

THE TRUTH

Instructor: Evangelist Carlton Knott

Lesson 8 - The Truth About the Messiah

The National Geographic Channel premiered its adaptation of the book, 'Killing Jesus' on Sunday, March 29, 2015. The show drew the channel's biggest audience in history, over 3.7 million viewers. That week Google searches for "Jesus Christ" jumped 53 percent. A recent Barna poll brings out this mixture of beliefs about Jesus among Americans. While 92 percent believe Jesus Christ was a real person, only 56 percent believe He is God.

Even most skeptics concede that there probably was a first-century man living in the Roman province of Judea, who preached a controversial message and was killed for doing so. But was this Jesus just another itinerant preacher around whom some legends developed? What does the Bible reveal? Was Jesus just a teacher? Or was He that and more?

CAUTION

1. Is there a Biblical caution with regards to studying the character, nature and origin of Jesus? [Deuteronomy 29:29] Ans. _____

NOTE: This verse actually tells us two important truths. It reminds us first of all that our knowledge is limited and there are many things about God and the universe we never will know. But this verse also reminds us that there is much we can know about God and His will and the reason is because God has revealed it to us.

THE IMAGERY

2. Which two books give us a visible description of what Jesus Christ looked like?

- _____
- _____

3. What did Apollos and the other Apostles use to persuade the Jews that Jesus was the Christ? [Acts 18:28; John 1:45] Ans. The _____

He never wrote a book, and yet all the libraries of the country could not hold the books that have been written about Him. He never wrote a song, and yet His life has furnished the theme for more songs than have all the songwriters combined. He never founded a college, but all the schools put together cannot boast of having as many devoted students.

The names of the proud emperors of Greece and Rome have crumbled into dust. The names of the great generals and philosophers of all ages have vanished into nothingness. But the name of this Man abounds more and more. Though twenty centuries have passed since the scenes of His crucifixion, yet He still lives. The people of His time could not destroy Him, and the grave could not hold Him. He stands forth upon the highest pinnacle of human greatness and heavenly glory, proclaimed of God, acknowledged by angels, adored by His closest followers, and feared by devils as the living, personal Christ, our Lord and

CHRIST AND HIS PRE-EXISTENCE

4. Did Christ exist before coming to earth? [Micah 5:2; John 1:1; 8:58; 17:5] Ans. _____

Without the Son's preexistence there can be no incarnation. Preexistence in Christology means that the one we know as Jesus Christ existed in reality before he entered into our world through the incarnation. The Bible speaks of Jesus being at the side of the Father. His position was of one who was preeminent over all creation. Scripture also speaks of his previous glory. He laid aside that glory when he came to earth as a human. He is not simply "a" god but "The" God, which is superior to all other created things.

5. How did the apostle John describe the relationship between Jesus and His Father? [John 10:30]

Ans. A _____ exists between them.

NOTE: This text affirms "Christ's place in the Godhead;" clearly presenting that Christ is one with the Eternal Father, one in nature, equal in power and authority. God in the highest sense, eternal and self-existent, with life original, unborrowed and underived; and that Christ existed from all eternity, distinct from, but united with the Father, possessing the saint, glory, and all the divine attributes.

6. What part did Christ have in the work of creation? [Colossians 1:16-17 John 1:1-3] Ans. He played

an _____ part.

The Father wrought by His Son in the creation of all heavenly beings. Jesus Christ is the Creator God. Not only does Scripture affirm it, but during His earthly life and ministry He did the very things we would expect the Creator God to do.

CHRIST AND HIS NATURE

7. What makes Jesus so willing to save us? [Hebrews 2:14-18] Ans. His _____

A scorpion and a frog meet on the bank of a stream and the scorpion asks the frog to carry him across on its back. The frog asks, "How do I know you won't sting me?" The scorpion says, "Because if I do, I will die too." The frog is satisfied, and they set out, but in midstream, the scorpion stings the frog. The frog feels the onset of paralysis and starts to sink, knowing they both will drown, but has just enough time to gasp, "Why?" Replies the scorpion, "*It's my nature.*"

NOTE: Verses 14 and 15 explain that as we partake of flesh and blood, so Christ did also. He did it so He could deliver us from bondage to Satan and final death. It was for this reason that Christ became a human being like us. According to verse 14, it is obvious that Christ became fully human. However, we might ask, in that humanity, did Christ take the pre-fall nature of Adam or the post-fall nature of Adam's descendants? Verse 16 unequivocally provides the answer.

