

Jesus, the Son of God, the Christ

Introduction

As seen in the previous lessons, the key issues in apologetics—the knowledge of *God*, and the *inspiration* of the Scriptures—center around the question of *who* Jesus is.

Having demonstrated the authenticity of the Gospel accounts of Jesus in the previous lesson, we take them to be the basis of deciding who Jesus is. It is unfortunate that many of Christianity's critics have never seriously examined the *historical* document about Jesus.

So, the popular views about Him as a great Teacher, prophet, an incarnation like the Hindu avatars, etc. Malicious representations of Him have also appeared, though rarely. Most cults err in their view of who Jesus is.

“Christianity is *Christ*,” is a powerful way of stating that the Christian faith itself stands on what we believe about Jesus. Even Christ’s great teachings have little value without the truth of who He is.

In some other religions, such as eastern religions, only the *teachings* are important; the truth of the religion is based on the subjective verification of the principles. Not so with Christianity. Its very existence depends on the claimed *nature* of Jesus.

What Christians believe about Christ

What were the Gospels written to show? John 20:31

That Jesus is the _____, the _____ of God.

Why was the “fish” a symbol used by the early Christians?

The Greek word for fish (ΙΧΘΥΣ), pronounced "Ichthus" is an acronym for

_____.

- I—for *Isu* = Jesus;
- X—for *Christos* = Christ;
- Θ—for *Theos* = God('s);
- Υ—(is U) for *(H)uis* = Son;
- Σ – for *Soter* = Savior)

Meaning of “Son of God”: Heb. 1:2,3; Col. 1:15

Having the _____ (_____) _____ of God.

What title of Jesus points to His *humanity*? Luke 19:10 (Also 1 Cor.15:45; 1 John 4:2)

_____ of _____.

How is Jesus different from us in His humanity?

He has a _____ nature.

What is a title of Jesus which combines both natures? What does it mean? Col. 2:9 (Also John 1:1,14; Phil. 2:5; Luke 1:35)

=====

Fully _____ and (_____) _____ natures in perfect _____.

Is Jesus also addressed as God? In what sense? John 20:28

_____.

(See also Heb. 1:8; 2 Pet. 1:1; Tit. 2:13)

*Referring to His _____ divine nature
(as the Second Person of the Godhead—distinct from God the Father and the Holy Spirit, yet co-equal with the other members in power and nature—in the Trinity of God.)*

Meaning of “The Christ”: Ps. 2:2

The _____ One.

The Promised _____ of the Old Testament (_____).

The importance of these truths about Jesus

As Son of God, he reveals:

God’s _____ (_____) _____ by _____.
(John 1:18)

He is _____.
(*Otherwise He could not be our Substitute*)

How is the title “Word of God” (John 1:1,14) appropriate for Jesus?

It means He is the _____ of _____.

It was His _____ before He was _____ as man.

As the Son of Man: (Heb. 2:14)

*He could _____ our _____.
He could _____ in our place for our _____.*

As the Christ:

*He is the _____ promised in the _____ and sent by _____ to
_____ the world.*

Why we believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God

A. Overview of the Reasons

I. HIS OWN CLAIM

II. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

- a. _____ announcements about Jesus.
- b. As Son of God—Demonstration of God's _____ and _____ in Him.
- c. As the Christ—The _____ of Old Testament prophecies concerning the _____.

B. Examining the Reasons

I. HIS OWN CLAIM

*Peter's _____ . Matt. 16:16
(that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God)
_____ by Him as _____ .*

*He was _____ to _____ for this claim. Mark: 14:61-62
(Hence a serious claim)*

He claimed to be the _____ (_____). John 4:26.

Other indirect claims

Preexistence:	John 17:2,5; John 8:58
Judge of all:	John 5:22-28
Only Source of truth:	John 14:6
Future King of all earth:	Matt. 25:34
Giver of eternal life:	John 10:28
Lord over the universe:	Matt.28:18

Authority to forgive sin: Matt. 9:6; Mark 2:5-7

II. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

a. Announcements by God about Jesus

Luke 1:35 The title "Son of God" was given by: _____ (through angel Gabriel)

Luke 2:10-11 Angelic announcement at birth: _____.

Luke 3:22 At baptism, God declared Him to be: _____.

Luke 9:35 At transfiguration God declared Him to be: _____.

John 1:29,34 John the Baptist announced Him to be: _____.

b. Jesus demonstrated God's power

(Power evidence needed: Exod. 4:1-5)

Matt. 9:6,21 Power over: _____

Matt. 14:25 Power over: _____

John 11:25 Power over: _____

Matt. 8:28, 31-32 Power over: _____

How did Jesus do these miracles?

By just _____, as in Gen. 1.

Power over His own death: (Unique!)

His _____, Rom. 1:4

His _____ character.

The moral standard He *preached*: Matt. 22:37-40; Matt. 5:28. (Also Matt. 5:17-18).

The highest _____ of _____.
(He endorsed all the moral laws of the Old Testament.)

They were to be _____ from the _____.

The moral standard He *practiced*: John 8:29; 8:46; Phil. 2:8.

