

Di223 We Believe

Lesson Di223-6 Jesus—His Names

Many world movements focus on the teachings of a single person, such as Buddha, Mohammed, Joseph Smith, or even Marx and Lenin. All these leaders are in their graves. The tomb of Jesus Christ, however, is empty.

The apostle Paul wrote to the Galatian Christians, “When the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship” (Gal 4:4). We celebrate Christmas each year, which represents the time when God took on human form. He became the God-man, Jesus Christ, born of a human mother. This is the greatest and most blessed happening in all history. It is so important that history is divided into two major segments: B.C. “before Christ” and A.D. “in the year of our Lord.”

The person and work of Jesus Christ is the heart of Christianity. The whole Bible centers on him. By coming to earth and taking the form of a human being, the Son made known the reality of the Godhead in a very personal way. Jesus taught the key principles of the Christian walk and he provided us with a flesh-and-blood example of Christian living that we all can understand.

Jesus is our example. Jesus was about 30 years old when he began his public ministry of three and a half years. He went about doing good, even as he was on the way to dying on the cross, the reason he had come to earth. Jesus prayed and he taught his disciples how to pray. This prayer is called the Lord’s Prayer. Jesus was baptized in water—another important example he set for us at the beginning of his ministry. Jesus faced temptation in the wilderness and overcame Satan by using the written Word of God. Jesus spent much time with his disciples teaching them the principles of the Kingdom of God. The teachings of Jesus are written throughout the Gospels which still instruct us today.

There are several important terms and names used for Jesus:

- **Divine** means that Jesus is deity or God.
- **Incarnation** refers to the coming of Christ to earth as a baby; the eternal Son of God in a human body. *In carnate* means ‘in flesh.’
- **Son of God.** John 3:16 tells us, “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” This verse explains that Jesus has a heavenly Father. He is the only Son of God and he came into the world by being born of the virgin Mary.
- The first word of his name, **Jesus**, means “Savior.” The angel told Joseph, “You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins” (Matt 1:21).
- His name **Christ** means “the Anointed One” or “the Messiah.” He was both human and divine during his years on earth. His Father is God himself; his human mother was Mary. With this parentage Jesus was 100 percent human and 100 percent divine. Jesus was just as

human as we are, although he never sinned (Heb 4:15). Since Jesus is 100 percent God, we are watching God relate to mankind, as we follow the teachings and ministry of Jesus throughout the Gospels. In a very special way, Jesus reveals God to us.

- The **“Word”** refers to Jesus Christ and means that Jesus is eternal. The apostle John tells us, “In the beginning was the Word” (John 1:1). He has existed from the very beginning. As with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit, there has never been a time when Jesus did not exist. “And the Word was with God.” This means Jesus exists with God. He is part of the eternal godhead. “And the Word was God.” This means Jesus is God in essence. Jesus is divine and has all the characteristics of deity.
- **Son of Man.** Jesus had a very special mission to fulfill. Even before the world was formed, God had determined that Jesus, the Son of God, would come to earth and become the Son of Man. Jesus would live, work, and minister among men to understand the problems we face and provide a way for us to be saved from our sins. This all came about through the Incarnation of Jesus Christ.

What claims, then, did Jesus make about himself?

-His pre-existence: “Before Abraham was born, I am!” (John 8:58).

-His supernatural birth: “You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world” (John 8:23).

-His sinlessness: “Can any of you prove me guilty of sin?” (John 8:46).

-His divine mission: “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost” (Luke 19:10).

-His supernatural message: “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6).

-His divine insight into people’s hearts: “Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, ‘Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts?’” (Matt 9:4).

-His miracle-working power: “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me” (Matt 28:18).

We will discuss other claims Jesus made about himself in the next lesson.

Our third *Statement of Faith* concerns the Lord Jesus Christ and says, “We believe the Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God, as revealed in the Scriptures by his virgin birth, his sinless life, his miracles, his death on the cross, his bodily resurrection from the dead, and his position at the right hand of God.” Our Bible verse to memorize is: “And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began” (John 17:5).

This lesson is **important** because it examines the Scriptures to show what Jesus said about himself and what others said about his attributes. It helps us understand who Jesus really is and why he came to earth in human flesh.

The **main truth** of this lesson is that Jesus is deity, which means he is God. His Incarnation is the coming of the eternal Son of God in a human body.

Let’s **review** this lesson—

1. What is the meaning of the word “divine”? [Pause.]
 - A. If you answered that divine means deity or God, you are correct.

2. What is the meaning of the word “incarnation”? [Pause.]
 - A. If you answered, “Incarnation means the coming of Christ to earth as a baby or God in a human body,” you are right.

3. Name two of the claims that Jesus made about himself. [Pause.]
 - A. If you said any two of the following, “his pre-existence, his supernatural birth, his sinlessness, his divine mission, his supernatural message, his divine insight into hearts or his miracle-working power,” you are correct

Your **assignment** is to begin to memorize our third *Statement of Faith*, which is “We believe the Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God, as revealed in the Scriptures by his virgin birth, his sinless life, his miracles, his death on the cross, his bodily resurrection from the dead, and his position at the right hand of God.”

Learn the memory verse, which is, “And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began” (John 17:5).

Try to find one or two other people who have never heard about Jesus and share with them some of the claims Jesus made about himself.