



The Christ of Christmas – Who is Jesus Christ?
Big Sunday
December 17, 2023

This Christmas season, as we think about the Christ of Christmas, we would like to bring our attention to some aspects of who Jesus Christ is.

AN AUTHENTIC HISTORICAL FIGURE

We know that the historicity of Christ has been indisputably proven. Historian Will Durant has identified at least 19 ancient sources that refer to Jesus Christ as a real person.

Non-Biblical sources such as several Roman historians, Jewish historian, and other writings from that period reference Jesus Christ, His crucifixion, and the early Christians.

In addition, we have the Biblical accounts, the writings of the Early Church and archeological references from that period, add supporting context and credibility to the historical setting given in Biblical accounts.

PROFOUND IMPACT ON HUMAN HISTORY AND CIVILIZATION

We could also reflect on the profound influence of Christ and Christianity have had and continue to have on human history and civilization. We can readily acknowledge the undeniable influence and effect of Christ and His teachings on all areas of our existence. We will bring out attention to a few, in brief:

Religious and Spiritual Impact:

Monotheism and moral principles/ethics: Christianity introduced the concept of one God and a set of moral principles based on love, forgiveness, and compassion, influencing various religious traditions and ethical frameworks.

Social and Cultural Impact:

Education and literacy: The Church played a crucial role in preserving and transmitting knowledge, establishing schools and universities, and promoting literacy globally.

Scientific Research: Many early scientists saw their work as a way of understanding and appreciating the Creator. They saw their work as complementary to their religious beliefs, seeking to understand the order and design they believed God had instilled in



the natural world. These early scientists were deeply religious and professed faith in Christ. During the period of scientific exploration and discovery, often referred to as the Scientific Revolution (16th to 18th centuries), many prominent scientists were devout Christians. These include people like:

Nicolas Copernicus (1473–1543), Johannes Kepler (1571–1630), Galileo Galilei (1564–1642), Blaise Pascal (1623–1662), Isaac Newton (1642–1727), Robert Boyle (1627–1691), and others.

Art and architecture: Christian themes and symbolism inspired countless works of art, music, and architecture.

Charity and social welfare: Christian teachings on charity and social justice fueled the development of hospitals, orphanages, and other institutions dedicated to helping the poor, sick, and marginalized.

Political and Legal Impact:

Framing of Legal Systems on Moral Foundations: Christian principles like justice, equality, and the sanctity of life have influenced the framing of legal systems and ethical principles enshrined in constitutions. Concepts like due process, the separation of powers, and protections for religious freedom can be seen as reflecting Christian values.

Human rights, social movements and social reform: Christian principles have inspired movements for social justice, human rights, and the abolition of slavery and other oppressive practices.

While what we have just mentioned are fairly common knowledge, who really is Jesus Christ?

WHO IS THIS CHRIST OF CHRISTMAS?

One of the best ways to understand this is to examine (A)What Jesus Christ said about Himself and see if He backed these claims and (B)What does the Christian faith – the Bible and the early disciples say about Jesus Christ. Let's do this.

CHRIST'S CLAIM FOR HIMSELF

The "I am" claims of Christ.

The Lord Jesus claimed several things for Himself during His earthly life and ministry:

- "I am the bread of life" (John 6:35,48,51) - as the life-giving bread, He is the One who satisfies the hunger of every heart.



- "I am the light of the world" (John 8:12) - as the light of the world, He is the one who enlightens each one and gives light for each one.
- "I am the door of the sheep" (John 10:7,9) - as the door, He is the only point of entry into the Kingdom and into eternal life.
- "I am the good shepherd" (John 10:11,14) - as the good shepherd, He is the One who leads, guides and nurtures everyone who dares to entrust their life in His hands.

He claimed to be the only way to the Father.

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

He claimed to be "the" only, and not "one among many". He did not claim to be one among many paths, one among many expressions of truth or one among many sources of life. Instead, He claimed to be "the way, the truth and the life". To go to the Father, One had to necessarily go through Him alone.

