

The Eternal Christ

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Jesus Christ is Almighty God

Lesson 1

A. Introduction

It is vitally important for our salvation that **we know and believe that Jesus is God the Son.**

It is important to know that **Jesus is the second person of the Trinity of the Godhead, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

The Bible is clear from beginning to end that Jesus was and is and always shall be the mighty Son of God.

No recognised religious leader – not Moses, Paul, Buddha, Mohammed or any other – has ever claimed to be God except Jesus Christ.

This incredible man who was a simple carpenter's son, who grew up among the shavings and sawdust of his father's workshop, was in reality **God in the flesh.**

B. Jesus claimed to be God

Read John 10:30-33

1. Equal with His Father.

The Jews did not want to kill Jesus because of His good works but because He claimed to be God.

It was laid down in the Law, Leviticus 24:16, that blasphemy was to be punished by stoning.

2. His Father.

Read John 5:17-18

a) Jesus again puts Himself equal with God by saying that God was His Father in a special way that was different to the Jews' way of saying "Our Father in heaven".

b) He also put Himself equal with God by healing a man on the Sabbath, which was breaking the Law in the eyes of the Jews.

3. Older than Abraham.

Read John 8:58

a) The Jews were amazed that Jesus could claim to be older than Abraham who had lived nearly 2000 years before Him.

- b) They also knew that God had told Moses to tell the people of Israel that He was the "I Am".

Now they could clearly hear Jesus giving Himself the same title, "I Am", and so they again wanted to stone Him for blasphemy.

4. **Honour Him.**

Read John 5:23-24

Jesus says that all should honour Him even as they honour the Father.

5. **Knowing Him.**

Read John 8:19

To know Him is to know the Father.

6. **Believe in Him.**

Read John 14:1

To believe in God is also to believe in Him.

7. **Seeing.**

Read John 14:9

To see Him was to see the Father.

8. **Worship Him.**

Read Matthew 8:2; 14:33

Those who were healed by Him and those who were His disciples worshipped Him. Remember, only God can be worshipped.

C. **Others claimed that Jesus was God**

Those who knew Him made Him equal to God and were prepared to die for their belief in Him.

1. **Paul, who had persecuted the Christian believers and who had had the great Damascus road experience of conversion, wrote to:**

- a) The Philippians 2:9-11, that Jesus had been given the Name above all names.
b) Titus 2:13, that Jesus was our great God and Saviour.

2. **John the Baptist.**

Luke 3:22. John saw the Holy Spirit descend upon Jesus like a dove and heard the

voice from heaven saying that Jesus was God's beloved Son.

3. Peter.

Matthew 16:15-17. Under the anointing of the Holy Spirit Peter clearly proclaims that Jesus is the Son of the Living God.

4. Thomas the doubter.

John 20:26-29. The Sunday following Easter Day, unbelieving Thomas was with the other disciples in the upper room when Jesus appeared and invited Thomas to feel His wounds. Thomas, full of wonder, cried out, "My Lord and my God". Note that Jesus rebuked Thomas for his unbelief but not for calling Him God.

5. Stephen.

Acts 7:59. Just as Jesus had asked His Father to receive His spirit, so now Stephen asks God the Son to receive his spirit.

D. Jesus forgave the sins of mankind

Read Mark 2:5 and Luke 7:48

In both these and other cases the religious rulers and others were astounded that Jesus forgave sins. No one on earth had either the authority or right to forgive sins. Only the One whom all have sinned against, i.e. God, could forgive sin. Therefore, if Christ forgave sins, then surely Christ must be God.

E. Jesus claimed to be "Life"

Read John 14:6

Notice that Jesus did not say that He knew or taught *about* "the way, the truth and the life". He said He *was* "the way, the truth and the life". Only God is eternal life and Christ claimed to be that life.

It is wonderful to know that when we give our lives to Christ we are putting our past, present and future into the hands of the living God. When we call on the name of Jesus we are not merely calling on the name of a great man but on the name of God Himself – a name above all others.

F. Conclusion

Read John 20:30-31

A person once said, "A man who can read the New Testament and not see that Christ claims to be more than a man, can look over the sky at high noon on a cloudless day and not see the sun".

Memory Verse

John 14:6, *"Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No man comes to the Father except through Me".*

Teacher's Notes

Jesus who is the great "I Am" meets our every need:

John 4:26 I Am He, the Christ – meets our need of a Divine Saviour who is also human.

John 6:35 I Am the Bread of Life – meets our soul hunger.

John 8:12 I Am the Light of the World – meets our darkness.

John 10:7 I Am the Door of the Sheep – meets our homelessness.

John 10:11 I Am the Good Shepherd – meets our helplessness.

John 11:25 I Am the Resurrection and the Life – meets our death.

