

**FOUNDATION OF FAITH!**  
**CHRISTOLOGY: JESUS CHRIST**  
**PART 1**

This morning we are going to begin a new section in our series called Foundation of Faith! We are going to be studying Christology or looking at the person and work of Jesus Christ. And folk's, like I said when we were looking at our Triune God, the Holy Trinity of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, if you deny this, then you are not worshipping the God of the Bible and I don't believe you are saved! Now, when it comes to Jesus, if you do not believe that He is Almighty God, if you deny His deity, I will guarantee that you are not saved!

I realize we are living in a day of religious pluralism and moral relativism and thus, we must accept all paths to God, we must not say anything is wrong, except for the fact that Jesus is God and He is the only way to God the Father, we are not to believe that. Isn't that interesting that we are to accept everything but the truth. Let me give to you just one verse to show you that if you deny the deity of Jesus Christ, that He is God, you are still dead in your trespasses and sins, you are not saved.

In John 8:24 Jesus said, "**Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.**" Now please understand that the word "**He**" is in italics and thus, it was not in the original writing. This verse is better translated, "**Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am, you will die in your sins.**" In other words, Jesus is saying that He is the great I AM of Exodus chapter 3, the EGO EIMI, the voice from the burning bush, Almighty God.

How can I be so certain? Because of what Jesus said in John 8:58, “**Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.**” You see, Jesus was claiming to be God, that is why the Jewish religious leaders were so upset, because He, being a man, made Himself equal with God and the reason He did that was simple, He is God!

Thus, if you reject the deity of Jesus Christ, if you deny that Jesus is Almighty God, you will die in your sins; I think that is very clear. Now here is the problem, how can so many people then be wrong in what they believe about Jesus? Because they deny what the Scriptures are teaching and because of that they will die in their sins.

Thus, this is a very serious topic. The Jehovah Witnesses believe that Jesus is a created being; He is not Almighty God, but a lesser God. The Mormons say that Jesus is the half-brother of Lucifer, not Almighty God! There are many so-called Christian leaders today who deny the deity of Jesus Christ! I realize that is hard to believe and why would they even call themselves Christians if they deny this foundational truth, I can't tell you but they are very dangerous!

Let me share with you this article called The Decline of Christianity in America. And as you will see you can clearly understand why we are undertaking this study in Foundation of Faith and looking at these doctrinal truths so that we will not be swayed by the schemes, the games that the Devil plays with his doctrines of Demons that so much of the Christian Church is allowing in today. This is what part of that article said,

USAToday recently reported on an almost unbelievable new survey that found that 52 percent of American Christians believe that eternal life is not exclusively for those who accept Jesus Christ as their savior.

A different survey that was taken last year by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life found that 57 percent of evangelical Christians in America believe that "many religions can lead to eternal life".

That shocking study revealed what many evangelical leaders have known for a long time - large number of "Christians" in the United States are throwing traditional Christian doctrines into the dumpster.

Evangelical Christians have traditionally been those who follow the teachings of the Bible most literally. But these new surveys indicate that even a majority of them do not believe in the most fundamental precepts of the Christians faith any longer. . . .

The Pew survey referenced above also revealed that 45% of Americans say that they seldom or never read their religion's holy books.

Perhaps if more American Christians were actually reading the Bible they would know what is truth and what is error. Instead, American Christians have surrounded themselves with preachers and self-help coaches and "feel-good" ministers who tell them what they want to hear, who always make them feel comfortable and who never, ever tell them about sin, holiness or the judgment of God.

The current situation in the churches of America reminds us of 2 Timothy 4:3. . . .

**For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine.**

**Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great**

**number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.**

The reality is that past generations of America faithfully filled up churches across the nation that were preaching the Word of God, but today the vast majority of Americans stay home from church each week, and many of the churches that are still drawing crowds are watering down their messages as much as they can in a desperate attempt to hold on to the people who are still there.

- The Decline Of Christianity In  
America, on-line, Posted June 30,  
2009

Let me say this, if I have to water down the message to keep you here, then it is not worth my time to give you the message and we will just close the doors. If you feel that the world has what you are looking for, the answers to life problems, good luck. But I am thankful for you all, that you are students of the Word of God, that you desire to draw close to God, but if that would ever change, I won't! And thus, this morning we are going to begin looking at the person and work of Jesus, again, a very important issue because if we get this wrong, we are not saved! And thus, we will begin looking at the deity of Jesus Christ, do the Scriptures show us that Jesus is God or is that something that the early church just made up? We will see and I know by the time we finish up looking at this you will clearly see that the Scriptures prove that Jesus is God incarnate!

