

## In Search of the Biblical Jesus

### The Humanity of Christ

- He had a human birth into a human line.
- He developed as a human being.
- He had the essential elements of human nature.
  - A body
  - A soul
- He had the sinless weaknesses of human nature.
- He is repeatedly called a man.
- He had human names.

## The Deity of Christ

### The Names He Bears

- He is called God.
  - John 1:1 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
  - John 1:18 - No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained *Him*.
  - John 20:28 - Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"
  - Rom. 9:5 - whose are the fathers, and from whom is the Christ according to the flesh, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

### The Names He Bears

- He is called God.
  - Titus 2:13 - looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,
  - Heb. 1:8 - But of the Son *He* says, "YOUR THRONE, O GOD, IS FOREVER AND EVER, AND THE RIGHTEOUS SCEPTER IS THE SCEPTER OF HIS KINGDOM.
  - 1 John 5:20 - And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding so that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

### The Names He Bears

- He is called the Son of God.
  - Matt. 16:16-19 - Peter's confession
  - Matt. 26:63-66; Mark 15:61-64 - Jesus' confession
  - John 5:18 - For this reason therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.
  - John 19:6-7 - So when the chief priests and the officers saw Him, they cried out saying, "Crucify, crucify!" Pilate said to them, "Take Him yourselves and crucify Him, for I find no guilt in Him." 7 The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and by that law He ought to die because He made Himself out to be the Son of God."

## The Divine Attributes He Manifested

### ■ Self-existent

- John 1:4 - In Him was life.
- John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life.
- Acts 3:15 – [you] put to death the Prince of life, *the one* whom God raised from the dead, *a fact* to which we are witnesses.

### ■ Eternal

- Is. 9:6 - For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.
- Micah 5:2 - "But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Too little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel, His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity."

## The Divine Attributes He Manifested

### ■ Unchangable

- Heb. 13:8 - Jesus Christ *is* the same yesterday and today and forever.

### ■ Omnipresent

- Matt. 18:20 - "For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst."
- Matt. 18:18-20 - And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

## The Divine Attributes He Manifested

### ■ Omniscient

- John 2:24-25 - Jesus, on His part, was not entrusting Himself to them, for He knew all men, 25 and because He did not need anyone to testify concerning man, for He Himself knew what was in man.
- John 4:16-19
- John 21:6 - He said to them, "Cast the net on the right-hand side of the boat and you will find a *catch*." So they cast, and then they were not able to haul it in because of the great number of fish.
- Col. 2:3 - in [Christ] are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

## The Divine Attributes He Manifested

### ■ Omnipotent

- John 5:19 - Therefore Jesus answered and was saying to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless *it is* something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner.
- Rev. 1:8 - "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

## The Divine Prerogatives He Possessed

### ■ Right to forgive sin

- Mark 2:5-7 - Jesus seeing their faith said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." 6 But some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, 7 "Why does this man speak that way? He is blaspheming; who can forgive sins but God alone?"

### ■ Right to execute judgment

- John 5:27 – [The Father] gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is *the* Son of Man.

## The Divine Prerogatives He Possessed

### ■ Right to receive worship

- Divine worship is offered to Christ and accepted by Him.
- But that is contrary to what Scripture teaches should be offered to anyone but God Himself.
  - Ex. 20:3-5 - "You shall have no other gods before Me. 4 "You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. 5 "You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me.

## The Divine Prerogatives He Possessed

- Acts 10:25-26 - When Peter entered, Cornelius met him, and fell at his feet and worshiped *him*. 26 But Peter raised him up, saying, "Stand up; I too am *just* a man."
- Rev. 19:10 - I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "Do not do that; I am a fellow servant of yours and your brethren who hold the testimony of Jesus; worship God."
- Rev. 22:9 - he said to me, "Do not do that. I am a fellow servant of yours and of your brethren the prophets and of those who heed the words of this book. Worship God."

## The Divine Prerogatives He Possessed

- Compare those passages with the response to Jesus.
  - Matt. 2:11 – After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him.
  - Matt. 14:33 – And those who were in the boat worshiped Him, saying, "You are certainly God's Son!"
  - Matt. 28:9 – And behold, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshiped Him.
  - John 5:23 - all will honor the Son even as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.
  - John 9:38 – And he said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped Him.

## The Divine Prerogatives He Possessed

- Phil. 2:10-11 - at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
  - Cf. Is. 45:23 - "I have sworn by Myself. The word has gone forth from My mouth in righteousness And will not turn back, That to Me every knee will bow, every tongue will swear *allegiance*."
- Hebrews 1:6 - when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says, "AND LET ALL THE ANGELS OF GOD WORSHIP HIM."
- Rev. 5:14 – And the four living creatures kept saying, "Amen." And the elders fell down and worshiped.