John 13:13 I Am your Master and Lord – meets our dependence.

John 14:6 I Am the Way, the Truth and the Life – meets our need of salvation.

John 15:1 I Am the True Vine – meets our need of union with Himself.

John 18:5 I Am Jesus of Nazareth – meets our need of a human Saviour who is also Divine.

Christ the Eternal Jehovah God

Lesson 2

A. Jesus is Jehovah

1. Jehovah means the Self-existent or Eternal One.
2. Jesus, who is Jehovah God, has always been the One who reveals the Godhead to humanity. This is true not only in the New Testament but also in the Old Testament.

We will see from the following lesson that the titles and functions given to Jesus in the New Testament are the same as those given to Jehovah in the Old Testament.

Where the title "Lord" or "God" is used in the Old Testament scripture readings that follow, the Hebrew word or correct translation should be Jehovah.

B. In the beginning

Read Isaiah 40:28 and John 1:1-3

1. **Before all time.** Jesus Christ has always existed. He is without beginning or end. He is from everlasting to everlasting. He is an eternal Being as are the Father and the Holy Spirit.
2. **He was with God for all eternity.** Eternity has no beginning, so if He has been with God from eternity then He has no beginning.
3. **He was God Himself** – what a mighty and glorious statement! There is only one man that the Bible ever calls God and His name is Jesus. Therefore, because Jesus is God, it means He has always existed, for only God has always existed.
4. **Through Him all things were created** – nothing came into being without Him. Jesus is the one who spoke the heavens into being, who made the angels, the sun, stars, moon and earth. In Genesis 1:1 we read that in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth – it was this same Jesus who was the Creator. Not only did He create all things, but the redemption of creation is also by Him. As all creation came by the Son through the Holy Spirit, so all redemption comes the same way.

C. The Alpha and the Omega

Read Isaiah 41:4 and Revelation 1:8

1. These two words are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet – the beginning and the end. Notice that it is Jesus Himself who calls Himself the first and the last. All things are from Him and for Him.
2. The Bible also describes Him as the One who is, and who was, and who is to come.
3. He is the Eternal One with no beginning and no end.

D. The Great Judge

Read Joel 3:12 and John 5:27

1. The Bible is clear that Christ will judge all men and angels and that this is a definite event that will take place in the future. It is not the Father who will judge, but His Son Jesus Christ, because He is the Son of Man.

The Man who was judged by men before Pilate will now sit on the universal throne of judgement.

2. Jesus humbled Himself by taking on the form of a man even though He was in the form of God. God has therefore exalted Jesus because He became obedient even unto death.
3. The Son of Man shall come in the glory of His Father with His angels and then He shall reward every man according to his works.

All the nations shall be gathered before Him and He shall separate them as a shepherd divides sheep from goats.

Then He shall say to those on His right hand, "Come, ye blessed of my Father", and to those on the left, "Depart from me, ye cursed".

E. The Faithful Shepherd

Read Psalm 23:1 and John 10:11

1. The shepherd is the one who is finally responsible for the safety of his sheep.
 - a) Often the shepherd is called to risk his life and at times some have even had to lay their lives down for their sheep.
 - b) It is always the shepherd's responsibility to lead his sheep to the best pastures available.
 - c) If one sheep should go missing then the good shepherd will not hesitate to give up everything in order to go and find that one sheep which is lost.
2. Jesus is the Good Shepherd and the members of the Church are His sheep. They know His voice and follow Him faithfully.

This great Shepherd of ours laid His life down for us so that we might have eternal life.

Now that Jesus is ascended on high He is called "the great Shepherd of the sheep" and "the chief Shepherd of the flock". We can trust and rejoice in this fact; that our great Shepherd still shepherds us and will not forsake us.

F. Jesus our Eternal Jehovah

It is wonderful to see from the scriptures that **Jesus was, is and always will be our eternal Jehovah God. He is our Emmanuel** – God with us, never forsaking nor leaving us.

Whenever we read the Bible, both Old and New Testaments, we should always be aware of two important facts:

1. The Bible from beginning to end is the revelation of Jesus Christ.
2. Jesus is the great Revealer of the Triune Godhead.

Memory Verse

John 1:1, *"In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God".*

Teacher's Notes

Here are some of the many examples that prove that the Jesus of the New Testament is the Jehovah of the Old Testament.