Now here's the thing, and this is important. What separates Christianity from every other religion in this world? It is simple, all the religions of the world have a works relationship or human effort, good works for them to reach God and for the most part, many if not all have no idea of they have made it or not. I will help them out on this one, they have not if they are trying to work their way in!

Then there is Christianity that stands by itself because it is not a man centered, works relationship that brings us to God, it is God who reached down to sinful man to pull him out of the mire that he was in. It is God reaching down to sinful man through the work of Jesus Christ and not the other way around!

Thus, the heart and soul of Christianity is Jesus Christ. Keep in mind that Jesus never claimed to be just another teacher pointing mankind to God, but He claimed to be God incarnate who was to open the door to the very presence of God and He is that Door!

Again, other religions, other religious teachers, other religious leaders' just talk about having a way to God, but Jesus blew them out of the water because He said, **“... ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’”** John 14:6. You see, He is the way, the only way to the Father.

Now think about this for a minute. If you removed Buddha from Buddhism, Mohammed from Mohammedism, Confucius from Confuciansim would anything change? Absolutely not and the reason is simple, those religions are not built upon their leaders. Then what was it built upon? It was built upon their teachings and not specifically upon them, and thus, if they were removed you would not lose anything!

But, if you were to remove Jesus Christ from Christianity it would cease to exist because Christianity is based upon Jesus. There is no other way to put it, Christianity is based or linked or built upon the Person and work of Jesus Christ! It is as C. S. Lewis wrote regarding these claims of Jesus.

I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: ‘I’m ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don’t accept His claim to be God.’ That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic – on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg – or else he would be the devil of hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was and is the Son of God; or else a madman or something worse.

- C. S. Lewis

You see, that is the only conclusion you come to is that Jesus is God and yet, how often we let the world tell us what to believe instead of God. And think about this, why do we think the world has the answers when they deny who Jesus is? And yet, we go to the world to help us and they lead us down the wrong path. I think often the problem comes as we know the truth but we refuse to listen to the truth. We refuse to listen to what God is saying to us because it doesn’t add up with what we want to do. But He is the plum line, He is the truth, and thus, if it contradicts what He has said, it is wrong. If it doesn’t place Him as creator God, Almighty God, it is wrong! But we can be very strong willed as this story shows us:

An old sailor repeatedly got lost at sea, I think his name was Joe, so his friends gave him a compass and urged him to use it. The next time he went out in his boat, he followed their advice and took the compass with him. But as usual he became hopelessly confused and was unable to find land. Finally he was rescued by his friends.

Disgusted and impatient with him, they asked, “Why didn’t you use that compass we gave you? You could have saved us a lot of trouble!” The sailor responded, “I didn’t dare to! I wanted to go north, but as hard as I tried to make the needle aim in that direction, it just kept pointing southeast.”

That old sailor was so certain he knew which way was north that he stubbornly tried to force his own personal persuasion on his compass. Unable to do so, he tossed it aside as worthless and failed to benefit from the guidance it offered.

- Source Unknown

So with the remainder of our time this morning, let’s look at this issue of the deity of Jesus Christ and specifically His attributes which shows that He is Almighty God! Let’s not toss God’s Word aside because we don’t agree with it. It is the truth and thus, we must not only read it, we must not only understand it, we must believe it and apply it to our lives!

## **CHRISTOLOGY: JESUS CHRIST**

### **1. DEITY OF JESUS CHRIST- HIS ATTRIBUTES**

As we begin to look at this subject, let me just share one Scripture with you because there are those out there that say that Jesus never claimed to be God, that the Scriptures never show us this idea. Well, look at John 17:5 and what Jesus said, “**And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.**” How does that prove that Jesus claimed to be God? Remember in Isaiah 42:8 we are told, “**I am the Lord, that is My name; And My glory I will not give to another, Nor My praise to carved images.**” In other words, if Jesus is not God then He could never receive that glory, but if He is God, and He is, then when He was taken back up into heaven after His death and resurrection, He has that glory that was with Him before time began. Why, because He is God! We obviously will be looking at more verses to show that Jesus claimed to be God and others recognized Him as God over the next several weeks, but again, this morning I want to focus on His attributes, does Jesus have the same attributes as God the Father or is He a lesser God or not a God at all?



