


JESUS CHRIST

STUDY 6 Christology



I *"In Him is the answer to the human sin-problem. In Him is the answer to our race's heart cry after God and the basic truth of things. In Him is the answer to the groping and sighing of the soul after peace and joy and certainty and ultimate self-fulfillment. To know Christ as the Calvary Sin-Bearer, and as the risen Savior who personally indwells the heart, is of all knowledge the most blessed."*¹ –J. Sidlow Baxter

Soon after Lydia Muller, daughter of the famous George Muller passed away there was found by her bedside a verse which she had written shortly before:

*I have seen the face of Jesus;
Tell me not of ought beside.
I have heard the voice of Jesus;
All my soul is satisfied.*²



I. HIS PRE-EXISTENCE AND DEITY (BEFORE MEN)

*"If Jesus is not God, then there is no Christianity, and we who worship Him are nothing more than idolaters. Conversely, if He is God, those who say He was merely a good man, or even the best of men, are blasphemers. More serious still, if He is not God, then He is a blasphemer in the fullest sense of the word. If He is not God, He is not even good."*³ –J. Oswald Sanders

A. PROVEN BY THE OLD TESTAMENT

® Who is the theme of all the Scripture—John 5:39?
(*Luke 24:27, 44-45; John 5:46-47*)

® The New Testament uses identical descriptions for Jesus Christ as are used for YHWH (Jehovah or Lord) in the Old Testament. What correspondence do you see in these two examples?
Isaiah 6:1 and John 12:41

Exodus 3:14 and John 8:58

(*Genesis 18:25 and 2 Timothy 4:1; Psalm 23:1 and John 10:11; Psalm 27:1 and John 8:12; Isaiah 42:8 and 1 Corinthians 2:8; Isaiah 62:5 and Mark 2:19; Jeremiah 31:34 and Luke 5:21; Daniel 7:13-14 and Matthew 26:63-64*)
(Remember that throughout the study the verses in parenthesis and italics are for your further study)



B. PROVEN BY PROPHECY

There are over 300 prophecies in the Old Testament which were fulfilled by Christ.⁴

® Which prophecy on the chart on page 95 would you want to remember in particular to share in proof of who Christ is?

C. PROVEN BY THE NEW TESTAMENT

1. DIRECT STATEMENTS

® What is claimed for Christ in John 1:1-2? (*Romans 9:5; Colossians 2:9; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 1:1-3; 2 Peter 1:1*)

2. CHRIST'S NAMES

® What is Christ called in Hebrews 1:8? (*Matthew 16:16; Matthew 22:43-45; Revelation 19:16*)

3. CHRIST'S ATTRIBUTES

® What is attributed to Christ that is only true of Deity in Matthew 28:18, 20? (*Matthew 9:4; Luke 1:35; John 1:48; John 14:6; Hebrews 13:8; Revelation 21:6*)

4. CHRIST'S WORKS

® What has Christ done that can only be accomplished by Deity in John 1:3? (*Luke 7:48; John 5:25, 27; John 15:26; Colossians 1:17*)

5. CHRIST'S CLAIMS

® What did Christ claim for Himself—John 10:30? (*Matthew 26:63-64; Mark 14:61-64; John 14:10; John 17:5,24; Revelation 1:17-18*)

For Further STUDY



The issue of Christ's deity historically is a fierce battleground. In the early church Ebionites and Arians, in the Reformation the Socinians and more recently Unitarians, liberal theologians (Schleiermacher, Ritschl and others), and many modern cults such as Christian Science and The Way deny the deity of Christ. For example, Jehovah's Witnesses teach, *"That the Father is greater and older than the Son is reasonable, easy to understand and is what the Bible teaches."*⁵

Ⓡ How would you answer this from Isaiah 9:6?

Ⓡ In light of His deity, how should we consider Jesus Christ—John 20:28?

Ⓡ What area or areas in your life might you be most likely to say no to the Lord and God of the universe?



*"The statement 'Jesus is God' is an absolute statement and a test of historic orthodoxy."*⁶
—John P. Hannah

II. HIS INCARNATION (COMING TO MEN)

(See chart on page 96.)