He claimed pre-existence.

John 8:56-59

56 Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad."

57 Then the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?"

58 Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM."

59 Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

The Lord Jesus claimed pre-existence and the name of God for Himself, by stating "before Abraham was, I AM" (John 8:58)

John 17:5 And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

Here again, in His prayer, He claimed being One with the Father, possessing eternal glory, in eternity past.

He claimed to be one with the Father.

John 5:26



For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself,

John 10:30-33

30 I and My Father are one."

31 Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him.

32 Jesus answered them, "Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?"

33 The Jews answered Him, saying, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God."

When the Lord Jesus said "I and My Father are one" (John 10:30) He not only claimed being one in mind and spirit with the Father, but as in the language of the people of His time, He being a Man, claimed deity.

He claimed power over death.

John 10:17-18

17 "Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again.

18 No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father."

"I am the resurrection, and the life" (John 11:25) - the One who alone promises to raise those who believe in Him from the dead, because He has conquered death.

He claimed to be alive and showed Himself alive after His crucifixion.

The Lord Jesus, after His death and resurrection, in His revelation to John, claimed several things for Himself:

- "I am He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death" (Revelation 1:18)
- "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last" (Revelation 22:13). This is repeated in several places (Revelation 1:8,11,17; Revelation 21:6)
- "I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star"(Revelation 22:16).

All of these reveal that He was more than just a man, a good teacher, a prophet, etc. He was and is God. To our knowledge, no other man, spiritual leader, or religious teacher has made such claims to who he was.



THE BIBLE'S CLAIM ABOUT CHRIST

The Bible presents Jesus Christ as Deity.

As deity, He was always God, eternal with the Father and the Spirit.

The Bible presents Jesus Christ as absolutely unique.

The Bible teaches that there is no salvation in any other. There is only one mediator between God and men, that is Jesus Christ.

The Bible presents Jesus Christ as born of a virgin.

The Bible presents Jesus Christ as the Incarnate God.

This was the Eternal Word who became man and walked among us. This was God with us.

The Bible records Christ's life, teaching, and ministry.

The Bible presents Christ's substitutionary death.

His death was not just another incident as it happens to all people. Rather, His death on the Cross, was a payment for the sins of the whole world.

The Bible presents Christ's resurrection and ascension.

The Bible presents salvation through simple faith in Jesus Christ.

The Bible presents Christ's power to transform life, heal and deliver today.

WHAT DO YOU SAY ABOUT THE CHRIST OF CHRISTMAS?

So, Who Is Jesus Christ? Your Decision?

Each of us must decide. We either embrace Him for who He says He is and what the Bible says about Him – OR – we simply consider Him to be just another good man who lives and passed away.

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL AND SALVATION CALL



The Christ of Christmas
Sermon Notes, Sermon Outline and Small Group Study Guide

SUPERNATURAL MINISTRY TIME

Minister as the Spirit leads



The Christ of Christmas Sermon Notes, Sermon Outline and Small Group Study Guide



USEFUL RESOURCES

Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

WORLD MISSIONS: <https://apcworldmissions.org>

SERMON OUTLINE

The simple message points to who Christ is based on the claims of Jesus Christ about Himself, and some aspects of what the Bible says about Jesus Christ.

KEYWORDS

Who is Jesus Christ? sermon, sermons, sermon notes, sermon outline, free sermon notes, free sermon outlines, Bible study resources

REFERENCES/CITATIONS

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Thayer's Greek Definitions. Published in 1886, 1889; public domain.

Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries, Strong's Exhaustive Concordance by James Strong, S.T.D., LL.D. Published in 1890; public domain.



The Christ of Christmas Sermon Notes, Sermon Outline and Small Group Study Guide

Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words, © 1984, 1996, Thomas Nelson, Inc., Nashville, TN

Mounce Concise Greek-English Dictionary. Edited by William D. Mounce with Rick D. Bennett, Jr. (1993)

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