

Who Is Jesus Christ?

[Part 2]

Who did Jesus Christ think He was? –

Jesus Christ had a very clear sense of self-identity.

Luke 2:41-42 [King James] *“Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast.”*

Even at the age of 12 years this account of Jesus Christ as a pre-teen separates Him from other young children.

Luke 2:43-39 [King James] *“And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not of it. But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day’s journey; and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance. And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him. And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions. And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers. And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing. And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father’s business?”*

Jesus Christ had at this young age a very special relationship with His Heavenly Father.

There is also indication that He was well aware of what was prophesied would happen to Him in His short life as a human being.

In conjunction with this understanding came a realisation of the Mission He had been given by His Heavenly Father.

Luke 3:21-22 [NIV] *“When all the people were being baptised, Jesus was baptised too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”*

At Jesus Christ’s baptism by John the Baptist, Jesus heard from heaven confirmation of who He was and with that also confirmation of His mission.

Notice this confirmation was given to John the Baptist and all the people who were also being baptised by John at that time.

Luke 4:42-44 [NIV] *“At daybreak Jesus went out to a solitary place. The people were looking for him and when they came to where he was, they tried to keep him from leaving them. But he said, “I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent.” And he kept on preaching in the synagogues of Judea.”*

Another clear confirmation of Jesus Christ knowing what His mission was.

Luke 9:22 [NIV] *“And he said, “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.”*

This painful part of His mission was also known by Jesus Christ, well in advance.

Luke 13:31-33 [NIV] *“At that time some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him, “Leave this place and go somewhere else. Herod wants to kill you.” He replied, “Go tell that fox, ‘I will drive out demons and heal people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal.’ In any case, I must keep going today and tomorrow and the next day, for surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem!”*

The warning that King Herod was wanting to kill Him did not distract Jesus Christ from His mission.

Luke 22:37 [NIV] *“It is written: ‘And he was numbered with the transgressors’; and I tell you that this must be fulfilled in me. Yes, what is written about me is reaching its fulfilment.”*

Jesus Christ was well aware of His impending murder by the authorities.

Matthew 16:13-17 [NIV] *“When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven.”*

Jesus Christ knew He was the Son of God, He knew He was the Christ, the Messiah, the human being who was uniquely anointed by God the Father for a special mission.

When Jesus Christ called the 12 disciples, one for each tribe of Israel [**Matthew 19:28; Luke 22:28-30**], Jesus did **not** count Himself among the 12 who would rule Israel.

Jesus Christ was above them for He was to rule all of His creation. [Colossians 1:15-18]

Jesus Christ is the maker and builder of the Kingdom of God, the direct rulership of God over all humanity that will start within the Christian Church, then extend to all the world at His Second Coming.

Matthew 26:27-28 [NIV] *“Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.”*

At the last supper, Jesus Christ proclaimed Himself to be the basis of the New Covenant, a new relationship that humanity could have with their Creator God.

Jesus Christ saw Himself as the focal point of what God the Father was doing in the world.

Much to the annoyance of the religious leaders of His day, Jesus Christ spoke out boldly against their traditions, against Old Covenant laws and against the practices in the temple and the religious leaders of His day. [**Matthew 15:3; Matthew 5:17-22; Matthew 15:7-9; Matthew 23:23-25; Matthew 21:12-13**]

Luke 14:25-27 [NIV] *“Large crowds were travelling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters, yes, even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.”*

Jesus Christ demanded that His followers abandon everything to follow Him, to put Him first in their lives, to give Him complete allegiance.

John 5:19, 30 [NIV] *“Jesus gave them this answer: “I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also*

does.” ... “By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me.”

The authority Jesus Christ had as the Son of Man, is because He is doing the Will of God the Father.

John 8:28-29 [NIV] “So Jesus said, “When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am [the one I claim to be] and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me. The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him.”

Everything that Jesus the Son of Man did was pleasing to God the Father.

Matthew 7:28-29 [NIV] “When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.”

Jesus Christ spoke with personal authority, because He spoke the words given to Him by God the Father.

Jesus Christ believed that He was the fulfilment of Old Testament prophecies.

