

Messianic Studies 2

Messiah Jesus:
Prince of Peace

Messiah Jesus: His
Seven Sonship Titles

Messiah Jesus: His
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Messiah Jesus:
General Names and
Titles

Messiah Jesus: Who
Do You Say That I
Am? (Bonus study)



**FOR THE BIBLE STUDENTS OF WEST SIDE
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Before you begin.....

If you do not know for sure about where you will spend eternity, the first issue for you is to place your faith alone in Christ alone and receive eternal life.

John 6:47 (NKJV) Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life.

John 5:24 (NKJV) "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

John 3:36 (NKJV) He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NASB) ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; ⁹not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

To believe is simply this: to be convinced that it is true. To believe in Jesus is to be convinced that it is true that He alone is the only one who can give you the gift of eternal life. Eternal life, first and foremost, means that one lives with God forever after this life is ended. Jesus Christ, who is God come in human flesh, died on the cross as our spiritual substitute bearing the penalty for our sin. When a person knows they cannot qualify for eternal life through the good works of self-effort or the rituals of any church or religion, and when a person knows that eternal life comes from believing in Jesus alone for that life, at that moment they receive the gift of unconditional eternal life absolutely free. This life can never be lost for any reason.

If you have received the gift of unconditional eternal life through faith alone in Christ alone for eternal life, then before you begin any Bible study you must be sure you in fellowship with God and filled with the Holy Spirit. The method for this is to simply follow 1 John 1:9:

1 John 1:9 (NASB) If we confess our [known] sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our [known] sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness [any other sins we fail to recognize as sin or have forgotten about].

Failure to be open and honest in naming and citing our sins means we cannot be transformed by Bible Doctrine and advance in the faith to spiritual maturity.

John 4:24 (NASB) "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

Romans 12:1-2 (NASB) ¹Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship. ²And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Enjoy your time in God's Word!



Messiah Jesus: Prince of Peace

The Three aspects of Messiah Jesus as the Prince of Peace:

Two Individual, One Societal

Messiah Jesus: Prince of Peace

Isaiah 9:6-7 (written 700-800 years before Christ) – there are four Messianic titles of Jesus in v. 6

1. **Wonderful Counselor:** The Word of God, the Bible, is how Jesus is our Counselor. (Isaiah 11:2, 28:29; Hebrews 4:12-16; see Psalm 119:105, 2 Corinthians 10:3-5; Colossians 2:3). “In ancient Israel, a counselor was portrayed as a wise king, such as Solomon, giving guidance to his people (1 Kings 4:34; Micah 4:9).” (www.gotquestions.org/wonderful-Counselor)
2. **Mighty God:** Jesus is the eternal Son of God. As the Son of God He is the second member of the tri-unity of God and thus Jesus is God. (John 1:1-2)
3. **Eternal Father:** literally in the Greek it means “Father of the Everlasting Ages.” Jesus is the Word of God who spoke all of creation into existence including the divine plan for history (John 1:3).
4. **Prince of Peace:** there are three ways to understand Jesus as the Prince of Peace. The first two are individual; the last is world societal peace.

A. We can have Peace WITH God

B. As born-again believers we can experience the Peace OF God

C. There will be a world-wide Peace BY God

Luke 2:8-14 – the announcement of the birth of Jesus by the angels. All three aspects of the peace by Jesus as the Prince of Peace are wrapped up in this simple yet profound statement.

Word Study: "Peace."

Hebrew 7965 שָׁלוֹם *shalom*:

The general meaning behind the root sh-l-m is of completion and fulfillment—of entering into a state of wholeness and unity, a restored relationship.... shālôm. Peace, prosperity, well, health, completeness, safety. Asv and RSV similar. shālôm, and its related words shālēm, shelem and their derivatives, are among the most important theological words in the OT. shālôm occurs over 250 times in 213 separate verses (so Durham, p. 275. BDB lists 237 uses). The KJV translates 172 of these as "peace." The remainder are translated about 30 different ways many only a single time each. (Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament)

Greek 1515, εἰρήνη, *eirēnē*

(from *eirō*, "to join, tie together into a whole") – properly, *wholeness*, with all essential parts joined together; *peace* (God's gift of *wholeness*) (BD).

Particularly in a civil sense, the opposite of war and dissension (Luke 14:32; Acts 12:20; Rev. 6:4). Among individuals, peace, harmony (Matt. 10:34; Luke 12:51; Acts 7:26; Rom. 14:19). In Heb. 7:2, "King of peace," means a peaceful king. Metaphorically peace of mind, tranquility, arising from reconciliation with God and a sense of a divine favor (Rom. 5:1; 15:13; Phil. 4:7 [cf. Isa. 53:5]). (The Complete Word Study Dictionary – New Testament)

"Peace": it speaks of fulfillment, completion, a state of being whole rather than a life falling apart; it is prosperity and wholeness. It can mean an absence of strife with others as well as experiencing harmony with others. Only God Himself through His Word can bring this shalom, both individual aspects, into personal reality. Only God Himself can bring the societal peace to the world.

1. Romans 5:1 – Peace WITH God

A fact of phase one salvation: legal justification (declared right with God) and the free gift of eternal life. This is also the doctrine of reconciliation.

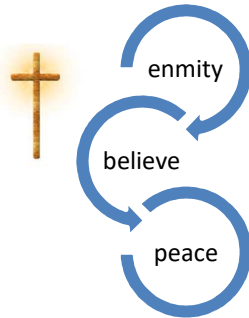
The first thing to note is that Jesus is our peace (He is the Prince of Peace!):

Ephesians 2:14 For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall

The wall is the barrier that separates all people from a holy and righteous God. A barrier we cannot cross by our own efforts, religious activities, or any other human attempt to be accepted by God.

Before we believe in Jesus for eternal life we are the enemies of God – **Romans 5:10; Colossian 1:20-21**. The barrier between God and man is called "enmity" (Greek 2189, ἐχθρα *evcra*, echthra), **Eph.2:15,16**. The removal of the barrier is known Biblically as "reconciliation", **2 Corinthians 5:18; Ephesians 2:16; Colossians 1:20 - 21**

Because of the work of Jesus on the cross of Calvary – by His penal substitutionary death and then His resurrection - believers are no longer enemies: we have peace with God the Father by the means of grace. We are reconciled to God: **2 Corinthians 5:18-20**. The completed work of Christ is the source of peace with God. That peace happens the moment we believe in Jesus alone for unconditional eternal life. We are at peace with God the Father and He is at peace with us! (See Acts 10:36.) Jesus Christ is our eternal Peace and thus our eternal security!



2. Philippians 4:4-9 – Peace OF God

An opportunity in phase two salvation: discipleship leading to a satisfying and peaceful experience of as a quality of eternal life in time. For the Church Age believer it speaks of advanced spiritual maturity that will bring glory to Jesus the Messiah. This peace is ultimately a sharing of the peace OF God.

The believer can experience the Peace OF God. The peace OF God is mental and emotional rest (being stable in our thinking and emotions) in spite of any problems or trials we may be going through. We believe the promises of God, we think about the character of God, we meditate on His Word, and then we pray to Him with thanksgiving. This is called having faith-rest: we believe (faith) the truth about Him and His Word and then trust, or rest, in those truths. We are able to experience a relaxed mental attitude and thus conquer worry, anxiety, distress, and fear.

Prayer is the key to this peace of God protecting our hearts (Greek 2588, καρδία *kardia*, the center of who we are including our emotions, the real person) and minds (Greek 3540, νόημα *noema*, to perceive, thinking, understanding – see **v.8**). The peace of God can be like a mighty defensive fort built around us so we can rest in Him which is the meaning of guarding (keeping) (Greek 5432, φρουρέω, *phourōō*, a sentinel, a guard) our hearts and minds. We not only have to pray with thanksgiving, but we have to learn the Word and obey it for peace to be with us (**v.9**). To do these things we have to have full trust in Him and his Word!

John 14:27, 16:33

Jesus offers the believer the same kind of mental and emotional peace He experienced while here in time and He wants to give that to us (see also **2 Thessalonians 3:16**)! Prayer alone, without our knowing and believing His Word, is never effective. With the Bible God speaks to us. In prayer we speak to God. If we have not let God speak to us through His Word then our prayers will be wrong and selfish.

The peace Jesus offers is not like that of the world in which we live. His peace does not mean our circumstances get easier; it does mean He is always with us and because of that we can have peace and courage in all our trials. (In **Galatians 5:22** this peace is part of the fruit of the Spirit – the imparting of the very peace of Messiah Jesus the very peace of God. Think about that for a moment!)

Romans 8:6 For the mind set on the flesh (following the old sin nature) is death, but the mind set on the Spirit [maintaining fellowship and focused on Bible Doctrine] is life and peace.

Colossians 3:15-16 And let [your choice!] the peace of God rule [Greek 1018, βραβεύω brabeuô, to act as an umpire, to govern: to let the Word of God govern our lives and act as an umpire between our emotions and our thinking!] in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Isaiah 26:3 "The steadfast of mind You will keep in perfect peace, Because he trusts in You.

3. Peace BY God

In the future Kingdom on the current earth, when Jesus comes again, there will be world peace under His governing control.

Isaiah 9:6-7

The Lord Jesus Christ is returning one day to rule planet earth (Matthew 24:27-31; Revelation 19:11-21). He will be the head of the world government: **v.6**, "the government will rest on His shoulders." **V.7** "there will be no end to the increase of His government and of peace"; "On the throne of David and over His kingdom." All these speak of His coming rule as the King of kings and Lord of lords (Revelation 19:16).

This peace will radiate outward from the new Temple which Messiah Jesus will inhabit in Jerusalem:

Haggai 2:9 (NKJV) The glory of this latter temple shall be greater than the former,' says the LORD of hosts. 'And in this place I will give peace,' says the LORD of hosts."

Zechariah 6:12-13 (NASB) "Then say to him, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, "Behold, a man whose name is Branch, for He will branch out from where He is; and He will build the temple of the LORD. "Yes, it is He who will build the temple of the LORD, and He who will bear the honor and sit and rule on His throne. Thus, He will be a priest on His throne, and the counsel of peace will be between the two offices.'" [The two offices in the Kingdom for the Messiah will be both King and priest. From these will come His peace.]

- There will be peace between nations: **Isaiah 2:4**
- There will be peace within every nation: **Isaiah 60:18**. Though this speaks of the nation Israel, this will be true world-wide: **Zechariah 9:10** says, "He will speak peace to the nations."

- There will be peace with all nature: **Isaiah 11:6-9, 65:25**

Ezekiel 34:25 "I will make a covenant of peace with them and eliminate harmful beasts from the land so that they may live securely in the wilderness and sleep in the woods.

The Millennium (the Messiah's reign on the earth for 1,000 years) will be a true utopia far greater than anything people have desired throughout the ages of human history. Only under Messiah Jesus will it become a reality!

