

Christology

The Biblical Study and
Doctrine of Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ

(Christology – The Biblical Study and Doctrine of Jesus Christ, God the Son)

The purpose of *the written Word of God* is ultimately to lead us to an acknowledgement of our sin and separation from fellowship with our creator God, then to reveal His **Good News**, the plan to deal with our sin and restore fellowship through the work of His Son, Jesus, *the Living Word*. **This study is about Jesus Christ, God the son, the Living Word.**

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”

John 1:14

Introduction:

Without a biblical understanding of both the person and the work of Jesus Christ, past, present and future, we will not be able to understand much of the bible’s story line concerning God’s purpose and means for the redemption of fallen humankind. From beginning to end, the bible is about Jesus. He is the central figure and the main theme. Jesus Christ is the scarlet thread of redemption that runs from Genesis to Revelation.

Charles Ryrie states in his Basic Theology, *“The doctrine of the person of Christ Jesus (Christology) is crucial to the Christian faith. It is basic to salvation (Soteriology), for if our Lord was not what He claimed to be, then His atonement was a deficient, not sufficient payment for sin.”*

*“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” **Acts 4:12***

Some things the bible reveals about Jesus:

He existed before his human birth with the Father as fully God the Son.
He was born of a virgin physically, in flesh, fully human yet still fully God.
He lived a sinless life proclaiming the Good News of God’s redemption.
He was crucified and died on a cross, the perfect sinless sacrifice in exchange for sinful man.
He rose from the dead, physically and visibly.
He forgives sin and offers new life to all who repent and believe on Him.
He ascended back into heaven visibly, as witnessed by many.
He will physically and visibly return to earth at a future date to rule and reign.

Who is Jesus Christ?

Who do you say Jesus is? The answer to this question is the most important one you will ever seek to answer. It will absolutely determine the rest of your existence. Jesus asked His disciples this very question. You can read Peter's response in Mathew 16:15-17.

1. Humanly speaking He is a man known as Jesus, the son of Mary, born on Christmas. (Matthew 1:18-21; Luke 2:1-7) He was a good man and lived a good life, taught good things and was crucified.

But... the bible states plainly that He rose from the dead, being witnessed and attested to by as many as 500 individuals (I Corinthians 15:6-8). He then ascended into heaven, witnessed again by a crowd. (Acts 1:1-3, 8-9)

Sounds like more than just a good man, doesn't it?

2. Spiritually speaking He is God incarnate, God the Son, existing from eternity past. He came as one of us in flesh and blood. (John 1:10-11) The bible tells us "much more" concerning Jesus than His human existence beginning in Bethlehem.

3. Some titles given Him that hint at the "much more."

- a. **Son of God** – Matthew 8:29, 14:33, 16:16
- b. The **Image of the invisible God** – Hebrews 1:3; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Colossians 1:15
- c. The promised **Messiah** – Deuteronomy 18:15-16; John 1:41, **4:25-26**
- d. The **Lamb of God** - Genesis 22:8; John 1:29, 36; Revelation 5:6, 22:3
- e. The **Redeemer** - Isaiah 63:16; Ephesians 1:7; Revelation 5:9
- f. The **Last Adam** – 1 Corinthians 15:45-49
- g. The **First and Last** – Isaiah 41:4; Revelation 1:17

4. Four works ascribed to Christ speak of the span of His ministry.

- a. John states, originally **as the Word** - Creator of all that we know, existing with God as God, in eternity past. John 1:1-3
- b. He served on earth **as a Prophet** - Deuteronomy 18:15; John 1:21, 25, 45; Acts 3:22
- c. Today He serves in Heaven **as our High Priest** - Hebrews 4:15, 7:26-27; Psalms 110:4 **Interceding** for us at the right hand of the Father. Hebrews 7:25, 8:1-2

- d. Soon He will come back to the earth and rule **as the King** - Hebrews 1:8, Revelations 11:15, 20:6 His Kingdom will then continue on into eternity and will have no end.

But, Let's Go Back to the beginning of what we are told in the bible.

A. Jesus Existed Before Birth (Pre-Incarnation)

1. He existed in the beginning

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God." **John 1:1-2**

2. He is the Eternal Word of God - John 1:1; 1 John 1:2-3; (5:7)

- a. The Word (*logos or expression*) existed in the beginning. "**In the beginning**" (*en archē*) is as far back in existence as Scripture reveals about God (Genesis 1:1)
- b. The Word was "**with**" (*pros - "to, toward, with."*) It can show interpersonal relationship. (see Romans 5:1)
- c. The Word was God from eternity past. The verb "**was**" is the Greek "to be" verb *ēn*, and is in the imperfect tense. The imperfect tense is continuous action in the past, showing that Christ existed as God continuously in the past. Therefore, He is the eternal Son of God.

3. Jesus is the Creator and Sustainer

"All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made." **John 1:3**

"For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist." **Colossians 1:16-17**

"..has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; 3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,..." **Hebrews 1:2-3**

4. Prophets Spoke of His Eternity Past and Future

Past "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be

Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting."