Verse 16 clearly says that Christ took the nature of the offspring of Abraham. We know that Abraham lived about 2,000 years after the world was created. Christ took the nature of Abraham. So you see the Scriptures state very plainly that Jesus Christ had exactly the same flesh that we bear, flesh of sin, flesh in which we sin, flesh, however, in which He did not sin, but He bore our sins, in that flesh of sin.

CHRIST AND TEMPTATION

8. Did Jesus struggle with temptation, as we do? [Hebrews 4:15] Ans. _____

Because the Son of God lived a sinless life in the flesh. He accomplished two things:

- He is able to _____ with man's _____ against sin. [Hebrews 4:15]
- He is in a position to impart overcoming _____ to all who are tempted. [Philippians 4:13; 2 Corinthians 12:9; 1 Corinthians 10:13]

CHRIST AS GOD

9. The Scriptures identify Jesus as a part of what. [Acts 17:29; Romans 1:20; Col. 2:9] Ans. The _____

JUDAISM: Both ancient and modern Jews typically accept Jesus was a rabbi and popular teacher.

ISLAM: Muslims acknowledge the impact of Jesus and recognize Him as a significant person within their own religious system and affirms Jesus as one of God's most important prophets. [Quran 6:85]

JEHOVAH'S WITNESS literature states: Jesus is spoken of in the Scriptures as "a god," even as "Mighty God" But nowhere is he spoken of as being Almighty, as Jehovah is. According to the Jehovah's Witnesses' theology, Jesus is a being that came into existence.

OTHER RELIGIONS: Others refer to Jesus as a wise moral teacher but never affirm His deity

NOTE: The Bible reveals that from eternity, Jesus has the same substance, powers, glory, and authority as the Father and Holy Spirit. All three are equal in every way. The Scriptures teach and sustain that there are three persons in heaven [1 John 5:7] "The Godhead." And that by the decision of the "Godhead." the second person of the Godhead, elected by His choice, came down into this world and was born in the womb of the blessed virgin at Bethlehem.

The second person is the "son" of the first person, "the father" only because of what happened in Bethlehem. The second person is the "son" of the first person "the father," only because of the plan of salvation. The term "Son" must only be applied to his "earthly nature" and not to his "heavenly eternal nature." In His eternal heavenly nature, the "Son" was not the child of the first person, the "Father."

10. Is Jesus, Jehovah God? Ans. _____

CHRIST AS JEHOVAH

NOTE: Whenever the word "Lord" is written in all **CAPS** in the Old Testament it means that it is translated from the Hebrew word, Jehovah. Jehovah is a family name of three persons. Whenever the word "Lord" is written with an **UPPER** case "L" and **LOWER** case "ord" (Lord) it means it is translated from the Hebrew word Adonai.

- [Isaiah 37:20] The word "Lord" is written: _____
- [Isaiah 37:24] The word "Lord" is written: _____

- **[Isaiah 40:2]** What Lord? _____
Who is this word "LORD" making reference to? _____ **[Mark 1:3]**

- **[Isaiah 40:28]** What Lord? _____
Who is this word "LORD" making reference to? _____ **[John 1:1; 10-11]**

- **[Isaiah 42:8]** What Lord? _____
Who is this word "LORD" making reference to? _____ **[John 17:4-5]**

- **[Isaiah 43:3; 10-11]** What Lord? _____
Who is this word "LORD" making reference to? _____ **[Matthew 1:21]**

- **[Isaiah 44:6]** What Lord? _____
Who is this word "LORD" making reference to? _____ **[Galatians 3:13]**

- **[Isaiah 44:6]** What Lord? _____
Who is this word "LORD" making reference to? _____ **[Rev. 22:12-13]**

- **[Psalms 23:1]** What Lord? _____
Who is this word "LORD" making reference to? _____ **[John 10:11]**

- **[Psalms 18:2]** What Lord? _____
Who is this word "LORD" making reference to? _____ **[1 Corin. 10:2-4]**

THE LAW OF LOGIC

Euclid the Father of Geometry once said:

- Things, which are equal to the same thing, are equal to each other.
- If equals are added to equals, the wholes (sums) are equal.
- If equals are subtracted from equals, the remainders (differences) are equal.
- Things that coincide with one another are equal to one another.

NOTE: In the mid-nineteenth century the Scottish Christian preacher "Rabbi" John Duncan formulated what he called a "trilemma;" a situation in which a difficult choice has to be made between three alternatives.

11. Which one, of three conclusions can one reach about Jesus in his or her lifetime?

- i. _____: Deceived mankind by conscious fraud.
- ii. _____: Deluded and self-deceived - a madman.
- iii. _____: The only true divine.