

Is Jesus the Christ?

by Leroy Surface

The Apostle John wrote, *"Whosoever believeth Jesus is the Christ is born of God"* 1 John 5:1. This is a mystery. Christ is the creator of heaven and earth. He is *"the Word,"* which the Apostle John said, *"...was with God, and the Word was God. ...All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made"* John 1:1-3. This *"Word"* was the eternal Spirit of Christ. John then tells us, *"And the Word was made flesh..."* John 1:14. The *"Word ...made flesh"* is Jesus, who was born to the Virgin Mary. He is both the Son of God and the son of man.

Many erroneously teach that Jesus was just a natural man, who through much fasting and prayer did what any natural man can do through much fasting and prayer. Others believe Jesus is Almighty God. This is also an error if they believe Jesus is the Father. Jesus was conceived by the Holy Ghost in the womb of the Virgin Mary. He had no human Father, but was born of a virgin, and is the Son of God. The Bible says Jesus was *"made of a woman"* Galatians 4:4-5, but Christ is eternal, the creator of heaven and earth. The words *"Jesus is the Christ"* are a divine mystery because Jesus has a *"birth date,"* whereas Christ is eternal. Jesus was *"born"* in this world, but Christ *"came"* into the world. Yet, Jesus is the Christ!

On the night Jesus was born, the angel said to the shepherds in the field, *"...unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord"* Luke 2:11. Over five hundred years before this night, God sent the angel Gabriel to the prophet Daniel with the message of one called *"The Messiah, the Prince."* He would come into the world *"...to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity,"* and to *"bring in everlasting righteousness."* Daniel 9:24. The New Testament writers called Messiah *"Christ, the Lord."* The baby in the manger, which Mary had wrapped in swaddling clothes, was and is the Christ, the Lord from heaven. His destiny was to die on the cross at Calvary to *"make an end of sins."*

The Apostle Paul summarized the reason Christ was made flesh, saying, *"Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me...Lo, I come...to do thy will, O God."* Hebrews 10:5, 7. Three verses later, Paul wrote *"By the which will we are sanctified (made holy) through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all"* Hebrews 10:10. Christ was given a body so he could die on the cross, and thereby take away our sin and make us holy.

The angel Gabriel had given Daniel a mathematical

formula to prove who the Messiah was and pinpointed the very year the He would come. As this time approached, the Bible tells us *"...the people were in expectation, and all men mused in their hearts of John, whether he were the Christ, or not."* Luke 3:15.

In the same year the prophecy promised the Messiah would come, Jesus came to John the Baptist to be baptized. Oh, what a day that was. Consider the following verses.

"And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." Matthew 3:16-17.

"And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost. And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God." John 1:32-34.

"The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." John 1:29.

John the Baptist had been sent by God to introduce Jesus to the nation, but when John was in prison and about to lose his life, he sent messengers to Jesus to inquire, *"Art thou He that should come, or do we look for another?"* Matthew 11:3. Jesus' answer was, *"Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see: The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them"* Matthew 11:4-5. John would certainly know that *"Jesus is the Christ"* because seven hundred years before, the Prophet Isaiah had recorded this promise:

"Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert." Isaiah 35:4-6

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