*"No human mind can ever grasp the significance of the occurrence and consequence of the incarnation. That a Person of the God-head should become one of the human family—the sphere of His own creation—with a view to remaining in that form, though glorified, and throughout eternity must continue an insolvable mystery to the creatures of this world."*⁷ —L. S. Chafer

A. HIS EMPTYING

Ⓡ How is the process of Jesus becoming a man described in Philippians 2:6-7?

This process is described by the term *"kenosis"*, a transliteration of the Greek word emptying. It means that He gave up *voluntary use* of His divine attributes and veiled His divine glory, leaving for a time His riches in glory. He did not give up His divinity!

B. HIS HUMANITY

*"For Christ to be made flesh was more humility than for the angels to be made worms."*⁸

–Thomas Watson

® How was the incarnation accomplished–Matthew 1:23?
(John 1:14; Isaiah 7:14)

® How do we know that Jesus was not just a spirit, appearance, or a vision–
1 John 1:1-2? (Luke 2:52; John 11:35; John 20:27)

C. HIS UNION

The technical term for the union of Deity and humanity is the *"hypo-static union"* or the union of two natures. He was 100% God and 100% man. The West Minster Shorter Catechism contains the following statement,

*"He continueth to be God and man, in two distinct natures and one person forever."*⁹

® How is the duality of His nature seen in contrast in these two passages–John 4:6 and Matthew 11:28?
(Matthew 4:2 and John 6:35; John 19:28 and John 7:37)

® What made Christ unique from all other humanity–Hebrews 4:15?
(John 8:46; 1 John 3:5; Hebrews 13:8)

® Describe in your own words who Jesus is from the concepts presented on the chart on page 96.

For Further STUDY



® Some (such as the Unitarians) teach that Christ became God's son at some point in His life, such as His baptism. How would you answer this from Galatians 4:4?

- I. His pre-existence-deity
- II. His incarnation
 - A. His emptying
 - B. His humanity
 - C. His union

For Further STUDY CONTINUED



® Why is the virgin birth important in regard to Christ's sinlessness—Matthew 1:20?

® Christ is the only theanthropic person, the God Man. Why is it necessary that He be human and divine in order to carry out His ministry to us?

® Consider Christ in the light of 2 Corinthians 8:9. Write out impressions of what you think it was like for Christ in Glory (*Revelation 1:12-17*). Next, write out your impressions of what you think it was like for Him on earth (*Matthew 26:67-68; 27:28-44*) "*It is an unseemly sight to see God humbling Himself and man exalting himself.*"¹⁰
How could you model Mark 10:45 this next week?



III. HIS LIFE AND MINISTRY AMONG MEN

A. HIS OFFICES

Jesus is a Prophet (*Matthew 13:57*) who represented God to the people. He is a Priest (*Hebrews 5:1-10*) who represented the people to God. He is the King (*Luke 1:31-33*) who has the right to rule for God to the people.

® What should be your response to each of Christ's offices?

1. Prophet

2. Priest

3. King



JESUS CHRIST

I. His pre-existence-deity
II. His incarnation
III. His life & ministry
 A. Offices
 B. The events

B. THE EVENTS



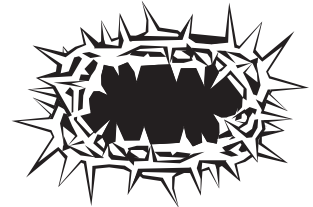
® Looking at the chart on page 97 what did Jesus do before His public ministry and how do you think this prepared Him?

® From the same chart why do you think that so much emphasis is given to the last week of Jesus life?

IV. HIS DEATH (INSTEAD OF MEN)



*O sacred Head, now wounded,
With grief and shame weighed down,
Now scornfully surrounded
With thorns, Thine only crown:
How pale Thou art with anguish,
With sore abuse and scorn!
How does that visage languish
Which once was bright as morn!"¹¹*



A. THE PURPOSE

® 2 Corinthians 5:21 has been described as the gospel in a nutshell. Rewrite this verse in your own words.

B. THE PAYMENT

® Why was Christ's death necessary—Hebrews 9:22?
(Leviticus 17:11; 1 Peter 1:18-19)

C. THE PURCHASE

® Why did Christ give Himself for us—Titus 2:14?