Jesus is Jehovah:

Jehovah	Title or Act	Jesus
Isaiah 40:28	Creator	John 1:3
Isaiah 43:11; 45:22	Saviour	John 4:42
1 Samuel 2:6	Raise the dead	John 5:21
Joel 3:12	Judge	John 5:27, Matthew 25:31
Isaiah 60:19-20	Light	John 8:12
Exodus 3:14	I Am	John 8:58
Psalms 23:1	Shepherd	John 10:11
Isaiah 42:8; 48:11	Glory of God	John 17:1, 5
Isaiah 41:4	First and Last	Revelation 1:17
Hosea 13:14	Redeemer	Revelation 5:9
Psalms 18:2	Rock	1 Corinthians 10:4
Jeremiah 31:34	Forgiver of sins	Mark 2:7-10
Psalms 148:1-2	Worshipped by angels	Hebrews 1:6
Psalms 148:5	Creator of angels	Colossians 1:16
Isaiah 45:23	Confessed as Lord	Philippians 2:11

Jesus the perfect Man

Lesson 3

A. Born of a virgin

Read Luke 1:26-35

This is the amazing revelation of how God the Son would take on human form and be born of a virgin.

The angel informs Mary that she will conceive and bear a son. Mary was totally amazed – "How will this be since I am a virgin?" The angel replies that the conception would be a miraculous act of God; she would conceive a son by the power of the Holy Spirit, without a human father. The child she would bear would be the Son of Almighty God.

B. Why the virgin birth?

Read Isaiah 7:14

1. We must understand that the virgin birth is vital, i.e. absolutely essential, to our Christian doctrine.
2. If Jesus had been born of a human father, e.g. Joseph, and a human mother, He would have been a fallen man like the rest of mankind. He would have inherited the corrupted or sinful nature of mankind. He too would have had to be redeemed and could not have been our Saviour.
3. Because of the fact that He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, in the womb of a virgin, He is the Son of God and Son of Man. He needed to be born of a virgin by the Holy Spirit in order to be born sinless.

C. The Son of God became a man

Read 1 Timothy 3:16

1. What a glorious miracle – God becomes a man through a virgin conception. Note that this scripture says that it was "God manifest in the flesh".
2. The birth of Jesus was not as in ordinary births; the creation of a new personality. It was a divine Person – already existing – entering into a new kind of existence. God had taken on the human nature through His Son, Jesus Christ.

The eternal Creator was born a baby, which had to be nursed at His mother's breast, washed, clothed and protected.

The One who upheld the universe by His Word was now wrapped in swaddling clothes in a manger in Bethlehem.

This was the start of a great miracle – God had become a man.

D. He was made of flesh and blood

Read Hebrews 2:14

Jesus was a true man with a physical body, so that He could deliver people of flesh and blood like you and I from the penalty of sin.

He did not take on the body of an angel but took on the body of the seed of Abraham. An angel could not have been an atoning sacrifice for the sin of man.

The same nature that later on sinned in the Garden of Eden was the nature that Jesus took on. He became man so that He might die. God prepared a body for Christ.

E. The human nature of Jesus

1. His physical nature.

Read Luke 2:40

- a) Luke tells us that Jesus was born as an infant and developed exactly as other babies. He had to go through the process of growth and development just as we do.
- b) His human body was subject to physical needs and frailties:
 - i) In John 4:6, we find Him weary from His journey.
 - ii) In John 4:7, He asks the Samaritan woman for water to quench His thirst; even on the Cross He cried out "I am thirsty".
 - iii) His body died on the Cross of Calvary.

2. His soul nature.

Read Matthew 26:38

The soul is the part of us that controls our human emotions, our mind and our will.

- a) We are told by Luke that Jesus grew in wisdom and stature.
- b) The writer to the Hebrews tells us that Jesus learned what obedience was from what He suffered.
- c) He was often moved with compassion and wept in grief and sorrow. The wilful rebellion of the Jews filled Him with righteous anger.
- d) In the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus shows how distressed He was in His soul.

Truly this Jesus was man in the fullest sense and yet sinless.

F. He emptied Himself

Read Philippians 2:5-8

1. Paul tells us that Jesus had existed in the form of God before He took on the form of man.

He did not cling to the glory of His Father in heaven, but He willingly stepped down from the courts of heaven and emptied Himself.

2. This does not mean that Christ ceased to be God or that He was no longer equal with His Father. He, in fact, claimed equality with God. John 5:18; 10:33.

He not only became human but stood in the ranks of the poor on earth. He limited Himself to a human body living in a simple home in Nazareth, where He became a carpenter and struggled with the wood He had to work with.

Illustration: The tabernacle in the desert, which held the Shekinah glory of God, was veiled by the brown leather skins that covered it. In the same way the brown, weathered body of the Carpenter of Nazareth veiled the glory of the Son of God!

3. God was manifested in the flesh in order to reconcile man to God.

What a great and glorious mystery!