Peace forever in the eternal Kingdom

Isaiah 9:7 – His kingdom and His peace will never end!

Revelation 21:1-4 – He is going to create the new heavens and the new earth where there will be no sin and there will forever be peace.

What should be our response to these truths?

Romans 12:18, 14:19 (2 Corinthians 13:11; Ephesians 4:3)

Matthew 5:9 (NASB) "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Peacemakers: those believers (1) who through evangelism tell of phase one peace to unbelievers; (2) who demonstrate the inner peace offered in phase two salvation; and (3) who practice peaceful interpersonal relationships with others, especially other believers. These will be recognized throughout eternity as those who are the mature sons of God. That is a special reward position. Let us be people of peace!

Concluding blessing on believers who are positive toward Bible Doctrine

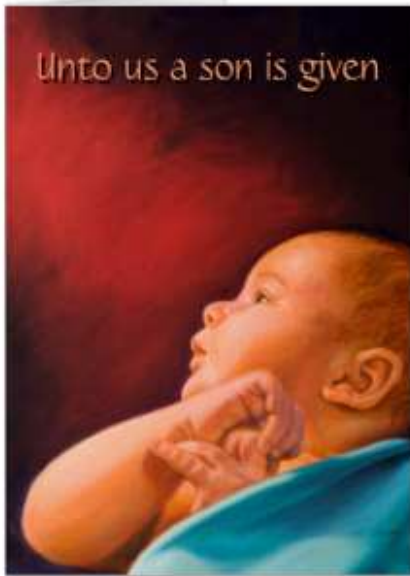
Jude 1:2 Mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.

Numbers 6:22-26 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to Aaron and to his sons, saying, 'Thus you shall bless the sons of Israel. You shall say to them: The LORD bless you, and keep you; The LORD make His face shine on you, And be gracious to you; The LORD lift up His countenance on you, And give you peace.'

Philippians 4:9 (NASB) The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

Romans 15:33 Now the God of peace *be* with you all. Amen.

Messiah Jesus: His Seven Sonship Titles



A few references to note

Isaiah 7:14; 9:6 "a son is given"

Psalm 2:7

Mark 8:29-31

Luke 1:35

Matthew 1:21 - 23; 3:17; 10:27; 11:27; 16:16

John 3:14, 16 – 17; 6:27; 8:28; 20:30-31

1John 4:9

Hebrews 1:1-5

The Seven Sonship Titles:

1. Son of Adam υἱός Ἀδάμ *huios Adam*
2. Son of Abraham υἱός Ἀβραάμ *huios Abraam*
3. Son of David υἱός Δαυίδ *huios David*
4. Son of Man υἱός ἄνθρωπος *huios anthrōpos* (Heb. בֶּרֶךְ אֱנוֹשׁ *bar enash*)
5. Son of Mary υἱός Μαρία or Μαριάμ *huios Maria*
6. Son of Joseph υἱός Ἰωσήφ *huios Ioseph*
7. Son of God υἱός Θεός *huios theos*

Son: Greek 5207, **υἱός** *huios*: a son (by birth or adoption); in the restricted sense, a male (one begotten by a father and born of a mother): **Matthew 10:37**; **Luke 1:13**. A son is one who has the legal right the father's inheritance. Son can also refer to someone sharing the same nature (essence) as their father both in the literal and figurative sense. As a Hebrew idiom, someone sharing characteristics of something or someone (e.g. **Acts 4:36** "And Joseph, a Levite of Cyprian birth, who was also called Barnabas by the apostles (which translated means, Son of Encouragement)." **Mark 3:17**, James and John are called "Sons of thunder."). Importantly, the word "son" is used to emphasize a close and intimate relationship with someone else just like it is used in the common language of many people around the world today. In the New Testament "son" equally refers to female believers (**Galatians 3:28**). It is used 382 times in the New Testament. In the Gospel of John *huios* is used only of Jesus.

The word "son" can mean:

1. A genealogical (biological) relationship

2. A legal relationship (as in adoption or subjects/inhabitants in a kingdom: **Matthew 8:12**). (Israel as a group is called God's son in **Exodus 4:22-23** because of the legal contract of the Abrahamic Covenant.)
3. A creational relationship (as the angels)
4. A characteristic of the person that resembles something or someone
5. A close relationship / association with another (a social or covenantal relationship)
6. A member in a class or guild, as in the phrase "sons of the prophets"
7. An indication of the legal right to a Father's inheritance
8. A believer who has earned the right to be rewarded with being *called* a son (as a result of spiritual maturity): e.g. **Matthew 5:9; Romans 8:14**. This applies to daughters/sons/and the Son Jesus as in **Hebrews 1:5**. It is also the obedient individual Jewish people who are called "the sons of the living God" in **Hosea 1:10**.

Only exegesis, context, and a careful study of Bible Doctrine will result in a proper understanding of the term "son" as used in the Scriptures. Each one of the Sonship titles of Messiah Jesus will enlarge our understanding of His person and His work.

1. Messiah Jesus: Son of Adam *υἱός Ἀδάμ huios Adam*

Luke 3:38

Luke's Messianic genealogy traces the biological lineage of Jesus back to the first man, Adam. The emphasis of this title is that Jesus is true humanity and, as a result, is related to all other human beings since we all are descendants of Adam.

This has four ramifications for Bible Doctrine:

- A. He is connected to the original Edenic Covenant with Adam since He is the Last Adam. One aspect of this was man's right and responsibility to rule over God's creation (the dominion mandate). Whereas the first Adam sinned and thus failure to keep the covenant, the Last Adam perfectly obeyed God and never sinned. Because of Him man will one day be able to fulfill the Edenic Covenant: **Hebrews 2:5-10**. This fulfilling of the dominion mandate is also important in His being The Son of Man.
- B. The reason Luke takes the genealogy of Jesus back to Adam is to, in part, demonstrate that Jesus is the fulfillment of the Promised One – the seed of the woman – given in **Genesis 3:15**.
- C. According to many passages when Jesus sets up the Kingdom the Edenic curse will be lifted from the earth and universe (except the snake will still crawl and there will still be death even though human life will be long): **Isaiah 11:6-9, 35:1-2, 6-7, 9; 65:18-23; Ezekiel 34:25-29; Romans 8:19-22** to cite a few passages.
- D. He is connected to the Adamic Covenant as the Last Adam: **Romans 5:12-21**. This covenant lays out the judgment of all creation including mankind. As the Second Adam He is able to bear our sins taking our judgment upon Himself. Because He is united with us in His genuine humanity He could die as man's substitute on the cross of Calvary. Now all can receive the free grace gift of eternal life by faith alone: **Romans 5:15**. The same thing is taught in **1Corinthians 15:14-28**

where we find the first Adam brought death (both spiritual and physical) but through the Second Adam, for those who believe in Him for eternal life, there is the resurrection from the dead (both spiritual and physical but the physical is the emphasis of this passage).

2. Messiah Jesus: Son of Abraham *υἱὸς Ἀβραάμ huios Abraam*

Matthew 1:1

This has three ramifications for Bible Doctrine:

- A. Jesus is a Jew (note: not *was* a Jew for Jesus is alive today!).
- B. During the Incarnation Jesus was under the Abrahamic Covenant which is why He was circumcised on the eighth day in accordance with the requirement: **Genesis 17:10-14; Luke 2:21** (see **Acts 7:8** where the Abrahamic Covenant is called “the covenant of circumcision”). This circumcision represented the establishment of a new human ethnic group, the Jewish people.
- C. In the future when Jesus returns as the King in the coming Kingdom He will fulfill all the promises given to the Jewish people under this covenant.

3. Messiah Jesus: Son of David *υἱὸς Δαβίδ huios David*

Matthew 1:1, Luke 1:31-33, 3:34; Romans 1:3

This has three ramifications for Bible Doctrine:

- A. As the Son of David, and thus of the royal lineage, He is connected to the Davidic Covenant. Since He was and is in the royal line from King David He fully eligible to be the King. The Davidic Covenant is given in **2Samuel 7:11b-16** (where the focus is on Solomon) and **1Chronicles 17:10b-14** (where the focus is on the Messiah).
- B. **1Chronicles 17:12-15** promises three *eternal* things to King David: a throne, a house, and a kingdom. These promises are guaranteed because Messiah Jesus is the eternal God-man.
- C. He is the one who will fulfill the Old Testament prophecies about a descendant of David sitting on the Jewish throne: **Isaiah 9:6-7; Jeremiah 23:5-6; Luke 1:30-33**.

4. Messiah Jesus: Son of Man *υἱὸς ἀνθρώπου huios anthrōpos (Heb. בַּר אֱנוֹשׁ bar enash)*

This title has eight doctrinal ramifications:

- A. This focuses on His humanity: **Mark 2:10, 27-28; John 5:27, 6:53, 62**. However, this title is not simply about his human lineage: it emphasizes that He has all the full characteristics of a human being. Thus this title connects him to all of humanity.

- B. The title also speaks of His sorrows where He endured great pain and grief throughout His life, especially the cross, experiencing suffering to the fullest because of His true humanity. **Isaiah 53:3, 5, 7-8, 10; Matthew 12:40, 17:22; 20:18-19, 28; Hebrews 5:8.**
- C. Because of this (B, above) the believer has a Great High Priest who is human to whom they can turn to find help when needed including while in suffering (**Hebrews 4:14-16**). Here is a fantastic truth: there is a man seated “at the right hand of the majesty on high”: **Hebrews 1:3**. See **Acts 7:56**.
- D. The term “Son of Man” originated in **Daniel 7:13-14** and it is a title filled with prophetic significance. It is tightly connected to the Second Coming when the Son of Man will destroy all the kingdoms of man and set up an everlasting Kingdom: **Daniel 2:44-45; Matthew 16:27-28, 24:44; 25:31; 26:64**. See **Revelation 1:13** and **4:14**. “Son of Man” was the favorite title used by Jesus in reference to Himself (e.g. **Matthew 8:20**) and thus directly connecting Him to the Daniel 7 passage.
- E. **John 5:22-23, 27**: As the Son of Man He will execute all the coming Judgements: Judgment Seat of Christ (**2Corinthians 5:10**), the Tribulational judgments (**Daniel 7:13-14**), and the Great White Throne Judgment (**Revelation 20:11-15**).
- F. John uses the title “Son of Man” in a special way. He emphasizes that this Son of Man is also full deity: He is God in the flesh. He demonstrates the deity of the Messiah by showing His supernatural power (the eight signs he records), His authority, and His preexistence: **John 1:1-3, 51; 3:13-14; 5:36; 6:27, 53, 62; 8:28**. This connects Him with the Son of Man in **Daniel 7:13-14**. He focused on this that people might come to believe in Him for eternal life: **John 20:30-31**.
- G. It is as the Son of Man that all the earth has been and will be blessed in accordance with the Abrahamic Covenant: **Genesis 12:3**. Because of the work of Jesus on the cross the cycle of sin and death is broken: see **Hebrews 2:14-17**. He had to be human in order to rescue us and thus bless the world. It is as the Son of Man that the earth will be blessed by His rule during the Millennial Kingdom.
- H. As the Son of Man He is seen guiding, evaluating, warning, and judging the church during the dispensation of the Church Age: **Revelation 1:13** then chapters 2-3 of the same book.

