

THE TRUTH SERIES

We Believe...

Jesus
is the
SON
of **GOD**

By Dr. Lester Sumrall

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Unless otherwise indicated, all Scriptures are taken from the King James Version of the Holy Bible.

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We Believe Jesus Is the Son of God

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

He goes on to say, “That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on

his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made 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 1:9-14).”

Christ Existed Before the World Began

Though His earthly life began in the town of Bethlehem, Jesus Christ existed before the earth was even created: “He is before all things, and by him all things consist” (Colossians 1:17). Scripture also says that He is the creator of the universe, that He made everything: “By him were all things created that are in heaven and earth, visible, invisible, whether in heaven, dominions, principalities, powers. All things were created by him and for him” (Colosians 1:16).

Scripture reveals that “the Word” is Christ’s eternal name. John writes, “In the beginning

was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God” (John 1:1). In First John 1:1 the Bible says, “That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life.” In Revelation 19:13 we read this: “He was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.” John 1:14 says, “And the Word was made 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.”

So then we see that Jesus existed before time began, that He created all things, and that His eternal name is “the Word.”

Further, Christ is the divine Son of God. Hebrews 1:5 states, “For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again,

I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?” Verse six of Hebrews says, “When he bringeth in the first begotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.” In Psalm 2:7 we read, “I will declare the decree: the Lord hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.”

Christ Came to Declare the Father

Throughout the Word of God we see that Jesus Christ is the incarnate Word of God made flesh so that we might see and know the Father. Christ could declare facts about the Father because He existed with Him before coming to this earth, even before the creation of the world! John 1:18 says, “No man hath seen God at any time, the only begotten Son [the Lord Jesus Christ], which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.” The word “declare” means to draw out of the shadows, out of the unknown. So, we see that Jesus

came to declare the Father, and He did so because many did not know Him.

John 14:9 says, “Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father?”

Colosians 1:15 says that in Christ “we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature.”

The writer of Hebrews says this about Jesus: “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.” The marks of divinity and the characteristics of God were stamped upon the Lord Jesus Christ so clearly that we know He is the

Son of God. He was divine in His nature; He was divine in His total being.

Colossians 2:9 says, “For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.” That is a Scripture you should learn. If you want to know what the Holy Ghost is, if you want to know what the Father is, you look at the Lord Jesus and you see it. He is the image of the total Godhead. He is all that God is ever going to reveal to us.

Scripture Reveals That Christ Is the Son of God

God gave this testimony at the baptism of the Lord Jesus Christ, and again at His transfiguration: “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased” (Matt. 3:17 and 17:5).

In Luke 22:70 Jesus identifies Himself as God’s son: “Then said they all, Art thou then the Son of God? And he said unto them, Ye say that I am.” In John 10:30 Jesus said, “I and

my Father are one.” Clearly, Jesus Himself gave witness of His divine sonship.

The apostle Peter received this revelation. In Matthew 16:16 it says, “And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.” Peter received a revelation of the greatness of the Lord Jesus Christ, that He was truly the Son of God. It’s time that we all go forth and let the world know that Jesus Christ is the Son of the Most High God and that there is no other door to heaven except through Him.

Christ Declared Himself to be the Son of God

In John 8:58 Jesus said, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.” With

these two words, “I am,” Jesus declared Himself to be the Eternal One.

In John 4:56 we read this: “The woman saith unto him, I know that Messias cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things. Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he.” Jesus knew He was the Son of God, and He wanted us to know it as well.

In John 8:23 it says, “And he [Jesus] said unto them, Ye are from beneath; I am from above: ye are of this world; I am not of this world.” Jesus spoke of Himself as being from above, from heaven.

In John 13:13 Jesus said this: “Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am.” It couldn’t be more clear. Jesus admitted that He was Lord and Master. He could not be that without being the Son of God.

He Was Declared the Son of God by Miracles

Jesus proved that He actually was the Son of God by His many mighty miracles. In John 2:9-11 we read how Jesus turned pure water into delicious wine. Naturally, everybody there was amazed. Verse 11 says, “This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.”

In John 6:9-14, Jesus fed five thousand people with five barley loaves and two small fishes. He fed them all and then took up what was left over. In verse 13, it says that there were twelve baskets filled just from the fragments of the five barley loaves and the two fishes. Verse 14 says, “Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world.” And so not only did Jesus seal His sonship through His words, but

He sealed His sonship with His works, proving that He was indeed the Son of God.

In John 6:19 you have the story of Jesus walking upon the water. And as He walked upon the water, those present knew that He was the Son of God. Time and again, He proved to those around Him exactly who He was—the divine Son of God.

Here's another amazing proof: Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead (John 11:43-45). When He did this, "Many of the Jews which came to Mary, and had seen the things which Jesus did, believed on him." (verse 45). He was just a teacher in their minds until that moment; then He became the Son of God. They knew that a miracle of this magnitude couldn't be done unless He is the Son of God. And so the Lord Jesus proved His Messiahship, not only by His words but by His works.

