

58. The Son of God = God???

December 18, 2016

Whether a person is an ancient Hebrew priest or a modern orthodox Jew, they both know that the phrase "the Son of God" is referring to God Himself. If you are not familiar with the OT references to the Son of God, please allow me to set up the premise for this morning's study:

Psalm 110:1 The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool."

The first "Lord" in Hebrew word is "Jehovah". We all know the meaning – God. The second "Lord" in Hebrew word is "adon" which mean God.

2 Samuel 7:12-13 "When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever."

The Lord speaking to king David through prophet Nathan after David expressed his desire to build a temple for the Lord. God the Father told David that one of his descendants will be on the throne forever. I don't think that David understood how, but he believed that it would happen.

Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

Many of you know the meaning of the word "Immanuel" – "God with us." This Isaiah's prophecy is concerning Jesus Christ.

Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Many cults have a hard time to go around this verse. Because it plainly says that the Son IS Mighty God. Yes, I've heard all the lame explanations.

None of the orthodox Jews would argue the divinity of the Son of God. The problem for them is recognizing Him. You can find this from the false accusation that Caiaphas made during their kangaroo court:

Matthew 26:62-65 And the high priest arose and said to Him, "Do You answer nothing? What is it these men testify against You?" 63 But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest answered and said to Him, "I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!" 64 Jesus said to him, "It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven." 65 Then the high priest tore his clothes, saying, "He has spoken blasphemy! What further need do we have of witnesses? Look, now you have heard His blasphemy!"

If Caiaphas didn't think that the Son of God means God Himself, he would not say that Jesus was blaspheming.

The Jehovah's Witness and the Mormons' doctrines insist that Jesus was a literal offspring of God, a creature, not God Himself.

Let me bring another undeniable point about Jesus being the Son of God through the comment by the devil himself:

Matthew 4:3 Now when the tempter [satan] came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."

Did satan know that Jesus is the Messiah? You betcha. Satan knew Him because he has seen the Lord Jesus in heaven before he fell.

With all that said, let's meet this brand new Christian who was formerly blind get to see the Messiah, while the Judaism experts wouldn't see Him.

A. GOD STILL FINDS PEOPLE

John 9:35 Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, "Do you believe in the Son of God?"

This is absolutely beyond cool. Do you know why it is so cool? Note who is looking for whom. Jesus heard about the excommunication of this former blind man, so He looked for him in Jerusalem. We don't know where He found this former blind man, but He did. This reminds me of a verse from the Book of Luke:

Luke 15:4 "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it?"

Do you know Jesus still looks for people whom He can help. He is looking for sinners to forgive; looking for discouraged to encourage; looking for downcast to give hope; and looking for condemned to save.

B. HE BELIEVED IN HIM AND HE WORSHIPED HIM

John 9:36-38 He answered and said, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?" 37 And Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you." 38 Then he said, "Lord, I believe!" And he worshiped Him.

Folks, this is the moment of conversion of this man – his eternal address was changing from hell to heaven right at this moment. This man didn't care that he was excommunicated from the society. When he was blind, the Jewish religious rulers didn't care whether he was alive or dead. Now that he could see, they wanted him to be out of their sight permanently. Some compassion these people have!

Jesus said to this former blind man, *"You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you,"* in v37. Yes, it is true that you can no longer see Jesus through your physical eyes, but if you are willing to believe in Jesus like this man, you will hear from Him through the Bible and you will get to know the Savior of the world and eventually you will see Him face to face in heaven.

Please notice how v38 ended – *"he worshiped Him."* If Jesus Christ is not God, then why did He accept this man's worship? Paul and Barnabas in the Book of Acts chapter 14 refused to be worshiped by the people of Lystra, and the angel from the Book of Revelation 19:10 certainly didn't accept apostle John's worship. But for this case, Jesus is being God, He accepted this man's worship.

The original Greek word for 'worship' is 'proskyneo'. This word also was used in chapter 4 of John.

John 4:23 But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.

According to the Bible dictionary, 'worship' means "kneeling or prostration to do homage to God." It is far more than a simple "Thank you," or physical postures. This man was not thanking Jesus for the healing, rather he was giving his homage to the Lord as his God.

Please note that the object of our worship should always be our God and the subject of our worship should be for His glory, not satisfying our musical preferences.