**ETERNAL**

The first attribute that relates to the fact that Jesus is God is that He is eternal or there is no beginning or ending for Jesus, He has always existed. Do the Scriptures support that idea? You bet they do. In Isaiah 9:6 we are told, **“For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”** Now I think all of us would agree that this verse here in Isaiah is speaking of Jesus Christ. But where does it speak of Him being eternal? Notice what it says, **“Everlasting Father.”** What this verse is saying is that Jesus is the Father of eternity! You may not have seen that before, but here in Isaiah, I think it is very clear, Jesus is eternal, that no matter how far back in time you go, Jesus existed, and no matter how far into the future you go, Jesus will exist!

Then, in Micah 5:2, one many are familiar with, and again it is speaking of the birth of the Messiah and listen carefully to what it is telling us. We are told, **“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting.”** This verse not only tells us specifically where the Messiah was to be born, but it speaks of the Messiah, of Jesus being eternal!

You see, he tells us that His “**. . . goings forth are from of old, from everlasting.**” It is speaking of beyond the vanishing point. That no matter how far back you go, Jesus existed. The eternal God, Jesus Christ, stepped into our time domain and dwelt amongst us as a man, and He was fully God. Now I don’t want to get too picky here but Jesus wasn’t around until the incarnation but the Word that became flesh, God the Son has been around for eternity, as far back in time you go! You see, He was not called Jesus until He was born, in eternity He was known as the Word! But I will still speak of Jesus as being eternal, but just keep in mind, that was His name in the incarnation.

Also, in John 1:1-3 we are told, “**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.**”

As John opens up his Gospel he does so by showing that Jesus Christ is eternal, that even before the heavens and the earth were created, He was there. He is not a created being, He is eternal! Not only that, but it says that “**In the beginning was the Word**” and John uses the Greek word EIMI for our English word “was”, which speaks of a continuing action in the past, that He was continuously in existence before the beginning. And John could have used the Greek word GINOMAI or “became” but that would speak of Jesus coming into existence and He didn’t because He is eternal! You see, there was never a point where the Word came into being, He has always existed.

And lastly, as we speak of Jesus being eternal, look at Revelation 11:15, which says, **“Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, ‘The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!’”** This may not be as clear as the others, but notice what it is saying, that once the reign of Christ begins, it will change form, but it will never end or be interrupted because it is eternal, He is eternal!

### *OMNIPOTENCE – ALL POWERFUL*

The next attribute that speaks of Jesus being God, that speaks of His deity is His omnipotence or that He is all powerful! And we will look at several points that show us that Jesus is all powerful and thus, He must be God.

### *JESUS HAS POWER OVER DEATH*

First let’s look at the power that Jesus has over death starting in Luke 7:11-16, which says, **“Now it happened, the day after, that He went into a city called Nain; and many of His disciples went with Him, and a large crowd. And when He came near the gate of the city, behold, a dead man was being carried out, the only son of his mother; and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the city was with her. When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, ‘Do not weep.’ Then He came and touched the open coffin, and those who carried him stood still. And He said, ‘Young man, I say to you, arise.’ So he who was dead sat up and began to speak. And He presented him to his mother. Then fear came upon all, and they glorified God, saying, ‘A great prophet has risen up among us’; and, ‘God has visited His people.’”**

How many of you can raise the dead? None of you can, in fact, some of you have a hard time getting up in the morning, let alone raising the dead. You see, this is an attribute of God, that He can raise the dead because He has power over death!

We see this power again in Luke 8:49-56, which says, **“While He was still speaking, someone came from the ruler of the synagogue’s house, saying to him, ‘Your daughter is dead. Do not trouble the Teacher.’ But when Jesus heard it, He answered him, saying, ‘Do not be afraid; only believe, and she will be made well.’ When He came into the house, He permitted no one to go in except Peter, James, and John, and the father and mother of the girl. Now all wept and mourned for her; but He said, ‘Do not weep; she is not dead, but sleeping.’ And they ridiculed Him, knowing that she was dead. But He put them all outside, took her by the hand and called, saying, ‘Little girl, arise.’ Then her spirit returned, and she arose immediately. And He commanded that she be given something to eat. And her parents were astonished, but He charged them to tell no one what had happened.”**

Now can you imagine the audacity of Jesus to make this claim, that this little girl who has died will be made well if He couldn’t do it! But He could and He did because He is God and He has the attributes of God the Father, He is all powerful!

