

THE DEITY OF CHRIST

(Part 1, Como Se Llama? Di Su Nombre...)

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ... All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.” (John 1:1,3)

(Sermon to the saints of the Most High God at Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka, Kansas, for July 9, 2023)

Last month I prepared a news release about our public preaching of Christ (**1 Corinthians 1:23**) in connection to the musical production of “Jesus Christ Superstar” at the Starlight Theatre in Kansas City, Missouri. If you went to public school in the 1970s and took a music class, performance of musical numbers from that show was in the curriculum. The musical was huge then; and still popular. An Englishman, Tim Rice, wrote the lyrics. Andrew Lloyd Webber wrote the music. Rice is a lifelong member of the Church of England; Webber is agnostic. When the show came out it was met with criticism for its portrayal of the Lord Jesus Christ as a hippie wimp. In response, Tim Rice said: “It happens that we don't see Christ as God but simply the right man at the right time at the right place.” This blasphemy is common place amongst our peers in this age. That is the nature of man’s religion: removes the absolute sovereignty of God so it is nowhere on the scene. Thereby they can try and deceive themselves into believing that **the** hell, fire and brimstone preacher—our Lord Jesus Christ—was only a man and not God. And having itching ears (**2 Timothy 4:3**); their lying preachers, like their father the devil (**John 8:44**), staunch the bleeding of their consciences with the hot iron of their lies on Christ. Slandering the Lord Jesus Christ is as old as the Garden of Eden, when their champion hissed to Eve: “*Ye shall not surely die.*” (**Genesis 3:4**). Since our Lord Jesus Christ is the Destroyer of Sodom, we preached the obvious to this generation at that public preaching session late last month: “*Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that he cannot hear.*” (**Isaiah 59:1**) We warn this generation by declaring the “Beholds” of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Word. It is our privilege. From Genesis

to Revelation his “Beholds” declare the eternal hatred of our Lord Jesus Christ for workers of iniquity, including sodomites, and their religion.

Today, I was motivated to leave off for a minute the continuation of the attributes of God (wisdom of God is my current topic) to address what the Bible teaches about the deity of Christ. “*Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in me.*” (**John 14:1**) “*I and my Father are one.*” (**John 10:30**). He has the whole essence and nature of God in him. If not, we have no business addressing our prayers to God in His name. If not, we have no business addressing our petitions to our Lord Jesus Christ; much less any worship, praise, honor and glory. Because John the Revelator was warned by the angel in **Revelation 19:10**: “*And I fell at his feet to worship [this created angel]. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.*” And immediately entering upon the scene is our Lord Jesus Christ: “*And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.*” (**Revelation 19:11-16**).

The deity of Christ is taught by what names he is called in the Bible. For example, he has the same glorious names that the Most High God has, including:

Ejeh. I AM THAT I AM. **Exodus 3:14**: “*And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.*” To which our Lord refers and takes to himself in **John**

8:58-59(a): “*But Jesus said unto them: Verily, verily, I say unto thee: before Abraham was, I AM. Then took they up stones to cast at him...*”

Jehovah. (Strong’s: “The Existing One”). “*That men may know that thou, whose name alone is JEHOVAH, art the most high over all the earth.*” (**Psalm 83:18**). “*And God spake unto Moses, and said unto him, I am the LORD [Jehovah]: and I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, but by my name JEHOVAH was I not known to them.*” (**Exodus 6:2-3**). The person that appeared to Moses, and said those words, is called “*the angel of the LORD;*” (**Exodus 3:2**), not a created angel but an uncreated one (**Exodus 3:14**). God is never called an angel, but the Son of God is called an angel, including the Angel of his Presence, who brought the children of Israel out of Egypt, went before them, and led them through the Red Sea, and wilderness, to the land of Canaan, **Exodus 3:8**: “*And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites.*” **Exodus 13:21**: “*And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night.*” **Exodus 14:19-20**: “*And the angel of God, which went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them; and the pillar of the cloud went from before their face, and stood behind them. And it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel; and it was a cloud and darkness to them, but it gave light by*

night to these: so that the one came not near the other all of the night.” **Isaiah 63:9**: “*In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the **angel of his presence** saved them: in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; and he bare them, and carried them all the days of old.*” And, in the event that there is any question in your mind that remains, **Exodus 23:20-23** will clear it up: “*Behold, I send an Angel before thee, to keep thee in the way, and to bring thee into the place which I have prepared. Beware of him, and obey his voice, provoke him*

not: for he will not pardon your transgressions, for my name is in him. But if thou shalt indeed obey his voice, and do all that I speak: then I will be an enemy unto thine enemies, and an adversary unto thine adversaries. For mine Angel shall go before thee, and bring thee in unto the Amorites...and I will cut them off.”

