

THE DOCTRINE OF CHRISTOLOGY (PART 1)

“1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning.” **John 1:1-2**

I. Introduction: The Center of our Faith

II. The Deity of The Messiah in the Old Testament

A. Son of Man

Daniel 7:13-14; Matthew 9:6, 12:8, 19:28, 20:28, 25:31-32

Daniel 7:13-14

13 I continued watching in the night visions,
and suddenly one like a son of man
was coming with the clouds of heaven.
He approached the Ancient of Days
and was escorted before him.
14 He was given dominion
and glory and a kingdom,
so that those of every people,
nation, and language

should serve him.

His dominion is an everlasting dominion
that will not pass away,
and his kingdom is one
that will not be destroyed.

Matthew 25:31-32

31 “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels, with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. 32 All the nations, will be gathered before him, and he will separate them one from another, just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.”

B. Son of David

2 Sam. 7:12-13, 16; Psalm 2:6-7; 45:6-7, 72; Isa. 9:6-7

2 Samuel 7:13:

“He is the one who will build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.”

Psalm 2:7

“I will declare Yahweh’s decree.
He said to me, “You are my Son;
today I have become your Father.”

Psalm 45:6-7

“6 Your throne, God, is forever and ever;
the scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of justice.
7 You love righteousness and hate wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of joy
more than your companions.”

Isaiah 9:6–7

“6 For a child will be born for us,
a son will be given to us,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
He will be named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.
7 The dominion will be vast,
and its prosperity will never end.
He will reign on the throne of David
and over his kingdom,
to establish and sustain it
with justice and righteousness from now on and forever.
The zeal of Yahweh of Heaven’s Armies will accomplish this.”

Romans 1:1-4

“Paul, a servant of Messiah Jesus, called as an apostle, and set apart for the Good News of God—2 which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures—3 concerning **his Son**, Jesus Messiah our King, who was a descendant of David, according to the flesh 4 and **was appointed to be the powerful Son of God** according to the Spirit of holiness by the resurrection of the dead.”

III. The Deity of The Messiah in the New Testament

1. Jesus The Messiah is called God and Lord

Matthew 1:21-23; Luke 2:11; Romans 9:5; Titus 2:13

2. Jesus The Messiah claimed to be God *John 8:58, 10:30*

3. Jesus The Messiah is presented as the object of the believer’s faith and trust *John 14:1; 17:3; 2 Cor. 5:15; Eph. 3:12; 5:23; Col. 1:27; 1 Thes. 1:3; 1 Tim. 1:1*

4. Jesus The Messiah is presented as the object of the believer’s worship *Matt 2:10-11, 28:17; John 5:23; Phil. 2:9–11; Heb. 1:6; Rev. 5:12*

5. Jesus The Messiah is described as both being God and performing the very works of God *John 1:1-3, 14-18; Heb. 1:1-4; Col. 1:15-20*

6. Jesus The Messiah is assumed to have been preexistent as the eternal Son of God prior to His incarnation

1 Cor. 8:6; 10:4, 9; 2 Cor. 8:9; Gal. 4:4; Rom 8:3; Col. 1:15-20; Phil 2:6-7; 1 Tim 1:15; 3:16; 2 Tim 1:9-10

The Acronym **H.A.N.D.S.**

- Jesus The Messiah Shares the **H**onors Due to God
- Jesus The Messiah Shares the **A**tttributes of God
- Jesus The Messiah Shares the **N**ames of God
- Jesus The Messiah Shares in the **D**eeds that God Does
- Jesus The Messiah Shares the **S**eat of God's Throne*

IV. The Chalcedonian Definition (451 A.D.)

We, then, following the holy Fathers, all with one consent, teach men to confess one and the same Son, our Lord Jesus the Messiah, the same **perfect in Godhead** and *also perfect in manhood*; **truly God** and *truly man, of a reasonable soul and body*; **consubstantial with the Father according to the Godhead**, and *consubstantial with us according to the Manhood*; *in all things like unto us, without sin*; **begotten before all ages of the Father according to the Godhead**, and *in these latter days, for us and for our salvation, born of the Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, according to the Manhood*; one and the same The Messiah, Son, Lord, Only-begotten, to be acknowledged in two natures, inconfusedly, unchangeable, indivisibly, inseparably; the distinction of natures being by no means taken away by the union, but rather the property of each nature being preserved, and concurring in one Person and one Subsistence, not parted or divided into two persons, but one and the same Son, and only begotten, God the Word, the Lord Jesus The Messiah, as the prophets from the beginning have declared concerning him, and the Lord Jesus

* From Robert Bowman, *Putting Jesus In His Place* (Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2007).

† † “Perfect” means complete in all respects. “Consubstantial” means having the same substance or essence. “Inconfusedly” means not mixed up or in disorder. “Begotten” can be difficult to define, but it is qualified by other words such as “before all ages” showing that the Messiah was eternal and **not** created at some point in history.

‡ Michael Reeves, *Rejoicing in the Messiah* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2015), 14.

The Messiah himself has taught us, and the Creed of the holy Fathers has handed down to us. †

V. The Importance and Beauty of The Messiah's Deity

1. The deity of The Messiah matters for revelation

Heb 1:1-2, John 1:18, 14:9

Michael Reeves: “For all our dreams, our dark and frightened imaginings of God, *there is no God in heaven who is unlike Jesus...* ‘Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father,’ he says (John 14:9). God cannot be otherwise.”‡

2. The deity of The Messiah matters for salvation

Jonah 2:9, Acts 20:28, Col. 1:19-20, 1 Tim. 2:5, 1 Pet. 3:18, Heb. 7:16

3. The deity of The Messiah matters for the Christian Life

2 Cor. 13:5, Rom. 8:10

Resources on the Person of The Messiah

1. Athanasius, *On the Incarnation* (<http://www.ccel.org/ccel/athanasius/incarnation.pdf>)
2. *The Word Made Flesh: The Ligonier Statement on The Messiahology* (the Messiahologystatement.com)
3. Michael Reeves, *Rejoicing in The Messiah* (InterVarsity Press, 2015)
4. Donald MacLeod, *The Person of The Messiah* (InterVarsity Press, 1998)
5. D. A. Carson, *Jesus, the Son of God* (Crossway, 2012)

VI. Conclusion: Know and Adore The Messiah

John Owen said, “You love Him not, because you know Him not.”§

John Calvin wrote, “Since rich store of every kind of good abounds in [the Messiah], let us drink our fill from this fountain, and from no other.”**

§ John Owen, “Communion with God” in *The Works of John Owen*, ed. William Goold, 24 vols. (Edinburgh: Johnson & Hunter; 1850-1855; reprint by Banner of Truth, 1965), Vol. 2:53.

** John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, trans. F. L. Battles (Philadelphia: Westminster, 1960), 2.16.19.