

Theology II: Person of Christ (Part 2)

Session 2 - Dr. Jeremy Kimble

Christology and explaining who Jesus is.

- Christ - Title that means Messiah or Anointed One, the King.
 - Person - who is He?
 - Work - What has He done and is doing?

INTRODUCTION

- To begin this section on the person of Christ, we want to focus on seven particular items seen in Scripture:
 - He was prophesied
 - He was born
 - He lived
 - He died
 - He rose
 - He ascended
 - He will return

Glory is an attribute of what God possesses going public. What's manifested of Jesus? His Omnipotence, His Mercy, His Grace... not just His Glory.

BIBLICAL FOUNDATION: PROPHESED

- This was **Messianic** expectation from the very beginnings of the OT, and it is important that as we seek to understand who Christ is, we begin with a picture of his reality that is consonant with the descriptions seen in the OT.

*The Old Testament is a Messianic document,
written from a Messianic perspective, to maintain a Messianic hope.*

BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS: PROPHESED

Genesis 3:15	Psalm 22
Genesis 12:1-3 (cf. Gal 3:10-14)	Psalm 110 (cf Heb 1:13; 7:11-19)
Genesis 49:9-10 (cf Heb 7:14; Rev 5:5)	Isaiah 7:14
Deuteronomy 18:15,18	Isaiah 9:6-7
2 Samuel 7:1-16 (1Chron 17)	Isaiah 52:13-53:12
Psalm 2 (cf Rev 12)	Daniel 7:13-14
Psalm 16 (cf Acts 2:25-28; 13:35-37)	Micah 5:2

*The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between **your offspring** and **her offspring**; **he** (some man) shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." Gen 3:14-15*

And I will make you a great nation. Gen 12:2 Abrahamic Covenant

The Law and the Promise

*To give a human example, brothers: even with a man-made covenant, no one annuls it or adds to it once it has been ratified. Now the promises were made to Abraham and to **his offspring** (Israel) . It does not say, "And to offsprings," referring to many, but referring to one, "And to your offspring," **who is Christ**. Gen 3:15-16*

*Judah is a lion's cub; from the prey, my son, you have gone up. He stooped down; he crouched as a lion and as a lioness; who dares rouse him? The **scepter** (king - ruling) **shall not depart from Judah**, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples. Gen 49:9-10*

***A New Prophet like Moses** (in the line of Moses but greater than)
"The Lord your God will raise up for you **a prophet** like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers . And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. Deut 18:1,18*

The Lord's Covenant with David

*... "Thus says the Lord of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son... And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. **Your throne shall be established forever.**" (Davidic Covenant - Your son will rule and reign forever.) 2 Sam 7:1-16*

The Reign of the Lord's Anointed Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, **against the Lord and against his Anointed**, saying, "Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us." He who sits in the heavens **laughs**; the Lord holds them in derision. Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, "As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill." I will tell of the decree: The Lord said to me, "You are my Son; (Heb 1 Messiah - Jesus) today I have begotten you. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel." Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him. Psalm 2 (Rev 12 child is born and immediately given a rod of iron... it's that Son, Anointed One)

Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure. For you will not abandon my soul (David) to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption. Ps 16:9-10 Acts 2 - True of Messiah

A Psalm of David. My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? (Jesus on the cross) *Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning? O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest. All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, even the one who could not keep himself alive... ...Posterity shall serve him; it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation; they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn, that he has done it. Psalm 22 Victory, Victory, Victory.*

A Psalm of David. The LORD (Yahweh) says to my Lord (Adoni): "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool." Psalm 110:1 quoted in the Gospels and Hebrews

*Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the **virgin** shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. Isa 7:14*

*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and **the government shall be upon his shoulder**, (ruler, coming King) and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father (fatherly-ness), Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom to establish it and to uphold it... from this time forth and forevermore. Isa 9:6-7 (Christmas Prophecy)*

He Was Pierced for Our Transgressions

Behold, my servant shall act wisely; he shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted. As many were astonished at you— his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of mankind— so shall he sprinkle many nations. Kings shall shut their mouths because of him, for that which has not been told them they see, and that which they have not heard they understand.

Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our

iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand. Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors. Isa 52:13-53:12 (Death of Messiah - Jesus)

The Son of Man Is Given Dominion *“I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, (self designation of Jesus) and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations,*

and languages should serve him; ... his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed. Dan 7:13-14

*But you, **O Bethlehem Ephrathah**, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, **from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel**, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. Micah 5:2*

BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS: PROPHESED

- Thus it can be seen from analyzing the OT that Christ is “the” **Seed of Abraham** (offspring) that blesses all families of the earth (Genesis 12:2), He is the **Ruler** from the Tribe of **Judah** (Genesis 49:10), and the Son that Establishes the **House** of David forever (2 Samuel 7:12-16). His **virgin** birth (Isaiah 7:14), his birth in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2), even the **date** of his birth (Dan 9:25) are foretold. His death is foretold in awesome detail (Isaiah 53; Psalm 22), and the New Testament affirms that David himself **foresaw** the resurrection of the Messiah (Psalm 16:10). Christ is seen as the **Seed of the Woman** who crushes the Seed of the Serpent (Gen 3:15; see Romans 16:20 for a still more complete and future fulfillment of this prophecy).
- Thus, the predictive prophecies of the Old Testament give us a strong basis for Jesus’ messianic self-consciousness and form the indispensable background for understanding His life and ministry.

BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS: BORN

- There are two **aspects** to the birth of Christ to which we must give attention. The first is the **nature** of that birth; that it involves an incarnation. The second is the **manner** of the birth; that Christ is born of a virgin.

Resource: On the Incarnation by Saint Athanasius AD 373
Article about it: desiringgod.org/articles/on-the-incarnation

- The incarnation. The very word “incarnation” means “**enfleshment**,” the union of a spiritual being with a fleshly human body. While the incarnation is assumed throughout the entire New Testament, there are two passages that speak very specifically to the nature of the incarnation.

The Word Became Flesh In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God... And the Word became flesh and dwelt (tabernacled - God’s direct presence)

among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:1-14

*Jesus answered them, "Destroy **this temple**, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking about **the temple of his body**. John 2:19-21 (Jesus is God in the flesh - the literal presence of God)*

*Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but **emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant**, (Jesus subtracted by adding to himself a human nature, 1 God - 3 Persons, Jesus is one person with 2 natures - divine/human. Only a human can die for humans for atonement) *being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.* Phil 2:3-11*

- The second item we must discuss is the manner in which Christ entered human existence. We normally call it the **virgin birth**, but actually what we mean is the **virginal conception**. The birth of Christ was normal, as far as we know. It is His conception that was different -- He was conceived of a virgin.

TALKING POINT

- "What if tomorrow someone digs up definite proof that Jesus has a real, earthly, biological father named Larry, and archaeologists find Larry's tomb and do DNA samples and prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that the virgin birth was really just a bit of mythologizing the Gospel writers threw in to appeal to the followers of Mithra and Dionysian religious cults that were hugely popular at the time of Jesus, whose gods had a virgin births? Would it really matter?" *by Rob Bell, Velvet Elvis*. Currently works for Oprah, far left thology.

It matters: natural normal human birth is how everyone is born. Sin nature is passed on by the father. New Adam. Isaiah prophesy isn't false, Angels and Gospel writers aren't lying. Matt 1 & 2, Luke 1 & 2.

- **Key Texts:**

*Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the **virgin shall conceive and bear a son**, and shall call his name Immanuel. Isa 7:14*

The Birth of Jesus Christ Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, **before they came together** (never had sex) she was found to be **pregnant through the Holy Spirit**. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for **that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit**. (confirmation) She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: (Isaiah) “Behold, **the virgin will conceive** and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but he **did not consummate their marriage** until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus. Matt 1:18-25

Birth of Jesus Foretold In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?” And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her. Luke 1:26-38

- Note the unequivocal testimony of the gospels, particularly Matthew.
- Grudem’s insight about the value of the virgin birth for us.

- If Jesus had no parents it might be hard to understand his humanity.
- If Jesus had two parents it might be hard to understand his divinity.

BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS: LIFE

- Normally, we would focus more on the death of Christ than His life, but it was His life that first attracted and amazed His disciples. Not only was it a life without **sin**, but it was a life filled with **activity**.
- There is not much information on the early years of Jesus, but there is one text to consider.

***The Boy Jesus in the Temple** Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? **Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?**" And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man. Luke 2:41-52*

- While the Gospels could easily be sufficient material for a lifetime of study, we will limit our exploration to several key points in His life and three aspects of His ministry.
 - Baptism
 - Temptation
 - Ministry and miracles
 - Transfiguration
- Baptism (Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22; John 1:21-24)
 - This event is recorded in all three **Synoptic** Gospels and is alluded to in the gospel of John. This is the point at which Jesus began His **public ministry**. (Baptized by John the baptizer to fulfill all righteousness - step of obedience) And it is a ministry characterized by identification. In coming to John, Jesus identified Himself with the ministry of His forerunner. In coming for baptism, He identified

Himself with **sinful humanity**; and in His response, God the Father, quoting from Psalm 2:7 and Isaiah 42:1, identified His Son as Messiah, but a Messiah who would live and die as a Suffering Servant.

*Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, "**You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.**" (Father, affirming the Son - quoting Psalm 2 and Isa 42) Luke 3:21-22*

- After this Jesus goes to the wilderness to be tempted. Jesus overcomes these temptations. How is that fair? He's God. How can God be "tempt-able" in the first place? ... for further discussion.

***The Temptation of Jesus** Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these **stones to become loaves of bread.**" But he answered, "It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."*

*Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, **throw yourself down**, for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you," and "On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone." Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will **fall down and worship me.**" Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve." Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him. Matt 4:1-11*

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Heb 4:15

Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. James 1:13

For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. 1 Pet 2:21