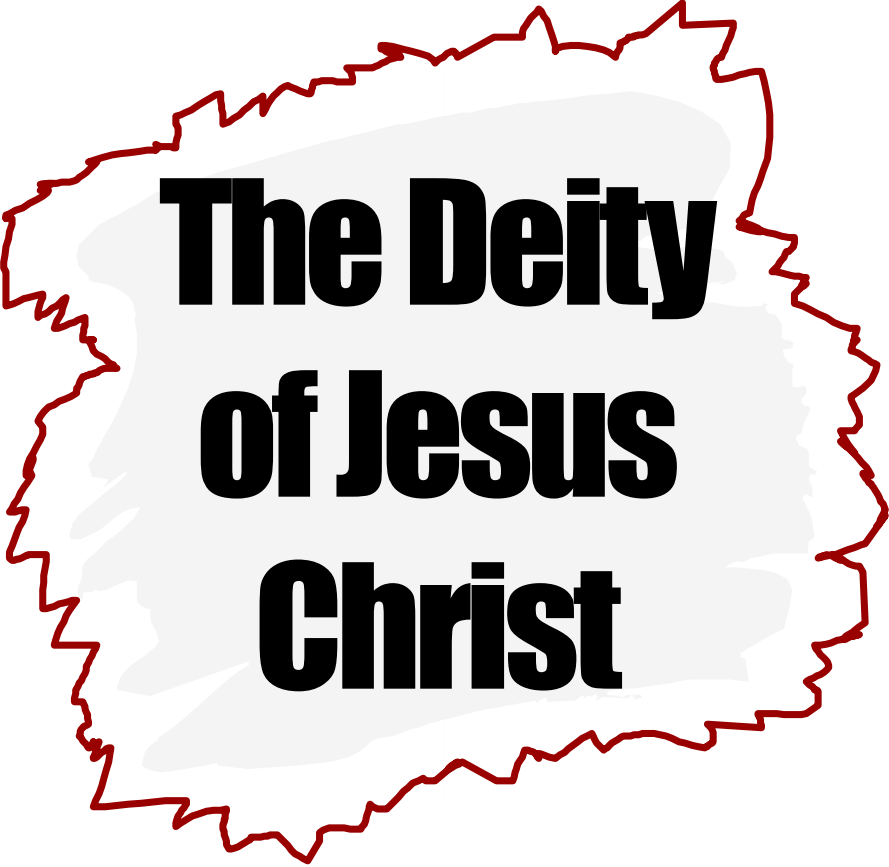


A Bible Study Material on



**The Deity
of Jesus
Christ**

By Nicky Joya

PREFACE

“Who do people say the Son of Man is?” Jesus Christ asked Peter (Matthew 15:13). His reply described the confusion of the multitudes during their time: “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets” (verse 14).

Confronted with the same question, people today reply in a similar fashion. Some believe Jesus to be a mere man with outstanding character--martyr, prophet, revolutionary--nevertheless, no more than mere mortal. Others believe Him to be a sub-deity or an angel who is lower than God in nature and rank. He is more than man, they assert, but still short of the fullness of deity. The various views reveal the confusion of many over Jesus Christ's nature.

It is of paramount importance, however, that we have a proper understanding of who He is. Our faith stands or falls on our understanding of the true Person of Jesus Christ. Throughout the ages, many have attacked the biblical view of Jesus Christ. To date, the most serious one has been the rejection of His deity. The Bible, however, from the Old to the New Testament, reveals the true nature of our Lord. As we study it thoroughly and objectively, there should be no doubt over His divinity.

The objective of this material is to assist the reader to discover what the Bible says about the deity of Jesus Christ. It is my prayer that our minds will be enlightened and our faith in Him strengthened so that we could effectively share Him with others, to His glory and honor.

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THE NAMES AND TITLES OF JESUS CHRIST

NOTES

In the Bible, names are very significant. They reveal certain qualities of a person. The same thing holds true to Jesus Christ. Several names and titles were used to refer to Him, and each of these reveals a particular attribute. As we study them, determine what these terms tell about the Person of Jesus.