Memory Verse

Hebrews 2:14, *“Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same nature, that through death he might destroy him who has the power of death, that is the devil”.*

Teacher’s Notes

1. The four Gospels of Christ according to Matthew, Mark, Luke and John give us a wonderful picture of Jesus. Just as a statue allows us to see the figure from all sides so the Gospels provide revelation of our glorious Lord from many different aspects.
2. The four Gospels have been compared with the four cherubim of Ezekiel 1:10. Matthew shows us our Lord in His Kingly role as the Lion of the tribe of Judah. Mark shows Him as the faithful servant of Jehovah, the Ox, ready for service or for sacrifice. Luke presents Him as the Son of Man, full of human sympathy as the emblem of the man suggests. John shows Him as the Son of God, the eagle that soars in the heavens.

Jesus our beloved Redeemer

Lesson 4

A. Our Redeemer comes

Read Galatians 4:4-5

There was a time in history which had been planned by God for the coming of our Redeemer, the Prince of Peace, Mighty God, Wonderful Counsellor, who set aside His glorious splendour and majesty, humbled Himself beyond what we can imagine and took on the form of a man.

God Himself had entered the human family as a baby born in Bethlehem.

His mission was both to redeem and adopt, not just to rescue us from slavery, but to make slaves into sons.

Illustration: Paul is using a Roman legal illustration in this verse to explain what God has done for us. The Roman law allowed a wealthy man, who was childless, to take into his family a slave youth as a son. Thus by a great stroke of fortune, the youth ceased to be a slave and became a son and an heir of a wealthy man.

B. Only through Jesus can we find redemption

Read Acts 4:12

1. It is very important to note that there is no other name in heaven or earth that can redeem us.

There is no great angel, e.g. Gabriel, nor any great man, e.g. Moses, who could redeem us.

2. The devil has deceived mankind into believing that salvation can come through:
 - a) good works
 - b) ancestral spirits
 - c) other men
 - d) strange gods

However, God is very clear in His Word – only through Jesus can we be saved.

C. Redemption

“Redemption” has two meanings:

1. The deliverance from sin and its curse.
2. The price that must be paid for that deliverance or the ransom that must be paid to buy back that which was stolen.

Illustration: The story is told of a young boy who spent much time in carving a beautiful toy boat out of wood. When he had finished it he was very proud of it and took it down to the river to sail it. Unfortunately the fast flowing water swept the boat away and soon it was lost. The boy was very sad, but one day whilst out walking he saw the little boat in the window of a shop. He hurried into the shop and told the owner that he had made it and it had got lost and could he now have it back, but the shop owner refused saying that he had bought it from someone else and demanded to be paid R10 for it. The boy ran home, took all his precious savings and came back to buy the boat. When he left the shop, he was full of joy and the shop owner heard him say, "First I made you, now I have bought you, you are twice mine".

So it is with us, first God made us and now He has bought us with the shed blood of His Son, our Redeemer.

D. We are redeemed from the wrath of God

Read Romans 6:23; 3:23

1. The Bible tells us that God is a consuming fire and will reward every man according to his works.
2. The Bible also tells us that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. This means that the fire of God's wrath must consume all.
3. God cannot pardon sin unless someone, i.e. our Redeemer, becomes sin for us and pays the ultimate penalty of death.

So as we turn to our Redeemer by faith, and not by our own good works, God lays our sin on the back of Jesus who carried all our sin to the Cross of Golgotha.

E. Redemption requires fulfilment of the law

Read Deuteronomy 27:26

1. The law of God cannot be changed or done away with.
2. The law can never be isolated from God, for the law is God's law. It reveals His moral nature and will.

What the law says, God says; what the law blesses, God blesses; and what the law curses, God curses.

3. Disobedience to God's law always brings us under the curse of God and exposes us to the awful penalties of His judgement.

The Bible tells us that all men have sinned, i.e. broken God's law, and so all men are under the curse of death.

F. Our redeemer has fulfilled the demands of the law

Read Galatians 3:13

This verse tells us that the only way to escape the curse is not by our own work, but by His. He redeemed us from it by becoming a curse Himself. The curse was transferred from us to Him.

Read Romans 5:19

1. Just as all were condemned by Adam's disobedience, even so by Christ's obedience all who believe in Him can be justified.
2. Jesus fulfilled the law in every aspect, something that no other man could or can do. Christ, clothed in our nature, has satisfied the demands of the law for us.

G. Our Redeemer has delivered us from the power of sin

Read Titus 2:14

1. Jesus said that whoever commits sin is the slave of sin, a bondage which no man can free himself from.
2. Paul tells us in this verse that Jesus has purchased our freedom from all iniquity and its power.

We no longer need to sin, for its power that in times past demanded that we sin, has now been broken. We can now live purified godly lives, zealous for good works.

H. Our Redeemer has delivered us from the power of Satan

Read Hebrews 2:14-15

1. The Scriptures teach us that Christ is the one who redeems us from the power of Satan, the prince and god of this world.

His kingdom is the kingdom of darkness into which all men since Adam are born, and in which they remain until translated into the Kingdom of God. They are Satan's subjects taken captive by him at his will.