## The Divine Works He Performed

- Creation
  - Is. 44:24 - Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, and the one who formed you from the womb, "I, the LORD, am the maker of all things, Stretching out the heavens by Myself And spreading out the earth all alone,
  - John 1:3 - All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.
- Providence
  - Heb. 1:3 - He ... upholds all things by the word of His power.

## The Claims He Made

- Scripture identifies Him as Yahweh of the OT.
  - Is. 40:3 - A voice is calling, "Clear the way for the LORD in the wilderness; Make smooth in the desert a highway for our God."
    - Cf. Matt. 3:3 - this is the one referred to by Isaiah the prophet when he said, "THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS, 'MAKE READY THE WAY OF THE LORD, MAKE HIS PATHS STRAIGHT!'"
  - Is. 6:1f
    - Cf. John 12:38-41
  - Heb. 1:10-12
    - Cf. Ps. 102:25-27

## The Claims He Made

- Christ's Own Claims to be Yahweh of the OT.
  - Exodus 3:14
    - **3:11** No Authority—"Who am I?"
    - **3:12** YHWH's presence—"I will be with you."
    - **3:13** No message—"What shall I say?"
    - **3:14-15** YHWH's name—"I AM has sent you."

## God's Personal Name: "I AM"

- Most frequent designation for God in OT (about 6000x)
- The *Sacred Tetragrammaton*
  - "The sacred four letters"
  - 4 Hebrew letters – YHWH
  - Probably pronounced, "Yahweh."
- English translations: "LORD" [all caps]; or occasionally "GOD" [all caps].
- Used in Genesis (9:26; 15:2).
- But its full, complete revelation was not known until the time of Moses.
  - Ex. 6:3 - I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, as God Almighty, but by My name, LORD, I did not make Myself known to them.

## God's Personal Name: "I AM"

- Ex. 3:14 uses 1st person form of the verb "to be" – "I AM."
- YHWH = 3rd person form of "to be" – "HE IS."
- Originally written without vowels (YHWH)
- Jews refused to pronounce; so they substituted *Adonai*.
- When vowels were added to the Hebrew text, vowels for *Adonai* were added to YHWH.
- The result was: YeHoWaH
- Anglicized = Jehovah

## God's Personal Name: "I AM"

- It's Meaning
  - God's self-existence (3:14)
    - In Ex. 3:14 He called himself "I AM".
    - He is simply the One who is!
    - He is responsible for all existence, including His own.
    - He depends on nothing or no one for His existence.

## I AM

- Yahweh-Jireh
  - He is...provider (Gen. 22:14)
- Yahweh-Nissi
  - He is...our banner (Ex. 17:15); banner = standard
- Yahweh-Tsidkenu
  - He is...our righteousness (Jer. 23:6)
- Yahweh-Shammah
  - He is...the One who is there (Ezek. 48:35)
- Yahweh Sabaoth
  - He is...Lord of Hosts or Armies (1 Sam. 1:3)

## The I AM Statements of Christ

- *ego eimi*
- "I am" + a predicate
- The Seven in John
  - I Am the Bread of Life (6:35, 48)
  - I Am the Light of the World (8:12)
  - I Am the Door (10:7, 9)
  - I Am the Good Shepherd (10:11, 14)
  - I Am the Resurrection & the Life (11:25)
  - I Am the Way, the Truth, and The Life (14:6)
  - I Am the True Vine (15:1, 5)

## The I AM Statements of Christ

- I Am + no predicate.
- Reminiscent of Is. 41:4; 43:10, 13, 25; 46:4; 48:12.
  - In each case the Hebrew is "I am he".
  - In each case it points back to Ex. 3:14.
  - And in each case the LXX uses *ego eimi*.
  - And if anyone else but YHWH applies these words to himself, it is the highest blasphemy.
    - Is. 47:8 - "Now, then, hear this, you sensual one, Who dwells securely, Who says in your heart, 'I am, and there is no one besides me. I will not sit as a widow, Nor know loss of children.'

## The I AM Statements of Christ

- **John 6:20**
- **John 18:5, 6, 8**
- **John 8:24, 28**
- **John 8:52-58**

## The Relationship of the Two Natures

- Without confusion
- Without change
- Without division
- Without separation

## Christology: Summary of the Doctrine

- The Bible says that Jesus Christ is God; therefore, everything that may be predicated of God may be predicated of Christ.
- The Bible says that Jesus Christ is man; therefore, everything that is essential to man may properly be said to be possessed by Christ.
- Jesus Christ was one singular person, possessing a perfect consciousness and will.

## Lessons We Can Learn

- 1) The ultimate expression of human sin is to declare one's own independence.
- 2) Jesus' claims to be YHWH are unmistakable.
- 3) Jesus Christ is to be the galactic center around which our lives revolve.