Isaiah 53:3-5, 12 [NIV] “He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.” ... “Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.”

Jesus Christ knew that He was this suffering servant of God.

Mark 9:12 [NIV] “Jesus replied, “To be sure, Elijah does come first, and restores all things. Why then is it written that the Son of Man must suffer much and be rejected?”

Jesus knew just how much suffering was ahead of Him.

Luke 22:37 [NIV] “It is written: ‘And he was numbered with the transgressors’; and I tell you that this must be fulfilled in me. Yes, what is written about me is reaching its fulfilment.”

Jesus Christ was crucified with two robbers.

Zechariah 9:9-10 [NIV] “Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. I will take away the chariots from Ephraim and the war-horses from Jerusalem, and the battle-bow will be broken. He will proclaim peace to the nations. His rule will extend from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.”

Jesus Christ’s ride into Jerusalem on a donkey was prophetic. [Matthew 21:1-9]

Daniel 7:13-14 [NIV] “In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshipped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.”

Jesus Christ as the Son of Man was prophesied to receive all power and authority. [**Matthew 28:18; Matthew 26:64**]

The previous life of Jesus Christ –

John 8:58-59 [NIV] *“I tell you the truth,” Jesus answered, “before Abraham was born, I am!” At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds.”*

What upset the Jewish leaders was that Jesus used the title *“I am”* when referring to Himself.

“I am” is the title that God told Moses to use when Egyptians asked who had sent him [**Exodus 3:14**] referring to the fact that the Creator God is the unchanging everlasting God.

John 17:5 [NIV] *“And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.”*

In this prayer to the Father Jesus Christ claimed to share the glory that God the Father had before any physical creation.

John 1:1 [NIV] *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”*

The apostle John confirms that the Word, Jesus Christ [**v14**] existed before the beginning of time. [Remember time is the product of the movement of created stars and planets within the vast universe of space.]

John 1:3 [NIV] *“Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.”*

God the Father was the designer. [**Genesis 1:26**]

Jesus Christ, the Word, was the Creator who carried out the design, in conjunction with the Holy Spirit. [**Genesis 1:2**]

1 Corinthians 8:6 [NIV] *“yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.”*

Through Jesus Christ all things exist.

Colossians 1:16 [NIV] *“For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.”*

The whole universe was created by Jesus Christ and for Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 1:1-3 [NIV] *“In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.”*

Jesus Christ is God the Father’s spokesman [the Word], the heir to the whole universe which He had created, the effulgence [shining forth] of God the Father, far more than the reflected brightness, the exact *“image”*, Greek word *“charaktēr”*, the same essence of the Father, same character.

Jesus is the sustainer of all that is created. [**Colossians 1:17**]

Who is Jesus?

He is a divine being who became human, yet still maintaining His divine nature, He was in the beginning with God the Father, the Creator and sustainer of all creation, the author of life. [Acts 3:15]

Jesus Christ looks exactly like God the Father, thinks, speaks and acts the same as God the Father and shares His glory and has powers that only God has.

Little wonder that the disciples concluded that Jesus was God. Even in His physical human form.

Jesus Christ worthy of worship –

Matthew 1:20 [NIV] *“But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.”*

Jesus Christ was conceived in a supernatural way. [Luke 1:35]

Hebrews 4:15 [NIV] *“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathise with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are, yet was without sin.”*

Jesus Christ was human but lived a perfect sin-free life. [1 Peter 2:22; Hebrews 7:26]

Hebrews 9:14 [NIV] *“How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!”*

By the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, the Son of Man, God in human form lived a sin-free life.

[1 John 3:5; 2 Corinthians 5:21]

No matter how tempting the sin was, Jesus Christ always had a greater desire to obey God the Father and fulfil His mission given by His Father.