2. Christ came to destroy the works of the devil, to cast him down from his place of usurped power.
3. Now we have been set free from the awful fear of death, which held us in bondage throughout the whole course of our lives.

Memory Verse

Titus 2:14, *"Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works".*

Teacher's Notes

It is the shed blood of Christ that redeems us from our sin and so it is vitally important that we understand that it is the foundation of everything.

Read the following verses and realise the great power of the blood.

The precious blood of Christ:

Leviticus 17:11	The meaning of the blood.
1 Peter 1:18-19	Redemption through the blood
Ephesians 1:7	Forgiveness through the blood
Romans 5:9	Justification through the blood
Colossians 1:20	Peace through the blood
1 John 1:7	Cleansing through the blood
Revelation 1:5	Washing of sins through the blood
Hebrews 13:12	Sanctification through the blood
Hebrews 10:19	Access to the Holy Place through the blood
Revelation 12:11	Victory through the blood
Revelation 7:14-17	Glory everlasting through the blood

Christ the great High Priest

Lesson 5

A. The function of a priest

Read Hebrews 5:1-4

A priest is a man chosen by God from among men, to mediate or represent men before God. This is because men who are sinners cannot come into the presence of Almighty God who is a consuming fire.

Because the priest is also a sinner he too must offer a sacrifice for his own sins, as well as those of the people.

Illustration: Once a year the Jewish high priest of Old Testament times would enter into the Holy of Holies in order to offer sacrifices for his and the people's sins. When he went into the holiest place of God's temple he wore bells on the hem of his garment so that people could hear him moving about. If God had not accepted him or the sacrifice then he would have been struck dead. It was therefore very important that he was a man chosen by God and that he came with exactly the right sacrifice.

His function therefore was to reconcile men to God.

So we see that the Old Testament priest served as a type, or a picture, of the promised Saviour.

B. Christ our perfect Priest

Read Hebrews 9:11-14

1. Jesus came as the High Priest and entered the Holy of Holies, not created by man with physical things, but created in heaven. He entered once and for all, not every year like the high priest of the Old Testament times.

He did not go with the blood of goats and bulls but with His own Blood.

2. No other sacrifice than His could take away sin.

All previous sacrifices had only been a foreshadow of the sacrifice of Christ – they pointed to His blood which was to be shed.

The sacrifices of the Old Testament priests could not purify the conscience from the sense of sin, but secured reconciliation with God through the faith of those looking forward to Christ's great sacrifice. That is why they were offered continually. The people needed to be constantly reminded of their guilt and of their need for the perfect sacrifice predicted in the Scriptures.

It is only through Jesus that we can now have constant communion with God.

C. Christ's earthly work as Priest

1. Read Hebrews 5:7 and Mark 14:32-36.

Jesus knew the awful sacrifice that He was about to make would separate Him from the presence of the Father. That is why He cried out to His Father in prayer, interceding on His own behalf as a priest, that if possible God would remove the cup of wrath that was about to come.

2. Read Hebrews 4:15 and Luke 22:31-32.

Jesus knows our every weakness and temptation, because He has been tempted just like us, although without sinning.

We see Him interceding as a priest:

- a) He prayed on behalf of Peter that his faith would not fail when Satan sifted him.
- b) Chapter 17 of John's Gospel is specifically called the high priestly prayer of Christ.
 - i) Here Jesus is especially praying for those God had given Him.
 - ii) He prays for the protection, sanctification, love and unity of His people.
 - iii) He also prayed for you and I, who would come to know Him years later, that we would all be one, i.e. united in Christ.
- c) The gospels constantly point out that Jesus was always speaking to His Father, seeking His will and interceding on behalf of mankind.
- d) It was on the Cross of Calvary that He uttered His last great intercession as the great Priest in His earthly ministry and cried out, "Father forgive them for they know not what they do".

D. Christ's heavenly priesthood

1. Read Hebrews 6:19-20.

Our hope and confidence is secure because our High Priest has entered into the Holy of Holies in heaven on our behalf.

When God accepted Him, He accepted you and I, if we have received Christ by faith as our Lord and Saviour and, because He is in God's presence, we are also guaranteed acceptance into God's presence.

2. Read Hebrews 7:25.

Christ is always interceding on our behalf just as He did whilst on earth.

Now, however, He asks for that which He has already purchased for us at Golgotha. Note how this verse guides us to come to the Father through Jesus our High Priest who is always living to intervene for us.

3. Read Romans 8:34.

Jesus now acts as our lawyer or advocate with the Father.

When the devil or anyone else accuses us before the Father for our sins Jesus, who

is at the right hand of God, intercedes on our behalf. He points to His Blood, the perfect sacrifice and says, "Their penalty has been paid".