I AM

Yaweh in the Old Testament is known to be the personal Name of God. When Moses asked God who he will tell his Hebrew brethren had sent him, God replied, "I AM WHO I AM (Hebrew: *Yaweh*)..." The Lord told Moses to tell the Israelites that I AM had sent him (Exodus 3:14).

Since then, this Name had become very sacred to the Jews. Anyone who mentions it in a derogatory manner or claims it for himself, except for God, would be stoned to death.

In one instance, Jesus Christ took upon Himself the very personal Name of God. He said, "...before Abraham was born, **I AM**" (John 8:58). The Jews knowing very well that Jesus was claiming to be God, began to pick up stones to cast upon Him. Although they did not believe in what Jesus was claiming to be, yet they knew exactly what He meant.

What attributes of God are implied in the Name, I AM?

Can other beings (angels, humans, animals, etc.) possess such attributes? What then was Jesus claiming when He used the Name for Himself?

THE ALPHA AND OMEGA

In Revelation 1:8, the Lord God said, "I am the Alpha and Omega...who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."

Again, what attributes of God are implied by these titles?

Notice that these same titles of deity Jesus claimed for Himself. Jesus, identifying Himself as "the Living One" exclaims, "I am the First and the Last" (Rev. 1:17, 18).

Once again, Jesus declares, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End" (Rev. 22:13).

What do you think did Jesus mean by His confession?

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OTHER TITLES OF DEITY

Look up the passages below which contain different titles that refer to Jesus Christ and God the Father. Notice that the titles used to refer to God are the same titles used to refer to Jesus.

TITLES	GOD	JESUS
<i>Lord</i>	Gen. 14: 22; 24:12	Phil. 1:2; 2:11; 3:8
<i>Mighty God</i>	Ps. 50:1; 89:8	Is. 9:6
<i>Judge</i>	Gen 18:25; Ps. 9:8	2 Tim. 4:1
<i>Shepherd</i>	Ps. 23:1	Jn. 10:11, 14; Heb 13:20; 1 Pet. 5:4
<i>God and Savior</i>	Titus 1:3	Titus 2:13; Rom. 9:5
<i>King of kings</i>	1 Tim. 6:15	Rev. 17:14; 19:16
<i>Lord of lords</i>		

If Jesus were not God, what would you call the writers of the Bible who refer to Jesus as such? Why?

SUMMARY

In view of these titles, what can you conclude about the Person of Jesus Christ?

THE NATURE OF JESUS CHRIST

NOTES

The Bible reveals to us the nature of Jesus Christ's Person. Determine what the following passages say about His true essence.

THE EXPRESS IMAGE OF GOD

Read Philippians 2:6; Colossians 1:15; and Hebrews 1:3. According to the passages below, what nature did Jesus Christ possess? What descriptive phrases can you cite that reveal His essence?

Read John 1:14, 18. According to the passage, no one has ever seen the glory or the nature of the Father. Through Jesus Christ, however, the fullness of God's Person has been made known.

How was Jesus Christ able to do this?

How is Jesus Christ referred to in verse 18?

In John 17:1, Jesus asks His Father to bestow glory (splendor and honor) to Him. This glory, Jesus says, "was the glory He had with (the Father) before the world began" (John 17:5). What can you conclude about Jesus in view of this?

According to Isaiah 48:11, will God ever yield His glory to another being? What then can you say of Jesus who possessed God's glory?

Read Colossians 2:9. What does the writer mean by "all the fullness of deity?" Based on this passage, can Jesus Christ be a lesser deity or a sub-god as some people assert? Why or why not?

HE IS ETERNAL

When the Bible speaks of the eternity of God, it does not only mean *never-ending*, or *having no beginning and ending*. It also implies that God cannot be confined by time nor space. All of God's creation is bound by time and space. Only God is eternal.