V. HIS RESURRECTION AND ASCENSION (FROM MEN)

*"A living One within my heart this hour,
Who now no longer lives from me apart,
But shares His resurrection in my heart."¹²
—J. Sidlow Baxter*

JESUS CHRIST

- I. His pre-existence-deity
- II. His incarnation
- III. His life & ministry
- IV. His death
- V. Resurrection & ascension
 - A. Physically dead

A. HE WAS PHYSICALLY DEAD

® How do we know that Jesus was literally dead—John 19:33-34, 39-40?
(Mark 15:44-45)

B. HE WAS PHYSICALLY RAISED

® Some have promoted the idea that Christ was raised in the sense of living on in our memories or in some spiritual sense. How would you answer this from Luke 24:39? (Luke 24:42-43; John 2:27)



® If the resurrection is not true, then what else is not true—1 Corinthians 15:17-19?

C. HE ASCENDED TO THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD

® Jesus Christ the Son of God and Servant is still serving today. What comfort can you draw from Christ's ministry as revealed in Hebrews 7:25? (Other ministries: Matthew 28:20; John 14:2; John 15:26; Ephesians 1:20-23; Ephesians 4:11-12; Hebrews 8:1-2; 1 John 2:1)

For Further STUDY

® Imagine yourself to be a skeptic. How might you try to explain away these three proofs of the resurrection:

1. The empty tomb.



2. The numerous witnesses. (Matthew 28:9-10; Luke 24:13-35, 36-43; John 20:11-17, 26-29; 21:1-23; 1 Corinthians. 15:5-6)

3. The changed lives of the apostles and the fact that many of them died as martyrs for their faith.

JESUS CHRIST



® What does your union with Christ in His death and resurrection imply about how you should conduct your life—Romans 6:3-4; 6:12-13? How can you apply this ?

- I. His pre-existence-deity
- II. His incarnation
- III. His life & ministry
- IV. His death
- V. Resurrection & ascension
 - A. Physically dead
 - B. Physically raised
 - C. Ascended

VI. HIS RETURN (FOR MEN)

J. Hudson Taylor wrote, *"Since He may come any day, it is well to be ready every day. I do not know of any truth that has been a greater blessing to me through life than this."*¹³

® What are three things Christ will do when He returns?
John 14:3

Revelation 19:11,15

Philippians 3:20-21

VII. THE LORD OVER MEN

*"Oh, how I loved Him! Passing all loves except His own, was that love which I felt for Him then. If, beside the door of the place in which I met with Him, there had been a stake of blazing faggots, I would have stood upon them without chains, glad to give my flesh, and blood, and bones, to be ashes that should testify my love to Him."*¹⁴—C. H. Spurgeon

A. PERSPECTIVE

*"If Jesus be God, and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him."*¹⁵—C. T. Studd

® In light of Christ's death for you, what perspective should you have on your life—2 Corinthians 5:14-17?

B. PASSION



M *My utter love, nor more, nor less,
His royal heart demands;
My King of Love, all loveliness,
With nail-scars in His hands.
And dare I love Him but in part?
How can I but adore,
And love away my very heart
To Him for evermore.*¹⁶

® What should your life passion be—Philippians 3:10?

JESUS CHRIST

- I. His pre-existence-deity*
- II. His incarnation*
- III. His life & ministry*
- IV. His death*
- V. His resurrection & ascension*
- VII. The Lord over men*
- A. Perspective*
- B. Passion*
- C. Priority*

C. PRIORITY

He is the summing up of all things, the supreme message of the Bible, the Lord of the Universe. We must not become goal, ministry, or method centered but, rather Christ centered.

® What does Satan attempt to do to believers—2 Corinthians 11:3



® What things in your life at this present time are keeping you from your main priority in life—Luke 10:39-42? What steps can you take for change?

Quiet TIME

Over the next five days spend your devotional times in John 13-17, taking a chapter a day. This Upper Room Discourse is one of the great teaching passages of Christ. It is a seed plot for much of the rest of the New Testament. For each day, find and record:

- ® A promise to keep
- ® A command to obey
- ® An insight into the person of Christ
- ® A truth to apply

KEY THOUGHT



® What is one truth (it may be a verse or a thought) you want to share with another this week from this study?