4. Read Revelation 8:3-5.

- a) This scene in heaven is a picture or type of Christ's prayers (incense) mingling with the prayers of the saints.
- b) Our prayers are often imperfect because of our sin, but our prayers offered in Christ are made perfect by Him.

Just as God justifies us for the sake of Christ, so He accepts our prayers because we belong to His Son. This is why we, as the Church of Jesus Christ, can move the hand of God to do mighty things on our behalf – Christ covers our prayers with His.

5. Conclusion.

How wonderful it is to know that we no longer need to rely on a fallen man to act as our priest or mediator/representative with God.

We can now rely on a perfect, eternal Priest who knows our every need and is at the right hand of God. Because He has paid the price and is the final sacrifice we can come boldly into the presence of God.

He guarantees our access to God and the acceptance of our prayers which are guided by His Holy Spirit.

Memory Verse

Romans 8:34, "*Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died – more than that, who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us*".

Teacher's Notes

The Bible especially emphasizes the priesthood of Christ in the letter to the Hebrews. In some ways it can be considered to be the fifth Gospel. Four describe Christ's ministry on earth, this describes Christ's ministry in heaven.

Hebrews shows us Christ's twofold nature by emphasizing both our Lord's deity and humanity. As our great High Priest, Christ is able to understand all our need because He is perfect Man. He is able to meet all our need, because He is perfect God.

Read the following scriptures and note how they testify of Christ's priesthood.

Our High Priest who intercedes for us eternally

Psalm 110:4, Zechariah 6:12-13, Hebrews 3:1, 5:1-6, 6:20, 8:1, 9:11, 10:21

Our High Priest the eternal sacrifice

Leviticus 5:17-18, Hebrews 2:17, 4:14-15, 7:26-27, 9:14

Christ the King of Kings

Lesson 6

A. The promised King

Read Isaiah 9:6-7

1. God is the One who created the universe and all its creatures. He therefore has the right of lordship and kingship over all His creation.
2. However, the human race, led by their father Adam, decided to side with the arch enemy of God, Satan, and revolted against their Lord and Creator. Mankind came under the kingship of Satan and so were made citizens of the kingdom of darkness.
3. God in His great mercy and grace promised not only to send a redeemer, but also a conqueror of the one who held men in bondage.

God tells us through His prophet Isaiah that One will come whose kingdom shall have no end. He will be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. This is the One we call Jesus.

Jesus was born as a man to be king. He lived, died and rose again so that He would be Lord and King of all those whom the Father gave to Him.

B. Old Testament promises of a coming King

1. **Genesis 49:10, "The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, until Shiloh comes"**.
 - a) Shiloh is a title that the Jews understood to represent the same person as the Messiah. This would be the King whom all would obey.
 - b) Messiah means "the anointed one", which above all else implies or refers to kingship.
2. **Numbers 24:17, "There shall come a star out of Jacob and a sceptre shall rise out of Israel"**.
 - a) The word "star" has been a symbol of kingly power among all nations.
 - b) Sceptre refers to the ruling power of the Messiah who was to come.
3. **Psalm 2:6, "Yet have I set my King upon the holy hill of Zion"**.

Psalm 110:1, "The Lord said unto my Lord, sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool".

Daniel 7:14, "And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations and languages should serve Him".

2 Samuel 7:16, "And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established forever before thee".

- a) The Old Testament has many references to the coming King and His everlasting Kingdom.
- b) There were also prophecies of where the King would be born. Micah 5:2.
- c) In Zechariah 9:9 we see the promise of the King riding into Jerusalem on the foal of a donkey.

C. The New Testament proclaims Christ's kingship

1. Read Luke 1:31-33.

- a) Here we see the glorious announcement by the angel Gabriel to Mary, that she would have a son whom she must name Jesus.

The name **Jesus** comes from the Hebrew word Yehoshua or Joshua, which means Saviour or "God is Salvation".

- b) **Throne of David** – anyone who inherited the throne of King David would naturally be a king himself.

"He shall reign forever ... and of His kingdom there shall be no end". This King would have an everlasting kingdom over which He would always rule.

2. Read Matthew 4:17.

Jesus began His public ministry with these words. He emphasizes the word repentance in order to clearly reveal His intentions.

He did not come to overthrow the political rulers of the day, like Herod or Caesar. He came to overthrow Satan and establish the kingdom of heaven.

3. Read Matthew 12:28-29.

- a) Here Jesus claims that because He casts out demons He is King, and that His kingdom has come into their midst.

God's King had come to do battle with the kingdom of darkness. He bound the strong man and was plundering his kingdom. He came to release men and women from the bondage of sin by making them sons and daughters of God.

- b) Jesus' many miracles over nature, disease, the evil of men and Satan and of death itself prove Him to be King and Lord.

