

The Jesus of The Bible - Self Revelations of The Messiah

Explore Your Faith Teaching Series - Explo-6 ©

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OUTLINE

Introduction

Continuing from the previous study, we 'zoom in' to the second critical aspect in the revelation of God's master plan – the 'self-revelation' of Christ.

By this, I do not mean what Christ said about himself, but the *evidence that he gave as to his nature and his mission*.

This study is vital to the protection of one's biblical and apostolic faith in the biblical Jesus.

Why? Because of the *unbiblical* Jesus of the cults!

The standard against which all 'truth' is to be measured is the declared word of God. What does the bible say of Jesus? About his humanity? About his deity? Is that what we hear preached? That is what we deal with here.

In the previous session, we considered the aspect of the prophetic revelation about Jesus (the Christ, the Messiah). We considered what God said about him through the prophets –his names/titles/work. In this section, we are going to examine the *self-revelation* of Jesus (the Christ, the Messiah); that is, what *Jesus* said about himself, and his *way of life* that gave evidence as to who he was.

[Note: The Scriptures used here are by no means exhaustive, but are more than sufficient for our study]

There are two important aspects to be considered here in relation to the promised redeemer:

1. that he (Jesus) is **fully human** and
2. that he (Jesus) is **fully God**

Rejection of either of these two truths is to miss the plan and purpose of God and to deny his salvation.

Consider why this is so!

The humanity of Jesus

There is ample material in the gospels to substantiate the true humanity of Jesus:

- His genealogy (**Mt. 1: 1-16; Lk3:23-38**)
- His conception, normal human birth, after normal period of gestation (**Mt 1: 25, Lk. 2:7**)
- His growing up as any other child within a family (**Lk. 2:40-52, Mk. 6: 1-6**)
- His subjection to normal physical limitations
 - Tiredness (**Jn. 4:6**); thirst (**Jn.4:7**); hunger (**Mt. 21:18**); agony of the soul and the body and ultimate death (**Lk. 22:63; 23:33-35; Mk. 14:33-36** etc.)
- His experience of the full gambit of human emotions
 - Anger (**Mk. 3:5**); amazement (**Lk. 7:9**); sorrow (**Mt. 26:37**); joy (**Lk. 10:21**); love (**Jn.11:5**); compassion (**Mt. 9:36**)
- His involvement in religious activity
 - He engaged in public worship (**Lk 4:16**), meditated upon and expounded the truths of scripture (**Mt. 4:4 ff; Lk.2:46; 24:27**) prayed audibly (apart from his continual relationship with his father - see Luke, chaps 3 and 6). He showed utter submission to and dependence upon the father who had sent him on a mission (**Jn. 4: 34; 6:38; 12:49** etc)
- His limited knowledge (even though he was able sometimes to disclose a person's past, knew his enemies' thoughts etc). However, he **was without error** in all he said or did. *Consider the implications of his infallibility!*
- His subjection to temptation to sin (**Mt. 4:1-11**)

Consider the implications for us of Jesus' humanity- (for example, not just representation but substitution!

Also important that we understand that he experienced the full range of human emotions, but was STILL WITHOUT SIN. This is in direct contrast to the first Adam.

The deity of Jesus

Jesus Christ while truly (fully) man is also truly (fully) God. This truth lies at the heart of Christianity and makes it distinctive from the Jewish and Islamic faiths, which trace their ancestry back to the patriarchs, revere the prophets, & acknowledge one sovereign God.

We are going to consider in this session Jesus' awareness of his deity. What did Jesus think and believe of himself?

In this context, it is important to note that *Jesus never made the explicit claim to deity, saying in so many words, "I am God"*. But we do find claims that he made which could not be appropriate if he were not God!

Biblical evidence of his deity

Some examples:

He said in **Matt. 13:41** that he would send "his angels"; elsewhere they are spoken of as "the angels of God" (**Luke 12: 8-9; 15:10**). That reference is particularly important because Jesus also speaks of the kingdom of God as "his kingdom"!

He claimed to be able to forgive sins (the paralytic, **Mark 2:5**). This was something that only God could do! He also spoke of judging the world in Matthew **25:31 ff**, something that is again only God's prerogative!

He claimed to exercise authority in respect of the Sabbath (**Mark 2: 27-28**), something that had been established by God (**Ex. 20: 8-11**).

He indicated his authority to place his own word on the same level as the Old Testament Scripture, effectively claiming the power to himself lay down authoritative teaching: "You have heard that it was said,....but I say to you...." (**Matt. 5:21-22, 27-28** et al)

He claimed to be "one with the Father" (**Jn. 10:30**), and that to see and know him is to see and know the Father (**Jn. 14:7-9**)

He claimed pre-existence with the Father (**Jn. 8:58**); note "I AM"!

He *implied, stated directly, and demonstrated* his power over death. (**Jn. 5:21; Jn. 11:25**).

Other biblical teaching about his deity can be found in the Gospel of John, The Book of Hebrews, and of course in Paul's epistles. It would pay to do individual studies in these.

Consider some of the implications for us of the deity of Christ.

Conclusion