

Ancient Faith Part IV

"I Believe in Jesus Christ, God's Only Son, Our Lord"



Trinity Baptist Students

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The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of Heaven and Earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
He descended to the dead.
On the third day He rose again;
He ascended into Heaven,
He is seated at the right hand of the Father,
And He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church (the word catholic means "universal")
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.

I Believe in Jesus Christ

When your parents named you they gave you a first, likely a middle or even two middle names, and a last name. Your first name is what everyone calls you...that is unless you are like me and go by your middle name. Your last name tells you what family that you belong to...or who your paternal father is.

It was different in Jesus' day. In fact, Jesus was known as "Jesus of Nazareth" because Nazareth was the town Jesus grew up. It was like saying "Jesus from Nazareth". However, one could also have titles added to their name.

When we say Jesus Christ, the word "Christ" is a title.

R.C. Sproul says that,

*"Christ is a title filled with theological significance. The word is from the Greek word *christos*, which means "anointed one." It is the Greek term that translated the Old Testament Hebrew word *Messiah*. Thus, in the combined name *Jesus Christ*, a confession of faith is immediately articulated. The words mean "Jesus, the Messiah."—R.C. Sproul, *What We Believe*, p. 74*

In Genesis 3 man has rebelled against God and the curses for breaking God's command are being handed down. But, in the midst of these curses there is a promise of salvation given. Read Genesis 3:14-19/

What is the promise in this passage and how is it fulfilled?

The promise of salvation from a person born of a woman did not end with Genesis 3. The promise of a redeemer, a Messiah, is sounded with some regularity throughout the Old Testament.

In Genesis 12: 1-3, God discusses the covenant that He will make with Abraham. One of the peculiar things that is promised is that all the families of the Earth would be blessed through Abraham. How is it that all the families of the Earth would be blessed through Abraham?

Who is the person who is promised in Deuteronomy 18:15? How is He like Moses?

In Genesis 49:10 a king would reign forever. In 2 Samuel we read of God's promise of an eternal kingdom for the family of David. Read 2 Samuel 7:16 and answer these questions.

Is there a king in Israel now? Does God keep His promise to David? If so, how?

Read Psalm 110:1 and discuss whether or not David, the writer of the Psalm, thought that the future king was going to be greater than Him Why or why not?

The Conquering And Suffering Messiah

The prophecies about the Messiah are twofold. One set of prophecies discuss the Messiah's eventual reign. He would be a conquering King who would rule and reign with power and might in righteousness. Yet, there is another set of passages that discuss the Messiah's suffering.

How do these two things go together?

In different locations around the country and, around the world, you can look into the distance and see what looks like one blue mountain range. Then you get close to the mountains and realize that this was two sets of mountains. There was actually one closer than the other but it looked like one mountain range from a distance. I believe that is how these prophecies concerning the Messiah come to us in the Old Testament.

At times the prophet is seeing this kingly figure who is going to set all things right.

Read Isaiah 9:1-7. What will things be like when the Messiah comes to set all things right?

Read Isaiah 2:4 and describe what the day of the Conquering King who is the Messiah will look like.

Read Isaiah 11:1-9 and again describe what the day of the Conquering King who is the Messiah will look like.

Now, let us look at the passages that are the most prominent concerning the suffering Messiah: Isaiah 53 and Psalm 22.

Look at Isaiah 53:3-12 carefully. What do you see happening to the Messiah? What do you see the Messiah doing? What is God accomplishing in the work of the Messiah? What is the Messiah's reward for doing this task?

When Jesus was on the cross He said "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46) There were no chapter numbers and verse numbers at this time. So if you were calling out the name of a Psalm it was actually the first words. These are the first words of Psalm 22. Now, why would Jesus want His hearers to think on Psalm 22 while He was on the cross?

Read Psalm 22 and consider why Jesus would want us to consider this Psalm at His death. To the best of your ability explain why Jesus wanted His hearers to think on Psalm 22 at His death.

What did Jesus's death accomplish for those who would trust in Him?

“God’s Only Son”

The name “Son of God” was applied to Jesus during His life. We have to understand that this completely separates Jesus from everyone.

Think back to Psalm 110:1. It is obvious from the text that David saw the One who would fill his throne as being greater than himself. He actually calls this person, “my Lord”. And this truly is the case. God Himself would come and fill the throne of David.

The New Testament teaches this with great clarity. Jesus is at times nearly killed by mobs of people because of His claims to being equal with God.

Read John 1:1-5 & 14. What does this passage tell us about Jesus, who John here calls “The Word”?

What does Jesus say about His relationship with the Father in John 10:33? _____

What does Thomas call Jesus in John 20:28? What is Jesus’s response? _____

In Titus 2:11-14 what does Paul call Jesus _____

Is God the Son a created being like us? _____

Do you believe that Jesus is God’s only Son? Why or why not?

Jesus's Deity Proven By His Authority

Jesus had authority as a teacher that only God has. Jesus stands up and says, "You have heard it said,..... but I say to you" to his listeners. He was discussing the old law and then issuing a new command. Why does he have the authority to issue a new command? _____

Something was noticed by people who found Jesus's teaching peculiar. He had peculiar authority. Read Matthew 7:28-29. Why was Jesus able to teach as one with peculiar authority? _____

Another thing that proves Jesus's Deity is his control over nature.. Read Matthew 3:23-27 and explain why this helps to prove that Jesus is God. _____

Read Acts 17:30-31. What will Jesus return to do one day? How does this help us to understand that Jesus is God. _____

Jesus has all authority over people and angels, read Matthew 16:26-27. Who has this kind of authority? _____

Read Colossians 1:15-16. Who is it that created all things? _____

Scripture teaches in many ways that Jesus is the Messiah, He is God the Son, and that He is Lord. And it will be this last word that we explore briefly here at the end of this week's discussion.

“Our Lord”

When we recite that Jesus is the Son of God we are really saying that He is equal with God. Or, a more accurate way of saying it is that He is Himself God. He is the Second Person of the Trinity. He is also known as God the Son.

“In the creed, stating that Jesus is the “Son of God” amounts to saying that Jesus is God.”-- Alistair McGrath, *I Believe*, p. 40

McGrath notices later that to call Jesus Lord means much the same thing.

“To believe that Jesus is Lord, therefore, involves more than believing that He has authority over us (although, as we shall see, that is certainly implied); it makes a direct and powerful claim about the divinity of Jesus Christ. To confess that Jesus Christ is Lord is to proclaim His equality with God. It makes a statement about Jesus’ relation to God.”— Alistair McGrath, *I Believe*, p. 44

Throughout the Scriptures God is called “Lord”. To call Jesus “Lord” is to confess Him as being God. After Jesus’s resurrection this is found much more often (John 20:28; Acts 2:36, 10:36). When we confess that Jesus is Lord, we confess that He is God and has all the authority that God has.

Read Matthew 28:18 and describe the authority that Lord Jesus has.

Do you believe that Jesus is “God’s only Son, Our Lord”? _____