5. Messiah Jesus: Son of Mary *υἱὸς Μαρίας or Μαρίας υἱος Maria or huios Mariam*

Mark 6:3

This title has three doctrinal ramifications:

- A. This title emphasizes the origin of His humanity which came through Mary. This fulfilled the first prophecy of a Savior in **Genesis 3:15** where it speaks of the “seed” of a woman indicating a virgin birth. The virgin prophecy is also in **Isaiah 7:14**.

- B. Since Jesus did not receive His humanity from any human male, including Joseph, He was born with no sin nature and was spiritually alive at birth. Jesus human body was conceived in the womb of Mary by the means of the Holy Spirit (**Matthew 1:20; Luke 1:35**) He is born the “holy one”: **Luke 1:35**. No one could ever accuse Him of sin: **John 8:46**. He was “without sin”: **Hebrews 4:15**. See **2Corinthians 5:21** and **1John 3:5**. Furthermore, Mary is *not* the mother of God. That idea began in the third century; she is the mother only of the humanity of Messiah Jesus.
- C. Since He is the biological Son of Mary He has the right to the Throne of David for Mary was a descendant of King David through David’s son Nathan (**Luke 3:31**). According to **Jeremiah 22:24-30** no descendant of Jechoniah could ever have the Davidic throne rights. Mary was not a descendant of Solomon through Jechoniah.

6. Messiah Jesus: Son of Joseph *υἱὸς Ἰωσήφ huios Ioseph*

Luke 2:41, 48; 3:23; John 1:45, 6:42

This title has three doctrinal ramifications:

- A. Joseph was the legal father of Jesus. He was both a godly man who lived in obedience to the Lord and he was a man of great grace. After his marriage to Mary in obedience to the word of the angel from God (**Matthew 1:24-25**), he accepted Jesus as part of his own family which according to Jewish custom made him the adoptive father. The angel told Joseph to name the baby Jesus thus recognizing him as the authority in the home which would include him being the legal father of Jesus. As the human father and head of the home he provided, trained, and cared for his wife, the adopted child Jesus, and the rest of the naturally-born children who came later. In **Luke 2:48** Mary refers to Joseph as Jesus’ father. While it is never recorded that Jesus called Joseph His father, there is little doubt he did in the home for He fully kept the Mosaic Law under which He was born. The Law which demanded proper honoring of both father and mother as well as submission to their authority.
- B. Being the son of Joseph, contrary to popular commentary tradition, did not give Jesus the *legal right* to the throne of David. Joseph was a descendant of King Solomon through Jechoniah (**Matthew 1:11**) therefore he could not *legally* ever have the throne rights. If Jesus was Joseph’s biological son He could never be a Davidic king and fulfill the promises of the Davidic Covenant. In Jeremiah we see a judgment placed on Jechoniah for disobedience (**Jeremiah 22:24-30**) and that stated that that none of His descendants would ever be “sitting on the throne of David or ruling again in Judah” (**22:30b**). The judgment on Jechoniah would have prevented it Jesus being qualified as a King in Israel if he had been the natural child of Joseph. Matthew, the book written primarily to the Jews, solves this legal problem with his emphasis on the virgin birth because, as we have noted, Mary was in the royal legal line. As the legal son of Joseph this did connect Jesus legally to the Abrahamic Covenant which is why Matthew traces His lineage to Abraham.
- C. God is the one who established the divine institution of marriage (**Genesis 1:21-25** – note “his wife” in **v.25**. In **4:1** the inspired writer refers to Eve as Adam’s “wife”). While God certainly all including loves single mothers, He made it clear that Joseph and Mary were to be married with the result that Jesus was raised, as God intended in the divine institution of family (**Genesis 1:28, 9:1**), by a father and a mother even if adopted.

Note: Joseph and Mary had normal marital relations after the birth of Jesus (**Matthew 1:25**). That they had other children including several boys and at least two girls is evident in the following Scriptures: **Matthew 12:46-47, 13:55-58 (v.56: plural “sisters” – there could have been more than two); John 2:12, 7:3, 5, 10;**

7. Messiah Jesus: Son of God *υἱός θεός huios theos*

Luke 1:35; John 20:30-31

This final title also has five doctrinal ramifications:

- A. The title is used first as indicating His humanity came from God the Father and not from a human male: **Luke 1:35**.
- B. The title indicates that He is the Messiah who was promised to Israel: **Psalms 2:7-12**, especially **vv. 7, 12**. Consider the questions in **Proverbs 30:4**. The obvious answer to each question is God. Then the writer asks about the name of His Son! That would have to place both the LORD (God the Father) and His Son on an equal footing as both being God. God has a Son who is equal to him. His name is later revealed in **Matthew 1:21** as being *Yeshua* (Jesus). This Messianic title is used in the following Scriptures: **Matthew 8:29; 14:28-33; 24:36**.
- C. As we will discover in the next study, this title also connects Him with the eternal Trinity (or Trinity) of God. That Jesus, the Son of God, is separate from God the Father and God the Holy Spirit yet is fully God (undiminished deity) is seen in **Matthew 3:16-17, 11:27, 16:16, 22:41-46; John 1:1-2, 32-34, 5:18; Galatians 4:4; Philippians 2:6-9; Hebrews 1:1-3**. Jesus has the full nature and attributes of God.
- D. As the Son of God, in righteous anger, He will stand against sin in divine discipline and judgment of born-again believers. **Revelation 2:18** was written to believers in the church at Thyatira and has deep meaning to us today:

To this group the Lord spoke of Himself as “the Son of God, who hath his eyes like a flame of fire, and his feet are like unto burnished brass.” His eyes being like flames of fire and His feet as burnished brass indicate that His divine ire and indignation were stirred to the very depths. Unless there is a change in the prevailing situation He would immediately take drastic action. People need to realize that while God is a God of love, He is also a God whose indignation is unwaveringly set against sin in every form and phase. He is able, if necessary, to go roughshod over any situation and to deal with the guilty culprits. God sometimes uses the motivation of fear, other times of love, kindness, and gentleness. (David C. Cooper, *An Exposition of the Book of Revelation*, Los Angeles: Biblical Research Society, 1972, p. 45.)

- E. **Hebrews 4:14** invites the believer to the throne of grace. The writer refers to Him as “Jesus the Son of God” indicating both His humanity (see above 4, c) and His ability as deity to give us the help we need.

Messiah Jesus: His Eternal Sonship Class Notes

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Messiah Jesus: His Eternal Sonship

1 John 5:20 (NASB) And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding so that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

There are several opinions about the meaning of the title “Son of God” beyond what we mentioned in the previous study. Here are a few and, I am sure, there are others:

1. Modalism: There is no Trinity. God sometimes will manifest Himself as the Father, sometimes as the Son of God, and sometimes as the Spirit of God.
2. Alpha Point Sonship (I ran across this name somewhere, but I am not sure who originated it): At some point in the past, before the universe was created, God decided that the second member of the Trinity would be the “Son” and thus become the Savior for mankind.
3. Incarnational Sonship: there are four or more ideas in this: (A) Jesus became the Son of God at His human birth; (2) Jesus became the Son of God at His baptism; (3) Jesus became the Son of God at His resurrection; or (4) Jesus became the Son of God at His ascension and exaltation at the right hand of God the Father. There are other variations which we do not need to mention.

Connected to both 2 and 3 is the idea held by some that any member of the Trinity could have become the “Son” or the “Father” or the “Holy Spirit” rather than existing eternally in this relationship. 2 and 3 both agree that the Tri-unity of God is real but the Father / Son relationship began at some point either before history or in history.

4. Creational Sonship: many heretical groups teach that Jesus is not the eternal God but that God the Father created Him at some point and that He is either an angel (e.g. Jehovah’s Witnesses who claim Jesus is the angel Michael; Jesus Christ, they teach, was the first created being of Jehovah God. Jehovah God created Jesus as a divine-like spirit at some point in ancient, pre-creation time). Other also make Jesus to be other than fully God and equal with God the Father. (e.g. Mormons believe that Jesus is a “god” [little “g”] and is the by-product of a union with a god and his goddess wife. According to Mormon theology, God the Father lives on a planet with His spirit wives procreating spirit children who await physical bodies to inhabit.)

The idea of creational sonship is totally heretical as is modalism. The points 2 and 3 above may not be classified as heretical though they are erroneous and confusing. By this it ought to be clear that the doctrine of Jesus as the Son of God eternally is critical for us to understand and believe. The enemy of the eternal Triune God could care less what one believes as long as it is not the Truth as revealed in the Word of God correctly handled! This one short study cannot answer all questions so I recommend the following for further study:

1. The Eternal Sonship of Christ, George W. Zeller and Renald E. Showers
2. Jesus Christ our Lord, John F. Walvoord
3. Who is This King of Glory, Tony Evans
4. Immanuel, John A. Witmer

5. Vines Topical Commentary: Christ, W. E. Vine
6. Yeshua: The Life of the Messiah, Arnold Fruchtenbaum (4 volumes)
7. Messianic Christology, Arnold Fruchtenbaum
8. Was Christ God?, Spiros Zodhiates
9. Discovering the Mystery of the Unity of God, John B. Metzger

In this study we will focus on two questions and provide an outline to the Biblical truth about:

1. The eternal existence of the Messiah, and
2. The eternal existence of the Messiah as the Son of God

Question One: The eternal existence of the Messiah

Isaiah 9:6 of these four names/title of the Messiah, two declare clearly who Jesus is: (1) Mighty God (Hebrew *El-Gibbor* literally, God Almighty) means He is God Himself who is the “child” and “son.” *El-Gibbor* is never used in the Scriptures of a mere man: the Messiah is the God-man. (2) The one which declares His own eternity is “Everlasting Father” or, more properly, “The Father of the Ages.” He is the one who created all the ages of time. This is only possible because He is God and thus eternal. **1 Timothy 1:17** refers to God the Father as the “King eternal” literally meaning “King of the Ages.” By connecting these verses we can stand in awe that Jesus and God the Father are One God in essence, fully equal with one another, and yet they are two persons. May I hasten to add to this that Jesus is also the Father of eternal life (compare **Isaiah 63:16b** where the same words are used of God): see **John 1:4, 10:28, 17:2**.

John 10:30 (NASB) "I and the Father are one." ["one" Greek 1520 ἓν *hen*: grammatical neuter meaning "one in essence")

Speaking of Jesus the prophet Micah writes:

Micah 5:2 (NASB) "But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, *Too* little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity."

Micah 5:2 (NKJV) "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."

