



## SAVED TO SERVE

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### THE DIVINITY OF JESUS CHRIST, PART 2

1. In this Sabbath School Lesson, we will continue studying the divinity of Jesus Christ from the Bible. We will address rebuttals which people use to suggest that Jesus is a created being, who had a beginning, and is not coeternal with God the Father. For complete clarity, see the first part of this study entitled, "*The Divinity of Jesus Christ, Part 1.*"
2. There are individuals who diminish the divinity of Christ, and they use Hebrews 1 to argue that Jesus was created by God and had a definite beginning like other created beings (i.e. angels, humans, etc). Read Hebrews 1:4-6. What does the first phrase of Hebrews 1:4 say about Jesus?  

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3. **Note:** People misread and misinterpret this phrase to mean that Jesus was "made" as in "created", but this is not accurate based on scripture. In context, the word "made" in Hebrews 1:4 means "to be given a rank or position." How can we confirm this? Read Hebrews 2:9. It says that Jesus "was made a little lower than the angels". So, how could Jesus be "created" as better than the angels and lower than them at the same time? That theory doesn't make sense! The verses in Hebrews 1 & 2 are clearly speaking about Jesus' condescension as a man to die for the human race and then receiving again His full glory and honor after His ascension to heaven.
4. According to Philippians 2:5-8, how did Jesus 'make himself' when He came to the earth? See also Hebrews 2:6, 7, 9  

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5. Read Hebrews 1:3-4 again. Contextually, when it says that Jesus was "made much better than the angels", it is referring to when He received His inheritance following His death, resurrection, and ascension to heaven. Who are called Jesus' inheritance? Psalm 74:2; Psalm 78:71; Psalm 94:14  

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- a) What else comprises Jesus' inheritance which He receives from God the Father? Daniel 7:13-14  

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- b) Having the understanding that Jesus made Himself lower than the angels when He came to earth as a man, what has God done to Jesus' name which 'makes' or elevates Him above the angels? Philippians 2:9-11; John 17:1  

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6. What does God the Father call Jesus which further proves Jesus' divinity? Hebrews 1:8  

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7. **Note:** Read Hebrews 1:5-6. Another point of confusion for many people is the fact that God the Father calls Jesus His "begotten" Son. In the majority of cases in the Bible, the word "begotten" and its variants (begot, begat), means bringing a child into existence by the process of reproduction. However, "begotten" also has a spiritual application where it highlights the type of relationship shared between two individuals. We will see that the spiritual application applies to the relationship between God the Father and Jesus.
8. Read Philemon 1:10 and 1 Corinthians 4:15. What does Paul say about Onesimus?  

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- a) Did Paul marry or have children? 1 Corinthians 7:3, 6, 7, 32  

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9. It is clear that Paul called Onesimus a son based on the type of relationship they shared between one another. Let us now see in what sense Jesus is begotten of God. Did Jesus have an earthly father that procreated Him into the world? Matthew 1:18-21  

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10. As a child does to its father, to whose will did Jesus submit? Matthew 26:36, 39; Hebrews 10:7; John 17:4

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11. Prior to Jesus' life on earth, was He always self-existent with God the Father from eternity past? Revelation 1:5, 8; John 1:1-3; John 17:5; John 8:58 and Exodus 3:14 (Note: See part 1 of this study for more Biblical evidence)

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12. Who decided that Jesus would take the form of a man to redeem mankind from their sins? Through whose power was this accomplished? John 10:30; John 3:16; Philippians 2:6-7 **Answer:** Both God the Father and Jesus decided that Jesus would become a man. Simply put, this miracle, the incarnation of God (Jesus) as a man, was done by the power of God.

**“The plan for our redemption was not an afterthought, a plan formulated after the fall of Adam.** It was a revelation of “the mystery which hath been kept in silence through times eternal.” Romans 16:25, R. V. It was an unfolding of the principles that from eternal ages have been the foundation of God's throne. **From the beginning, God and Christ knew of the apostasy of Satan, and of the fall of man through the deceptive power of the apostate. God did not ordain that sin should exist, but He foresaw its existence, and made provision to meet the terrible emergency. So great was His love for the world, that He covenanted to give His only-begotten Son, “that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”** John 3:16. {DA 22.2}

**“This was a voluntary sacrifice. Jesus might have remained at the Father's side.** He might have retained the glory of heaven, and the homage of the angels. But He chose to give back the scepter into the Father's hands, and to step down from the throne of the universe, that He might bring light to the benighted, and life to the perishing.” {DA 22.4}

a) Apart from the above points, can we explain how Jesus, being God, was birthed as a human by a virgin woman? Deuteronomy 29:29; Romans 16:25

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13. **Note:** Jesus is begotten of God in the sense that they together chose to allow Christ to come to earth as a human, which was not done through the regular process of procreation through sexual intimacy; it was done through the power of God. Furthermore, Jesus is begotten of God and called the Son of God because He submits to the will of His Father, and because Jesus was God's gift to the world to save humanity.