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Read John 1:1. How is Jesus Christ or the Word described? What proof points to the eternity of Jesus?

What did Jesus mean when He said, "I am the beginning and the end" (Rev. 22:13)? Is He implying that He has a beginning and an end?

HE IS OMNISCIENT

The omniscience of God is described in Hebrews 4:13. Again, this attribute is exclusively God's. Based on this text, give a definition of *omniscience*.

Read Matthew 9:4 and John 16:30. How is Jesus described in these passages? What can you conclude about Him?

Cite one practical implication of the omniscience of Jesus Christ in one's life.

HE IS OMNIPRESENT

What is Jesus Christ's promise according to Matthew 18:20? What does this imply about His nature?

In Matthew 28:20, Jesus gave His disciples another promise before He was about to ascend to heaven. What is He able to do according to the text?

How does the omnipresence of Jesus give us comfort and encouragement?

NOTES

HE IS OMNIPOTENT

According to Matthew 28:18, how much authority or power is in Jesus Christ? What do you think is the limit to His power?

A demonstration of Jesus Christ's authority is seen in John 6:1-21. Describe His power.

In Philippians 4:13, how can Christ's power aid us in our Christian walk?

SUMMARY

Summarize what you have learned about the nature of Jesus Christ.

THE WORKS OF JESUS CHRIST

NOTES

The biblical passages below tell us about the activities of Jesus Christ. His works reveal the nature of His Person. He did the works which God alone could do.

Matching type: Connect the activities of Jesus Christ listed in Column A with the corresponding scriptural passages listed in Column B

A	B
Jesus created	John 5:25, 26
Jesus sustains all things	John 14:23
Jesus judges	John 5:27
Jesus gives life	Col. 1:16
Jesus abides in the lives of believers	Heb. 1:3

What activity of Jesus is evident in the following passages (John 1:3; Col. 1:16; Heb. 1:2)?

Do created beings have the capacity to create? State your reasons.

What activity of Jesus Christ is seen in Colossians 1:17? What do you think are some things He holds together?

Read Mark 2:1-12. Why were the religious leaders surprised by Jesus Christ's statement?

How did He prove that He has the authority to do this?

God's forgiveness is *that judicial act of His of absolving a person of sin and purifying him of all unrighteousness*. When God forgives a person, he is totally pure in God's sight. Only God has the ability to perform this task.

Through His sacrificial work on the cross, what was Jesus able to do to those who believe in Him according to Colossians 2:13, 14 and Hebrews 10:14?

NOTES

How is a person justified or purified of his sins according to Romans 3:28?

Have you personally received Christ's forgiveness? Why or why not?

SUMMARY

Based on the works of Jesus Christ, what can you conclude about His Person?

THE RESPONSES OF PEOPLE TO JESUS CHRIST

NOTES

How people responded to Jesus Christ will tell us how they regarded Him. If their view of Jesus was erroneous, He would have corrected them immediately. The Lord in the instances mentioned, however, made no such attempt. This proves that He accepted their testimony as correct.

THE TESTIMONIES OF PEOPLE

How did the following biblical characters refer to Jesus? Verify also the credibility of those who testified.

John 20:28 (The Apostle Thomas)- "My **Lord** and my **God**."

Heb. 1:8 (God The Father) - "Your throne, O **God**, will last for ever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of Your kingdom."

Hebrews 1:10 (God The Father) - "He also says, `In the beginning, O **Lord**, You laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands.'"

Romans 9:5 (The Apostle Paul) - "...Christ, who is **God** over all, forever praised! Amen."

Titus 2:13 (The Apostle Paul) - "...while we wait for the blessed hope--the glorious appearing of our great **God** and Savior, Jesus Christ."

WORSHIP ATTRIBUTED TO JESUS

According to Exodus 20:3-6, and 2 Kings 17:35, 36, to whom should worship be attributed? Should worship be given to men? How about angels? Why do you believe so?