His incarnation in the town of Bethlehem is seen in the same context as His existence from eternity: with the incarnation He took on humanity at a point in time but as God He is eternal and timeless. As far back into “everlasting” as you want to go this one who is to be born in Bethlehem is there without any beginning.

His name declares He is the eternal God: **Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23**. Immanuel means “God with us.” This one, Jesus the Messiah, is as everlasting as God is because He is fully the everlasting God.

John 1:1 The “in the beginning” John refers to here is starting at the creation event and looking into eternity past. The “Word” is Jesus (**1:14**) so what John is telling us that when everything that is created first began the Messiah was already there. He is the uncreated Creator of everything that has been

created (v.3). The Word (Messiah Jesus) was *with God* (a separate person) and yet was fully and truly the eternal God. See **Colossian 1:16-17** and **Hebrews 1:2** (“worlds”, Greek 166 αἰώνιος *aionas*, ages). **John 1:18c** “which is in the bosom of the Father.” Zodiates writes of this:

The clause of John 1:18, “which is in the bosom of the Father,” starts with the definite article *ho*, “the,” and the present participle of the verb *eimi*, “to be.” The literal translation is “the one being in the bosom of the Father.” John does not simply refer to the past, because then he would have said *hos een*, “who was.” He did not say that, because Jesus Christ is *monogenees theos*, “fully God,” [translated “only begotten God” NASB] never ceased for one moment to be with the Father. In the fullness of the Godhead, Father and Son have never been separated. All the fullness of God simply manifested itself in the person of Jesus Christ. Nor does John say *hos esti*, “who is,” which would refer only to the present time, while John was writing.... In other words, it denotes the timeless quality of Jesus Christ. It denotes the inseparableness of these two persons of the Godhead.... We are told, then, that Jesus Christ in His full deity has always been in the bosom of the Father. (Was Christ God?, Spiros Zodiates, Chattanooga: AMG Publishers, 1998, pp. 26-27.)

Jesus upset the Pharisees in **John 8:56-59** when he told them that “before Abraham was born, I am.” Jesus clearly said He was in existence more than two thousand years earlier before Abraham was born. Further, He used the covenant name for God (YHWH) when He said, “I AM.” They knew that He was claiming to be the eternal God and thus eternal Himself: the One having no beginning or ending: **v.59** (see **John 10:31-33** where they clearly state their understanding of His claim).

John 17:5, 24 Jesus is praying to the Father and He speaks of the glory (as eternal God) He had with the Father before the world was ever created (“world”: Greek 2889 κόσμος *kosmos* – an ordered system like the universe, creation, the world – here the created material universe and the earth).

Question two: The eternal existence of Messiah Jesus as the Son of God

To say that the Second Person of the Trinity has always existed is different from saying He has always existed as the Son of God. That is, has He eternally had the name “Son of God”? It is worth noting that the term “Son of God” used in this section of our study is to be properly considered a *name* and not just a title (though it can be that also as we saw in the previous study).

Note: There are many names assigned to each member of the Triunity of God in the Scriptures with “Father,” “Son (of God),” and “Holy Spirit” each being one of those names. **Matthew 28:19** emphasizes that believer’s baptism is to be in the name (singular) to point to the unity of the Godhead while at the same time emphasizing the Trinity “of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

Has the Second Member of the Triunity of God *always, through all eternity* been the Son of God? The answer is a resounding **yes**. Now let’s briefly consider why this affirmation is made.

Genesis 1:2: we begin this with a simple fact: at least from the beginning of creation the Spirit of God was already there and is distinguished from the one speaking who is also called God.

Genesis 1:3ff: we also know from the New Testament that the agent of creation, the one doing the speaking, is the Second Member of the Trinity (see **John 1:3; Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 1:2; Revelation**

4:11). We know from these same passages that it is Jesus about whom they speak, the same one specifically called “Son” in **Colossians 1:13-17** and **Hebrews 1:2**. The strong implication must be that it was as the Son of God – the one already having that name – by whom the created order was brought into existence.

The writer of Hebrews quotes **Psalms 102:25-26** in **Hebrews 1:10-12** and thus makes the assertion that it is the Father speaking to the Son in this verse from the Psalms. It is the Son who is the active agent in creation working in conjunction with the Father and the Spirit.

Proverbs 30:4: We learn that indeed God has a Son! From this we learn that the Second Member of the Trinity is called the “Son” long before Jesus ever came into time.

Isaiah 9:6: “a son will be given to us”: One who is already a son will be given is certainly an acceptable understanding from the Hebrew text.

John 3:16: Jesus was already the Son when He is given to the world so that those who believe may be given the unconditional, absolutely free gift of everlasting life.

Galatians 4:4: God sent forth His Son – it does not say the one who was to become His Son! Jesus was already the Son of God when He came.

John 1:18: some translations have “the only begotten Son” while others have “the only begotten God.” This is due to a manuscript difference. Either way, it states with clarity that Jesus is the one who is known as the Son and who is fully God. Many state that “only begotten God” has the better manuscript support.

The words “only begotten” are critical for our understanding.

“only begotten”: Greek 3439 μονογενής monogenēs (from 3441/*mónos*, “one-and-only” and 1085/*génos*, “offspring, stock”) – properly, one-and-only; “one of a kind” – literally, “one (*monos*) of a class (*genos*)”; the only of its kind (DB). The “class” to which Jesus belongs is that of having the exact same nature as God (**Hebrews 1:3**). So either “God” or “Son” is correct and changes nothing in the understanding. Jesus as the eternal Son of God is the only, unique, one-of-a-kind individual existing in a special relationship with the Father. He is the only one who has ever or ever will exist in this special sense of His name “Son of God.” In relation to Him the word does not mean physical generation or creation. Throughout all eternity He is the only begotten one.

John is the only one who uses this to describe the correct understanding of the Son to the Father (five times: **John 1:14, 18; 3:16, 18. 1 John 4:9**). Why? Because of his emphasis on the deity of Jesus Christ.

“John tells us that this God” [or Son] “who is of the same nature” [essence] “and family as the Father ‘has seen’ God. It takes one of the same character, of the same nature, of the same race, to see God. Here then we are presented with two personalities within the Godhead who are absolutely of the same nature, and it is only as such that they can see each other” (Zodhiates, *ibid.* p. 22)

The Son of God was *already monogenes before the incarnation*. The word “bosom” speaks of perfect love, intimacy, and understanding and this must be understood as an eternal relationship. Therefore, He and He alone can “declare” or interpret, or display who God really is.

Jesus calls God the Father “His Father” repeatedly in the Gospels. It is first recorded when He was age 12 (**Luke 2:49**) and is found throughout. It is very significant that in **John 20:17** Jesus refers to God the Father as “My Father” but when He speaks to Mary He says “Your Father. He also said “My God” verses “your God.” He did not use the word “our” in either case because there is a distinction of relationship with the Father: He exists in a unique relationship that is different from that of any other created being angel or man. For Jesus to call God His Father in this unique manner demands that He be the Son of God and, as we see from other verses, He has always existed in this Father / Son relationship.

John 16:28: Jesus came forth from the Father and is returning to Him. Certainly this verse show that the Father / Son relationship was from before He came.

John 17:5, 24: Back before the world ever came into existence the Son of God was in that intimate unique relationship with the Father and shared the glory of being fully God.

It is important to note a distinction in the usage found in **Hebrews 1:3-5** where the writer quotes from **Psalms 2:7**. God having a Son in this context speaks of an inheritance that is earned: it is reward position as Son It is He who now has the throne rights under the Davidic Covenant.

He has inherited a more excellent name than the angels. What He has inherited *in His humanity*, what He has earned, is the Messianic title as the one with the first-born rights as the Son which refers to His right to rule the coming Kingdom. This is the inherited title as Son not His essential nature as the Son of God (see the definition 8 of “Son” under the previous study).

Zane Hodges gives us help here:

The quotation in verse 5a is drawn from Psalm 2:7, while the quotation in Hebrews 5b comes from either 2 Samuel 7:14 or 1 Chronicles 17:13. Psalm 2 is an enthronement psalm in which God “adopts” the Davidic King as His “Son.” That this is what the writer to the Hebrews understood is confirmed in Hebrews 1:5a by the quotation from the Davidic Covenant. No doubt the “today” in the expression **today I have become your Father** was understood by the author of Hebrews to refer to Messiah’s sitting at the right hand of God (cf. v.3).

Of course, the Lord Jesus Christ has always been the eternal son of God. In a collective sense, the angels are called “sons of God” in the Old Testament (Job 38:7, marg.), but the writer was thinking of the title in the sense of the Davidic Heir who is entitled to ask God for dominion over the whole earth (cf. Psalm 2:8). In this sense the title belongs uniquely to Jesus and not to the angels. (The Bible Knowledge Commentary: New Testament, “Hebrews,” Victor Books, 1983, p. 781).

The “today” would be a reference to His ascension where He is seated at the right hand of the Father. With His ascension He is declared to be the Davidic King yet the execution of the right awaits the Second Coming and His sitting on the Throne of David in Jerusalem.

Messiah Jesus: General Names and Titles

Through the years many people have identified the names and titles of our Lord Jesus in the Scriptures. This brief presentation in this Messianic series will over cover four. It is estimated that there are more than 700 names and titles of Messiah Jesus in the Scriptures!

Immanuel (Emmanuel) Hebrew 6005 אֱמַנּוּאֵל transliterated from the Hebrew: Greek 1694, noun, Ἐμμανουήλ

Matthew 1:23; Isaiah 7:14; (Compare **John 1:1-2, 14, 18**)

Given by the angel the name means “God with us.” Jesus is God with us. Jesus is the Second Member of the Trinity. “All three divine Persons are co-eternal, co-equal and co-powerful, existing in one essence in one eternal being” (BD). This name affirms His deity as well as His humanity (called “the hypostatic union”) since He is born of a human female.

The virgin birth into humanity by Immanuel is the fulfillment of the Isaiah 7:14 prophecy written about 700 - 800 years before the event. It is one of them many prophecies of His first coming that were literally fulfilled.

God the Son is the eternal Creator of all things. Out of incomprehensible love the Son was sent into the world to take on humanity to die in our place to solve the sin and death problem of mankind.

In the world today, there are many voices denying the deity of Jesus. Yet, in **John 10:30-33** Jesus Himself claimed to be God and the Jewish people present at the event fully understood His claim for they tried to kill Him for blasphemy (see **John 19:7**).

“God with us” is important to all for several reasons:

1. He is with us to provide our unconditional eternal life (**John 3:16**)
2. He is with the believer in their daily life, trials, and death (**Psalm 23:4; Hebrews 13:5**)
3. He is with the believer in their service (**Matthew 28:18-20**)
4. He is coming again for the believers (**John 14:3; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 22:12**)
5. He will be with the believer for all eternity (**John 17:24; Revelation 21:3, 22:5**)

Lord Hebrew 136 אֲדֹנָי *Adonai* Greek 2962 κύριος *kýrios*

Luke 2:11; John 20:28; Acts 2:36, 4:33

The basic word meaning is supreme controller, authority, owner, master, ruler, lord. It conveys the idea of rulership or dominion especially as it refers to both God in general and the Son of God in particular. Since Jesus is the Second Person of the Trinity of God He is, and has always been, Lord.