Matthew 14:33 [NIV] *“Then those who were in the boat worshipped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”*

People worshipped Jesus Christ and He did not rebuke them. [Matthew 28:9, 17; John 9:38]

Revelation 19:10 [NIV] *“At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “Do not do it! I am a fellow-servant with you and with your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”*

Angels rightly refused worship but Jesus Christ did **not**, indeed the angels worship the Son of Son of God, Jesus Christ. **[Hebrews 1:6]**

Acts 7:59-60 [NIV] *“While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” Then he fell on his knees and cried out, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he fell asleep.”*

Some prayers are addressed directly to Jesus Christ. **[2 Corinthians 12:8; Revelation 22:20; John 14:13-14]**

Jesus Christ is worthy of worship.

The New Testament gives elaborate praises to Jesus Christ, with doxologies that are normally reserved for God.

Matthew 7:21-22 [NIV] *“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’”*

Jesus Christ assumed the title “Lord”, the Greek word “kurōs” meaning one with power and authority.

Jesus Christ’s purpose of assuming the title did not become clear to the disciples until after His resurrection, and the revelation of His deity.

John 20:28 [NIV] *“Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”*

Thomas realised the significance of the title “Lord” by adding to it “God” Greek word “*thēōs*” meaning the supreme divinity.

Acts 2:36 [NIV] *“Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”*

The title Lord as given to the Saviour, in its full significance rests upon His resurrection [**Romans 10:9; Romans 14:9**] and is realised only through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. [**1 Corinthians 12:3**]

Matthew 7:21-23 [NIV] *“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’”*

To acknowledge Jesus Christ as “Lord” [“kurōs”], One who has power and authority is not sufficient to be given the gift of eternal life.

It is only those who seek and fulfil what God has given them to do in this life will enter into eternal life.

We have to call Jesus Christ Lord and God by obeying all that He commands of us as our God.

Only then will we have the intimate relationship with Jesus Christ that causes us to be known by Him.

The Greek word used in this passage translated “knew” is “*ginōskō*” as used of eternal life [**John 17:3**] and the intimate relationship between a man and woman. [**Luke 1:34**]

Ephesians 1:20-21 [NIV] *“which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.”*

Jesus Christ has the highest title that can ever be given.

Revelation 5:12-13 [NIV] *“In a loud voice they sang: “Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honour and glory and praise!” Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing: “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honour and glory and power, for ever and ever!”*

Jesus Christ [the Lamb of God] receives equal praise with God the Father, implying equality.

John 5:22-23 [NIV] *“Moreover, the Father judges no-one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, that all may honour the Son just as they honour the Father. He who does not honour the Son does not honour the Father, who sent him.”*

The Son, Jesus Christ, is to be given equal honour with God the Father.

Philippians 2:9-11 [NIV] *“Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”*

The New Testament often uses Old Testament scriptures about God and applies them to Jesus Christ, the above is a quotation from **Isaiah 45:23**. Jesus Christ is given the same honour and respect that Isaiah said would be given to God.

Isaiah 43:11 [NIV] *“I, even I, am the LORD, and apart from me there is no saviour.”*

Isaiah says that there is only one Saviour and that He is God. [Isaiah 45:21]

Titus 1:1-3 [NIV] *“Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ for the faith of God’s elect and the knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness, a faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time, and at his appointed season he brought his word to light through the preaching entrusted to me by the command of God our Saviour,”*

Paul just as clearly says that God is our Saviour and Jesus Christ is our Saviour. [**Titus 2:10, 13**]

Scripture concludes that the Father is God and Jesus is also God, and the Holy Spirit is God, even though it also states there is only one God, only one Saviour.

The Father, Son and Holy Spirit are the same in essence [God] but different in person.

If Jesus Christ were only human, it would be wrong to put our trust in Him.

But because Jesus Christ is divine, we are commanded to put our trust in Him. He is utterly trustworthy, because He is God.

As the Son of God, Jesus Christ is a person in the Triune Godhead, but also a unique person in which God and humanity are joined.

The divinity of Jesus Christ is crucial for all of us, for only as divine can He accurately reveal God to us. [**John 1:18; John 14:9**]

Only a divine person could forgive our sins, redeem us from death and reconcile us to God the Father.

Only a divine person could be the object of our faith, the Lord to whom we give complete allegiance and the Saviour we worship.

[To help you understand the Triune nature of God please download the article ‘*Can We Understand The Trinity Of God*’ on this website under sub-heading ‘*Trinity*’.]