

Jesus Christ--Immortal or Imposter?

When Albania became independent on July 29, 1913, the country had neither president nor king. Therefore, the people asked Halim Eddine, a Turkish prince, to come and lead their nation. Prince Eddine wasn't sure he wanted to be King of Albania, so for a while he neglected to send a message, and the people became anxious. Then one day a telegram arrived stating that the prince was on his way to Durazzo, the capital city.

A few days later, the new leader arrived in a golden coach. He wore a striking uniform decorated with medals. He was tall and looked very much as a king should look. When he spoke everyone

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also came out of many, crying out, and saying, Thou art Christ the Son of God. And he rebuking them suffered them not to speak: for they knew that he was Christ." Luke 4:40, 41 (See also Mark 5:6-8)

Biblical evidence proves undeniably that Jesus is not an imposter, but the immortal Son of God. The story of the virgin Mary who conceived a child of the Holy Ghost declares Jesus to be "Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us." (Mat 1:21-23) 1 Timothy 6:14-16 and Rev 17:14 state that he has immortality, and is the "King of kings, and Lord of lords".

While 2 Cor. 5:19 reiterates "that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto

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stone him, it was because he claimed to have existed before Abraham. "Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham? Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am. Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by." John 8:57-9

In this verse also Christ says, "I am" instead of saying "I was." This is a reference back to who he is, the great I AM. "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.

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This is apparently not a new dilemma. Daniel Webster, an American statesman, was dining with a group of Boston literary men. During the course of the conversation Mr. Webster stated frankly that he believed Jesus Christ to be the divine Son of God.

"But Mr. Webster," one of the men objected, can you comprehend how Christ could, at once, be both the Son of God and the son of man?"

"No, my friend," the Christian statesman replied honestly, "I cannot understand how he could be both God and man. But if I could understand that, then he would be no greater than I. I need a divine Savior."

And this is the most important part of the

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saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." Mark 1:9-11 Micah prophesied that the One who was to come from Bethlehem was immortal. "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." Micah 5:2

John recorded of Jesus, "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. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the Word

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This constitutes blasphemy if he was not who he said he was.

This is why the Jews wanted to stone Him. John 10:31, 33 tell us that after Jesus stated, "I and my Father are one." "The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God."

On another occasion, Jesus claimed to have power to forgive sins. Mark records, "When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee. But there were certain of the scribes sitting there, and reasoning in their hearts, Why doth this man thus speak blasphemies? who can forgive sins but God only?"

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worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." Rev. 19:10 (See also ch. 22:9)

Yet, on several occasions, Jesus allowed men to worship him. "And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased. Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God." (Matthew 14:32, 33) "And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word. And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him. Then said Jesus unto them, Be not afraid: go tell my brethren

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And immediately when Jesus perceived in his spirit that they so reasoned within themselves, he said unto them, Why reason ye these things in your hearts? Whether is it easier to say to the sick of the palsy, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and take up thy bed, and walk? But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (he saith to the sick of the palsy,)" Mark 2:5-10

Jesus also made a claim to being in existence before the world was created. "And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was." John 17:5

One of the times that the Jews tried to

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himself". Col 2:9 declares, "For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily." While Philippians records that God himself commands worship of Jesus saying, "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Phil. 2:9-11

The evidence in the Bible that Jesus was and is God is plentiful. Yet still, some may object that they do not understand how Christ can be both 100% God and 100% Man.

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listened. For five days he was honored by banquets and parades throughout the city. Then another telegram arrived from the Sultan of Turkey stating that the man in Durazzo was an imposter. Prince Eddine was still in Turkey.

The people couldn't believe it. Quickly they went to their "king" for an explanation, but he had gone. He knew his disguise was no longer possible. Actually, he was Otto White, a circus performer, who looked a great deal like the prince. He had not been the prince at all, but an imposter.

Today, many suggest that Jesus was not really God, but just a good man and teacher. But is this really possible--because he claimed to be God?

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story of Jesus. Jesus declared, "I am the resurrection, and the life." John 11:25 In Christ is life, original, unborrowed, underived. "He that hath the Son hath life." 1 John 5:12. The divinity of Christ is the believer's assurance of eternal life. "He that believeth in Me," said Jesus, "though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die. Believest thou this?"

If you believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and realize that he came to save you from your sins (Matt. 1:21); Confess your sins to God, and ask Jesus to pardon you with his blood. Why not ask Him into your heart today?

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that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me." Matthew 28:8-10

Thus, by Jesus Christ's own actions and words we may conclude either that he was a liar and a blasphemer, or that He was indeed who he said He was, God's Son.

But his own testimony is not the only witness to His Divinity. The Scriptures are abundant with other witnesses to His Godhood.

Peter one of his disciples testified to this claim. "When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or

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one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven." Matthew 16:13-17

God the Father also testified as to the truthfulness of his claim to divinity. "And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan. And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him: And there came a voice from heaven,

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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." Exodus 3:14, 15

So it becomes evident that Jesus claimed to be God. Also, in the Bible, no man of God or angel receives worship, except Christ. When John tried to worship an angel he was told not too, that he should worship God. "And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus:

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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." John 1:1-4, 14

And Paul in his letter to Timothy wrote, "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory." 1 Timothy 3:16

Perhaps even more convincing is the fact, that even the devils testified that Jesus was God. "Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them. And devils

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