Acts 2:36: speaking of the resurrection, ascension, and exaltation of Jesus, Peter – in this verse – says that God (the Father) “has made Him both Lord and Christ (Messiah).” If He has always been Lord, how is it that it says that He has now been made Lord? Simply this: because of the resurrection His true identity as both the Lord (deity) and Messiah (the Promised One of Israel) is now made evident to all who are willing to see the truth.

While it is right and necessary for the person who already has unconditional eternal life to surrender their thinking and life to Jesus as Lord, such surrender is *never* something a person must do to receive the absolutely free gift of eternal life. **Romans 10:9-10** has *nothing to do* with phase one salvation! His Lordship over the believer has to do with spiritual growth and advancement to maturity; Lordship is about the application of Bible Doctrine to the person’s life, a change from human viewpoint to the divine viewpoint. Such change results in a reduction in mental attitude sins, sins of the tongue, and behavioral sins, but it may not lessen the struggle with the old sin nature!

Maturing in His Lordship over the believer’s life is not, and can never be, absolute. That is, there is never anything like “absolute Lordship” (for that would be sinless perfection which is a heretical doctrine). However, that is no excuse for failure to deal with the trends of the sin nature! It should be noted that the open and honest practice of 1 John 1:9 by the believer is an aspect of surrendering to His Lordship.

Note: The first usage of the combination the “Lord Jesus Christ” is by Peter in **Acts 11:17** when he was ministering to Gentiles.

“Lord” is important to us for several reasons:

1. Jesus is the Lord whether we acknowledge it or not!
2. Surrender to His Lordship is never a part of receiving the absolutely free gift of eternal life
3. Surrender to His Lordship over the believer’s life is a necessary. It must be an on-going attitude and action if the believer is to mature in the faith and grow to spiritual adulthood.

The Firstborn Greek 4416 πρωτότοκος *prōtōtokos*

Colossians 1:15-18; Revelation 1:5; Romans 8:29

Meaning: *prōtōtokos* does *not* strictly refer to *physical birth* but rather expresses *uniqueness* and “preeminence”. It carries the meaning of superiority, priority, to hold a superior rank, the eldest, and being in the “first place” (as spoken of Christ in **Colossians 1:18**).

first ⇔ **firstborn** adj. — preceding all others in time or space or degree; probably understood as still including all the rights and privileges that accompany being a physical firstborn. (Logos 7 Bible Software)

4758 πρωτότοκος (*prōtotokos*), **1.** LN 10.43 **birthright**, pertaining to the inheritance rights of the firstborn (Lk 2:7; Ro 8:29; Col 1:15, 18; Heb 1:6; 11:28; 12:23; Rev 1:5+; Mt 1:25; Rev 2:8; **2. existing before** (Col 1:15); **3.** LN 87.47 **superior** (Col 1:15) (Logos 7 Bible Software: DBL Greek, edited)

It can mean to be brought forth first in time (**Matthew 1:25; Luke 2:7**) but this still means to have a pre-eminent place as the first born: **Colossians 1:15-18; Revelation 1:5**). In the Old Testament times, under which Jesus was born, the firstborn was also the heir of the Father who was designated to receive a double portion of the inheritance. This would also include the right to control the family and to rule. However, these first-born benefits could be lost if the heir failed to value, honor, and thus qualify for receiving those rights as seen about Esau in **Hebrews 12:16-17** (consider **Deuteronomy 21:17** and **1 Chronicles 26:10**). In other words, the special inheritance rights were provisional and could be forfeited; in such a case another was given the rights of the firstborn.

Firstborn is used of Jesus in the following ways:

1. He was His mother's first child and thus, under the culture of the day, was first in prominence
2. In **Colossians 1:15** He is the Firstborn: not as a created being but, rather, as the one holding the unique place of preeminence over all the created order
3. In **Colossians 1:18** and **Revelation 1:5** He is the Firstborn from the dead. He was the first one to receive a resurrected and glorified body. This is the same meaning in **1 Corinthians 15:20** where He is referred to as "the first fruits of those who are asleep" (physically dead believers). All other believers will follow Him in the resurrection where they will also receive a new glorified body.
4. **Romans 8:29** gives us the reward aspect of Jesus being the "firstborn among many brethren." He has always had the inheritance rights, but it is in His humanity that He fully qualified to receive the double portion as the inheritor of all things (**Hebrews 1:2, 4**). "Jesus Christ is *the Firstborn* in the sense that He is the *Preeminent Heir* among (*en*, "in the midst of") *many brothers* who are also heirs" (Zane Hodges, *Romans*, Corinth, TX: Grace Evangelical Society, 2013, p.240).

The overcoming co-heirs with Christ, in **8:17**, are also those who will inherit the "double portion" and be in that reward status of honor as firstborn sons who will rule together with Him. They will be among the "many brethren." In **Hebrews 12:23** these are those who are referred to as "the church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven."

"Firstborn: is important to us for several reasons:

1. His place is that of preeminence over all things and yet He is our personal friend if we strive to be and do what His Word commands (**John 15:14**). Talk about having an important (and royal) friend.
2. As born-again believers we are in His royal family (**John 1:12; Romans 8:16-17** "children" the word in the Greek is "*teknon*" which emphasizes our *family relationship*; **Galatians 4:1-7**). This makes Jesus to be our Elder Brother with Him in that position of prominence.

3. We know that even though we may have to pass through the doors of physical death we will follow Him in resurrection for He not only proved His conquering of death by His resurrection, but He also guarantees our resurrection: **John 11:25**.
4. We also can hold the privileged place as firstborn sons to be able to have our inheritance rights which means we can in the future share in His rule over all the created order. These rights are ours by birth, but we must qualify for the right to inherit these by being overcomers in time (see **Romans 8:17** and **Revelation 3:21**).

Captain / Pioneer / Originator Greek 747 ἀρχηγός *archēgós*

Acts 3:15, 5:31; Hebrews 2:10, 12:2

Various words are used to translate the meaning of the word *archegos*: author, source, forerunner, pioneer, prince, pathfinder, trailblazer, founder, pacesetter, originator, captain, leader, exemplary leader, and file leader. It is related to the shorter noun *arche*, meaning beginning or origin.

This title for the Lord Jesus Christ is very much related to the previous one, “firstborn.” But, it will give us a little further insight into Him who is our great Savior! May this lead us to new frontiers of understanding as we follow our Pioneer!

1. In **Acts 3:15** Jesus is called the “Prince of life” in many translations. The word “Prince” is *archēgós*. Jesus is the originator of all life as the Creator. **Colossians 1:16** “by Him all things were created” including all living things which, of course, includes humanity.
2. Jesus is also the originator or cause of our eternal life (the new creation): **John 11:25-26; 1 John 5:12; 2 Corinthians 5:17**: point of interest – “old things” is actually one word in Greek and you can see its relationship to Jesus as the *archegos*. “Old things” is the word “*archaios*,” literally meaning, “that which existed in the beginning.” It is a reference to something that is ancient (really old), something in the past. What existed in the past began with Adam which is spiritual death. Believers now have spiritual life – the “new.” (“Behold, they have become new” is the proper translation. “They” refers to those who are “in Christ.” The believer receives a new nature (a born again human spirit). This new in time creation is from God and is our spiritual life. The “new things” is NOT about a change of behavior being inevitable!)
3. Jesus is the originator of resurrection life for all believers: **John 11:25; Colossians 1:18**.
4. **Acts 5:31**: Jesus is at the exalted position of the right hand of the Father. When we compare this to the **Hebrews 12:2** passage we recognize that this signifies His victorious completion of the work the Father had given Him to do. As the Leader for the believers this reminds us that though the path in time will entail suffering the result, if we are faithful, is exaltation also (compare **Romans 8:17-18** and **1 Peter 1:6-9**).

The “Savior” aspect of **Acts 5:31** speaks of Him being able to deliver believers who apply Bible Doctrine from failure in time result in soul salvation (the believer’s life being found to have had

meaning, value, and purpose in time so that they receive the reward of the inheritance with Him).

The relationship to Israel refers to their *repentance as a nation* about their rejection of Him as their Messiah (**Matthew 23:39**). At the end of the Tribulation period the Jewish *leadership* will change the way they think and act by accepting Jesus as the Messiah and calling for His return to rescue them (**Zechariah 12:10, 13:9**). The guilt of their national sin will be forgiven, and, as a result, the Second Coming will occur (**Jeremiah 3:12-13**). This repentance will result in their fellowship with the Messiah being restored and all the promises of the Abrahamic Covenant will be fulfilled.

5. Although the term *archegos* is not used of Jesus in relation to the rapture of the church, He is the originator of this event: **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**. He will lead the great file of believers to heaven (**John 14:2-3**) then to return with the great “armies which are in heaven” (**Revelation 19:14; Jude 14-15; Zechariah 14:5b**) which will include angels and the victorious believers as the Bride of Christ.
6. In **Hebrews 2:10** He is the one leading the way to the glorified state of ruling in the coming Kingdom and dominion over the created order. The mature sons who follow Him faithfully (though suffering) will share this rule and dominion (**See Romans 8:17**).
7. In **Hebrews 12:2** He is the one who is the pioneer, originator, pathfinder for the believer’s spiritual life. He has shown believers the path to successful completion so that they can have a full reward. Remember this point: during His Incarnation Messiah Jesus never used His divinity to live His life in time. As a human being He used the only two tools available to all believers in order to live successfully in time: the Word of God and the Spirit of God. When we follow Jesus as the leader in our spiritual life we will make the progress into maturity that is expected of every believer. As the “perfecter (“*teleotes*,” having achieved the goal) of the faith He makes possible our successful completion also.

“Captain / Pioneer / Originator” is important to all for several reasons:

1. As our Creator He owns us all. The creator of anything is its owner, as we all know. Even though mankind rebelled against their Creator and Owner, that does not change His ownership rights.
2. As mankind’s owner, He has the right to define the way to receive back the spiritual life was lost in the rebellion. If anyone receives eternal life it will be on His terms, not ours.
3. Jesus alone is the one by whom and through whom this eternal life is possible: He is the originator of this life (**John 1:4, 5:26, 11:25-26, 14:6**).
4. Once a person has believed His promise of eternal life Jesus is now their exemplary leader in the spiritual life. It is up to the believer to be a follower; but, if they do, He will lead them to being able to share His exalted position in rulership over the coming kingdom.

