

ST HILDA'S SERMON SUNDAY - 6 AUGUST 2017 - TERRY ALVE

Daniel 7:9-19, 13-14 (NRSVA)

Judgement before the Ancient One

⁹ As I watched,
thrones were set in place,
and an Ancient One^[a] [GOD] took his throne;
his clothing was white as snow,
and the hair of his head like pure wool;
his throne was fiery flames,
and its wheels were burning fire.

¹⁰ A stream of fire issued
and flowed out from his presence.
A thousand thousand served him,
and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him.
The court sat in judgement,
and the books were opened.

¹¹ I watched then because of the noise of the arrogant words that the horn was speaking.
And as I watched, the beast was put to death, and its body destroyed and given over to be
burned with fire. ¹² As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but their
lives were prolonged for a season and a time.

¹³ As I watched in the night visions,
I saw one like a human being (son of man) [JESUS CHRIST]
coming with the clouds of heaven.
And he came to the Ancient One^[c]
and was presented before him.

¹⁴ To him was given dominion
and glory and kingship,
that all peoples, nations, and languages
should serve him.

His dominion is an everlasting dominion
that shall not pass away,
and his kingship is one
that shall never be destroyed.

Footnotes:

- a. Daniel 7:9 Aram *an Ancient of Days*

- b. [Daniel 7:13](#) Aram *one like a son of man*
- c. [Daniel 7:13](#) Aram *the Ancient of Days*

2 Peter 1:16-19 (NRSVA)

Eyewitnesses of Christ's Glory

¹⁶ For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been **eyewitnesses of his majesty**. ¹⁷ For **he received honour and glory from God the Father** when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, 'This is my Son, my Beloved [Son] with whom I am well pleased.' ¹⁸ We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

¹⁹ So we have the **prophetic message** more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

Luke 9:28-36 (NRSVA)

The Transfiguration

²⁸ Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus ^[a] took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹ And while **he was praying**, the appearance of **his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white**. ³⁰ Suddenly they saw two men, **Moses and Elijah, talking to him**. ³¹ They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. ³² Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, ^[b] **they saw his glory** and the two men who stood with him. ³³ Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, ^[c] one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah'—not knowing what he said. ³⁴ While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. ³⁵ Then from the cloud came a voice that said, 'This is my Son, my Chosen; ^[d] listen to him!' ³⁶ When the voice had spoken, **Jesus was found alone**. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

Footnotes:

- a. [Luke 9:28](#) Gk *he*
- b. [Luke 9:32](#) Or *but when they were fully awake*
- c. [Luke 9:33](#) Or *tents*
- d. [Luke 9:35](#) Other ancient authorities read *my Beloved*

Who is Jesus Christ?

Two reports about Jesus' Transfiguration mountain top experience.

2 Peter 1:17b

'This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'

Luke 9:35b

'This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!'

And one about Jesus' Baptism

Matt. 3:17

"And behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

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The Emblem of the Order of St. Luke is a Cross within a circle which together forms an acrostic. The motto is in Latin.

JESU ESTO MIHI JESUS DUX-LUX-REX-LEX

Roughly translated this means:

"O Jesus, be to me my Saviour (Healer), my Leader, my Light, my King and my Law "

The tradition is that this cross was found in the catacombs of Domitilla in Rome during the second century. It is the prayer of a Roman nobleman. The story is that this Roman officer lost his wife who had been the guide and inspiration of his life. He felt the light of his life had been extinguished. Restless and distraught he wandered this way and that. Then he heard the Glad Tidings of the Christian Gospel and found Christ and made this prayer the rule of his life.

The light of Christ shone into his life with healing and integration. He lived long and happily and usefully.

Who is Jesus Christ?

Answer: Unlike the question "[Does God exist?](#)" very few people question whether Jesus Christ existed.

It is generally accepted that Jesus was truly a man who walked on the earth in Israel 2000 years ago.

The debate begins when the subject of Jesus' full identity is discussed. Almost every major religion teaches that Jesus was a prophet or a good teacher or a godly man.