C. TO SEE OR NOT TO SEE THE SON OF GOD

John 9:39-41 And Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may be made blind." 40 Then some of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these words, and said to Him, "Are we blind also?" 41 Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you say, 'We see.' Therefore your sin remains.

If someone takes the first portion of v39 out of context, he would say, "I thought that Jesus came into the world to save the lost, not to judge it." However, in context, it does not contradict John 3:16. To understand what Jesus meant in v39, we must read John 3:17-20 in context.

John 3:17-20 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. 18 He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For every one practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

By people's own choice against God, their decision condemns themselves to be judged by Him. They cannot say that God didn't do anything to save them. What else could the Lord possibly do more than sending His own Son to die for our sins? Nothing, absolutely nothing.

The reason for our Lord's coming to this earth two thousand years ago was salvation, but one of the results of His coming was to let everyone know that there will be a condemnation of those who would not believe. The same sun that brings beautiful flowers out of the seeds also exposes creepy insects hiding under the rocks; the same sun that melts wax also hardens clay.

The religious leaders were blind spiritually and would not admit it; therefore, the light of truth only made them blinder. This former blind man admitted his need, and he received both physical and spiritual sight. No one is so blind as he who will not see, the one who thinks he has "all truth" and there is nothing more for him to learn. No one is so lost as he seeks the truth of the Word of God, because God will make Himself known to that person as Jesus did to this man.

D. EDUCATED, YET STILL IGNORANT

An English philosopher A.C. Grayling, who spent 30 years compiling "The Good Book – a Humanist Bible," and it was published in 2011. He was raised without religion. He formerly taught at Oxford University, and now teaches at the University of London.

This book quotes many secular philosophers to counteract the Christian Bible. The author Grayling thinks that Christianity is almost self-evidently absurd: "I could never believe the sin committed by Eve in the Garden of Eden was all that serious," he said. "It would seem to me that knowledge was a good thing to have." Sadly, he missed the entire point. God was not jealous that Adam and Eve could have knowledge, but He knew that their disobedience from their pride would lead them to spiritual and physical death as their consequences.

Obviously Grayling is very well educated and accomplished man from a human perspective, but spiritually he is a blind man and he doesn't even admit it. He will find out someday when he meets his Maker face to face. He also will find out that it is, too, late for him to change his mind then.

The people who believe in the evolution theory and atheists have one thing in common. They are very staunch about their religion and faith. Someone would object, "Atheists do not have a religion. That is why they are atheists." I beg to differ. They firmly believe that there is no God under no circumstance, even though the whole creation speaks the handiwork of God. They deny it with their faith in the idea of non-existence of God. In other words, a person has to have faith in atheism to believe that there is no God.

The listening Pharisees were bothered by what Jesus just said. That is why they asked, "Are we blind also?". They were expecting a negative answer, but Jesus already called them "blind leaders of the blind" in Matthew 15:14, so they had their answer. They were blinded by their pride, their self-righteousness, their tradition, and their false interpretation of the Word of God.

Despite all the miracles Jesus performed in the last two and a half years, the Pharisees chose to ignore everything, because what Jesus said threatened their pride and carnal desires. It is the same for the unbelievers of Year 2016. They pretty much don't mind about all the other religions except Christianity. Because it speaks the truth of God which reveals all of their ungodly lives with His penetrating light. It is no wonder why these people hated enough to crucify Him and still hate Him now.

If you came to our church for the first time and you are not a born-again Christian, you have the most important decision of your life to make right now. You can ignore the invitation from Jesus to be saved by His grace and mercy alone or you can walk out the door and stay in the spiritual darkness and pretend that you've never heard a true Gospel message before.

You need to make the right choice for your eternal life at this point. Contrary to the atheist A.C. Grayling's belief, there is a God who will judge what you decide on this earth – accepting Jesus into your heart or rejecting Him. Don't be like these prideful spiritually blind Pharisees who thought they were fine and refused to believe that Jesus was the Son of God. If you can hear their voice from their eternal damnation, they would tell you to choose Jesus as your Savior and Lord.

E. APPLICATIONS

1) God can be as far as the other side of the universe when we reject Him, but He is as close as our next heartbeat when we seek Him with a sincere heart.

2) Spiritual blindness is caused by our own pride, self-righteousness, tradition, and false interpretation of the Word of God.

3) Without acknowledging the Son of God in your heart, you have no chance with God the Father.

1 John 4:15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.