The greatest victory was His combat with Satan on the Cross and in the grave. He rose again and defeated the final enemy – death.

D. The King rules today

1. Read Matthew 28:18.

Jesus has been given authority over everything and every person in heaven and earth.

How does He apply this authority today?

- a) He governs the Church:
 - i) By ruling and defending us.
 - ii) By restraining and conquering all His and our enemies.

Christ uses the angels to minister to those who are part of His kingdom.

- b) He controls and restrains principalities, powers, world rulers and spirits of wickedness. Ephesians 6:12.
- c) He overrules the affairs of nations and of individuals.
- d) The universe is governed in and through Him.

Important note:

Because Jesus is King *and* Lord over all those He governs, no Christian can have Jesus only as Saviour but not as Lord.

Christians are people who have brought themselves under the kingship of Christ and should therefore not live as those under the kingship of Satan. It is true that we all sin at times, but we cannot continue sinning purposefully.

If we call Jesus Saviour, then we must let Him be King and allow Him to rule every aspect of our lives.

2. Our exalted King.

Read Philippians 2:9-11

- a) Jesus has been given a name that is above every name. At the name of Jesus every knee must bow and every tongue must confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.
- b) There are those today who have refused to bow and confess Jesus' lordship, but there will come a day when all will be forced to do so.

Let us do this now with joy and humility for all He has done for us, rather than be forced to do it in hell for eternity.

3. The King of kings and Lord of lords.

Read Revelation 19:16

- a) Jesus will not return as a servant, born in a manger in Bethlehem. He will not return as the Lamb to be slain for mankind. He will not be mocked, whipped and crucified by men.
- b) He will come as the glorious, almighty King who will subdue all beneath Him and finally conquer all the kingdoms in the universe. Then every living creature will proclaim, "Surely this Jesus is the King of Kings".

Memory Verse

Matthew 28:18, *“And Jesus came and spoke to them saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and earth”*.

Christ the mighty Prophet

Lesson 7

A. What is a prophet?

1. **The biblical understanding of a prophet is "one who announces the words of another"** – one who spoke to men on God's behalf, declaring to them the word of God.

Sometimes these words were in the form of predicting the future, but often they were words from God revealing His will for mankind.

Read Exodus 4:15-16

Our understanding of a prophet can be seen in the relationship of Moses and Aaron. Moses complained that he was not a good speaker, so God said that Aaron was to be Moses' prophet to Pharaoh.

God would give His words through Moses to Aaron, who would be the spokesman. In respect of Pharaoh, Moses represented God and Aaron was his prophet or his mouthpiece.

2. **How does Christ fulfil the office of prophet?**

Christ executes the office of a prophet in revealing to us by His Word and Spirit the Will of God for our salvation.

- a) He was the pre-incarnate prophet of the Old Covenant.
- b) He was the incarnate prophet during His earthly ministry.
- c) He is the exalted prophet at the present time.

B. The pre-incarnate Prophet

Read John 1:1-3

Jesus the Eternal God has always functioned as the spokesman for the Godhead.

He was God's spokesman at creation. When God said, "Let there be", God the Son was the one speaking. God who spoke all things into being was God the Son.

Read Isaiah 6:1 and John 12:41

Isaiah had a revelation of Jehovah in human form, which of course was Jesus. John confirms this by telling us that Isaiah wrote this because he saw Jesus' glory.

When God revealed Himself in visions it was always through God the Son.

Read 1 Peter 1:10-11

When God revealed Himself through the Old Testament prophets, it was God the Son who spoke by the Holy Spirit through the prophets.

C. The incarnate Prophet

1. Read John 1:14-18.

The incarnation itself was the greatest prophetic work of the Son of God, because the incarnate Christ is the greatest revelation of God.

To see Jesus, the Word, was to see the glory of God. To see Jesus, God the Son, was to see God Himself. Jesus was God living in the midst of His people.

2. Read John 5:17-20.

Jesus revealed God through His works as well as through His person.

When Jesus said that He was doing the Father's works, the Jews recognized that He was claiming to be equal with the Father. The work of the God-Man was the Father's work and since it was the Father's work, it was the revelation of the Father.

3. Read John 14:24.

- a) Jesus also acted as a prophet by His teaching because He claimed to be teaching God's message. He said that His teaching was directly from what He had heard from the Father.

He revealed God's mind to the people. He who had spoken through the prophets now opened the disciples' understanding to the truth of the Old Testament.

- b) Furthermore, as God's prophet He spoke with great authority which amazed the crowds, because He taught as one who had authority and not as their teachers of the law.
- c) Jesus also predicted many things that have already happened and which are still to happen.

D. The exalted Prophet

Read John 16:13-15

Jesus continues His prophetic work even after His ascension.