Micah 5:2

"And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was." **John 17:5**

Future "For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. "Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice, From that time forward, even forever." **Isaiah 9:7**

5. Jesus as the Angel of the Lord (in the OT over 40 times)

One of the most compelling and indisputable proofs that Christ preexisted is found in the truth that He is the Angel of Jehovah whose various appearances are recorded in the Old Testament. (Lewis Sperry Chafer's Systematic Theology)

- a. The Angel of the Lord is identified as God - Genesis 16:9-13, 22:11-17; Exodus 3:1-4, 13:21-22, 14:19; Judges 13:21-22
- b. The Angel of the Lord is distinct from Yahweh - Genesis 24:7, 40; Numbers 20:16; Zechariah 1:12-13
- c. The Angel of the Lord is never mentioned again after Jesus Christ's incarnation.
- e. *It is safe to assume that every visible manifestation of God in bodily form in the Old Testament is to be identified with the Lord Jesus Christ.*
(John F. Walvoord, Jesus Christ our Lord)

6. Jesus says He was before Abraham. The I AM of Exodus 3:14

"Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad." Then the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?" Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM." **John 8:56-58**

B. Jesus Deity (He is God the Son)

1. Scripture Declares His deity – John 1:1

In the beginning God (*elôhîym, plural noun*) created the heavens and the earth. **Genesis 1:1** (see also v.26 and 3:22)

“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory.”

1 Timothy 3:16

2. Prophets ascribed deity – Acts 2:34-36

“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom. You love righteousness and hate wickedness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions. **Psalm 45:6-7**

“The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.” **Psalm 110:1**

3. Jesus displayed His deity in many ways, but raising Lazarus is at the top.

“Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with grave clothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Loose him, and let him go." **John 11:43-44**

Jesus claimed this authority for Himself as well. **John 10:17-18**

4. Jesus accepted worship as only God should.

And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, "Rejoice!" So they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him. **Matthew 28:9**

5. Jesus forgave sin as only God can. Mark 2:1-12

“When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you." **Mark 2:5**

“But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins”—He said to the paralytic, 11 "I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house." **Mark 2:10**

6. The disciples understood His deity.

“Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing." And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have

believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

John 20:27-29

7. The religious rulers understood Jesus claims and sought to kill Him.

Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him. Jesus answered them, "Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?" The Jews answered Him, saying, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God." **John 10:31-33**

C. Jesus Birth and Humanity (Incarnation)

Although the word "incarnation" is not mentioned in the Bible, it comes from two Latin words *in* (in) and *carnis* (flesh) meaning "embodied in flesh." Incarnation then accurately defines the two Greek words *en sarkí*, "in flesh", relating to Christ's human birth and humanity. Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, took upon Himself humanity and came "in flesh."

1. God in flesh – John 1:1; Philippians 2:7; Colossians 2:9

"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." **John 1:14**

2. As foretold – Psalm 2:7-12; Matthew 2:3-6, 7:42; Luke 2:4-7

"I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, You are My Son, Today I have begotten You." **Psalm 2:7**

3. In God's perfect time

"But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons." **Galatians 4:4**

4. Born of a virgin – Matthew 1:22-23, 25; Luke 1:26–35

"Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel." **Isaiah 7:14**

5. Heralded by angels – Luke 1:30-33, 2:8-14

Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!" **Luke 1:26-28**

6. The visible manifestation of invisible God – John 17:6 Hebrews 1:3
(2 Corinthians 4:4)

“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.”

Colossians 1:15

No human mind can ever grasp the significance of the occurrence and consequence of the incarnation. (Chafer, Systematic Theology)

D. Jesus Life and Ministry on Earth (the purpose of the incarnation)

1. As foretold – Isaiah 7:14

So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: 23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us." **Matthew 1:22-23**

2. Grew and developed as any child

“Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.”

Luke 2:51-52

3. Begin proclaiming “the kingdom” (as a Prophet) - Deuteronomy 18:15

“Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, 15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." **Mark 1:14** (Matthew 4:23; Luke 8:1; Acts 3:22-23)

4. Displaying God perfectly on earth – Hebrew 1:1-3

“No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.” **John 1:18**

Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.” **John 14:8-11**

5. The second Adam – Romans 5:14-15

“For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.”

I Corinthians 15:21-22

“And so it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being.” The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.” **I Corinthians 15:45**

6. Destroy the works of the Devil – Hebrews 2:14

“For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.” **I John 3:8**

7. Forgiving sin and offering salvation – Luke 5:20, 7:48; John 3:14-18

“But as many as received Him (Jesus), to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.” **John 1:12-13**

E. Jesus Death on a Cross

1. As foretold – Psalm 22; Isaiah 53

“And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself;” **Daniel 9:26**

“But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled.” **Acts 3:18**

“Then He said to them, “These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.” **Luke 24:44**

2. Born to die – Matthew 17:22-23; 20:17-19

“From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.” **Matthew 16:21**

“Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save Me from this hour’? But for this purpose I came to this hour. 28 Father, glorify Your name.” **John 12:27**