Then in John chapter 11 is the story of the death of Lazarus, who has been dead for 4 days now and starting in verse 36 we are told, **“Then the Jews said, ‘See how He loved him!’ And some of them said, ‘Could not this Man, who opened the eyes of the blind, also have kept this man from dying?’ Then Jesus, again groaning in Himself, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. Jesus said, ‘Take away the stone.’ Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, ‘Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?’ Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, ‘Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me.’ Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, come forth!’ And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, ‘Loose him, and let him go.’”** John 11:36-44.

Look at all that was going on here. The Jews were wondering why Jesus could not have kept this friend of His from dying, He did other miracles. Martha, the sister of Lazarus was concerned when Jesus told them to remove the stone from the tomb because once that was done it was going to really stink since he was dead for 4 days! And once the tomb was open Jesus called for Lazarus to come forth and He did, still bound with the grave clothes but he was alive! Jesus has power over death!

*JESUS HAS POWER OVER NATURE*

Next we will see that Jesus has power over nature, showing us once again His deity or that He is God. In Matthew 8:23-27 we are told, **“Now when He got into a boat, His disciples followed Him. And suddenly a great tempest arose on the sea, so that the boat was covered with the waves. But He was asleep. Then His disciples came to Him and awoke Him, saying, ‘Lord, save us! We are perishing!’ But He said to them, ‘Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?’ Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. So the men marveled, saying, ‘Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?’”**

As they set sail, a tempest or SEISMOS in the Greek, hits the area. It is a word we get seismology from, so you might say that this storm was a real shaker! And these storms were not uncommon on the Sea of Galilee. In fact, they can erupt very quickly, and they can be intense with 25 foot waves! And thus, the disciples are fearful, they thought the boat was going down, and they begin to yell at the Lord to do something, and the Lord is fast asleep after a full day of serving the people. So the Lord wakes up and rebukes the wind and it ceases from blowing, everything is calm. Who alone but God can have power over nature and thus, Jesus is God, He is all powerful!

*JESUS HAS POWER OVER DISEASE*

We also see that Jesus has power over disease and thus, He must be God for only God is all powerful, only God has power over all disease. In Luke 4:38-40 we are told, **“Now He arose from the synagogue and entered Simon's house. But Simon's wife's mother was sick with a high fever, and they made request of Him concerning her. So He stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. And immediately she arose and served them. When the sun was setting, all those who had any that were sick with various diseases brought them to Him; and He laid His hands on every one of them and healed them.”**

Not only did Jesus heal Peter's mother-in-law from this high fever, but later that evening many were sick with all kinds of diseases and they came to Jesus and He healed all of them. How could He do this? Because He is all powerful and He has power over disease!

Also, in Matthew 9:1-8 we are told, **“So He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city. Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, ‘Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you.’ And at once some of the scribes said within themselves, ‘This Man blasphemes!’ But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, ‘Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, “Your sins are forgiven you,” or to say, “Arise and walk”? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins’ — then He said to the paralytic, ‘Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.’ And he arose and departed to his house. Now when the multitudes saw it, they marveled and glorified God, who had given such power to men.”**

Now there are two points in this story regarding Jesus being all powerful, but in this one we are going to focus on the paralytic man. Here was a man who could not even walk and yet Jesus heals him and he stands up and walks away. His friends had to bring him to Jesus but now he leaves on his own power because Jesus healed him and thus, Jesus is all powerful.

*JESUS HAS POWER TO FORGIVE SINS*

This same story is told in Mark 2:3-12 and let's read those verses and see this second point regarding Jesus being all powerful and that He can forgive sins. We are told, **“Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men. And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, ‘Son, your sins are forgiven you.’ And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, ‘Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?’ But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, ‘Why do you reason about these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Arise, take up your bed and walk’? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins’ — He said to the paralytic, ‘I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.’ Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, ‘We never saw anything like this!’”**



Now from a human perspective, it is much easier to say that a persons sins are forgiven than to say to a man who is paralyzed, stand up and walk. You see, one has the outward manifestation that they are healed, the other doesn't. And the Scribes saw what Jesus was saying, that He forgave this man's sins and they recognized that only God can forgive sins, only God has the power to do that and thus, Jesus was saying that He was God. Now anyone can say they forgive sins but Jesus showed that He had the power by healing this man physically first and because He was able to do that, He must have the power to forgive sins, He must be God, He is all powerful!