Conclusion

My intent in these studies has been:

1. To bring us to a fuller and richer understanding of our Messiah Jesus.
2. To challenge us to respond with greater love, appreciation, and obedience for Who He is and what He has done for us.
3. To motivate us to grow in the faith (**2 Peter 3:18**) and to run the race of the spiritual life with endurance by “fixing our eyes on Jesus” (**Hebrews 12:1-2**).

The following study entitled “Who Do You Say that I Am?” is not covered in Bible Class, but it will further enhance your understanding of Messiah Jesus.

Complete the study questions at the end for credit in the Free Grace Bible Institute

**WHO DO YOU SAY
THAT I AM?**

MATTHEW 16:15

A STUDY ON THE DEITY OF CHRIST

The Jehovah (YHWH) of the Old Testament
is the Jesus of the New Testament

MATTHEW 16:13-17: "BUT WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?"

The following paragraph and chart are from www.religionfacts.com

The importance of Jesus is officially recognized not only in traditional Christianity, but also by early Christian sects that were labeled "heresies" and modern Christian religious movements. Even some non-Christian religions such as Islam, the Baha'i Faith, and Cao Dai have official doctrines regarding Jesus. Jesus is also respected by many Buddhists, Hindus, some Jews, and even many atheists. The following chart compares the views of religious groups on who Jesus was and what He came to do.

	God or Man?	Who Jesus Was	Jesus' Purpose	Resurrection Happened?
Traditional (Nicene) Christianity	Both: "fully God and fully man."	Second person of the Trinity, incarnation of God, Son of God, Savior.	Die for the sins of humanity.	Yes
Arianism	A created divine being.	A divine being, but created by God and inferior to Father. Son of God. Savior.	To save humanity from sin.	Yes
Baha'i Faith	Man	A "manifestation of God" and prophet. Since superseded by Muhammad and Baha'u'llah.	To reveal God's will as part of progressive revelation to humanity.	Only spiritually.
Buddhism	Man	Wise and enlightened man who taught similar things to the Buddha.	To teach humanity wisdom and the way to enlightenment.	Not addressed
Christian Science	Man	Wise man especially attuned to the divine Christ.	To teach humanity, heal, and overcome death.	Yes
Christadelphians	Man (or half-man, half-God).	Son of God but human, because mother was human Mary. Lived a sinless life and died sacrificial death.	To show God's love for humanity and redeem humanity from sin.	Yes
Gnosticism	God	Divine being sent from the supreme God.	To rescue humanity from the material world by revealing true knowledge.	Most Gnostics reject that Christ died at all. The human Jesus was ordinary and did not resurrect.

Hinduism	Views vary	Incarnation of God akin to Krishna, or wise man.	Not addressed	Not addressed
Islam	Man	True prophet sent by God, but superseded by Muhammad.	To reveal God's will in a progressive revelation that ended with Muhammad.	No
Jehovah's Witnesses	An archangel	Son of God, Word of God, God's first creation, Archangel Michael.	Teach about God, provide a model for right living, die sacrificially for human sin.	Yes, but as a spirit creature
Mormonism (LDS)	Man	Son of God, Savior, originally one of the spirit beings that all humans used to be. Has a physical body.	To teach about God, provide a model for living, die sacrificially for sin.	Yes
Theosophy	Man	Great teacher.		No
Unitarian Universalism	Man	Great teacher, faith-healer, "incarnation of God's love."	To demonstrate God's love for humanity and teach about justice and compassion.	No official teaching; most do not believe physical resurrection.

Note: I have changed the original chart on Jehovah's Witnesses (above) to more accurately reflect their teaching on the resurrection of Jesus.

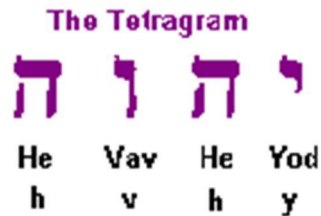
Let's begin....

In this study we will compare the statements made by the LORD (Jehovah is the way we will use in this study) in the Old Testament and then compare them to the New Testament. This brief study does not attempt to answer all the false claims for all the above false ideas about Jesus and is focused more on responding to Jehovah's Witnesses but is a useful response to all.

Exodus 3:14-15: *And God said to Moses, "I AM who I AM;" and He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, "I AM has sent me to you." And God, furthermore, said to Moses, "Thus shall you say to the sons of Israel, 'The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is my name forever, and this is my memorial name to all generations."*

"Jehovah (or Yahweh) is the spelling given to the tetragrammaton or designation for God (i.e., YHVH or YHWH) in the Old Testament" (Norman Geisler, Christian Apologetics). In most translations the word is

spelled LORD (capital letters) or in a few, it is translated Jehovah. The word LORD or Jehovah always refers to the eternal Creator God.



The exact meaning is uncertain, but it has the idea of underived existence. "It seems to suggest the timelessness of God, the very foundation of all existence" (Zodhiates). "It is known for sure that Jehovah is the 'I AM' of Exodus 3:14 and that for Jews He alone is God. Everything else (that is worshipped) is an idol or false God" (Norman Geisler).

Psalm 83:18: *That they may know that Thou alone, whose name is the LORD (JHWH) art the most high over all the earth."*

Isaiah 44:6: *Thus says the LORD (JHWH)...I am the first and I am the last, and there is no God besides Me."*

Isaiah 42:8 *I am the LORD (JHWH), that is my name; I will not give my glory to another, neither my praise to graven images"*

Isaiah 48:11 *"For My own sake, for My own sake, I will act; For how can My name be profaned? And My glory I will not give to another.*

The LORD (Jehovah) allows no one else to use His name or to share His glory. Anyone who claims this would be simply by making that claim a false god and guilty of blasphemy.

In John 12:31-42, we are told that Isaiah saw Jesus' glory and spoke of Him

IS THE JESUS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT THE JEHOVAH OF THE OLD TESTAMENT?

Jesus claims to be Jehovah: The things that the LORD in the O.T. claimed for Himself, Jesus of Nazareth also claimed for Himself.

SHEPHERD

Psalm 23:1: *The LORD is my shepherd.*

John 10:11: *I am the good shepherd*

JUDGE

Joel 3:12: *Let the nations be aroused and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat (the name means JHWH judges) for there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations*

Psalm 96:11-13: *Let the nations be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all it contains. Let the field exult, and all that is in it. Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy before the LORD (JHWH), for He is coming; for He is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in His faithfulness."*

John 5:27: *And He (the Father) gave Him (Jesus) authority to execute judgement, because He is the son of man. (See also Matthew 25:31-46.)*

LIGHT

Psalm 27:1: *The LORD is my light*

Isaiah 60:19: *You will have the LORD for an everlasting light, and your God for your glory*

John 8:12: *I am the light of the world*

SHARING THE GLORY OF GOD

Isaiah 42:8: *My glory I will not give to another*

John 17:5: *And now glorify Thou Me together with Thyself, Father, with the glory which I had with Thee before the world began.*

BRIDEGROOM

Isaiah 62:5: *And as a bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so your God will rejoice over you*

Hosea 2:16: *And it will come about in that day, declares the LORD, that you will call Me Ishi (my husband).*

Matthew 25:1 (Speaking of being ready for Jesus' coming again) *Then the kingdom of heaven will be compared to ten virgins who took their lamps, and went out to meet the bridegroom*

FIRST AND LAST

Isaiah 44:6 *Thus says the LORD...I am the first and I am the last*

God the Father says in Revelation 1:17 *And He (Jesus) laid His hand upon me, saying, "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last."*

Yet this verse Jesus claims the same for Himself: Revelation 22:13 *"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."*

THE "I AM"

Exodus 3:13-15 *Then Moses said to God, "Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you.' Now they may say to me, 'What is His name?' What shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM"; and He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.' " God, furthermore, said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is My name forever, and this is My memorial-name to all generations.*

John 8:58: *Truly, truly I say to you, before Abraham was, I Am"*

Seven "I AM" Statements of Jesus

1. I AM the bread of life. (John 6:35, 48)
2. I AM the light of the world. (John 8:12, 9:5)
3. I AM the door. (John 10:7)
4. I AM the good shepherd. (John 10:11-14)
5. I AM the resurrection and the life. (John 1:25)
6. I AM the way, the truth and the life. (John 4:6)
7. I AM the true vine. (John 15:1,5)

THE JEWISH LEADERS UNDERSTOOD HIS CLAIMS

John 5:18: *Therefore they were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.*

How silly it is for people in the modern age to think they understand better about Jesus claim than did the intelligent religious leaders of the time!

Jesus' claimed to be equal with God in other ways than assuming titles of deity.

Jesus solemnly claimed powers that God alone possessed.

AS THE FORGIVER OF SIN

Jeremiah 31:34: *...declares the LORD, for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin will remember no more*

Mark 2:5-11: *My son, your sins are forgiven (to which the scribes retorted), Why does this man speak thus? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone? And immediately Jesus, aware in His spirit that they were reasoning that way within themselves, said to them, "Why are you reasoning about these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, "Your sins are forgiven" or to say, "rise, and take up your pallet and walk" But in order that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" –He said to the paralytic- "I say to you, rise, take up your pallet and go home."*

ONE WHO CAN RAISE THE DEAD

1 Samuel 2:6: *The LORD kills and makes alive; He brings down to Sheol and raises up.*

John 5:25-26: *Truly, truly I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear shall live"*

John 11:25: *Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me shall live even if he dies."*

See Mark 5:21-43; Luke 8:49-56; John 11:1-44

THE HONOR DUE GOD WAS DUE TO HIM

John 5:23: *...that all may honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him. (Read John 5:17-47)*

TO BELIEVE IN GOD WAS THE SAME AS BELIEVING IN HIM

John 14:1: *...believe in God, believe also in Me.*

HE AND THE FATHER WERE OF THE SAME ESSENCE

John 10:30 *I and the Father are one* (Literally, "a unity" of essence). *And the Jews took up stones again to stone Him. Why did they? They said, because you, being a man, make Yourself out to be God."*

Further note: God the Father calls Jesus God: quoting Psalm 45:6,

Hebrews 1:8 ⁸ But of the Son *He says, " THY THRONE, O GOD, IS FOREVER AND EVER, AND THE RIGHTEOUS SCEPTER IS THE SCEPTER OF HIS KINGDOM.*

Jesus claimed to be the Messiah-God.

