

Lesson 4 - The Person of Jesus Christ – Supplemental Notes

Names and Title of Christ

The title *Lord Jesus Christ*:

- ♦ **Lord** – title of honor; we are subject to Him (1 Corinthians 7:23; 1 Peter 1:18-19; Romans 6:22)
- ♦ **Jesus** – Greek word *Joshua*, meaning savior (Matthew 1:21)
- Savior – Christ was God’s Lamb. (John 1:29; Isaiah 53:7)
- ♦ **Christ** – means “Anointed one”; Messiah (John 1:41); the official title of our Savior

The I AM’s of Christ

- ♦ I am gentle and humble in heart – Matthew 11:29
- ♦ I am the Son of God – Matthew 27:43
- ♦ I am with you always – Matthew 28:20
- ♦ I am the bread of life – John 6:35
- ♦ I am the light of the world – John 8:12
- ♦ I am not of this world – John 8:23
- ♦ I am the door – John 10:9
- ♦ I am the good shepherd – John 11:25
- ♦ I am the resurrection and the life – John 11:25
- ♦ I am the way, the truth, and the life – John 14:6
- ♦ I am the vine – John 15:5
- ♦ I am a king – John 18:37
- ♦ I am the Alpha and the Omega/Almighty – Revelation 1:8; 21:6
- ♦ I am the First and the Last, the living one, alive forever – Revelation 1:17-18
- ♦ I am He who searches the minds and hearts – Revelation 2:23
- ♦ I am coming quickly – Revelation 3:11
- ♦ I am the root and offspring of David, the bright morning star – Revelation 22:16
- ♦ I AM – John 8:58

The God who became man

Christ’s existence did not start at His human birth. Rather Christ existed in the form of God prior to His incarnation, and at His birth He took on humanity, becoming 100% God and 100% man.

Understanding the Incarnation: Read Philippians 2:6-8

Incarnation defined: *means into flesh*

The eternal Son of God, set aside the glory that he had with the Father. He was born a human being to a virgin, being conceived by the Father through the Holy Spirit. Jesus led a sinless life on earth, yet still experienced the emotions and physical effects of humans. He was fit to be sacrificed for the sins of the world. He did this voluntarily by suffering physical death in the crucifixion. The incarnation was the only way to pay for the sins of mankind and was the supreme act of love by God for man. *From New American Standard Bible Dictionary*

Kenosis defined: *means emptying*

A theological doctrine about Christ taken from Philippians 2:7. It refers to the fact that when the Son of God became a man (Incarnation), He temporarily gave up the glory which He had with the Father and voluntarily took upon Himself the limitations of being human. It is important to note that in doing so, Christ never gave up His deity, but only refrained from fully displaying it. For example, He could have spared Himself any or all of the human afflictions (e.g. thirst and weariness) but did not. *From New American Standard Bible Dictionary*

Key Points about the Incarnation

- ♦ **Christ never ceased being deity.** Colossians 2:9

- ♦ **Christ added humanity to His deity.** His glory was veiled in flesh; the transfiguration was a display of Christ for a moment, unveiling His glory. Matthew 17:1-8

- ♦ **Christ *voluntarily* set aside, or emptied, Himself** of the independent exercise of His divine attributes. Philippians 2:7
 - Set aside His glory – John 17:5
 - Set aside His independent authority – Philippians 2:7
 - Set aside the open display of His divine attributes – Matthew 24:36
 - Set aside eternal riches – 2 Corinthians 8:9
 - Set aside His face-to-face relationship with the Father – Matthew 27:46

Note: As a result of Christ's self-emptying or self-humbling, He took on the form of a bond-slave. This explains scripture that is sometimes confusing and may make us think that Christ is not God. See John 5:30 and 14:28

♦ **Christ had to be man, to die in man's place.** Matthew 20:28

♦ **Christ had to be God, to be the perfect sacrifice.** Christ's sinlessness cannot be explained apart from His deity. Romans 3:23; 1 Corinthians 15:45-48

Statements Declaring the Deity of Christ

See II C, page 37 of workbook.

Additional scripture:

♦ Thomas's testimony to Christ's deity – John 20:28-29

♦ Christ as the only Sovereign, King of Kings – Matthew 28:18, Revelation 17:14; 19:16

♦ Christ claimed to be God – John 10:31-33

Note: the Jews did not miss Christ's claim to be God. The Jews got the message and understood exactly what Jesus was saying. And that's why they took up stones to kill Him, according to their law. Leviticus 24:16

Statement from John MacArthur:

John 10:33 clearly records the fact that the Jews got the message when Jesus made a lot of claims. People say "Well, Jesus never claimed to be God." Oh baloney! And that's mild. Notice their words to Jesus as they planned to kill Him, "The Jews answered Him, 'For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy; and because You, being a man, make Yourself out to be God'" (John 10:33). They got the message. Believe me, they got the message. They knew exactly what He was claiming; He claimed divine authority over angels; He claimed divine authority over men; He claimed, in fact, divine authority over everything when He said, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth" (Matthew 28:18). He claimed divine authority over the Law, over the Sabbath, over the tradition of the elders, every bit of it. He claimed power to forgive sin, power to raise Himself from the dead, and He proved it.

Source: Fundamentals of the Faith Teacher's Guide, pages 72-75, unless noted otherwise.