The problem is that the Bible tells us that Jesus was infinitely more than a prophet, a good teacher, or a godly man.

[C.S. Lewis](#) in his book *Mere Christianity* writes the following:

"I am trying here to prevent anyone from saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him [Jesus Christ]: 'I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept his claim to be God.' That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic—on a level with a man who says he is a poached egg—or else he would be the Devil of hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon; or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God. But let us not come up with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that option open to us. He did not intend to."

So, who did Jesus claim to be?

And, Who does the Bible say He is?

First, let's look at Jesus' words in John 10:30, "**I and the Father are one.**" At first glance, this might not seem to be a claim to be God. However, look at the Jews' reaction to His statement, "'We are not stoning you for any of these,' replied the Jews, 'but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, **claim to be God**'" (John 10:33). The Jews understood Jesus' statement as a claim to be God. In the following verses, Jesus never corrects the Jews by saying, "I did not claim to be God." That indicates Jesus was truly saying He was God by declaring, "I and the Father are one" (John 10:30).

John 8:58 is another example: "'I tell you the truth,' Jesus answered, '**before Abraham was born, I am!**'" Again, in response, the Jews took up stones in an attempt to stone Jesus (John 8:59). Jesus' announcing His identity as "**I am**" is a direct application of the Old Testament name for God (Exodus 3:14). Why would the Jews again want to stone Jesus if He had not said something they believed to be blasphemous, namely, a claim to be God?

John 1:1 says "the Word was God." John 1:14 says "the Word became flesh." This clearly indicates that Jesus is God in the flesh. Thomas the disciple declared to Jesus, "My Lord and my God" (John 20:28). Jesus does not correct him. The apostle Paul describes Him as, "...our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:13). The apostle Peter says the same, "...our God and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 1:1). God the Father is witness of Jesus' full identity as well, "But about the Son he says, 'Your throne, O God, will last forever and ever, (cf. Dan 7:14 - Today's OT Reading) and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom.'" Old Testament prophecies of Christ announce His deity, "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

So, as C.S. Lewis argued, believing Jesus to be only a good teacher is not an option. Jesus clearly and undeniably claimed to be God. If He is not God, then He is a liar, and therefore not a prophet, good teacher, or godly man.

In attempts to explain away the words of Jesus, modern "scholars" claim the "true historical Jesus" did not say many of the things the Bible attributes to Him. Who are we to argue with God's Word concerning what Jesus did or did not say? How can a "scholar" two thousand years removed from Jesus have better insight into what Jesus did or did not say than those who lived with, served with, and were taught by Jesus Himself (John 14:26)?

As I asserted last Sunday, a helpful maxim for us to believe goes like this, "The Bible says it; I believe it; that settles it."

Orthodox Christianity holds the Bible to be the Word of God.

Why is the question over Jesus' true identity so important?

Why does it matter whether or not Jesus is God?

The most important reason that Jesus has to be God is that if He is not God, His death would not have been sufficient to pay the penalty for the sins of the whole world (1 John 2:2).

Only God could pay such an infinite penalty (Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21). **Jesus had to be God so that He could pay our debt.** Jesus had to be man so He could die. Salvation is available only through faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus' deity is why He is the only way of salvation. Jesus' deity is why He proclaimed, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6).

Wax Lyrical Again - Andrae Crouch

Jesus is the Answer for the World Today

Above Him there's no other

Jesus is the Way

Who Do You Say I am?

Mt. 16 - Peter's Declaration about Jesus

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' ¹⁴ And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' ¹⁵ He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, ^[c] the Son of the living God.' ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, ^[d] and on this rock ^[e] I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.' ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was ^[f] the Messiah. ^[g]

Mk. 8:29 - Peter's Declaration about Jesus

'But who do you say that I am?' Peter answered him, 'You are the Messiah.'

Lk. 9:20 - Peter's Declaration about Jesus

²⁰ He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Peter answered, 'The Messiah of God.'

John 1:41

Messiah – "We have found the Messiah" (that is, 'the Christ') or (which is translated 'Anointed')."

Who Do You Say Jesus Christ is?