Hebrews 1:1-3: *“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds, Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.”*

He, whom the Israelites tempted in the wilderness, is expressly called Jehovah, **Exodus 17:7:** *“And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the chiding of the children of Israel, and because they tempted the LORD, saying, Is the LORD among us, or not?”* Nothing is more evident than that this Person was Christ, **1 Corinthians 10:9:** *“Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents.”* The immediate reference is to **Numbers 21:5-9:** *“And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread. And the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died. Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD, and against thee; pray unto the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live. And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.”*

He whom Isaiah saw on a throne, making a very magnificent appearance, is not only called Adonai, **Isaiah 6:1** (*“In the year that king Uzziah died I saw*

also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.”), but by the seraphim, Jehovah, **Isaiah 6:3** (“And one cried unto another, and said Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.”), and so by Isaiah, **Isaiah 6:5**, (“Then said I, Woe is me! For I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD [Jehovah] of hosts.”) Thereupon Isaiah was directed by the Lord Jesus Christ to preach to the Jews, at **Isaiah 6:9-10**: “Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed but perceive not.” Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert and be healed.” Our Lord Jesus Christ applies these words to himself at **John 12:39-41**: “Therefore they could not believe, because that Esaias said again, He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their hearts; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and **I should heal them**. These things said Esaias when he saw his glory, and spake of him.” (Emphasis supplied).

There is a prophecy in **Isaiah 40:3-5**: “The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD [or of Jehovah], make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain. And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.” Matthew, the evangelist applies this to John the Baptist at **Matthew 3:1-3**: “In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, and saying Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.” Wherefore, Jehovah whose way he was to prepare, and our God, whose paths he was to make straight, could be no other than the Lord Jesus Christ, whose harbinger and forerunner was John the Baptist. John the Baptist prepared and made his paths straight by his preaching the doctrine of repentance, his

administration of the ordinance of Baptism, and declaring that the kingdom of God, or the Messiah, was at hand.

Moreover, the Messiah, or Christ, is expressly called, the Lord, or Jehovah, our righteousness, in **Jeremiah 23:6** it being his work, as Mediator, to bring in everlasting righteousness; and is the end of the law for it, and is made righteousness to everyone that believes. *“In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is the name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.”* Jehovah-tzidkenu. (**Jeremiah 23:6**). **Isaiah 54:17**: *“No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD.”* **Daniel 9:24**: *“Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy and to anoint the most Holy.”* **Romans 10:4**: *“For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth.”* **2 Corinthians 5:21**: *“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”*

Once more, Jehovah promises to pour forth the Spirit of grace and supplication on some persons described in **Zechariah 12:10** (*“the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem”*) and then adds, *“They shall look upon me”*, Jehovah, *“whom they have pierced”*; which was fulfilled in Christ, when one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, **John 19:34,37**: *“But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water. ... And again another scripture saith, They shall look on him whom they pierced.”* The same words are referred to, and applied to Christ, **Revelation 1:7**: *“Behold he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.”*

Now, since in these, and in many other places in Scripture, Christ is intended by Jehovah, he must be truly and properly God, since this name is incommunicable or undefinable to any other.