He claimed to have _____ the moral law.
He challenged any one to show _____ in Him.

How is His virgin birth related to His sinless character?

If He was born of a man and woman:

*He would share the _____ of man.
Then he _____ be Son of God.*

c. Evidence that Jesus is the Christ

NOTE: This part need not be proved here, as it will follow from the demonstration of the fact of His being the Son of God.

Yet, by simply accepting the *preexistence* of the Old Testament—something easy to show historically—we can demonstrate His claim as the Christ by looking at the fulfilled prophecies.

There were several prophecies concerning the Messiah in the Old Testament. The Old Testament was completed at least 400 years ago, and was the same as the Jewish Scriptures in the time of Jesus.

That Jesus fulfilled many of these is found in the Gospels. Matthew uses the common phrase, “that the Scriptures may be fulfilled.”

<u>Prophecy about Messiah:</u>	<u>O.T. reference</u>	<u>N.T. fulfillment</u>
Abraham’s descendant	Gen.12:3, 22:18	Matt. 1:1
Born in the tribe of Judah	Gen.49:10	Heb.7:14
Descendant of David	Jer. 23:5	Matt.1:6
Born in Bethlehem	Micah 5:2	Matt.2:1
Time of coming	Dan.9:24	Luke 2:1
Born of virgin	Isa.7:14	Luke 2:5
Has a forerunner	Isa.40:3	Luke 1:17
Ministry in Galilee	Isa.9:1	Matt. 4:12
Enter Jerusalem on a donkey	Zech.9:9	Matt.21:1-4
Miracles	Isa.35:5	Matt. 11:4-6
Rejection by the Jews	Isa.53:3	John 7:5
Sold for 30 pieces of silver	Zech.11:12	Matt.26:1
Mocked, crucified	Ps.22; Isa.53	Matt.27:31
Crucified with thieves	Isa.53:12	Matt. 27:35
Buried in rich man’s grave	Isa.53:9	Matt. 27:57
Resurrection	Ps. 16:10	John 20, Acts 2:31

What is the strength of this evidence?

There are about 300 prophecies about the *first* coming of the Messiah. The probability of just 48 of these being fulfilled by chance has been shown to be less than 1 in 10¹⁵⁷ !¹

¹ Ch. 9. McDowell, Josh. *Evidence That Demands a Verdict*, Vol. 1. City, ST: Publisher, 19xx.

Method of testing revealed truth

When someone makes a statement or claim, how do we test its truth? That is the same problem that a court faces to determine the truth of a witness. The universally accepted criteria for credibility of the revealer (or witness) include:

1. _____ past record.
 - Is the person known to be honest in the past?
2. _____ *love* for others.
 - One who cares for the good of others is more likely to be believed.
3. _____ in statements.
 - Does the person contradict himself, or are the statements consistent?
4. No _____ motive.
 - Does the person have anything to gain from this or not?
 - Where there is motive (for gain or hurt) the person is less credible.
5. _____ knowledge.
 - Is it based on eyewitness/first-hand knowledge? Is he competent in the matter?
6. _____ of the claim.
 - Is it serious enough to be willing to die for it?
7. _____ mental condition.
 - Is the person known to be of abnormal mental condition? If so, he has little credibility.
8. Attestation by _____.
 - Favorable testimony about the revealer by those with a high level of credibility is considered very valuable.
9. Verification of _____ parts of revealed statements.

- The testable parts are those which can be directly observed or those which are in agreement with known facts (as in the case of a good hypothesis).

10. Supernatural attestation.

- In the case of a supernatural claim such as Son of God, the expected attestation is evidence of divine *power* and *holiness*.

Jesus and these Criteria

Jesus lived with us 33 years. He spent his ministry years transparently in the company of His disciples, who observed Him in every kind of situation. Thus He gave ample opportunity to observe Him.

1. His truthfulness. (1 Pet.2:2; 2 Cor.5:21)

_____.

2. His unselfish and loving nature. John 15:13 (Also John 13:35; Eph.5:2; Eph.3:18; Rom. 8:35,36)

_____.

3. No inconsistency in His statements. Mark 12:24.

On the contrary, it was His _____ who were inconsistent.

4. The lack of any motive to deceive.

He lived for no _____ gain. Also, for a false divine claim the possible fate is hell in the _____ life.

5. Knowledge authoritative. John 3:13 (Also John 16:28; 17:5)

*He came forth from God in _____.
As the _____ of God, He _____ God by His own _____.*

6. He was absolutely serious about His claim. Matt.26:65-66

_____ for His claim. (All other charges failed).

7. His normal mental condition. John 3:1-2 (Also John 18:19; Matt.22:15 -33)

*Respected as serious _____ by both friends and foes;
He often _____ His opponents by better logic and better knowledge of Scripture.*

His claim taken seriously enough to _____ Him on that basis.

8. Attestation by other credible persons. John 1:34.

By John the _____. Even by _____ scholars.

9. Verification of testable revealed statements

e.g. Predictions about: Peter's _____, His own _____,
_____ of Jerusalem.

10. Supernatural attestation—Already established (His supernatural *power* and *holiness*)

SUMMARY & CONCLUSION