S"Saviour, I love and adore Thee:
Joy of all joys—Thou art mine!
Whom should I treasure before Thee?
Where is such beauty as Thine?
How could I ever but love Thee?
Who can with Thee compare?
Who in all heav'n is above Thee?
Who on the earth is so fair?"¹⁷

For Further READING

- ® The Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ. 3 bks. Colorado Springs: Navpress, 1978.
- ® Baxter, J. Sidlow, Going Deeper. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1959.
- ® Sanders, J. Oswald, The Incomparable Christ. Chicago: Moody Press, 1971.
- ® Swindoll, Charles R. "Glimpses of Golgotha." Cassette tape. Fullerton, Ca: Insight For Living, n.d.
- ® Walvoord, John F., Jesus Christ Our Lord. Chicago: Moody Press, 1969.

Fulfilled prophecy helps verify the fact that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Looking at prophecies which preceded Jesus by hundreds of years and seeing how Jesus fulfilled them in every detail reveals the authenticity of His claims. The chart below is a brief list of some of the prophecies made concerning the Christ and how Jesus fulfilled them.

TOPIC	PROPHECY	FULFILLMENT
Place of birth	“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for Me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times” (Micah 5:2), 700 B.C.	“Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea” (Matthew 2:1).
Born of a virgin	“Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son” (Isaiah 7:14, KJV), 700 B.C.	“His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 1:18).
His triumphal entry	“Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, daughter of Jerusalem! See, your King comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey” (Zechariah 9:9), 500 B.C.	“They took palm branches and went out to meet Him, shouting, ‘Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the King of Israel!’ Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it” (John 12:13-14).
Betrayed by a friend	“Even My close friend, whom I trusted, he who shared My bread, has lifted up his heel against Me” (Psalm 41:9), 1000 B.C.	“Then Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Jesus to them” (Mark 14:10).
His rejection	“He was despised and rejected by men . . . Like one from whom men hide their faces He was despised, and we esteemed Him not” (Isaiah 53:3), 700 B.C.	“He came to that which was His own, but His own did not receive Him” (John 1:11).
Crucified with sinners	“He . . . was numbered with the transgressors” (Isaiah 53:12), 700 B.C.	“Two robbers were crucified with Him, one on His right and one on His left” (Matthew 27:38).
Hands and feet pierced	“They have pierced My hands and My feet” (Psalm 22:16). 1000 B.C.	“Put your finger here; see My hands. Reach out your hand and put it into My side” (John 20:27).
His resurrection	“You will not abandon Me to the grave, nor will You let Your Holy One see decay” (Psalm 16:10), 1000 B.C.	“You killed the Author of life, but God raised Him from the dead” (Acts 3:15).
His ascension	“Thou hast ascended on high” (Psalm 68:18, KJV), 1000 B.C.	“He was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid Him from their sight” (Acts 1:9).

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FULLNESS OF DEITY
100% God – Colossians 2:9