MESSIAH

Isaiah 9:6 *For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, on the throne of David and over his kingdom."*

Mark 14:61 *Again the high priest was questioning Him, and saying to Him, "Are You the Christ (Greek for Messiah), the Son of the Blessed One?" And Jesus said, I am; and you shall see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of Power and coming with the clouds of heaven." And tearing his clothes, the high priests said, "What further need do we have of witnesses? You have heard the blasphemy..."*

Isaiah 9:6: (the Messiah is) *Mighty God*

Psalms 45:6: *Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever*

Isaiah 40:9: in Messianic prophecy says, *Behold your God.*

Isaiah 24:23: *For the LORD of hosts will reign on Mount Zion in Jerusalem.* Jehovah himself will reign during the coming millennial kingdom:

Zephaniah 3:15, 17 In a passage speaking of the millennial reign...*The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst...The Lord your God is in your midst.*

Revelation 19:11-16 *And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself. He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses. From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."*

Revelation 20:4-6 *Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.*

Daniel 7:13-22 In Daniel's vision, the Son of man (the Messiah) is also called the *ancient of days* (7:22), a phrase that is used twice in the same passage to describe God the Father. The phrase "Son of Man" was Jesus' favorite phrase for Himself. In the Mark 14:61-64 passage where Jesus applies it to Himself, the High Priest understood it to be a claim to deity and for this reason he called it "*blasphemy.*"

John 4:25-26 *The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us."*²⁶ *Jesus said to her, " I who speak to you am He."*

Further note: Matthew 1:16 and to Jacob was born Joseph the husband of Mary, by whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.

The Messiah was also the King of the Jews. Jesus was so designated:

Jeremiah 23:5-6 "Behold, the days are coming," declares the LORD, "When I will raise up for David a righteous Branch; And He will reign as king and act wisely And do justice and righteousness in the land. "In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell securely; And this is His name by which He will be called, 'The LORD our righteousness.'

Matthew 2:1-2 *Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east, and have come to worship Him."*

Matthew 27:37 *And they put up above His head the charge against Him which read, " THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS."*

Jesus claimed this same position for Himself

Matthew 19:28 *And Jesus said to them, "Truly I say to you, that you who have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel."*

Matthew 24:29-31 *"But immediately after the tribulation of those days THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken, and then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory. "And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other."*

Matthew 25:31 *But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne.*

The Messiah will bring righteousness

Jeremiah 23:6: *And this is His name by which He will be called, 'The LORD our righteousness.'*

Jesus is called the Righteous one: Acts 3:14: *But you disowned the Holy and Righteous One [Just] and asked for a murderer to be granted to you*

The believer receives imputed righteousness by faith in Him [positional truth]: 2 Corinthians 5:21 *For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

The believer can live out righteousness in life because of Him: Philippians 1:11 *having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.*

Further note:

1 Corinthians 15:15-28 *Moreover we are even found to be false witnesses of God, because we witnessed against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied. But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep. For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all shall be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming, then comes the end, when He delivers up the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all*

authority and power. For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be abolished is death. For HE HAS PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET. But when He says, "All things are put in subjection," it is evident that He is excepted who put all things in subjection to Him. And when all things are subjected to Him, then the Son Himself also will be subjected to the One who subjected all things to Him, that God may be all in all.

Revelation 20:4-6 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of the testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark upon their forehead and upon their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

JESUS' ACCEPTANCE OF WORSHIP

Exodus 20:3,6: You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not worship them...

Exodus 34:14 ...for you shall not worship any other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God....

In the Bible both men (Acts 14:15) and angels (Revelation 22:8,9) refused to be worshipped.

In Matthew 4:10 Jesus says, Then Jesus said to him, "Go, Satan! For it is written, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY.' "*

The Jewish world into which Jesus was born was intensely monotheistic. The Jews of two millennia ago considered it the grossest of heresies for a human being to allow himself to be worshipped as God. Yet Jesus of Nazareth did exactly that – which is precisely why the Jews of His day took up stones to kill Him. The O.T. prescribed death for blasphemy, and the Jews though Jesus was more than worthy of capital punishment, since He claimed to be God, not once, but many times.... At least ten times during His Life, Jesus permitted others to worship Him (Tim LaHaye, Jesus, Who is He?).

Examples:

Matthew 14:33 after Jesus stilled the storm, and those in the boat worshipped Him, saying, You are certainly God's Son!

Matthew 28:9 After the resurrection the women, came up and took hold of His feet and worshipped Him.

Matthew 28:17 Just before Jesus commissioned His followers to disciple all nations, When they saw Him, they worshipped Him.

John 9:38 The blind man was healed, And he said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshipped Him.

John 20:28 After seeing Jesus alive, *Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God."*
Jesus never rebuked anyone for such worship! He accepted it. Why? He knew He was God!

Hebrews 1:6 *the angels worship Christ: ...He says, "AND LET ALL THE ANGELS OF GOD WORSHIP HIM."*

If Christ were not God, then worshipping Him would be idolatry!

An interesting note: In the New World Translation of the Jehovah's Witnesses the Greek word for "worship" is translated "worship" every time in reference to God, but when THE SAME WORD is used of Jesus Christ it is changed to "Do obeisance." It refuses to be honest with the translation because it would refute the teachings of this cult.

Jesus said His words had an equal authority with God's words.

Over and over Jesus says words like these in Matthew 5:21,22: *You have heard the ancients were told...But I say to you...*

Jesus said that the Ten Commandments came from God through Moses, yet He said in John 13:34: *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another...."*

Yet Jehovah commanded:

Deuteronomy 4:2 *You shall not add to the word which I am commanding you, nor take away from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.*

Deuteronomy 12:32 *Whatever I command you, you shall be careful to do; you shall not add to nor take away from it.*

Proverbs 30:6 *Do not add to His words Or He will reprove you, and you will be proved a liar.*

Jesus did add to what had already been revealed because He was the One who originally revealed the Word of God in the Old Testament! Jesus never was a liar as the New Testament constantly reveals so in adding to the words of the LORD He was indeed claiming equality with God.

Jesus emphasized the eternity of the words given in the Law:

Matthew 5:18: *For truly I say to, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass away from the Law....*

Then He claimed the same for His words:

Matthew 24:35: *heaven and earth will pass away, but My words shall not pass away.*

Jesus said there was to be prayer in His name.

John 14:13: *Whatever you ask in my name, I will do it.*

John 15:7: *If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you*

At his death by stoning, Stephen looked up and said, **Acts 7:55-56** *Behold, I see the heavens opened up and the Son of Man (Jesus) standing at the right hand of God... (and) he called upon the Lord and said, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.*" He prayed directly to Jesus!

OTHER BIBLICAL COMPARISONS AND CLAIMS

JEHOVAH IS CREATOR

Genesis 1:1: *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth*

Psalms 8:3: *When I consider Thy heavens, the work of Thy fingers...*

Isaiah 40:26: *Lift up your eyes on high and see who has created these stars...*

Psalms 148:2,5 *Jehovah created the angels: Praise Him all His angels...For He commanded and they were created.*

John 1:3: *Speaking of Jesus (the Word), John writes: All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being*

Colossians 1:16: *For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities – all things have been created by Him and for Him.*

Nowhere is it made more clear that Christ is not a creature – angelic or otherwise – than in the relation of angels to him. Since Christ could not be both the Creator of everything and at the same time a creature Himself, it is necessary to conclude that He is Himself the uncreated Creator of all creation (Geisler).

As the Creator Jesus demonstrated His control over the creation:

Matthew 8:23-27 *When He got into the boat, His disciples followed Him. And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being covered with the waves; but Jesus Himself was asleep. And they came to Him and woke Him, saying, "Save us, Lord; we are perishing!" He said* to them, "Why are you afraid, you men of little faith?" Then He got up and rebuked the winds and the sea, and it became perfectly calm. The men were amazed, and said, "What kind of a man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?"*

John 2:1-11 *On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there; and both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said* to Him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said* to her, "Woman, what does that have to do with us? My hour has not yet come." His mother said* to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it." Now there were six stone waterpots set there for the Jewish custom of purification, containing twenty or*

thirty gallons each. Jesus said to them, "Fill the waterpots with water." So they filled them up to the brim. And He said* to them, "Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter." So they took it to him. When the headwaiter tasted the water which had become wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the headwaiter called* the bridegroom, and said* to him, "Every man serves the good wine first, and when the people have drunk freely, then he serves the poorer wine; but you have kept the good wine until now." This beginning of His signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory, and His disciples believed in Him.*

JESUS IS NOT AN ANGELIC BEING

Colossians 1:16 For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities – all things have been created by Him and for Him.

This obvious speaks of both the created material universe and also the angelic ("invisible," "thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities" are references to the angelic order).

Ephesians 1:21: He is far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but in the age to come.

Hebrews 1:5-6 For to which of the angels did He ever say, "Thou art my Son, Today I have begotten Thee? And yet, when He again brings the first-born into the world, He says, and let all the angels of God worship Him."

JEHOVAH IS REDEEMER

Hosea 13:14 Shall I (YHWH) ransom them from the power of Sheol? Shall I redeem them from death?

Job 19:25 As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, And at the last He will take His stand on the earth.

Psalms 19:14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD (YHWH), my rock and my Redeemer.

Psalms 78:35 And they remembered that God was their rock, And the Most High God their Redeemer.

Galatians 3:13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us—for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A TREE"

Galatians 4:4-5 But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

Revelation 5:9: While worshipping the Lamb (Jesus), Worthy art Thou to take the book, and to break its seals; for Thou wast slain and didst purchase (redeem) for God with Thy blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.

JEHOVAH IS SAVIOR

Isaiah 43:3 *"For I am the LORD your God, The Holy One of Israel, your Savior; I have given Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in your place.*

Isaiah 43:11 *"I, even I, am the LORD, And there is no savior besides Me.*

Isaiah 45:22 *Turn to Me, and be saved, all the ends of the earth...*

Hosea 13:4 *Yet I have been the LORD your God Since the land of Egypt; And you were not to know any god except Me, For there is no savior besides Me.*

Luke 2:11 *for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.*

John 1:29 John the Baptist says, *"Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."*

John 3:14-16 *that whoever believes may in Him (Jesus) have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life*

Acts 13:23 *From the descendants of this man, according to promise, God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus,*

Titus 1:4 *To Titus, my true child in a common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.*

Read Isaiah 53 and simply ask, "Who is this?" You will see it is Jesus!

JEHOVAH IS CONFESSED AS LORD

Isaiah 45:23: *...That to Me every knee will bow, every tongue will swear allegiance.*

Philippians 2:10-11: *that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow...and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.*

Romans 10:9: *that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved (delivery for the believer in phase two salvation).*

A FORERUNNER PREPARES THE WAY FOR JEHOVAH GOD

Isaiah 40:3: *A voice is calling, "Clear the way for the LORD in the wilderness; make smooth in the desert a highway for our God.*

John 1:23 John the Baptist says, *I am a voice of One crying in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the LORD,' as Isaiah the prophet wrote.*

CALL ON THE NAME OF JEHOVAH FOR DELIVERANCE

Joel 2:32: *And it will come about that whoever calls on the name of the LORD will be delivered*

Acts 2:21, 36: *And it shall be, that everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved...Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him (Jesus) both Lord and Christ – this Jesus whom you crucified.*

Romans 10:13 Speaking of Jesus: *Whoever will call upon the name of the LORD will be saved*

JEHOVAH IS THE ROCK

Deuteronomy 32:3-4, 18: *For I proclaim the name of the LORD; Ascribe greatness to our God! The Rock! His work is perfect, for all His ways are just....You neglected the Rock who begot you, and forgot the God who gave you birth.*

1 Corinthians 10:4: *and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ*

ISAIAH SAW JEHOVAH

Isaiah 6:5: *...my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts*

John 12:41 referring to Jesus: *These things Isaiah said, because he saw His glory, and he spoke of Him.*

JEHOVAH IS THE ONE PIERCED

Zechariah 12:10: *And I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him, like the bitter weeping over a first-born.*

John 19:33-37 speaking of the crucifixion of Jesus: *But coming to Jesus. When they saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs; but one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and immediately there came out blood and water. And he who has seen has borne witness, and his witness is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you might believe. For these things came to pass, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, "Not a bone of Him shall be broken". And again another Scripture says, "They shall look on Him whom they pierced.*

Revelation 1:7: speaking of Jesus Christ: *Behold He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. Even so. Amen.*

Who then is Jesus?

