

MESSAGE: THE DEITY OF JESUS

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[Open with the reading of 1 Peter 1: 3-7]

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷ These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed."

Today, we are going to look at a few scriptures that answer the question, "Who is this man?" - the man who came to earth, walked among us, and experienced the same things that we experience. Yet, he was blameless and perfect; and one day, he will establish His kingdom on earth and restore what God had intended from the beginning. The HOPE, referred to in verse 3, is not just wishful thinking but a true conviction - like our faith instilled in us by the Holy Spirit. It is the resurrection of Jesus Christ that secures our HOPE, that when He returns and gathers all who have believed in Him that the inheritance promised throughout the scriptures will be received.

Who is this man? Romans 3:21 says ***"But now the righteousness from God, apart from the law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify."*** This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. Jesus himself is righteousness.

Who is this man, who is also called the Creator? One of the 12 disciples, John, wrote THIS about him:

***"² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made."*—John 1:2-3**

Who is this man? Jesus is God incarnate. Let's look at other verses that proclaim the fact that Jesus is God.

From Colossians 1:15-20...

"¹⁵ The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross"

From Titus 2:11-14...

"¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. ¹² It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ,..."

In another passage, Jesus appears to Thomas, who is understandably doubting the rumor that Jesus has returned from the grave. Let's read from John 20:26-28...

²⁶ *A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"* ²⁷ *Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."* ²⁸ *Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"*

From 2 Peter 1:1-2, we learn that we are called by his own glory and goodness...

"² Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. ³ His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness."

We read confirmation from the Lord through prophecy in Matthew 1:22...

²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel (which means God with us.)"

These verses need no explanation as they all proclaim that Jesus **IS** God! He is the "reason for the season." We know it when we celebrate his birth; and we know it when we celebrate his resurrection from death, which both fulfill prophecy of the Christ to come and the price he would pay for our sins.

We read in Matthew 8, an account of Jesus calming a furious storm. In verse 27, THIS questions is asked...

²⁷ The men were amazed and asked, "What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!"

There is another account of a furious storm caused by the LORD. We read in the book of Jonah, Ch. 1...

"Then the LORD sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up. ⁵ All the sailors were afraid and each cried out to his own god. And they threw the cargo into the sea to lighten the ship. But Jonah had gone below deck, where he lay down and fell into a deep sleep. ⁶ The captain went to him and said, "How can you sleep? Get up and call on your god! Maybe he will take notice of us so that we will not perish." ⁷ Then the sailors said to each other, "Come, let us cast lots to find out who is responsible for this calamity." They cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah. ⁸ So they asked him, "Tell us, who is responsible for making all this trouble for us? What kind of work do you do? Where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?"

⁹ He answered, "I am a Hebrew and I worship the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land."

¹⁰ This terrified them and they asked, "What have you done?" (They knew he was running away from the LORD..."

What a great story of salvation, however. How many men were saved that day? The Bible doesn't tell us, but I bet those men told their wives, their children, and all of their friends.

"And the Lord commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land." –Jonah 2:10

The biblical evidence of Christ's deity is all throughout scripture and is indisputable.

But there are those who do not acknowledge the divine nature of Jesus. The Jehovah's Witnesses do not believe that Jesus is God - neither do the Muslims. And even though we may not encounter them in our daily lives, we should always be prepared for the opportunity to witness. We are called to be ready with a reason for the hope that we have and how better than with the words of Jesus himself? In the following verses, Jesus proclaims that he is most certainly God.

In John 10:30, ***"I and the Father are one."***

In John 14:9, Jesus answered, ***"Don't you know me, Phillip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father..."***

In Mark 9:37, ***"Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me, but the one who sent me."***

In John 8:19, ***"¹⁹ Then they asked him, "Where is your father?" "You do not know me or my Father," Jesus replied. "If you knew me, you would know my Father also."***

In John 5:23, ***"...that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him."***

In John 15:23, ***"He who hates me hates my Father as well."***

In John 8:24, ***"I told you that you would die in your sins if you do not believe that I am the one I claim to be, you will indeed die in your sins."***

John 8:28, ***"So Jesus said, 'When you have lifted up the son of man, then you will know that I am the one I claim to be.' "***

And John 8:58, ***"I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I AM."***

In the last three verses, Jesus used the Old Testament name for God to describe himself.

Before Jesus began his earthly ministry, it was unheard of for any human being to do what only God could do, but Jesus,...

1. knew the thoughts and intents of peoples' hearts and minds;
2. healed people (accounts found in Mt. 8, 9, 12; Mark 2, 7; Luke 17, 22, and in John 5);
3. raised people from the dead, even himself (confirmed in John 10: 17-18 when Jesus says, ***"...I lay down my life – only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have the authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again;"***);
4. controlled nature and the elements – the storms he calmed, the storms he started, the fig tree he withered, a vine he grew in arid conditions and then destroyed, and even caused a donkey to talk.

Over and over again, the Bible refers to Jesus as Lord.

We read in Mt. 22:44 that Jesus quoted words spoken by King David in the Old Testament, Psalm 110:1, ***"The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool."***

Paul's letter to the Romans in 1:3-4 says it this way, ***" Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead,"*** and verse 7 states, ***"Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ."***

Remember God's commandment in Exodus 20:3, ***"You shall have no other gods before me for I the Lord your God am a jealous God showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments."***

Jesus is Lord in Luke, Romans, Philippians, Acts; there are many accounts in which Jesus was worshipped as Lord – by the wise men, by his disciples, by a healed leper, by the Canaanite woman in Mt. 15:22, by the mother of the sons of Zebedee in Mt. 20:20, by the synagogue official, and the healed blind man.

Who is this man we call Jesus?

He is our Lord and God, our redeemer and salvation, the first and the last, our comfort in times of distress, and our hope to come in the days ahead.

The deity of Christ is foundational to our faith. Only God has the power to save us through the shed blood of Jesus Christ on the cross. Let us never forget the love he demonstrated toward us - when the One who knew no sin became sin for us that we might be made righteousness of God in Him!

[Closing Prayer]