14. **Note:** Still individuals argue that because Hebrews 1:5 says, “this day have I begotten thee” that Jesus must have had a specific day on which He was created and then presented to the angels. Since we have already proven that Jesus was not created, what does this phrase mean? Notice that since God is eternal and not bound by time, He often speaks about things that are future as though they are present. So, when God said to the angels, speaking about Jesus, “this day have I begotten thee”, He was speaking about the future condescension of Jesus as man as if it was a present occurrence. Therefore, even before the death of Jesus on the cross and before the creation of the angels, Jesus has been known as the Son of God. Let us confirm these points.

15. In scripture, God often speaks about future events as though they were present. How did God present Himself to Moses? Exodus 3:6; Exodus 4:5

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16. Although during the lifetime of Moses, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were dead, what did God already know? Matthew 22:31-33; Matthew 8:11

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17. The above point proves that God speaks about future events as though they were present. Here is another example. What is said about Jesus, the Lamb of God in Revelation 13:8?

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a) Since what period of time has God the Father and Jesus had the plan to save the mankind? John 17:5, 24

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18. **Note:** It is seen clearly that God the Father and Jesus, in their infinite wisdom, knew that sin would exist before they created mankind and already had a plan in place to send Jesus as the Messiah to save the human race! With that foreknowledge in mind, God could call Jesus His begotten Son and the Son of God when He declared that the angels should worship Jesus (on whatever day that was in history - Hebrews 1:5). Read Hebrews 1:6. When Jesus was born into the world, God again declared Jesus as His firstbegotten and commanded the angels to give Him worship. Remember, the plan of redemption was laid before the world began, and Jesus was always coexistent with God the Father.

19. **Note:** Another rebuttal used to say Jesus was created is found in Colossians 1:15. What does it mean that Jesus is “firstborn of every creature”? The firstborn in the Bible received the highest privileges and blessings from his father (see Genesis 27:11-41; Genesis 48:14-18). Jesus is called the firstborn, not in the sense of time or because He was created, but in the sense of privilege; all the privileges of the firstborn are His. Take David for example; he is called the firstborn in scripture and received the blessings of the firstborn even though he was the eighth of his father’s children (1 Samuel 16:10-19; Zechariah 12:10; Psalm 78:67-71; Isaiah 9:7).

Jesus didn’t think it was robbery to be equal with God. However, He believed that equality with God was not a thing to be grasped while mankind was lost (Philippians 2:5-11). So, Jesus left heaven and the glory thereof to come to earth as a man, overcome temptation, and then go back to heaven to receive His glory and honor and bring to heaven with Him, His inheritance - the redeemed saints (Hebrews 2:14, 17; Daniel 7:13, 14).

20. In reference to His death and resurrection, what does Jesus say He has power to do? John 10:17, 18
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21. **Note:** Jesus has life in Himself; He did not receive life from another source. He is the source of life. Therefore, He could not have been begotten some time in eternity but rather, at the time He became a man. As stated earlier, the plan of salvation was in place by both the Father and Son in eternity, but the act was fulfilled at Jesus’ birth. Notice the following quotation.

**“In him was life; and the life was the light of men” (John 1:4). It is not physical life that is here specified, but immortality, the life which is exclusively the property of God. The Word, who was with God, and who was God, had this life.** Physical life is something which each individual receives. It is not eternal or immortal; for God, the Life-giver, takes it again. Man has no control over his life. **But the life of Christ was unborrowed. No one can take this life from Him. “I lay it down of myself” (John 10:18), He said. In Him was life, original, unborrowed, underived.** This life is not inherent in man. He can possess it only through Christ.” {1SM 296.2}

22. As we close, let us read 1 John 5:18. Contextually, who are referred to as the “begotten of God”? The righteous or the wicked?
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23. This means that even though all humans were created by God, not all are considered “begotten of God” or given the title “sons of God”. What must we behold in order to be receive the title “sons of God”? 1 John 3:1
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24. Through the power of God, what do we purify ourselves from so that we can be called sons of God? 1 John 3:3-4
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25. What does the Lord do to correct us so that we can have His holy character and overcome sin? Hebrews 12:6-11
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26. What does God design His chastening will lead us to? Revelation 3:19
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27. As we repent, to whom must we open our hearts’ door? How do we do this? Revelation 3:20; James 4:7-8
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28. What does Jesus promise we will inherit and share with Him once we overcome sin and reach heaven? Revelation 3:21
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