The crucial question for you and me....

Key Question.

One thing for Terry to assert who he thinks Jesus Christ is.

But more important that you own your answers to this vitally important question.

What are the different names and titles of Jesus Christ?

Answer: There are some 200 names and titles of Christ found in the Bible. Following are some of the more prominent ones. Names that reflect the nature of Christ, His position in the tri-unity [Trinity] of God, and His work on earth on our behalf.

50 Names and Titles of Jesus:

- 1. Almighty One** – *“...who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.” Rev. 1:8*
- 2. Alpha and Omega** – *“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.” Rev. 22:13*
- 3. Advocate** – *“My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father--Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.” 1 John 2:1*
- 4. Author and Perfecter of Our Faith** – *“Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Heb. 12:2*
- 5. Authority** – *“Jesus said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.’ Matt. 28:18*
- 6. Bread of Life** – *“Then Jesus declared, ‘I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.’” John 6:35*
- 7. Beloved Son of God** – *“And behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.” Matt. 3:17*
- 8. Bridegroom** – *“And Jesus said to them, “Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast.” Matt. 9:15*
- 9. Chief Cornerstone** – *“The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief corner stone.” Ps. 118:22*
- 10. Deliverer** – *“And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.” 1 Thess.1:10*
- 11. Faithful and True** – *“I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war.” Rev.19:11*
- 12. Good Shepherd** - *“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.” John 10:11*
- 13. Great High Priest** – *“Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.” Heb. 4:14*
- 14. Head of the Church** – *“And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church.” Eph. 1:22*

- 15. Holy Servant** – *“...and grant that Your bond-servants may speak Your word with all confidence, while You extend Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place through the name of Your holy servant Jesus.” Acts 4:29-30*
- 16. I Am** – *“Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.” John 8:58*
- 17. Immanuel** – *“...She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel, which means 'God with us.’” Is. 7:14*
- 18. Indescribable Gift** – *“Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift.” 2 Cor. 9:15*
- 19. Judge** – *“...he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead.” Acts 10:42*
- 20. King of Kings** – *“These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful.” Rev. 17:14*
- 21. Lamb of God** – *“The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” John 1:29*
- 22. Light of the World** – *“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” John 8:12*
- 23. Lion of the Tribe of Judah** – *“Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.” Rev. 5:5*
- 24. Lord of All** – *“For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” Phil. 2:9-11*
- 25. Mediator** – *“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.” 1 Tim. 2:5*
- 26. Messiah** – *“We have found the Messiah” (that is, the Christ).” John 1:41*
- 27. Mighty One** – *“Then you will know that I, the Lord, am your Savior, your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.” Is. 60:16*
- 28. One Who Sets Free** – *“So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.” John 8:36*
- 29. Our Hope** – *“...Christ Jesus our hope.” 1 Tim. 1:1*
- 30. Peace** – *“For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility,” Eph. 2:14*
- 31. Prophet** – *“And Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household.” Mark 6:4*
- 32. Redeemer** – *“And as for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will take His stand on the earth.” Job 19:25*
- 33. Risen Lord** – *“...that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.” 1 Cor. 15:3-4*

- 34. Rock** – “For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ.” 1 Cor. 10:4
- 35. Sacrifice for Our Sins** – “This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.” 1 John 4:10
- 36. Savior** – “For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:11
- 37. Son of Man** – “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” Luke 19:10
- 38. Son of the Most High** – “He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David.” Luke 1:32
- 39. Supreme Creator Over All** – “By Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together....” 1 Cor. 1:16-17
- 40. Resurrection and the Life** – “Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.” John 11:25
- 41. The Door** – “I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.” John 10:9
- 42. The Way** – “Jesus answered, “**I am the way and the truth and the life.** No one comes to the Father except through me.” John 14:6
- 43. The Word** – “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” John 1:1
- 44. True Vine** - “I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.” John 15:1
- 45. Truth** – “And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” John 8:32
- 46. Victorious One** – “To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne.” Rev. 3:21
- 47. – 50. Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace** – “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” Is. 9:6

