

Is Jesus Christ REALLY the Son of God?

In the New Testament there are a total of twenty-seven books. In each of these, either directly or indirectly, Jesus Christ is mentioned. Those who read the Bible recognize that without doubt Jesus is the central figure of the Bible's message. Whatever we might think about Jesus, we must admit that approximately 2000 years ago He lived on the earth for more than thirty years. This is an undeniable historical fact. But just who is Jesus? People answer that question in various ways.

Some think of Jesus as simply a good man. Others say that He was nothing more than a deceiver. Still other people consider Jesus as a prophet, but not the Son of God. And, as you surely know, many believe that Jesus really is God's Son.

So what is the truth about Jesus? That is a very important question! If it is true that Jesus was merely a man as you and I are, then He surely was a deceiver and in no way would He be worthy of our faith and service. On the other hand, if Jesus truly is the Son of God, then every person ought to believe in and follow Him. Is Jesus Christ really the Son of God? Let's see how the Bible answers that question.

GOD THE FATHER CONFESSED JESUS AS HIS SON

The Bible records that God the Father directly confessed Jesus as His Son two times, saying, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17; 17:5). Yes, when Jesus lived on the earth among men, the God of heaven confessed Him. It is also written that it is "impossible for God to lie" (Hebrews 6:18). God always tells the truth. Thus, we can be certain that when God the Father confessed Jesus as His Son, He spoke the truth! How do we know that Jesus is God's Son? God Himself said so, and this is recorded in the Bible.

JESUS WAS BORN OF A VIRGIN

About seven hundred years before the birth of Jesus, Isaiah, a prophet of God, spoke this prophecy: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14). When in history was this prophecy fulfilled? The answer to that question is found in the first chapter of the New Testament, where we read, "Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise ... Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us ... and he called his name Jesus" (Matthew 1:18-25). The record plainly shows that when Mary gave birth to Jesus, she was still a virgin, and in this was fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah that he made some seven hundred years prior to Jesus' birth!

In the history of mankind the conception and subsequent birth of Jesus are unique events that have never been, and never will be, repeated! This was the first and last case of its kind. Seeing that Mary's conception was from the Lord and she bore Jesus when she was still a virgin, there is no way that Jesus is not the Son of God.

JESUS LIVED A SINLESS LIFE

Jesus lived on the earth and never sinned one time! What is sin? The Bible gives us the following definition: "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law ... All unrighteousness is sin ..." (1 John 3:4; 5:17). When Jesus lived on the earth He lived under the law of Moses (the law of the Old Testament). Did He ever transgress that law? Never!

What is specifically stated in the Bible about the sinlessness of Christ? "Who (Christ) did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth" (1 Peter 2:22). Perhaps some might think that Jesus did not sin

because the devil never tempted Him. Please notice what we read about Christ: "... Jesus the Son of God ... was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin" (Hebrews 4:14,15).

What is the difference between God and men? One of the most obvious answers has to be that while men sin, God is sinless. "... the Lord ... there is no unrighteousness in him" (Psalm 92:15). What about Jesus? He lived on the earth more than thirty years without sin. What is the significance of this? If Jesus lived such a sinless life, and only God is without sin, then the only logical conclusion that we can make is that Jesus truly is the Son of God, just as He claimed to be!

JESUS PERFORMED REAL MIRACLES

In the Bible "a miracle" is an event or action that is *supernatural* in nature. Without question Jesus did many miracles. But why did He perform such feats? He Himself said, "But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me" (John 5:36). It is further written, "And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name" (John 20:30,31). In view of these clear statements, we can say that Jesus did miracles in order to prove that He was the One Whom He claimed to be – the Son of God.

Just what kind of miracles did Jesus perform? He healed many who were physically sick or had bodily disorders, including the blind, deaf, dumb, and others. At least two times Jesus fed great multitudes. Once He fed 5000 men with five loaves and two fishes (Matthew 14). On a second occasion He fed 4000 men with seven loaves and a few small fish (Matthew 15). Besides this, He raised people from the dead. The Bible records three examples of this.

In addition Christ had control over nature. For example, once when Jesus was with His apostles in a boat on the sea, there came up a great storm. And how did Jesus calm both the storm and sea? With His words. Simply by saying, "Peace, be still," Jesus instantly brought the storm to an end, "And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm" (Mark 4:35-41). On another occasion Christ walked on the sea, again showing that He had the power to control nature by His will (Matthew 14:25-33).

Of course the disciples of Jesus admitted that He performed miracles. But it is important to note that those who hated Him and would be counted as His enemies also admitted that Christ did genuine miracles. After Jesus raised from the dead a man by the name of Lazarus, the Jewish leaders were alarmed and confessed: "What do we? For this man doeth many miracles. If we let him thus alone, all men will believe on him ..." (John 11:47,48). Although those Jewish leaders did not personally believe in Jesus, they could not help but admit that He did true miracles!

Time and again Jesus claimed that He came down from heaven, that "the Father" sent Him, and that He is God's Son. The miracles that Christ performed showed that what He claimed about Himself was true. Without doubt, the wonderful miracles of Jesus prove that He truly must be the Son of God.

JESUS ROSE FROM THE DEAD

The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is neither a theory nor fable. Rather, it is a historical fact! Jesus was crucified, then He was buried, but He rose from the dead on the third day, as it is written: "... Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day ..." (1 Corinthians 15:3,4).

In what way is Jesus' resurrection from the dead connected with the question of whether or not He is the Son of God? In the Bible we read these words about Him: "And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead" (Romans 1:4). Clearly, the resurrection of Jesus from the dead again shows that He really is God's Son!

Jesus' resurrection from the dead is proven by His appearances to His disciples after He arose. After Jesus rose from the dead He remained on the earth for 40 days, during which time He often

appeared to His disciples (Acts 1:3). Who saw Jesus during this period? A great number of His followers, including 500 of them who saw Him on one occasion (1 Corinthians 15:5-8).

Christ died, then rose from the dead on the first day of the week (Sunday, Mark 16:9), never to die again! "Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him" (Romans 6:9). Only Jesus Christ has already risen from the dead, never to die again! Our Lord is alive today! He is sitting at the right hand of God the Father, and this was made possible only by His resurrection.

Is Jesus Christ really the Son of God? According to the Bible He certainly is. All the proofs that we have mentioned in this small tract clearly demonstrate that Jesus was more than just a man. He was and is God's Son! That, friends, means that Christ is eternal God, just as the Father confessed Him to be (Hebrews 1:8-12).

In view of all that we have seen from the Bible, Jesus Christ is truly worthy of our faith and service. How does one become a true follower of Jesus, and how can one serve Him faithfully? If you are interested in such important questions, then we encourage you to contact us about a free Bible correspondence course or other Bible literature.

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