Read Revelation 22:8, 9. How did the angel react when John fell down before him in worship? How would Jesus have responded to the worship attributed to Him if He were not God?

NOTES

Who worshipped Jesus Christ? Match the right biblical text with the characters who gave Jesus Christ due worship.

Matt. 8:2
Heb. 1:6

Matt. 14:33; 28:9
John 20:28

Matt. 2:2, 11
Phil. 2:10; Rev. 5:13, 14

- _____ wise men from the east
- _____ a leper
- _____ angels
- _____ Thomas
- _____ the disciples
- _____ all creatures

SUMMARY

OUR RESPONSE TO JESUS CHRIST

NOTES

The Bible says that the eternal salvation of an individual rests upon his or her faith in the Person of Jesus Christ. "But as many as receive Him and believe in His Name (His Person)," the Apostle John declares, "to them He gave them the right to become children of God" (John 1:12). The famous passage, John 3:16 states, "...whoever believes in Him (Jesus Christ) will not perish but have eternal life." It is absolutely essential to believe in Jesus Christ, His true person, to be saved.

Sadly, however, to believe is often misunderstood as just an agreement to certain facts about Jesus Christ. But it is more than that. Biblical belief or saving faith involves total trust and submission to Jesus Christ.

WHAT IS SAVING BELIEF?

True belief involves three aspects:

Knowledge - Faith is not *bahala na*, or "taking a blind leap in the dark," as someone has said. It is based on knowledge of the Word of God. One has to know what the Bible says about Jesus Christ before he can fully trust Him. Don't fail to note, however, that important as knowledge is, it is simply the first step towards faith. In itself, it cannot save.

Agreement - Obviously, one must agree with what he knows to be true of Jesus Christ before he can be saved. Again, agreement is a step higher than knowledge. Nevertheless, in itself, it cannot save. Many people agree that Jesus is God, and came down to earth in the form of man to die for our sins. Many even agree that Jesus is the only Savior worthy of our trust. However, they fail to go all the way to full faith. The third aspect completes saving belief.

Commitment - It means to wholly rely on what we know and agree to be true of Jesus Christ. It involves giving ourselves to Him.

For instance, believing in Jesus Christ as God implies that He is sovereign and that He deserves our total submission. Commitment is making a decision to submit to Christ's sovereign Lordship.

Another example: Believing in Jesus Christ as God who came down to earth as man to die for the sins of mankind means that we should trust in His finished work and accept Him as our only Savior. To commit ourselves to that truth means to relinquish our trust in other saviors (even in our abilities) and totally trust in the sufficient work of Christ on the cross for our salvation.

What does Romans 10:9 say about salvation?

According to Romans 3:28; Ephesians 2:8, 9; and Titus 3:5, can we trust in human effort (i.e. good works) to save us from our sins? What must a person who trusts in his good works do to possess salvation?

YOUR RESPONSE

Have you made a once-and-for-all decision to believe in Jesus as Sovereign Lord and only Savior? Have you relinquished your trust in your self and put your trust only in Jesus' sacrifice on the cross? You can do so right now through a prayer of commitment.

NOTES

Below is a suggested prayer. Understand that it is not the prayer that saves, but your faith in Jesus Christ. This prayer must be the expression of your faith in Him.

Lord God, I am a sinner and totally helpless to save myself. I have offended you and therefore deserve only your wrath. But I thank you that you gave your Son Jesus Christ to die on the cross for my sins. I relinquish my trust in other saviors and I receive you by faith as my only Savior. I submit to your lordship and sovereign will. Cleanse me of my sins and grant me the grace to obey you. Thank you for forgiving me of my sins and granting me eternal life. Thank you for giving me the grace to live a life pleasing to you. Amen.

If you have made a commitment of faith, let others know about it. Share this material with your friends if it has been especially meaningful to you.

Seek the encouragement of those who have made a similar commitment. It is important that we grow in our understanding of the Word and live out Christ's teaching. Fellowshiping with other Christians will help us accomplish that.

For more information, write to the author

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