#### *JESUS HAS POWER OVER DEMONS*

If Jesus is God, and He is, then He is all powerful and He has power over demons. Now some may wonder and think that we have power over demons, and that is true. But our power over demons comes from Christ, who is all powerful and we are not. In Luke 4:31-37 we are told, **“Then He went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and was teaching them on the Sabbaths. And they were astonished at His teaching, for His word was with authority. Now in the synagogue there was a man who had a spirit of an unclean demon. And he cried out with a loud voice, saying, ‘Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are — the Holy One of God!’ But Jesus rebuked him, saying, ‘Be quiet, and come out of him!’ And when the demon had thrown him in their midst, it came out of him and did not hurt him. Then they were all amazed and spoke among themselves, saying, ‘What a word this is! For with authority and power He commands the unclean spirits, and they come out.’ And the report about Him went out into every place in the surrounding region.”**

Notice that the demons know that Jesus is God, that He is all powerful and they wanted Jesus to leave them alone, but He casts this demon out of this man and that is the end of it. You see, He is all powerful and He is able to cast out demons from people!

Now in Luke 9:1 notice what we are told, “**Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases.**”

Who gave the disciples the power to cast out demons and heal all diseases? Jesus did and He was able to do that because He is God, He is all powerful! We are not all powerful, we can't cast out demons by our power, our strength, nor can we heal any disease, it is God who gives us the power to do that and thus, it is Jesus as these verses have shown us!

*JESUS HAS THE POWER TO CREATE*

If Jesus is all powerful then He must have the power to create things and the most powerful thing that He created is He created *ALL THINGS!* I think that covers it all, don't you! In Colossians 1:15-17 we are told, “**He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.**”

The Amplified Bible puts these verses here in Colossians like this, **“[Now] He is the exact likeness of the unseen God [the visible representation of the invisible]; He is the Firstborn of all creation. For it was in Him that all things were created, in heaven and on earth, things seen and things unseen, whether thrones, dominions, rulers, or authorities; all things were created and exist through Him [by His service, intervention] and in and for Him. And He Himself existed before all things, and in Him all things consist (cohere, are held together). [Prov 8:22-31.]”**

And The Living Bible puts these verses like this, **“Christ is the exact likeness of the unseen God. He existed before God made anything at all, and, in fact, Christ himself is the Creator who made everything in heaven and earth, the things we can see and the things we can't; the spirit world with its kings and kingdoms, its rulers and authorities; all were made by Christ for his own use and glory. He was before all else began and it is his power that holds everything together.”**

Denying the deity of Jesus was one of the heresy's that was spreading through Colosse and it is at the forefront of every cult today. The Jehovah Witnesses in their New World Translation of the Scriptures tell us “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn *of* all creation; because by means of Him all [*other*] things were created . . .” First of all the word “other” is not there in the Greek nor is it implied. Let's look at these verses because the Jehovah Witnesses try to use them to prove that Jesus is not God when in reality they prove that He is God!

First of all Paul tells us that Jesus is “**the image of the invisible God**” and the word “**image**” in the Greek is EIKON, (i-kone’) and it speaks of a statue or representation. In other words, it is as we are told in John 14:8-9, “**Philip said to Him, ‘Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, “Show us the Father?”**” Thus, the invisible God became visible to us in Jesus Christ when He became flesh and blood, when He dwelt among us, “. . .**the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.**” John 1:14. Clearly Paul’s point is that Jesus is God!

Next we hear the Jehovah Witnesses tell us that Jesus was a created being for the Scriptures tell us that. They would show you that Paul said that He is “**the firstborn over all creation**” and they would change “**over all**” to “of” to fit their theology, but that is not what the Greek is saying. Because it says that Jesus was the “**firstborn**” it must mean that He was a created being is their thinking. The word for “**firstborn**” is the Greek word PROTOTOKOS, (pro-tot-ok’-os) and it has a few different meanings to it. In fact, the Rabbis called YAWHEW the “Firstborn of the world.” (Rabbi Bechai). But let’s look at what this word can mean and see where it leads us.

**A. FIRSTBORN – CHRONOLOGICALLY:** In Luke 2:7 we are told, “**And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.**” Jesus was the firstborn of Mary.