“Lord Jesus Christ” Is His Full Name

The Lord Jesus Christ is His full New Testament name. I put this in here because when I was a young man, England was quite religious, and I used to talk about Jesus a lot when I was there. One time, a little English woman walked up to me and said, “I want to ask you something, preacher.” She said, “Is Jesus Lord?” And I said, “Yes,” and she said, “Well, you hadn’t told us that yet in this place.” (I was in an open auditorium.) And she said, “Is He also Christ?” And I said, “Yes,” and she said, “You hadn’t said that either. You’ve only said ‘Jesus.’” And I said to her, “Honey, give me one more chance.”

His full name is “Lord Jesus Christ.” “Lord” is the designation of His deity. “Jesus” is the name of His humanity. “Christ” is the title of His office—“Christ” in the Greek language, and “Messiah” in the Hebrew language; it means “the Anointed One.”

Conclusion

Christ came into the world in which we live today, into humanity, that He might be identified with us. There was a time when He was not the son of Mary and Joseph. He lived on earth for only thirty-three years, and in those few years He made it possible for us to become the sons of God and the heirs to the promises of God.

In John 1:12 it says, “But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.” Being the son of God, He became the son of man. He identified Himself with man in order to make us sons of God. And so the Son of Man condescended. He could have been born in a palace! He could have been born a nobleman! He could have been born rich! But how could He have understood us if He had been born that way? The only way He could have ever understood us was to suffer.

God could have put Him in a nobleman's family, but He didn't do that. Instead, He put Him in the home of a carpenter. Why? So He could understand working people. He created and owned the universe, yet He identified Himself with every human need that any human ever had!

To be rejected by your community is one of the greatest embarrassments in life. I read every now and again where some great star from Hollywood or from the athletic world goes back to his little home town, declares his faith and says, "I'm your son," and they all clap for him. But they didn't clap when Jesus went back to town. They tried to kill Him. That's maybe the greatest sorrow a man could have, not to be accepted. Nobody wanted Him. Nobody cared for Him.

Why did Jesus permit Himself to go through such pain? So He could save you. He knows us completely! He loves us absolutely!

He raises us up in strength and might because He is one of us. And throughout eternity He's still going to be the Son of man.

Seventy-eight times in the Gospels, Jesus declared Himself to be the Son of man—He wanted to be identified with you! In John 1 it says Jesus made everything—the whole universe—and yet He wanted to be identified with you to know when you hurt, to know when you have a need. When you are thirsty, He wants to be able to say, “I’ve been thirsty, too.” When the tempests of life are slushing over you, He wants you to know that His boat almost sank one night, too. He knows it all! It doesn’t matter what you know, He knows it all! That’s the difference between the pagan gods and our God.

I used to talk to those pagan priests; it’s amazing how little they know. I’d ask them what all their gods could do, and finally they’d say, “Well, to tell you the truth, they can’t do

a thing.” He would say, “There’s a hole in the back of our manmade idols, and there is a spirit of this god that goes in and out. Normally, the spirit’s not here; he’s off wandering around the mountains now, but when he is inside, then he can do something. He’s dreadful.” Then I’d say, “So, you serve a wicked spirit.” And many times they’d say, “Yeah, he’s bad. But we can’t do anything about it. We don’t know any other spirit.” And I’d say, “Well, that’s why I came; I am here to tell you about another one. Did you ever hear about a God of love?” “No,” they would say, “we never heard of a god of love.” “Well,” I’d say, “I want to tell you about one.” Then I would open the New Testament and read, “God is love.” Then I would tell them that God gave His Son to communicate with us. He gave a Son in order that He might have the feelings that we have, the problems that we have, and the sorrows that we have. God gave His

Son so that we might become the sons of God, and then live forever and ever with God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost!

Jesus Christ came into, and not out of, humanity. He didn't come out of humanity. He came into humanity so you can come out of humanity. Jesus lived on earth for only thirty-three years in order that it might be possible for you to become the heirs of the promise of God. Romans 8:17 says, "And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together."

What does it mean to "suffer with him"? It means for us to go through life and show other humans what it means to live like Jesus did. And when you incorrectly say, "What has happened to me has never happened to anybody else," Jesus replies, "It's happened to Me." He knows exactly how to reach down

into your sorrow and your pain and to love you. He knows how to bring you up out of that sorrow. He is great. He is wonderful.

Prayer of Salvation

Lord Jesus I confess I am a sinner and I repent of my sins (stop sinning and turn away from my sins). Please forgive me. I accept you as my Lord, Master and Savior. I thank you for taking my judgment of death for my sin debt, by being nailed to the cross and shedding your blood for the forgiveness of my sins. I thank you for giving me your righteousness.

With your help I will obey you all the days of my life. I will confess you before mankind and will not be ashamed of you. Please change me by the power of the Holy Spirit and give me your grace and love for all people. Show me the plan you have for my life and help me to fulfill it. Amen.

Sign your name

Be sure to (1) read your Bible daily, (2) Pray daily, and (3) Attend a Bible-believing church consistently.

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Dr. Lester Sumrall

1913~1996

The voice of Dr. Lester Sumrall remains prominent in the Christian world today. More than 65 years of ministry in over 100 nations made Dr. Sumrall a respected source of wisdom and understanding. He was an author, teacher, missionary, evangelist, and the pastor and founder of Christian Center Church in South Bend, Indiana.

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