

Solid Rock Christian Church Manassas, Virginia

Bible Study - February 1, 2024

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Title: Christology - The Doctrine of Christ - Part III

"The Significance of Christ's Supernatural Life"

I. Introduction

A. This lesson will introduction you to the significance and supernatural life of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is unique in every aspect of His life, and we will explore in-depth His virgin birth, His two natures, and His humiliation.

B. My prayer is that you will be uplifted, encouraged, and strengthened in your walk with the Lord, and become an even more effective witness for Him.

II. The Significance of the Virgin Birth

A. The virgin birth of Jesus Christ is the great divide between the Bible believer and the skeptic. Since the skeptic cannot deny that a man named Jesus Christ lived, he or she must attempt to deny any concept that this Jesus was God.

B. The skeptic's rejection of supernaturalism leads them to deny the virgin birth of Jesus Christ. But the Bible believer understands that the Bible teaches such a doctrine and that it is significant to our understanding of salvation itself.

1. The virgin birth of Jesus Christ proves the reliability of Scripture.

"And Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ." (Matt. 1:16)

- a. Normally a genealogy such as the one found in Matthew Chapter 1 will mention only the names of the fathers. But the above verse makes an important exception.
- b. The phrase "**of whom**" is in the feminine gender, which shows that Christ was physically related only to Mary.

Comment: Even the smallest of details is accurately recorded in God's infallible Word!

2. The virgin birth of Jesus Christ is the **fulfillment of a wonderful prophecy.**

"Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." (Isa. 7:14)

3. The virgin birth of Jesus Christ is a **beautiful expression of the supernatural.**

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." (Isa. 9:6)

Comment: Everything about Jesus Christ was and is **wonderful!**

4. The virgin birth of Jesus Christ was the means by which He acquired a human nature without affecting His sinless deity.

"And the Word was made flesh." (John 1:14)

"And the angel answered and said unto her [Mary], The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God." (Luke 1:35)

5. The virgin birth of Jesus Christ allowed Him to avoid the curse of Jeconiah.

a. In Jeremiah 22:24-39 we have an interesting account of a man by the name of Jeconiah or Coniah. (1 Chronicles 3:16-19) shows that "Coniah" was simply a contracted form of "Jeconiah."

b. Jeconiah is important because he is found in Matthew's genealogy of Jesus Christ.

"And Josias begat Jechonias and his brethren, about the time they were carried away to Babylon: And after they were brought to Babylon, Jechonias begat Salathiel; and Salathiel begat Zorobabel; ... And Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ." (Matt. 1:11-16)

c. But Jeremiah 22:24-30 indicates that Jeconiah (Coniah) was so wicked that God finally placed a curse upon him.

“Thus saith the Lord, Write ye this man childless, a man that shall not prosper in his days: for no man of his seed shall prosper, sitting upon the throne of David, and ruling any more in Judah.” (Jer. 22:30)

Comments:

- 1) Normally this would not seem to be a problem except for the fact that Matthew Chapter 1 reveals Jesus Christ through the line of Jeconiah and Jesus will sit upon the throne of His father David.
- 2) Evidently before this curse, Jeconiah had some children. One is mentioned in Matthew 1:12 by the name of Salathiel. But the stress of the curse is that none of his seed could ever sit upon David's throne.
- 3) In order to inherit the throne, Jesus Christ had to be **legally** related to Jeconiah, but because of the curse, He could not be **physically** (“his seed”) related to Jeconiah.

Notes:

- 1) The book of Matthew gives Jesus' legal line through Joseph.
- 2) The book of Luke gives Jesus' physical line through Mary.

Insight: Here is how the virgin birth of Jesus Christ solved the dilemma.

- 1) Jesus was physically related only to Mary, who was a descendant of David's son Nathan (Luke 3:31). However, Jesus was legally related to Joseph, who was a descendant of David's son Solomon (Matt. 1:6).
- 2) By being legally married before Christ was born, Joseph and Mary were used by God to avert the curse of Jeconiah while at

the same time establishing the Christ-child in the royal line of David.

III. The Significance of Christ's Two Natures

- A. The incarnation is essential to the Scriptural doctrine of the Atonement.
- B. Christ had to be perfectly human.
 - 1. Man sinned; therefore, the penalty had to be borne by a man.
 - 2. Christ had to be a sinless Man in order to atone for sin.
 - a. The first man Adam, had the ability to be sinless, but he he failed.
 - b. The "last Adam" (1 Cor. 15:45), Jesus Christ, was able to be sinless, and He succeeded! //Thank You Lord!!!//
 - c. For over thirty-three years Jesus Christ lived a perfect life on earth, succeeding where Adam had failed. He thereby was able to die for the sin of mankind and to restore the position of man lost in Adam's fall.

