

Who Is Jesus

Lesson 1

“Mighty God”-- “From of Old, From Everlasting” (Isaiah 9:6; Micah 5:2)

Introduction

A. *God/Deity*: The word “God” means *Deity* or *Divinity*, as opposed to *humanity* or *human nature*, and by its very essence implies an *eternal nature*.

1. *Psalms 90:2*: What is affirmed about God in this verse?

2. *Hebrews 7:3*: What is here revealed about Jesus?

B. *Jesus/Essential Being*: What we will learn about Jesus in this first lesson is that in *spirit* and *substance* he is God who from eternity dwelt in eternal glory.

C. *Contrary View*: We will likewise analyze a few passages that are sometimes used to deny his claim.

Old Testament Passages that Affirm Jesus’ Deity

A. *Genesis 1:26; 3:22; 11:7; Isaiah 6:8*: What is found in these verses that imply a plurality of persons in the Godhead?

B. *Isaiah 9:7*: What two terms or expressions are found in these verses that declare the deity of Jesus? What in these verses suggests that they refer to Jesus?

C. *Micah 5:2*: Find an expression in this verse that indicates the deity or eternal nature of Jesus? How do we know this verse refers to Jesus?

D. *Psalms 45:6*: What here suggests the deity of Jesus and what makes you think it refers to Jesus?

New Testament Passages that Affirm Jesus’ Deity

A. *John 1:1, 14*: What was in the beginning with God? What was the Word’s nature? How can we identify the Word and who was it?

B. *Philippians 2:5-6*: In what did Jesus exist before the flesh? What did Jesus not consider necessary to grasp and what does this note about his relationship to God?

C. *Colossians 2:9-10*: Christ, according to this verse, is the fullness of what? What does the expression “Godhead bodily” mean?

D. *Hebrews 1:3 (see Colossians 1:15)*: What two qualities of Jesus are stated here? What do these statements say about his nature?

E. *Hebrews 9:14*: What do we read in this verse that points to the deity of Jesus?

F. *Matthew 1:23*: What name was applied to Jesus and what does it say about his nature?

Passages that Imply that Jesus is Deity

A. *Isaiah 44:6; Revelation 1:8; 1:17; 21:6; 22:13*: To whom are these verses applied? What expressions are used and how do they relate to the theme of Jesus’ Deity?

B. *Mark 2:7, 10*: What implication is found in this story that Jesus is Deity?

C. *John 8:19; 14:7, 9*: What does Jesus say in these verses that denote his Deity?

Objections to the Fullness of Jesus' Deity

A. *John 1:1*: Jehovah's Witnesses argue that there is no definite article before the word "God" and that this verse means that "the word was a god" and that Jesus is not the fullness of Deity.

1. *Matthew 1:23; John 20:28*: Other passages, as these, use the definite article when speaking of Jesus' Deity.

2. *Luke 1:35; John 3:2*: Some passages that refer to Jehovah do not use the definite article as in the case of these two.

B. *Colossians 1:15*: Jesus is the firstborn of creation—thus he had a beginning and can be neither eternal nor divine.

1. *Colossians 1:16-17*: The context shows that the above interpretation is false—because Jesus created "all things." If Christ is created, then he created himself which is an absurdity (see *John 1:3*: Nothing was made except by Jesus).

2. *Psalms 89:27*: "Firstborn" sometimes is used to denote "preeminence," as here in reference to the position of the firstborn over the other sons. "Preeminence" is the point of *Colossians 1:15-18*.

C. *Revelation 3:14*: Jesus is the "beginning" of the creation of God—a reference, some argue, to the first thing created.

1. *Colossian 1:15-18/John 1:3*: Again, these passages would apply here also in answer to this objection—that Jesus created "all things" and thus is not created.

2. *Origin*: Furthermore, the word "beginning" often means "origin" and in line with the above point means that all creation originated with Jesus.

Conclusion

A. *Note*: "God" or "Deity" involves much more than "eternal nature," but our point in this lesson has been only to emphasize that aspect of Jesus.

B. *Son of God*: Neither has it been our purpose in this first outline to emphasize Jesus as the "Son of God," which we will do in a later lesson.

C. *Eternal/Deity*: All we really want to gain in this foundation lesson is that Jesus is Deity and existed as an eternal Spirit before he came in the flesh.