

Lesson 43

9. JESUS CHRIST

9.1. Introduction

- We are approaching the culmination of our study, during which we will discuss the person of Jesus Christ.
 - ⇒ Jesus is a pivotal figure in history, representing the most significant event in the human race.
 - ⇒ When we talk about Jesus, or think about Him, we need to be aware and convinced that He is everything to the human being.
 - ⇒ The man without Jesus is a lost man. He lives in the world by his own strength, without direction.
 - ⇒ Natural man is a creature in constant search of something because there is a void that only Jesus can fill. In short, Jesus is the end of the search and man's anxiety to discover his own existence and God's; is to live with self-knowledge and knowledge of God.
 - ⇒ Jesus is the missing link between creatures and Their creator.

May the Holy Spirit reveal to each one of us the wonderful person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

- ⇒ **Colossians 2:1~8;** *In Jesus are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*
- **V.2;** *'being knit together in love and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God'*; Paul is being very emphatic here. He has a great desire for God's people to truly know Jesus Christ.
- **V.8:** Paul was very emphatic, so what he says here won't happen: *'lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit'*. Only a complete and firm knowledge of Jesus Christ can free us from everything Satan does to divert people from the path back to God.
- In general, the Church doesn't fully know who Jesus Christ is. It may seem strange, but it's true. Many religious people – and I'm not even talking about just people – deny that Jesus Christ is God. Many people say: *'I don't know God. I don't understand God.'* The only way to know God is through Jesus Christ, because Jesus is God incarnate.
 - ⇒ **John 1:18;** *Jesus; 'the only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.'*
 - ⇒ **Luke 10:22;** *'and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.'*
 - ⇒ **John 14:5~7;** *'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me'.*
 - Philip asked Jesus, *'Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.'*
 - ⇒ **John 14:8~11;** Jesus answered Philip: *'He who has seen Me has seen the Father'*

- Jesus is God incarnate. Never say that Jesus is incarnate God, because the two concepts are very different. Many people agree that Jesus was an extraordinary man and a great philosopher who shaped habits. Some even call him a '*hippie*', etc. These people should be more consistent and say, '*I don't believe, It's a Jewish fiction,*' instead of hiding from the truth. Some still claim that Jesus wrote his own story and that he was with the Essenes or in Tibet. However, the Bible clearly states that Jesus never left the region where he was born.
- Jesus began his ministry at age 30 because it was required by the Mosaic Law. According to the Mosaic law, a person could only hold a priestly office from the age of 30; otherwise, they would have no standing as a priest. When Jesus began preaching to the people, the people of Nazareth marveled at him because they knew him.

⇒ **Matthew 13:54~58;** '*Is this not the carpenter's son? Is not His mother called Mary? And His brothers James, Joses, Simon, and Judas?*'.

⇒ **Mark 6:1~6;** '*And are not His sisters here with us?*'

- If Jesus hadn't been known in his homeland, or if he had left for a while before turning 30, as many people say, people would have commented differently: '*Where did he come from? He left our land as a child and came back changed. Where did he study that he came back changed?*' On the contrary, the people were amazed and said, '*What's happening to him?*' They even wanted to confirm, '*Is this not the carpenter's son?*' This happened because Jesus never left his hometown. However, until he was 30, he had to remain silent and hidden because of the law.
- Jesus Christ existed before his birth in Bethlehem because he is God incarnate.

⇒ **John 1:14;** '*And the Word became flesh* '

⇒ **John 1:1~3;** '*The Word was God* '

⇒ **Philippians 2:6~8;** '*Who, being in the form of God* '

Jesus is not God, as some would have us believe. They alter the Word of God by adding and subtracting. Jesus Christ is God who became human. His names, attributes, and works all clearly show that Jesus is God.

- Jesus' name in Hebrew is YESHUA, which means '*Jehovah saves*' or '*the Lord saves*.' God's plan of salvation is contained within His name.

⇒ **Matthew 1:20~21;** '*And you shall call His name JESUS* ' (YESHUA).

Perhaps it would mean nothing to us if the angel spoke this way, but for Joseph, who heard these words in Hebrew, they meant everything. He understood perfectly what the angel was saying. Jesus is a transliteration of the original Hebrew word Yeshua. Because of the way it sounded when pronounced, it was called Jesus in our language. Yeshua has a direct meaning in its original language: '*Jehovah saves*.' Therefore, when the angel spoke to Joseph, it made perfect sense: '*YESHUA HA'MASHIACH*,' meaning '*Jesus the Messiah*,' God's anointed. This is the Jesus of the Bible: the Lord Jesus Christ. False doctrines also talk about Jesus. The people who follow them say, '*But they also talk about Jesus.*' However, it's not the Jesus of the Bible; it's not our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

9.2. The eternity of Jesus

- What does the word ‘*eternal*’ mean? Does it mean endless or forever? Are we eternal? The answer is that we are and are not eternal. We are eternal because, from the moment of our conception, we come into existence forever. With or without God, we will have an eternity. However, this is not the full definition of eternal. Eternal means having no beginning or end. Therefore, we are and are not eternal. We won’t have an end, but we did have a beginning. When we say that God is eternal, we mean that God had no beginning and will have no end. Jesus is eternal because he is God; if he weren’t eternal, he wouldn’t be God. Therefore, Jesus was never created. For us humans, with our limited minds, it is very difficult to understand. We don’t understand the term ‘*eternal*’ intellectually; we understand the term ‘*eternal*’ through our spiritual intuition. Sin limits our understanding of the concept of eternity.
- Jesus is eternal and pre-existent. You might ask, ‘*Isn’t that the same thing?*’ No, it isn’t. Because of the many heresies and false doctrines, we must firmly grasp these concepts so as not to be deceived. That’s why, as Paul warns us, we have to understand Jesus Christ.
- Jesus is God, so he is eternal and pre-existent. However, Jesus could have been pre-existent before his incarnation on earth without being eternal. He could have existed before his incarnation on earth, but not eternally. At some point, he began to exist. Therefore, preexistence is different from being eternal. When applied to God, ‘*eternal*’ means never having had a beginning. False doctrines teach that Jesus is pre-existent but not eternal, confusing the two concepts. Jesus is eternal; he has always existed and was never created. Because he is eternal, he is pre-existent; that is, he existed before.