UNION
Philippians 2:6-8

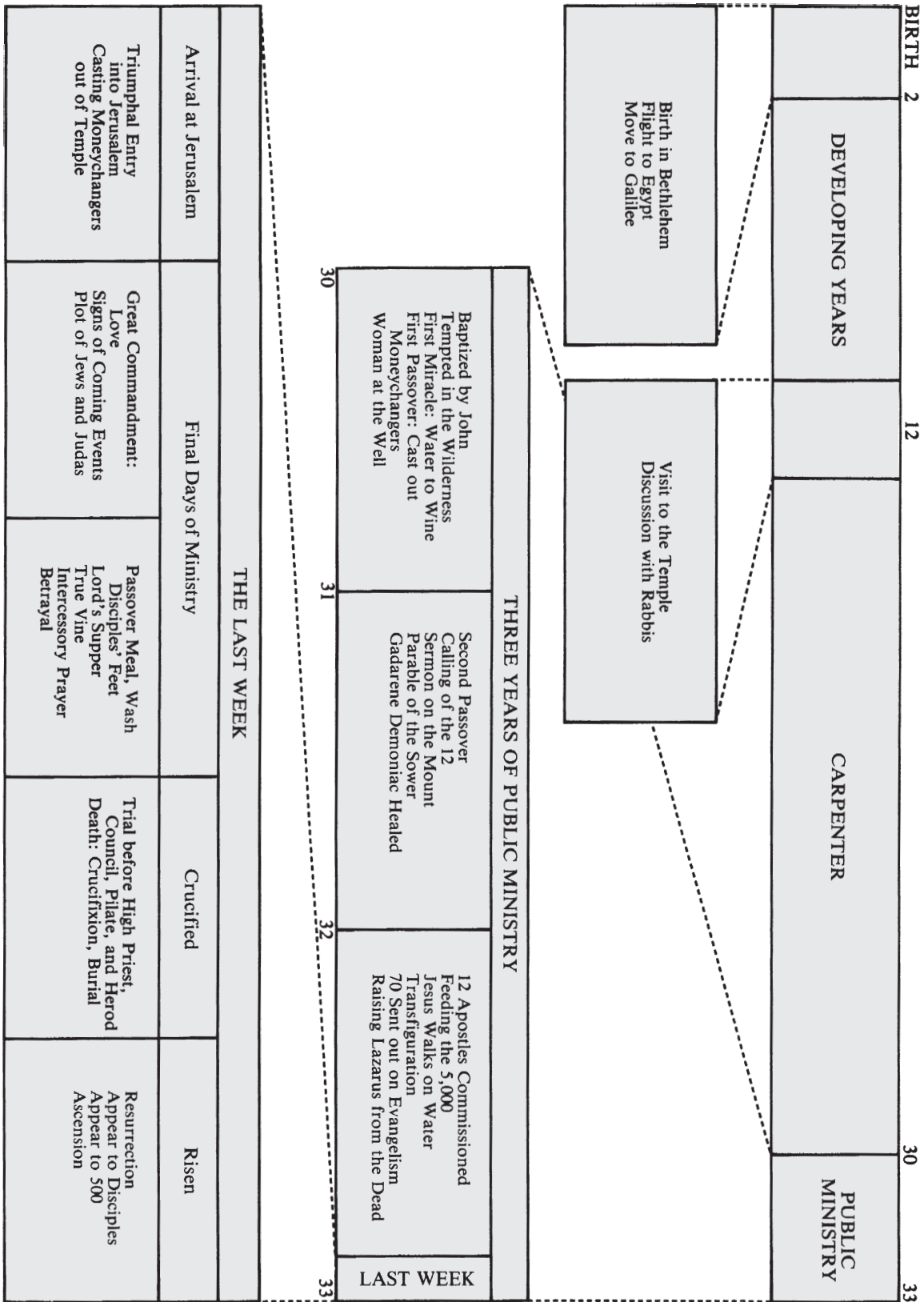


TRUE HUMANITY
100% Man – John 1:14

WITHOUT SIN
Hebrews 4:15

In One Person
JESUS CHRIST
*The Unique Theanthropic Person
The One & Only Mediator
Our Lord, God & Savior
John 20:28*





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NOTES

- 1 J. Sidlow Baxter, *Going Deeper*, p. 11.
- 2 *Ibid.*, p. 118.
- 3 J. Oswald Sanders, *The Incomparable Christ*, p. 53.
- 4 Josh McDowell, *Evidence-That Demands A Verdict*, 2 vols. 1:150.
- 5 Walter R. Martin, *The Kingdom of the Cults*, p. 47.
- 6 Donald K. Campbell, ed., *Walvoord: A Tribute*, pp. 140-141.
- 7 Lewis Sperry Chafer, *Systematic Theology*, 8 vols., vol. 5: *Christology*, p. 42.
- 8 Thomas Watson, *A Body of Divinity*, p. 196.
- 9 *Ibid.*, p. 197.
- 10 The Presbyterian Church in the United States, *The Confession of Faith*, (Question 21), p. 294.
- 11 Paul Gerhardt, Trans., "O Sacred Head", in *The Methodist Hymnal*, stanza 1, p. 141.
- 12 Baxter, p. 56.
- 13 Sanders, p. 245.
- 14 Susannah Spurgeon, Joseph Harrald, Comps., *C. H. Spurgeon Autobiography*, 2 vols., vol. 1: *The Early Years*, p. 93.
- 15 Baxter, p. 124.
- 16 *Ibid.*, p. 132.
- 17 *Ibid.*, p. 118.
- 18 *The Design For Discipleship Series*, 7 bks., bk. 1: *The Spirit-Filled Christian*, pp. 14-15.
- 19 *Ibid.*, p. 20.