1. He promised that the Holy Spirit would take His words and give them to the apostles, which He did in different ways:
- a) The Spirit enabled the apostles to remember accurately and record faithfully, without error, everything they were to write about Jesus' ministry and message.
- b) The Spirit enabled the apostles to interpret the Old Testament in light of what Jesus had said and done.

2. Thus the Scriptures are Christ's words and He speaks to us through them. He also opens our minds to understand and remember His words. When we prayerfully read our Bibles Christ, our prophet, speaks to us by His Holy Spirit through the Scriptures.

What a wonderful privilege to have our glorious prophet Jesus Christ still speaking to us through the Holy Spirit.

So we see that Christ, of whom all the prophets bore witness, is **THE PROPHET OF HIS CHURCH** in all ages. He has revealed through His inspired servants by Himself and by His Spirit all we know of God and salvation.

Memory Verse

John 1:18, *"No one has ever seen God; the only Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, he has made him known".*

Christ the Exalted One

Lesson 8

A. The resurrection of Christ

Read 1 Corinthians 15:14-17

If Christ be not risen, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is also in vain you are still in your sins. Christ represented mankind when He died and thus represented us in His resurrection. If He had remained under the power of death we would have had no spiritual life.

The Bible is clear that Christ rose from the dead and this is probably the most important fact in the history of the world. All of Christ's claims and the success of His work rest on the fact that He rose from the dead.

Because He rose we know that:

- The gospel is true and He is the Son of God, equal with the Father.
- He was God manifest in the flesh.
- He is the Saviour of men and the Messiah predicted by the prophets.
- He is the Prophet, Priest and King of His people.
- His sacrifice and shed blood have paid the price for mankind's sin.

His resurrection was the basis on which the Holy Spirit could be released to fulfil the work of Christ in the life of the Church.

Because He rose the kingdom of darkness has been overthrown and Satan has fallen like lightning from heaven.

B. The ascension of Christ

Read Acts 1:9-11

This scripture reveals to us:

1. That His whole glorified body, the God-Man, ascended into heaven.
2. The ascension was very real to the disciples who saw Him gradually rise from the earth until a cloud hid Him from their view. This shows that His person was transferred from one place to another, from earth to heaven.

Therefore heaven must be a definite place where God manifests His presence, where He is surrounded by His angels and the spirits of the saints who have gone on before.

C. Why did Christ ascend to heaven?

1. He returned from whence He had come, to be with His Father in glory.

2. As our High Priest He had to return to appear before God on our behalf as a sin offering and as One who always intercedes on our behalf.
3. By returning to heaven He was able to send the Comforter so that men may have the power for the Christ life.

If the Holy Spirit had not come men would have remained in their sin.

4. He went to prepare a place for us so that we might one day be with Him in His Father's house.

D. The Exalted One

Read Hebrews 1:3 and Ephesians 1:20-23

1. We are told that Jesus "sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high".

He has the right to do so because He is the brightness of the Father's glory and the exact representation of His being, and He sustains the universe by the word of His power.

He has been exalted above every created being and all things have been put under His feet.

2. Note that the Bible mentions no other person at God's right hand who is interceding on our behalf.

He still has all His human sympathies and affections and so He knows our every need and infirmity.

It is wonderful for us to know that this supreme ruler of the universe is a perfect man as well as the perfect God.

E. Christ will return

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

1. The Bible is very clear that Jesus will definitely return one day.
2. This second coming will be very different from the first.

Paul teaches us that Christ's second coming will be at a specific time in history. He will come down from heaven with a loud shout or command and a mighty trumpet call of God.

Those who were dead in Christ will arise first, i.e. their new glorified, resurrected bodies will be joined to their souls. Those who are alive will be changed instantly, receive a glorified body and will meet the Lord in the air.

Then He will return to earth with His saints and rule for one thousand years.

F. Christ the exalted Judge

Read Matthew 25:31-34, 45-46

1. Finally on the great day of judgement all people will be gathered before Him.
2. The rule of judgement will be the law of God, either as written on the heart or as revealed in His Word. Those who have had the written revelation will be judged by it. Those who have had no such external revelation will be judged according to the light they had.
3. The righteous will be on Christ's right and the unrighteous on His left.

The Bible tells us that the righteous in Christ will sit with the Lord in judgement over the unrighteous.

The unrighteous will receive their final sentence of judgement from Him whom they rejected and scorned.

G. The Father receives the Kingdom

Read 1 Corinthians 15:24-25

1. Finally, when the judgement is finished, the Lord Jesus Christ will hand the kingdom over to God, His Father.
2. God will then burn up the heavens and earth and will create a new heaven and earth.
3. All the elect angels and redeemed people will then live with the Triune God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit, forever in perfect fellowship.

Memory Verse

Hebrews 1:3, *"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 by himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high".*