1. Priest –

- His is of the Old Testament – Melchizedek, Priest with eternal beginnings and no endings – “Where Jesus, who went before us, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.” Heb 6:20
- He is the New Covenant Priest who offers sacrifices on our behalf – and offers Himself as the sacrifice:
- Heb 9:14-15 “For by the power of the eternal Spirit, Christ offered Himself to God as a perfect sacrifice for our sins. That is why He is the one who mediates a new covenant between God and people, so that all who are called can receive the eternal inheritance God has promised them. For Christ died to set them free from the penalty of the sins they had committed under that first covenant.”

His is the Eternal Priesthood:

“Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; but because Jesus lives forever, He has a permanent priesthood.” Heb 7:23–24

2. Prophet - A prophet in biblical terms is one who speaks forth the words of God under divine inspiration. In the Old Testament, prophets served as messengers, conveying God’s guidance, warnings and promises to the people. “The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your brothers. You must listen to him.” (Deuteronomy 18:15). This foundational verse foreshadows the promise that God would send a future prophet in the lineage of Israel, one who would speak God’s very words with authority.

Throughout the Gospels, many who encountered Jesus recognized His prophetic role. Individuals marveled, saying, “A great prophet has appeared among us!” (Luke 7:16). Likewise, when Jesus entered Jerusalem, some in the crowd exclaimed, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee” (Matthew 21:11). The disciples on the road to Emmaus described Him as “a prophet, powerful in speech and action before God and all the people” (Luke 24:19).

In these accounts, Jesus demonstrated the marks of a prophet:

1. Divine Authority - He spoke in a manner that caused people to recognize that God was speaking through Him (Mark 1:22; John 7:16).
2. Foretelling Future Events - He predicted His death and resurrection (Mark 8:31), as well as the destruction of Jerusalem (Luke 19:43-44).
3. Performs Signs - He performed miracles of healing and provision (John 9:1-7; Mark 6:39-44), consistent with the Old Testament pattern where God validated His prophets with signs.
4. King - He is the promised heir to David's throne and rules with eternal authority Luke 1:32-33.

That HE was crucified – buried – raised from the dead =

1. His death/crucifixion, was to pay a ransom price for enslaved humanity- Lev 25:47-49 “Suppose a foreigner or temporary resident becomes rich while living among you. If any of your fellow Israelites fall into poverty and are forced to sell themselves to such a foreigner or to a member of his family, they still retain the right to be bought back, even after they have been purchased. They may be bought back by a brother, an uncle or a cousin. In fact, anyone from the extended family may buy them back. They may also redeem themselves if they have prospered.”

Ransom or Redeem = “To deliver a thing or person by paying a price; to buy back a person or thing by paying the price for which it is held in captivity.”

Ezek 18:4 “For all people are Mine to judge—both parents and children alike. And this is My rule: The person who sins is the one who will die.”

- Jesus, by His death became the Lamb of God offered on our behalf as a substitute for our sin.

Propitiation – “Mercy seat or covering.” The covering of the Ark of the Covenant –

- Ex. 25:22 “I will meet with you there and talk to you from above the atonement cover between the gold cherubim that hover over the Ark of the Covenant. From there I will give you my commands for the people of Israel.”
- Heb 9:5 “Above the Ark were the cherubim of divine glory, whose wings stretched out over the Ark's cover, the place of atonement.”

Jesus has become the propitiatory sacrifice 1 John 2:2 “He himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins—and not only our sins but the sins of all the world.”

- Jesus sacrificial death is the grounds on which a righteous God can pardon a guilty and sinful world without compromising His righteousness.
- Jesus stepped into the courtroom of God and intervened and offered Himself to suffer in the place of our punishment for our sins.
- As both reconciler and substitute He paid the justice of God so we could receive the mercy of God.

2. His Death/Burial – Jesus’ death was necessary because of the broken relationship between God and man from the Fall in the Garden.