"Seeing then that we have a great high priest, ... Jesus the Son of God ... [who] was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." [Heb. 4:14-15]

- C. Only a truly **human** mediator (**Jesus Christ**) could enter empathetically into our trials and be a perfect example to follow. **He is the perfect example for us:**

- 1. of **love** (Matt. 5:39; John 15:12-13; 1 Cor. 13:1-8)

2. of **patience** (Heb. 12:12)
3. of **humility** (John 13:3-5; Phil. 2:5-8)
4. of **soulwinning** (John 4)
5. of **triumph** over temptation (Matt. 4)

Point: Jesus was victorious over temptations without using His divine power. He merely quoted Scripture to the Devil, a defense that all of us must use.

D. Christ had to be **God**.

1. His sacrifice had to be of infinite value. He could die for the world (1 John 2:2) by dying for Adam (Rom. 5:12).
2. He bore the wrath of God redemptively so as to free mankind.
3. He was able to apply His work on the cross to needy humanity.

E. The acceptance of the deity of Christ is necessary to salvation.

1. There are those today who would have us believe that we can accept a totally human Christ as our example in life. But He cannot truly be our example until He is first our Savior. And He cannot be our Savior until we accept His deity. In John 8:24 Christ says these words:

"I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins."

2. By him saying, "I am," Jesus was clearly indicating His deity. This is seen in John 8:58-59a:
"Jesus said unto them, **Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.** Then took they up stones to cast at him."
3. Those Jews knew exactly what Jesus was claiming when he said, "**I am.**" They had read Exodus 3:14.

IV. The Humiliation of Jesus Christ

Comments:

- 1) The **humiliation** of Jesus Christ is defined as those self-humbling desires that caused Him to leave the glories of heaven, live on this sin-cursed earth and die on an old rugged cross.
- 2) His **humiliation** begins with His incarnation and ends with His Burial.
- 3) His **exaltation** begins with His resurrection and continues throughout all eternity.

A. The Humiliation of Christ Began with His Incarnation.

1. Christ made Himself of no reputation and took upon Himself the form of a servant.

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the

likeness of man: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death on the cross." (Phil. 2:5-8)

Note: In this great passage of Scripture, we find the phrase "**made himself of no reputation.**" It is more clearly translated "**emptied Himself.**" From the word "emptied" is the Greek word "**Kenosis**", and in theology, the passage above is known as the **Kenosis passage**.

- a. Jesus Limited Himself and yet never ceased to be God; He endured life as a human being in order to understand our trials. He knows and understands what we go through. (Heb. 4:15)

2. Christ dwelt in the midst of sinful men.

Points:

- 1) The blessing of the incarnation is "**God with us**" (Matt. 1:23).
- 2) The blessing of heaven will also be "**God with us**" (Rev. 21:3)
3. Christ was born in humble Bethlehem (Mic. 5:2)
 - a. Bethlehem is called "little among the thousands of Judah," and yet, to this insignificant place, Christ was born.
4. Christ was born in a humble stable. (Luke 2:16)
 - a. We cannot imagine the humiliation of that night that Mary, Joseph, and the newborn Christ-child spent there.
 - b. The stench was surely unbearable. It must have been nauseating to Mary and Joseph. Perhaps Joseph tried to clean up one corner of the cave to make it at least

livable for a few days.

- c. During the day, the animals would graze on the nearby hillsides, but at night they all crowded back into that same dark cave. What condescension Christ suffered for us!

“For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.” (2 Cor. 8:9)

It is once again interactive time. Please complete the biblical passages by filling in the blank spaces; circle the correct letter response where appropriate, and supply a written response where required. A **thorough review of the printed lesson material** should make responding to these summary questions rather easy. Each Biblical passage has been taken from the King James Version (KJV) of the Holy Bible.

1. The _____ birth of Jesus Christ was the means by which He acquired a _____ without _____. His _____ deity. [Review **Page 2** of this lesson.]

2. “Wherefore when he [Jesus Christ] cometh into the _____, he saith, _____ and _____ [for sin] thou _____ not, but a _____ hast thou _____ me.”
[Hebrews 10:5]

3. The _____ birth of Jesus Christ _____ Him to _____ the curse of _____. [Review **Page 3**]

4. Jeremiah 22:24-30 indicates that Jeconiah was so wicked that God finally placed what upon him?
 - A. time in prison
 - B. a curse
 - C. nothing at all
 - D. an opportunity to repent

5. The book of Matthew gives Jesus' _____ through Joseph. [Matthew 1:1-17]

6. The book of Luke gives Jesus' _____ through Mary. [Luke 3:23-38]

7. Christ had to be a sinless Man in order to do what?
 - A. Teach the truth
 - B. Atoned for sin
 - C. Call disciples unto Himself
 - D. None of the above

8. Define the humiliation of Christ as pointed out in this lesson.

9. Christ's humiliation began with His _____ and ended with His _____.

10. Christs' _____ began with His _____ and continues throughout all _____.

I sincerely hope that this lesson has been a blessing to you. Please feel free to share what you have learned with others and may the Lord continue to bless and keep you in His loving care.

Earnestly contending for the faith which was once [for all] delivered to the saints.

Pastor Austin