It may be observed also, that in some places of scripture, Christ is absolutely called God; as in **Psalm 45:6**. "*Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: the scepter of thy kingdom is a right scepter.*" In the next verse he is distinguished from God his Father, **Psalm 45:7**: "*Thou lovest righteousness: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.*" And the words are expressly applied to him as the Son of God at **Hebrews 1:8**: "*But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.*"

Christ calls himself God; as he well might, since he is in the form of God, and therefore thought it no robbery to be equal to him (**Philippians 2:6-7**); saying, "*Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is none else; I have sworn by myself, the word is gone forth out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear.*" (**Isaiah 45:22-23**) These last words, in connection with the other, are, by the apostle Paul, applied to Christ, at **Romans 14:10-12**: "*But why dost thou judge thy brother? Or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.*"

The evangelist John, says of the Word, or Son of God, who was made flesh, and dwelt among men, and so cannot be understood of any but Christ, that "*the Word was God*", **John 1:1,14**. John also observes, "*Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us*", **1 John 3:16** from whence it follows, that he that laid down his life for men, which can only be said of Christ, and wherein his love to them appeared, must be God.

And Christ is not only called God absolutely, but with some additional epithets, with possessive pronouns, as illustrated:

"Our God," the Jews were waiting for, and John was the forerunner of, in **Isaiah 25:9 and 40:3**: "*And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the LORD; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation.*" "*The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.*"

"Your God", who should come when miracles would be wrought as proofs of it, **Isaiah 35:4**: "*Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you.*"

"Their God", at **Luke 1:16**: "*And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God.*"

"My Lord, and my God", at **John 20:28**: "*And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.*"

Now though angels, magistrates, and judges, are called gods in an improper and metaphorical sense; yet they are never called "our gods," "your gods," etc.

Christ is said to be Immanuel (Old Testament Spelling)/Emmanuel (New Testament Spelling), God with us. God in our nature, that is, God manifest in the flesh. **Matthew 1:23**: "*Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.*" (Also see **Isaiah 7:14 and 8:8**). **1 Timothy 3:16**: "*And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.*"

Some additional characters are given of Christ, when he is called God; which show him to be truly and properly God; as, "*the mighty God*", in **Isaiah 9:6** which is manifestly a prophecy of him: "*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the mighty God, The everlasting*

Father, the Prince of Peace.” Elsewhere Christ is called the most Mighty, the Almighty, **Psalm 45:3**: “*Gird thy sword upon thy thigh, O most mighty, with thy glory and thy majesty*” and **Revelation 1:8**: “*I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.*” And described as “*over all*” “*God blessed for ever*”, **Romans 9:5**: “*Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.*” Christ is over all creatures, angels and men, who are made by him; and he is blessed for ever in himself. (e.g., **John 17:2**; **John 1:3**; **Psalm 21:6**).

He is called “*the great God*,” whose glorious appearing, and not the Father’s, saints are directed to look for; besides, this great God, is explained of Jesus Christ our Savior in the next clause, at **Titus 2:13**. Compare with this **Revelation 19:17** where he who is called “*the great God*,” is the mighty warrior, whose name is the “*Word of God*,” and “*King of Kings*,” and “*Lord of Lords*,” **Revelation 19:11,13,16**.

Christ is also said to be the “*living God*,” **Hebrews 3:12** (“*Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.*”); for Christ only is spoken of in the context. And this is only said of the most high God; which distinguishes him from all other deities, **Jeremiah 10:10-16**: “*But the LORD is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting king: at his wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation. Thus shall ye say unto them, The gods that have not made the heavens and the earth, even they shall perish from the earth, and from under these heavens. He hath made the earth by his power, he hath established the world by his wisdom, and hath stretched out the heavens by his discretion. When he uttereth his voice, there is a multitude of waters in the heavens, and he causeth the vapours to ascend from the ends of the earth; he maketh lightnings with rain, and bringeth forth the wind out of his treasures. Every man is brutish in his knowledge: every founder is confounded by the graven image: for his molten image is falsehood, and there is no breath in them. They are vanity, and the works of errors, in the time of their visitation*

they shall perish. The portion of Jacob is not like them: for he is former of all things; and Israel is the rod of his inheritance: the LORD of hosts is his name.”

He is called, "*the true God*", in opposition to all false and fictitious deities, **1 John 5:20**: "*For we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.*"

In starting this subject, I realized that practically anywhere you open the Bible, you are soon reading about the deity of Christ. So, open it already. Do it! These blasphemers have not read the Bible. And what little they have read, they wrest to their own destruction, according to the Apostle Peter at **1 Peter 3:16**. In the same verse he describes these wretches as "unlearned" and "unstable."

"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen." **2 Peter 3:18**.

I love you. Amen.