

The Assurance That Jesus Is Divine

"...Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him" (John 3:2)

Donald Z. Underwood

Introduction

The scriptures testify or provide the evidence of His Deity or Divine nature. It is this evidence that we will consider in this study.

Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. (John 5:39)

Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. (Philippians 2:6-8)

Jesus was in the form of Deity and the word *form* refers to His attributes of Deity or God. Hence, our Lord did not take or grasp His Deity, but was Deity. As a result, Deity or God was with Him. As God or Deity, He humbled Himself to be made flesh in order to save man from sin.

Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. (Colossians 2:8-9)

What is the context, that leads up to Nicodemus declaring that God was with the Christ?

- John 2:23-25
 - John records that Jesus is all knowing.
- John 2:18-22
 - Jesus foretells of His death, burial and resurrection.
- John 2:1-11
 - The beginning of miracles testified to who He is – Deity.
- John 1:43-51
 - Nathanael confesses that Jesus is the Son of God.
- John 1:35-42
 - Andrew testifies to the identity of Christ.

- John 1:15-34
 - John bears witness of the divine nature of Christ.
- John 1:1-14
 - The scripture is the evidence, that Jesus was of the same nature of the Father.

The scriptures testify to the divine nature of Jesus Christ.

- Genesis 3:15, *And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.*
- Isaiah 7:14, *Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*
 - The Hebrew word for *virgin* is *almah* and this word always means virgin, never young woman.
 - John 1:1-3, 14, In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.... And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the **only begotten** of the Father,) full of grace and truth.
 - The Greek word *only begotten* is *monogenes*. It has reference to the incarnation of Christ. Leaving eternity and glory to made in the likeness of man
 - Hebrews 10:5, *Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me:*
 - John 3:16, *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*
 - Five times the word *monogenes* is used by John (John 1:14, 18; 3:16, 18; and 1 John 4:9).
- Isaiah 9:6, *For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.*
- Matthew 1:22-23, *Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.*
- Galatians 4:4, *But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,*
 - *The fullness of the time* came during the first century, not before nor later. But, during the kings of the Roman empire.

- Daniel 2:44, *And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.*
- Micah 5:2, *But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.*
 - The ruler in Israel is from eternity.
 - Micah recorded this prophecy a little over 700 years before Christ was born.

Jesus is the Great I Am

- Exodus 3:13-15, *And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them? And God said unto Moses, I am that I am: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I am hath sent me unto you. And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, The Lord God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations.*
 - Deuteronomy 32:39, *See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand.*
 - John 8:24, 58, *I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in our sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.... Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.*
 - John 6:48, *I am that bread of life.*
 - Micah 5:2, *But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel: whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.*
 - Bethlehem means house of bread.
- John 8:12, *Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.*
 - Jesus spoke these immortal words in the treasury area of the Temple (v. 20). Through Jewish history we learn that the treasury area contained two large candles that represented to the Jews, God's presence with them by night in the wilderness. (Reference source would be the International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, I.S.B.E.)
 - c.f. John 9:5, *As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.*
- John 10:7, *Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep.*

- John 11:25, *Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection and the life he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:*
 - John 5:28-29, *Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.*
 - Philippians 3:20-21, *For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.*
 - John 14:6, *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*
 - Simply stated, Jesus is the only way, the only truth and the only life. The word *the* in the text means or implies only.
- John 15:1, *I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.*

Jesus has the attributes of Deity.

- He is all powerful:
 - Matthew 28:18, *And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.*
 - John 17:2, *As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.*
 - Ephesians 1:22, *And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church.*
- He is omniscient (present in all places):
 - John 3:13, *And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.*
- He has infinite awareness, understanding and insight:
 - Hebrews 4:13, *Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.*
- He is unchangeable in nature:
 - Hebrews 13:8, *Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.*
 - 2 Timothy 4:8, *Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.*

- The promised reward for the faithful has not changed from the time that Paul wrote to Timothy and to us today.
- He has the divine attribute of holiness:
 - Acts 3:14, *But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you;*
 - 1 Peter 1:15-16, *But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation: Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.*
- He is eternal in nature:
 - Colossians 2:9, *For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.*
 - Revelation 1:8, *I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.*
 - Our Lord and Savior came from eternity (Micah 5:2 and John 17:5).
- All things are possible with Christ:
 - Titus 2:13, *Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the **great God** and our Saviour Jesus Christ.*
 - Hebrews 7:25, *Wherefore he is able also to save them to the **uttermost** that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.*
 - Colossians 1:15-17, *Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.*

Jesus is called God

- John 20:28, *And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.*
 - After Thomas had the opportunity to confirm his faith by touching the resurrected Christ, he called Jesus God and Lord.
 - 1 John 5:20, *And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.*
 - To all Christians, John identifies Jesus as the *true God*. John uses a clear and easy to understand term to know the identity of Christ.
- Titus 2:13, *Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.*
 - Paul identifies Jesus as *the great God* to Titus.

- Hebrews 1:8, *But unto the Son he saith, THY THRONE, O GOD, IS FOR EVER AND EVER: A SCEPTRE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS IS THE SCEPTRE OF THY KINGDOM.*
 - The Father calls Jesus *God*.

- Deuteronomy 6:4, *Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord:*
 - The word *one* in Hebrew means *unified*, i.e. God is in complete agreement. Deity is unified in all points.

 - Jesus said, John 10:30, *I and my Father are one.*

Conclusion

In our lesson of the hour, we have examined the statement “***...no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.***” **John 3:2**. First of all, we looked at the context that led up to the declaration by Nicodemus. Secondly, the scriptures testify to the divine nature of Jesus Christ. Furthermore, the Bible reveals to all that Jesus is the great *I Am* of history. In addition, Jesus has the attributes of Deity. Finally, the Bible identifies Jesus as God.

Bottom line, Nicodemus declared clearly and the scriptures testify to his confession, that God was with Him.