Titus 2:13: *looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus.*

Philippians 2:6: *writing about Jesus Christ: who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped.*

“Form of God” that is, Christ is of the exact same nature and essence as God – Jehovah.

Hebrews 1:3: *And He (Jesus) is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature....*

John 1:1-5 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.*

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

B.B. Warfield writes: “He is declared, in the most exact manner possible, to be all that God is, to possess the whole fullness of attributes that make God God.”

H.A. Ironside: “Not only are all the attributes of God seen in Christ, but the very essence of the nature of God in all its entirety dwells in Him.”

Jesus was not “god-like,” nor did He “become a god” and He is not “a god.” He is THE God of the universe; Our Creator and Savior - Jesus is Jehovah God! The Jehovah of the Old Testament is the Jesus of the New Testament!

THE MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION IN THE WORLD: “WHAT DO YOU THINK OF JESUS?”

Jesus is either a lunatic, a liar, or He is LORD – Jehovah God.

Acts 4:12: *Neither is there salvation in any other for there is none other name under Heaven given among men whereby you must be saved.*

Who you decide Jesus Christ is must not be idle intellectual exercise. You cannot put Him on the shelf as a great moral teacher. That is not a valid option. He is either a liar, a lunatic, or the Lord. You must make a choice. “*But,*” as the apostle John wrote, *these things have been written for you that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God*”; and more important, *“that believing you may have life in His name”* (John 20:31) (McDowell) from The New Evidence that Demands a Verdict

The Warning about a false Jesus that is not the Jesus of the Bible:

2 Corinthians 11:3-4 *But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ. For if one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear this beautifully.*

The Warning of a false “another Gospel” that does not bring eternal life to those who believe it:

Galatians 1:6-9 *I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed!*

The false teaching about who Jesus is and what He did for mankind on the cross always leads to a false Gospel and one that will not bring eternal life. All distorted gospels will have human works of some kind required to attain eternal life. The true Message of Life is that the eternal triune Creator God sent Jesus, who is fully equal with God and is God, into this world where He took on human flesh in order to die as our substitute and pay the full penalty for sin.

1 John 2:21-23 *I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it, and because no lie is of the truth. Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son. Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also.*

This same true Jesus said: John 6:47 *Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life*

John 5:24 *"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.*

John 11:25-26 *Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"*

Acts records this truth: Acts 16:30-31 *and after he brought them out, he said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."*

1 Timothy 1:15 *It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all.*

Do you believe this?

Do you believe in Him for His promise of unconditional eternal life?

Student Study Guide

Complete the questions and turn them in for evaluation. Successful completion earns 1 credit in the Free Grace Bible Institute.

Lesson one: Messiah Jesus, Prince of Peace

1. Check all that are true: The names of the Messiah given in Isaiah 9:6-7 include:

_____ Mighty God

_____ Yeshua

_____ Wonderful Counselor

_____ Everlasting Father

_____ Savior of the World

_____ I Am

_____ Prince of Peace

2. Fill in the blanks: List the three aspects of the “peace” Jesus brings as outlined in these notes?

Peace _____; Peace _____; Peace _____

3. Consider **Luke 2:8-14**. How are all three aspects of the peace Jesus brings seen in this passage?

4. What is the Hebrew word for peace (in English) and what is the general meaning?

5. What is the Greek word for peace (in English) and what is the general meaning?

6. **Romans 5:1:** What does it mean to have “peace with God”?

7. What is “the barrier”?

8. Write below one verse that shows that before a person believes in Jesus for eternal life they are an enemy of God:

9. Read all the verses associated with this question before you answer. Use specific Scriptures to explain your answer. What is the Doctrine of Reconciliation?

10. **Philippians 4:4-9.** What does it mean to have the peace OF God?

11. What is the Greek word *kardia* (heart) mean?

12. Fill in the blank: The key to protecting our hearts is _____

13. Imagine you are talking to a friend who is undergoing many personal struggles and anxieties. Using the Scriptures in the notes, give them Bible-based counsel:

14. **Isaiah 9:6-7:** What are some important things you can learn from these verses? Be specific:

15. Fill in the blank: After the Second Coming Messiah Jesus will rule from a specific place on planet earth. This place will be

16. True or false: Messiah Jesus will bring peace to the earth with the rapture of the Church

17. This peace can be seen in three specific things listed in the Scriptures. These are:

18. **Think about it:** People are always seeking peace in their lives both internal and in relationships. Compare and contrast how you know people go about striving for this peace verse the peace offered by Messiah Jesus.

19. What should *your personal* response be to this lesson? Include at least one action you need to take as part of your response.

Lesson two: Messiah Jesus, His Seven Sonship Titles

1. List the seven titles:

I. _____

II. _____

III. _____

IV. _____

V. _____

VI. _____

VII. _____

2. What is the significance of Luke's genealogy of Jesus?

3. What Scripture contains the first mention of a Promise One? _____

4. Why is it important to believer's today to know that the Messiah is connected to the Adamic Covenant? What Scripture in the New Testament helps to explain this?

7. What does it mean that Messiah Jesus is the Son of Abraham and why is this important?

8. Of the three doctrinal ramifications of Messiah Jesus being the Son of David, which is the most significant to you and why?

9. True or false: His title as Son of Man focuses only on His human lineage _____
10. In your own words explain the significance of this title in relationship to **Hebrews 4:14-16**
11. Why is **Daniel 7:13-14** important in understanding the significance of Messiah Jesus being the Son of Man?

12. Explain how Messiah Jesus being the Son of Man connects Him to the Abrahamic Covenant and why is this critically important to the careful student of the Word.

13. **Mark 6:3** – How is Messiah Jesus, as the Son of Mary, connected to **Genesis 3:15** and **Isaiah 7:14**?

14. True or false: Since Messiah Jesus had a human birth He had a sin nature but just never sinned

15. True or false: Mary is rightly called “The Mother of God.” _____
16. True or false: The legal right to the Throne of David comes through His human mother Mary

17. In reference to the legal right to the Thorne of David (to be King over Israel), explain why it is important to know that Jesus was and is not the *biological* son of Joseph.
18. Image you are speaking to a friend. Explain to them what are the lessons we can learn from the relationship between Joseph and Mary. Include, “Why is this important to us today?”

19. The Catholic Church claims that Mary was a perpetual virgin. How can you, *from the Scriptures*, prove this teaching to be in error?

20. Of the five doctrinal ramifications of Messiah Jesus being the Son of God, what do you find the most helpful in your understanding of who Jesus is as the Son of God? Why did you choose this one?

21. Stop right now in prayer and thank God the Father for helping you to understand more about Jesus as the Son of God. Did you do this? _____

Lesson three: Messiah Jesus, His Eternal Sonship

1. Explain Modalism
2. Yes or no: Is Modalism true? _____
3. Explain "Creational Sonship."
4. Yes or no: Is Creational Sonship true?
5. What are two titles given of the Messiah in **Isaiah 9:6** that demonstrate that the Messiah has always existed:

6. Why is **Micah 5:2** important in understanding the eternal existence of the Messiah?
7. What does the name Immanuel tell us about the Messiah and His eternal existence? (**Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23**).

8. Imagine you are speaking to someone who claims Jesus never claimed to be God. What Scriptures could you use to try and persuade them of the truth that Jesus did make this claim? What would you point out in these verses?
9. Why is the first chapter of **Genesis** important to this study of the eternal Sonship of Messiah Jesus?
10. Why is significant about **Colossians 1:13-17** and **Hebrews 1:2** in knowing that Jesus has always existed as the Son of God?

11. What is important about **Proverbs 30:4**?

12. What is important about **Isaiah 9:6** in understanding the eternal Sonship of Jesus?

13. Explain what the Greek word *monogenes* (only begotten, in some translations) means and why it is important.

14. True or false: **John 17:5, 24** demonstrate that the Father/Son relationship existed within the Godhead before the created universe _____

15. Explain how the term Son of God is used differently in **Hebrews 1:3-5**.

Lesson four: Messiah Jesus, General Names and Titles

1. What does the name Immanuel mean? _____
2. What can you learn about Messiah Jesus as Immanuel from **John 1:1-2, 14, and 18**?

3. What is the “hypostatic union”?

4. Of the five reasons “God With Us” is important, which is the most meaningful to you and why?

5. What is the basic meaning of the word “Lord”?

6. Explain **Acts 2:36** where Peter states that God “has made Him both Lord and Christ.”

7. **Jesus as the Firstborn:** What is the Greek term translated “firstborn” and what is its meaning?
8. True or false: the special inheritance rights of the firstborn could be lost and given to another

9. In **Colossians 1:15** Jesus is called the Firstborn. What is the meaning here?
10. What does it mean that Jesus is the “firstborn from the dead” in **Colossians 1:18** and **Revelation 1:5**?

11. Of the reasons Jesus as the Firstborn is important to believers today, which one is the most significant to you and why?

12. **Think about it:** Imagine someone comes to you and states that Jesus being the Firstborn means He is a created being, like an angel (such as a Jehovah's Witness). How would you show them they are wrong? Include Scriptures in your answer.

13. What does it mean that Jesus is the *archegos* of life? (**Acts 3:15**)

14. What is the significance of Jesus being the *archegos* in **Acts 5:31**?

15. What is the significance of Jesus being the *archegos* in **Hebrews 2:10**?

16. What is the significance of Jesus being the *archegos* in **Hebrews 12:2**?

Questions from the study “Who Do You Say That I Am?”

1. Consider the chart on pages 28-29. What surprises you the most about what you see here?
2. Of all of the facts included in this study, pick out SIX that seem the most important to you then explain why you chose these. You should write your answers on separate paper.
3. What is the warning found in **2 Corinthians 11:3-4** and why is it important?
4. What is the warning found in **Galatians 1:6-9** and why is it important?

5. Of all the things you have studied in Messianic Studies 2, what is the most significant to you and why?

6. Yes or no: I have read all of the Scriptures included in this study _____. If the answer is not yes, do not turn it in!