

LESSON SEVEN

THE DEITY OF JESUS CHRIST

A. JESUS WAS CALLED GOD:

Scriptural References:

"The Word was God" (John 1:1).

"My Lord and my God" (John 20:28).

"God blessed for ever" (Romans 9:5).

"The great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:13).

"But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever" (Hebrews 1:8).

"This is the true God, and eternal life" (I John 5:20).

"To the only wise God our Saviour" (Jude 25).

If Jesus be not God, there would not be such a tremendous witness of Scripture to this glorious truth. Who can doubt His Deity when so many Scriptures call Him, "GOD?"

In John 20:28, "My Lord and my God," where Thomas makes his confession of faith, absolute Deity is ascribed to Jesus Christ. This is not an expression of amazement but a confession of faith. Jesus accepts this confession and worship from Thomas.

The above verses of Scripture reveal to us the mystery that was hid from ages, but now is revealed to us: God in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself and Christ in you the hope of glory. (Colossians 1:27).

B. JESUS WAS CALLED THE SON OF GOD:

Scriptural References:

"Jesus, thou Son of God?" (Matthew 8:29).

"Of a truth thou art the Son of God" (Matthew 14:33).

"Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16).

"And they all said, You are the Son of God, then? And He said unto them, It is just as you say; I am" (Luke 22:70, Amplified New Testament).

In Matthew 16:16 we have Peter's confession. It was upon this revelation, this truth of His Deity, that Jesus said he would build His church.

C. JESUS WAS CALLED THE FIRST AND THE LAST:

Scriptural References:

"I the Lord, the first, and with the last; I am he" (Isaiah 41:4).

"I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God" (Isaiah 44:6).

"I am the first, I also am the last" (Isaiah 48:12).

"I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty" (Revelation 1:8).

"I am the first and the last" (Revelation 1:17).

"I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last" (Revelation 22:13).

The title "First and the Last" was given to Jehovah in the Old Testament and to Jesus Christ in the New Testament. The Trinitarian doctrine states that Jesus is the second person of the Godhead. The Bible clearly refutes this by saying that Jesus is both the first and the last showing that He is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

D. JESUS IS THE "I AM:"

Scriptural Reference:

"Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am" (John 8:58).

This verse of Scripture simply means: Abraham was dependent upon Jesus, not Jesus upon him for existence. Abraham came into being at a certain point of time but Jesus is the eternally present One: the self-existent One dwelling in the eternal present. The title "I AM" is positive indisputable proof that Jehovah in the Old Testament is Jesus Christ in the New Testament.

This is the title that Jehovah gave when He spoke to Moses from the burning bush. This title, "I AM" proves that the same One who called Moses is the One who is our Saviour. There cannot be two "I AM's."

A study of this title as applied to Jesus Christ is very profitable:

John 4:26	- The Messiah	John 6:35	- Bread of Life
John 8:58	- The Eternal One	John 9:5	- The Light of the world
John 10:7	- The Door	John 11:25	- The resurrection and life
John 14:6	- The Way, Truth and Life, etc.		

E. THE PRE-EXISTENCE OF JESUS CHRIST:

Scriptural Reference:

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1).

"...Having neither beginning of days, nor end of life" (Hebrews 7:3).

We must note well that it was His Deity, not His humanity that pre-existed. Before the Holy Ghost overshadowed Mary, the Son existed only in the mind and plan of God. There is absolutely no Scriptural foundation for the Eternal Sonship theory.

It is not necessary to enlarge on this truth here, for it is dealt with elsewhere in this Bible Study.

F. JESUS CHRIST POSSESSED ALL THE DIVINE ATTRIBUTES:

Jesus Christ possessed the divine attributes of Omnipotence, Omniscience, and Omnipresence. Are there two omnipotent beings? Are there two persons in the Godhead who are omniscient and omnipresent? We know that this is impossible. Jesus Christ cannot possess these three attributes of Deity unless He is Deity.

1. OMNIPOTENCE:

Scriptural Reference:

"All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth" (Matthew 28:18).

In the ministry of Jesus He demonstrated over and over that He had ALL POWER. In the following Scriptures He proved that He had:

- Luke 4:38-41 - Power over disease.
- John 11 - Power over nature.
- John 2 - Power over death.
- Matthew 8:23-27 - Power over tempest.
- Luke 4:35,36,41 - Power over demons.
- Hebrews 2:8 - Power over all things.

2. OMNISCIENCE:

Scriptural References:

"He knows all men...for He knew what was in man" (John 2:24-25).

"Now are we sure that thou knowest all things" (John 16:30).

"In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Colossians 2:3).

3. OMNIPRESENCE:

Scriptural Reference:

"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:20).

Not only did Jesus possess the above named attributes of Deity but also Scripture can readily prove that Jesus possessed all divine attributes. Who can doubt the Deity of Jesus when faced with this fact?

G. JESUS CHRIST POSSESSED ALL THE DIVINE PREROGATIVES:

There are three divine prerogatives possessed by Jesus Christ that shall be mentioned here:

1. The right to be worshipped;
2. The right to forgive sins;
3. The right and the power to create.

If Jesus Christ possesses these three prerogatives, then He is God. There is actually no need to continue our study further. This fact is conclusive proof of the Oneness of the Godhead in spite of all the arguments of skeptics and unbelievers to the contrary. Does Jesus Christ possess these prerogatives? The following notes will show that He does.

1. JESUS CHRIST ACCEPTED WORSHIP AND ENCOURAGED IT:

Scriptural References:

"Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him" (Matthew 14:33).

"Then came she and worshipped him" (Matthew 15:25).

"And they worshipped him" (Luke 24:52).

There is not the slightest reluctance on the part of Christ to accept worship, therefore either Christ is God or He is an imposter. It was He who said, "Worship God only," and He had no right to take the place of God if He were not God. Even the angels are commanded to worship Him. (Hebrews 1:6; Philippians 2:10).

2. JESUS CHRIST FORGAVE SIN:

Scriptural References:

"How then can I...sin against God?" (Genesis 39:9).

"Against thee, thee only, have I sinned..." (Psalm 51:4).

"Son, thy sins be forgiven thee" (Luke 7:48).

All sin is against God and therefore only God can forgive sin. It was for this reason that the Pharisees charged Jesus with blasphemy. If Jesus Christ can forgive sin then it is evident that He must be God.

3. JESUS CHRIST IS THE CREATOR:

Jesus showed He is the Great Creator by:

- (a). Turning water into wine. (John 2:1-11).
- (b). Feeding the five thousand. (John 6:1-13).
- (c). Walking on the water. (John 6:19).
- (d). Quieting the storm. (Mark 4:39).

Are there two Creators? There is only ONE - Jesus Christ. "All things were made by Him." (John 1:3).

COURSE: BIBLE DOCTRINE I

LESSON SEVEN

SELF HELP TEST

- A. State FIVE Scriptures with references where Jesus is called God.
- B. Give THREE Scriptures to show Jesus possessed the divine attributes.
- C. Give THREE examples from Scripture to show Jesus possessed the divine prerogatives.

If you wish to obtain your AIS Bible and Theology Certificate or work toward your B.A. Degree from Indiana Bible College, complete this Self-Help Test as completely as possible and return it to: AIS, P.O. Box 47917 Indianapolis, IN 46247 or email it to: ais@apostolic.edu or fax it to: (317) 781-7700.