3. Suffered, humiliated, ridiculed - Mark 9:12; Luke 23:10-11

“Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole garrison around Him. And they stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him. When they had twisted a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" Then they spat on Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head. And when they had mocked Him, they took the robe off Him, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him away to be crucified. **Matthew 27:27-31**

“let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” **Hebrews 12:2**

4. Death by crucifixion – John 19:17-18

“And when they had mocked Him, they took the robe off Him, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him away to be crucified.” **Matthew 27:31-35**

“And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.”
Philippians 2:8

5. As a sacrifice - Revelation 5:6, 11-14; 1 Corinthians 15:3 Hebrews 9:28

“The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" **John 1:29**

“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” **2 Corinthians 5:21**

“who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.” **1 Peter 2:23**

6. Buried – Luke 23:50-53

“For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

7. Three days in the grave - 1 Corinthians 15:4; Luke 24:12

“For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.” **Matthew 12:40**

F. Jesus Resurrection from the Dead

1. As foretold - Psalm 49:15, 86:13

Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices; My flesh also will rest in hope. For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.” **Psalm 16:9-10**

“Therefore, having obtained help from God, to this day I stand, witnessing both to small and great, saying no other things than those which the prophets and Moses said would come— 23 that the Christ would suffer, that He would be the first to rise from the dead, and would proclaim light to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles.” **Acts 26:22-23**

2. On the third day – Matthew 12:38-40, 17:22-23; Luke 24:1-10

“He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, 7 saying, 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.’”

Luke 24:6

“and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day,” **Luke 24:46**

3. Witnessed by angels and disciples – Luke 24:1-9, 39; Act 1:1-3, 10:39-41

“Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it. His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men.” But the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen, as He said.”

Matthew 28:1-6

“For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. 6 After that He was seen by over

five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. 7 After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles.” **I Corinthians 15:3-8**

G. Jesus Ascension and Ministry in Heaven

1. Witnessed by many – Luke 24:50-53; Acts 2:32

“And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. 51 Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven. 52 And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy,” **Luke 24:50-52**

2. Preparing a place for us – Hebrews 11:16

“In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.” **John 14:2-3**

3. Intercession (as priest) on behalf of the Church – Mark 16:19; Hebrews 4:14, 9:24

“Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.” **Romans 8:33-34**

“Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. For such a High Priest was fitting for us.” **Hebrews 7:25-26**

H. Jesus Promised to Return

1. As foretold – Daniel 7:13-14; Matthew 24:30-31; Revelation 1:7-8

“And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, 11 who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven." **Acts 1:10-11**

2. With and for His followers - Mark 13:26-27; John 14:3; Hebrews 9:28

“For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.” **Philippians 3:20-21**

3. We must be ready and patiently watching – 1 Thessalonians 5:2-11;

Hebrews 9: 28; 2 Peter 3:1-10

“Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. 43 But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. 44 Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.” **Matthew 24:42-44**

4. To judge – Matthew 16:27; John 5:22; 2 Thessalonians 1:3-10; Hebrews 9:27; 1 Peter 1:17-19; 2 Peter 3:10-11; Revelation 20:11-14

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.” **2 Corinthians 5:10**

5. To rule as Lord of all

“Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” **Philippians 2:9-11**

“And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. 5 But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.” **Revelation 20:4-6**

6. To make all things new - Revelation 21:1-5

For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former shall not be remembered or come to mind. **Isaiah 65:17**

“Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.” **2 Peter 3:13**

From Beginning To The End

I find my Lord in the Bible
Wherever I chance to look,
He is the theme of the Bible
The center and heart of the Book;
He is the Rose of Sharon,
He is the Lily fair,
Whenever I open my Bible
I find my Lord is there.

He's at the Book's beginning,
Gave to the earth its form,
He is the Ark of shelter
The bulwark from the storm,
The Burning Bush of the desert,
The budding of Aaron's Rod,
Wherever I look in the Bible
I see the Son of God.

The Ram upon Mt. Moriah,
The Ladder from earth to sky,
The Scarlet Cord in the window,
And the Serpent lifted high,
The Smitten Rock in the desert,
The Shepherd with staff and crook,
The face of my Lord I discover
Wherever I open the Book.

He is the Seed of Woman,
The Savior Virgin-born;
He is the Son of David,
Whom men rejected with scorn,
His garments of grace and beauty
The stately Aaron deck,

Yet he is a priest forever,
For He is Melchizedek.

Lord of eternal glory
Whom John, the Apostle saw;
Light of the golden city,
Lamb without spot or flaw,
Bridegroom at the midnight,
For whom the virgins look.
Wherever I open my Bible,
My Lord is in the Book.

Jesus, First to Last

On the first day God revealed His Son.
On the fourth day then He sent Him.
The seventh day He'll rule the earth,
No one will offend Him.

How great the Father's love for us,
He shows us everything,
And when we rule with Jesus Christ,
The nations all will sing.

A thousand years of peace and bliss,
Will come upon the earth.
And when the last days finally end,
The righteous will be first.

There's just one way into heaven
It's through His only Son!
The Way has been prepared for men
By God the Sovereign One!