

Jesus Christ: Lord and Savior

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Jesus Christ is not merely a good man. Nor is He an angel, a preexistent spirit, God's highest creation. He is not one of many special prophets or manifestations of God, or an eastern guru or avatar, or a corruption of the mystery religions or a half-God/half man. As we documented in our book *Ready With An Answer* (Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 1997), He is the incarnate second person of the Trinity, the prophesied Messiah predicted hundreds of years in advance through very specific prophecies. He is unique in all creation, virgin born, sinless, deity and the only incarnation of God there is or will be. He is the world's only savior, the only one who died for our sins on the Cross to offer eternal salvation as an entirely free gift. He rose from the dead as proof of His claims, and He is the final judge, the only one who will return personally on the last day to judge every person who has ever lived. Scriptural testimony is clear as to the authority and uniqueness of Jesus Christ:

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. (Matthew 28:18)

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities: all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. (Colossians 1:15-18)

[He is] far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. (Ephesians 1:21)

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:9-11)

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. (John 3:16, 18)

Scriptural testimony is clear that Jesus is the Savior of the world:

And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. (1 John 4:14)

In the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. (Luke 2:11)

They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world." (John 4:42)

Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save

sinners.... (1 Timothy 1:15)

[But] it has now been revealed through the appearance of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. (2 Timothy 1:10)

This is how God showed his love among us: he sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. (1 John 4:9)

And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. (1 John 5:11-12)

But Christ is not just *a* savior, He is *the* Savior, the only Savior. Because only Christ died for our sin, only faith in Christ has the power to save us from the consequence of our sin. Jesus Himself and the inspired writers of the New Testament teach this so clearly that it is surprising that so many people deny it:

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6)

I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep.... I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved.... I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. (John 10:7-11)

If you do not believe that I am [the one I claim to be], you will indeed die in your sins. (John 8:24)

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved. (Acts 4:12)

This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men—the testimony given in its proper time. (1 Timothy 2:3-6)

The Incarnation of Jesus Christ

The doctrine of the incarnation and its corollary, the virgin birth, are crucial doctrines related both to Christ's deity and our redemption. If Christ was neither incarnate nor virgin born, He could be neither God nor Savior. In other words, if He was not incarnate and virgin born He had to be born like every other man and thus could only be a man, even a sinful man. For reasons related to God's revelation of Himself in the Old Testament, a finite sinful man, or even a preexistent spirit or an angel, could not redeem the world from the wrath of an infinite God against sin. Jesus had to be both divine and human to satisfy the divine requirements of redemption and to become a satisfactory propitiatory substitute for man. Only an infinite being could satisfy divine wrath, and only a sinless man could become a substitute for others' sins. The Bible clearly teaches that Jesus Christ is incarnate deity:

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel [God with us]. (Isaiah 7:14; see Matthew 1:23)

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given.... And he will be called... Mighty God.... (Isaiah 9:6)

Does not the scripture say that the Christ will come from David's family and from Bethlehem, the town where David lived? (John 7:42)

As it is written in the second Psalm: "You are my Son; today I have become your Father." (Acts 13:33)

For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father?" (Hebrews 1:5)

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. (John 1:14)

Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great: He appeared in a body.... (1 Timothy 3:16)

[The] second man [is] from heaven. (1 Corinthians 15:47)

And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross! (Philippians 2:8)

Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said, “Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me.” Hebrews 10:5)

Regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendent of David.... (Romans 1:3)

For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.... I am the bread of life.... For I have come down from heaven.... I am the bread that came down from heaven.... I am the living bread that came down from heaven. (John 6: 33, 35, 38, 41, 51)