- The personal relationship was affected by sin.
- Sin had to be dealt with if the relationship was to be restored.
- God sought man out even after he sinned against the goodness of God as revealed in the Garden.

Because man had been given authority of the earth from creation – Gen. 1:26, man had the option to give the authority to whomever he wished.

In his sin of rebellion against God, man willingly gave the dominion he once had over the creation to satan.

satan was now the ruler – god of this world – due to man’s abdication of his authority.

- God had given man the legal right to rule the earth; now satan had the legal right to rule.
- The only way the right to rule could be put back into man’s hands were if there was one who could redeem or pay the price to successfully obey God on behalf of mankind and buy the world back to righteousness.
- Jesus was the 2nd Adam of Romans who came as a man, obeyed Father God and offered Himself as the sacrifice to redeem mankind back to the Father’s destiny. Rom. 5:18-19
- One man had to die for the sins of many – that was Jesus.

Did Jesus go to hell between His death and resurrection?

There is a great deal of confusion regarding this question. The concept that Jesus went to hell after His death on the cross comes primarily from the Apostles’ Creed, which states, “He descended into hell.” There are also a few Scripture passages that, depending on how they are translated, describe Jesus going to “hell.” In studying this issue, it is important to first understand what the Bible teaches about the realm of the dead.

In the Hebrew Scriptures, the word used to describe the realm of the dead is sheol. It simply means “the place of the dead” or “the place of departed souls/spirits.”

The New Testament Greek equivalent of sheol is hades, which also refers to “the place of the dead.”

The New Testament indicates that sheol/hades is a temporary place, where souls are kept as they await the final resurrection and judgment.

Revelation 20:11–15 makes a clear distinction between hades and the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the permanent and final place of judgment for the lost.

Hades, then, is a temporary place.

Many people refer to both hades and the lake of fire as “hell,” and this causes confusion.

Jesus did not go to a place of torment after His death but He did go to hades.

Sheol/hades is a realm with two divisions:

1. A place of blessing
2. A place of judgment Matthew 11:23; 16:18; Luke 10:15; 16:23; Acts 2:27–31.
 - The abodes of the saved and the lost are both generally called “hades” in the Bible.
 - The abode of the saved is also called “Abraham’s bosom” or “Abraham’s side” in Luke 16:22 and “paradise” in Luke 23:43.
 - The abodes of the saved and the lost are separated by a “great chasm” (Luke 16:26).

When Jesus died, He went to the blessed side of sheol or paradise. (Some believe, based on a particular interpretation of Ephesians 4:8–10, that Jesus took believers with Him from sheol to another place of bliss that we now call heaven.

Ephesians 4 refers to the ascension of Christ.

All the unbelieving dead go to the cursed side of hades to await the final judgment.

All the believing dead go to the blessed side of hades to await the resurrection.

Did Jesus go to sheol/hades?

**Yes, according to Jesus’ own words,
He went to the blessed region of sheol.**

Some have the viewpoint that Jesus went to “hell” or the suffering side of sheol/hades in order to further be punished for our sins.

This idea is completely unbiblical.

**It was the death of Jesus on the cross
that sufficiently provided for our redemption.**

It was His shed blood that effected our own cleansing from sin (1 John 1:7–9). As He hung there on the cross, He took the sin burden of the whole human race upon Himself.

He became sin for us: “God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God” (2 Corinthians 5:21).

This imputation of sin helps us understand Christ’s struggle in the Garden of Gethsemane with the cup of sin that He asked to pass from Him (Matthew 26:39). As Jesus neared death, He said, “It is finished” (John 19:30). His suffering in our place was completed.

His soul/spirit went to hades (the place of the dead).

Jesus did not go to “hell” or the suffering side of hades; He went to “Abraham’s side” or the blessed side of hades.

Jesus’ suffering ended the moment He died. The payment for sin was paid.

He then awaited the resurrection of His body and His return to glory in His ascension.