**B. *FIRSTBORN – FIGURATIVELY:*** In Exodus 4:22 we are told, “**Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the LORD: 'Israel is My son, My firstborn.'**”

**C. *FIRSTBORN – POSITIONAL:*** In speaking of the Messiah, God the Father says in Psalm 89:27, “**Also I will make him My firstborn, The highest of the kings of the earth.**”

In other words, Jesus is the highest of all the kings of the earth; He is supreme to all, He rules supremely. And if you look at verse 18 of Colossians chapter 1, Paul says that He is the firstborn of the dead, Jesus is, and thus, it has to mean ranking because others have been raised from the dead in both the Old Testament and the New Testament. He was the first to arise from the dead with an immortal body! He is the highest rank of all who have been raised from the dead and all that will be raised from the dead! Thus, He is the image of God, He rules over all creation because He is God! Thus, Colossians 1:15, when it speaks of Jesus being the “**firstborn**” Paul is speaking of ranking, position and not that He was a created being. He has always been God and He will always be God. Yes, in the incarnation He was born through Mary, but He did not cease being God.

And here's the thing. Jesus is not part of creation, He is not a creation, but the Creator and He not only created *ALL* things but by Him all things "consist" or are held together by Him. There is Coulomb's Law of Electricity that states that like charges repel each other. The atom is made up of protons in its nucleus and they are like charges. Thus, they should repel each other, blow the atom apart, but they don't, why is that? Scientists don't know the answer, they have made many speculations and they do know that something is holding them together, like "atomic glue" but they are not sure what that is. I know the answer! Maybe they will give to me the Nobel Prize for science for this, what do you think? I doubt it because the answer is that Jesus is holding them together and they don't accept Jesus, they don't believe in God and thus, it is atomic glue for now that is holding everything together! So we see here that Jesus has the power to create and He created all things and He holds them together because He is all powerful!

Also, in Matthew 14:13-21 we are told, **“When Jesus heard it, He departed from there by boat to a deserted place by Himself. But when the multitudes heard it, they followed Him on foot from the cities. And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick. When it was evening, His disciples came to Him, saying, ‘This is a deserted place, and the hour is already late. Send the multitudes away, that they may go into the villages and buy themselves food.’ But Jesus said to them, ‘They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.’ And they said to Him, ‘We have here only five loaves and two fish.’ He said, ‘Bring them here to Me.’ Then He commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass. And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitudes. So they all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments that remained. Now those who had eaten were about five thousand men, besides women and children.”**

Notice, with just five loaves of bread, which were nothing more than crackers and two small fish, Jesus fed upwards of 10 to 15 thousand people or more! Jesus was able to do this impossible thing, to create this food and not only feed all these people, but then have 12 baskets of leftovers after the people ate till they were full!

Now we are just scratching the surface as we look at the Divine attributes that are ascribed to Jesus showing that He is God. And the reason we are taking our time with this is because there are many today who want to deny the deity of Jesus, they negate the fact that He is God and as Christians we need to be able to defend what we believe, we need to know what we believe and not just believe it because someone else has said it. We must believe it because that is what the Scriptures are showing us!

Let me close with these thoughts. Jesus has been acclaimed as the greatest religious leader who ever lived, as being the most influential person to have lived on our planet, and as being unique to the degree that no one can be compared to Him.

But considering Jesus Christ merely on the basis of an exemplary life and His superior moral teaching will not remove the stumbling blocks to Christianity raised by an unbelieving world. You see, the world can accept a Jesus as a teacher, as an example to live our lives by, as a good man and-so-on. The real problem comes when we see Him as He really is, Almighty God and thus, we are accountable to the King of glory and we need to open the gates of our hearts and let Him in!

You see, the real test of what one thinks of Him must revolve around who He claimed to be and what He accomplished during His brief mission to our planet. It doesn't matter what this person or that person has said, it only matters what the Scriptures tell us of Jesus, who He claimed to be! Thus, our conclusion must be that there is no Christianity without Christ; all centers in Him and that He is Almighty God, the second person of the Holy Trinity!



And as you study the Scriptures the predominant theme of the Scriptures is the Person and the work of Jesus Christ. He is God. He became a human being, died by crucifixion, and was buried. He rose again from the dead. He is the only, all-sufficient Savior of the world. He will come again to this earth. Removing this from the Scriptures robs them of all coherent meaning and continuity. It is as Jesus said, “**Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am, you will die in your sins.**” John 8:24. May we not forget that!