⇒ Micah 5:2

- It’s difficult to express the concept of eternity. In this case, the Bible uses the phrase ‘*from the days of eternity*’ to provide a reference. The Bible was written for humans and often uses terms to help us understand.

⇒ Isaiah 9:6; ‘*Eternal Father or Father of Eternity*’

- Father of Eternity! In this passage, the Holy Spirit wanted to ‘clog up’ human wisdom. Defining the Father of Eternity is too complex for the human mind. Remember, these passages show the eternity of Jesus Christ. The verse continues: ‘*and His name will be called.*’ Whose name? The name of the child who was born. As we mentioned earlier, the names of Jesus in the Bible clearly ‘*stamp*’ his attributes as God, as well as portray the saving work he accomplished. The child who was to be born was the Father of Eternity; it wasn’t his Father who was the Father of Eternity. His name will be: ‘*Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*’

⇒ John 1:1; ‘*In the beginning was the Word...*’

- We are still determining the eternity of Jesus Christ. This verse does not indicate a beginning or a created being for the Word (*that is Jesus*). The verse reports that when everything began, the Word was already there (⇒ **Genesis 1:1**—‘*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth*’), the Word already was, that is, the Word already existed.

- Why is Jesus called '*the Word*'? We can have thoughts, but if we don't express them, you will never know what we are thinking, even though they are real to us. Without 'speech', there is no communication and things won't be manifested. The Word is the means of manifestation. The Word encompasses everything, which is why Jesus is described as the Word of God. Without words, everything remains hidden. Jesus is the Word of God, manifesting all that God is, which is why he is called '*the Word*'.

⇒ **Revelation 19:13;**

This passage will occur when Jesus is returning to earth; '*and His name is called The Word of God*'.

⇒ **Hebrews 1:1~3**

- If God didn't speak, nothing would exist. Why? Because, in His sovereignty, God chose to create. '*Let there be light; and there was light*' This is God's method of creation. We are made in God's image, so we manifest through the word. The writer of Hebrews says: '*God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, (in the Son – is the correct translation)*.' The Son is the Word; the manifestation; the incarnation of all that God has spoken. Jesus is the Word of God incarnate.
- Jesus is everything that God is. We need to understand that very well. When Jesus appeared in human form on Earth, it was God's way of revealing himself to humanity. Jesus embodies all of God's attributes; he is the revelation of God: '*He has spoken to us in the Son*.' Jesus embodies all of God's plans and thoughts.

9.3. The pre-existence of Jesus

⇒ **John 1:14;** '*And the Word became flesh...*'

- In the Old Testament, we clearly see Jesus acting on Earth and proving his pre-existence. However, when it says here: '*And the Word became flesh...*' the Word became incarnate. (*Be careful; it's not reincarnation. It's what the Bible says: He took on flesh. He became incarnate*). God took on the body of the human race; he was born as every human is born. Jesus entered this planet through the legal door and walked among us.

⇒ **Philippians 2:6~8**

⇒ **John 8:52~59**

➤ **V.52~57;** The Pharisees were testing Jesus. They wanted to trap him.

➤ **V.58~59;** '*before Abraham was, I AM.*' Let's see ⇒ **Exodus 3:13~15.** '*I AM*' is the name of God that was revealed to Moses when God called him to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. To this day, all the people of Israel do not pronounce this word, (*which translates as I AM*), because it is the name of God. In Hebrew, there is no conjugation of the verb '*to be*', so **ONLY GOD IS**. So, when Jesus told the Pharisees, '*Before Abraham was, I AM*', they considered it blasphemous. In **V.59**, they even picked up stones to stone him.

⇒ **Colossians 1:15~19**

- Colossians is a letter from God to the Church that emphasizes presenting Jesus as God.
 - **V.15:** '*He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.*'
 - **V.16:** '*by Him all things were created...*' Who is the only one who can create? God. God the Father did all the designing, and Jesus was the agent of creation. Consider this: Could it be said that everything subsists in a created being? Of course not.

⇒ **Matthew 9:1~8;** Jesus did things that only God could do, and the Pharisees knew that only God can forgive sins, so they said in **V.3** that Jesus was blaspheming.

⇒ **John 17:5;** '*With the Glory which I had with You before the world was.*' Even before the world existed, Jesus was with God. He was God, full of glory.

⇒ **John 3:13;** Here, the Bible refers to Jesus as the pre-incarnate Son of Man. We will examine Jesus' appearances in the Old Testament later in the study.

⇒ **John 6:33;** If he came down from Heaven, then he must have been there before.

⇒ **John 6:48~51** The manna that came down from heaven and fed the people in the desert was a shadow of Jesus Christ. As it says in **V.51**, '*I am the living bread which came down from heaven.*'

⇒ **John 6:62;** '*Where He was before?*'

⇒ **I Peter 1:18~20;** '*The blood of Christ was foreordained before the foundation of the world.*'

- We discussed the pre-existence of Jesus Christ before his incarnation on Earth. Within this same subject, we will examine the preincarnate Jesus acting on Earth in the Old Testament.