

THE DIVINITY OF CHRIST



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Our plan is to group the key evidence of the divinity of Christ into the following proofs:

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PREFACE

In 1976, His Highness Pope Shenouda III, the Pope of the Coptic Orthodox Church of Egypt, kindly published in the magazine 'AL-KIRAZA' a year-long series of articles on the Deity of Christ authored by then Lawyer Maher Ragheb Hanna (now the undersigned, Fr. Augustinos R. Hanna).

Given the vital importance of this topic, I expanded and published those articles in 25 installments in the monthly magazine St. John, published by St. John Coptic Orthodox Church in Covina, California, between October 1998 and April 2001.

More recently, I consolidated these articles in a book, published in Arabic in August 2004, which has now been translated into English by my brother, Mr. Raouf R. Hanna, the book you now hold in your hands.

Attacks on the Deity of Christ by certain other religions and by certain cults, e.g. Jehovah's Witnesses, are nothing new. Even in the USA, some enemies of Christianity have been active in handing out tracts on campuses with titles like "Is Christ really God?" This book is aimed at equipping Christians to defend their faith. As the Bible says, "But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect." (1Pet 3:15, NIV). Thus, every Christian is exhorted to study, learn, and even commit to memory – to the extent possible – the basis for such a belief.

The doctrine of the Deity of Christ is undoubtedly the cornerstone of Christianity, for none of the other key doctrines, e.g. Trinity, Incarnation, Redemption, Resurrection and Salvation would make sense if Christ were not God. To illustrate its significance, a person's eternal salvation is not affected by whether or not this person has ever heard of dozens of prophets. Conversely, no human can be saved without believing that Christ is both Lord and God.

This doctrine, which is necessary for salvation, derives its solidity from God Himself, for it is He who both inspired and revealed it. As we shall see as we journey together through this book, there are so many convincing proofs that Christ is indeed God that a sane person who is open-minded should have no difficulty accepting it with confidence.

May the Lord bless this modest effort and make this book a blessing to many, by the prayers of H.H. Pope Shenouda III and H.G. Bishop Serapion. To God be all the glory in His Church forever, Amen!

Fr. Augustions Hanna,

Covina, California, September 2008

THE DEITY OF CHRIST

THE FIRST PROOF

Prophecies of the Deity of Christ before His incarnation

It has been correctly said that even if we were to ignore what the New Testament has said about Christ, His Divine Person in the Old Testament shines as brilliantly as the Sun., whether in symbols or in amazingly detailed prophecies concerning Him. We will mention here twelve of these prophecies.

Part 1

PROPHECIES

Naturally, it is impossible to predict a person's biography, attributes and works before His birth. The sole exception is Christ the Lord! We can read very specific details of Christ's life in the Old Testament prophecies, which were inspired by the Holy Spirit hundreds or even thousands of years before His coming in the flesh.

Inspired by the Holy Spirit, Prophets wrote about Christ's miraculous birth of a virgin (Isa 7:14; 9:6), the place of His birth (Mic. 5:2), the time of His coming (Dan. 9:24), the signs accompanying His arrival, e.g. the appearance of a star (Num. 24:17), the preparation of the way before Him by John the Baptist (Isa. 40:2; Mal. 3:1), the gifts given Him by the Magi (Psa. 72:10), King Herod's massacre of the children of Bethlehem to kill Him (Jer. 31:15), His movements between Israel and Egypt (Isa. 19:1; Hos. 11:1), His selection of disciples and His teaching in parables (Psa. 78:2), His description as the good Shepherd, the Everlasting Righteousness, the Most Holy (Dan. 9:24), the Light of the World (Isa. 9:2; Psalms 84:11; 27:1; Mal. 4:2), the Desire of All Nations (Hag. 2:7), and the Son of God who is fairer than the sons of men

(Psa. 45:2; Prov. 30:4; Psa. 2:7; Isa. 9:6).

Prophecies also described Christ as the Son of Man who sits on the clouds, who is worshipped by all nations and whose kingdom shall not be destroyed (Dan 7:13), as the Word of God (Psa. 107:20), as Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God (Isa. 9:6), Savior (Isa. 35:4; 49:6; 45:22; 63:2), Redeemer (Job 19:25, 26; Isa. 59:20) and the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (Isa. 53:7; John 1:29).

We also read about His calmness, meekness and compassion (Isa. 42:1-3), His dominion and miracles, e.g. opening the eyes of the blind and the ears of the deaf, making the crippled walk and the lame leap like deer and the tongue of the dumb sing (Isa. 35:5-6), to preach good tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and the opening of prison to those who are bound (Isa. 61:1), bringing justice to the poor, all kings falling down before Him, His glorious name being blessed forever, and the whole earth being filled with His glory (Psa. 72:4, 11, 19).

Prophecies also contained a description of His passion and suffering, the betrayal by Judas Iscariot for 30 pieces of silver (Psalms 41:9; 55:12-13; 109:2-5; Zech 11: 12,13), His unfair trials and His complete silence before rulers (Isa. 53:7), His scourging (whipping), mocking Him, casting a lot for His garments (Psa. 22:7-8, 18), dying among thieves (Isa. 53:9, 12), piercing His hands and feet with nails (Psa. 22:16), offering Him vinegar when he thirsted (Psa. 69:21), a verbatim proclamation of three of His seven utterances on the cross (Psalms 22:1, 31:5, 69:21) and piercing His body with a spear (Zech. 12:10).

The prophecies also addressed His substitutionary death bearing the iniquity of humankind (Isa. 53:5, 6, 9, 11, 12), darkening of the sun at noon after He was lifted up on the cross (Amos 8:9), His burial in a rich man's tomb (Isa. 53:9), His Resurrection from death on the third day, His ascension to heaven (Psalms 24:7-10, 68:18), His sitting on the right hand of the Father (Psa. 110:1), His second coming on the clouds to judge the world (Jude 14; Dan 7: 13-14; Zech. 14:5).

Now is it conceivable that all these prophecies were referring to a human being?

And is it possible that so many prophets would make more than 300 amazing prophecies, going all the way back to 2,000 years before the birth of Lord Jesus, of a Redeemer and Savior of humanity, described as possessing perfect attributes such as infallibility, absolute holiness, omnipotence, omniscience, omnipresence, perfect character, infinite wisdom, utter justice, eternal life, etc., when that person is a mere human? Absolutely not!

It does not take rocket science to conclude that the person promised in these prophecies is none other than God Himself, who, in His infinite wisdom, through these prophecies wanted to prepare the minds of people across generations to receive the greatest event in history, namely His incarnation. That is His coming in the flesh to the world to save man from sin, Satan, death and eternal hell, and to restore him to the life he enjoyed in the original paradise, even to grant him a far better one!

Therefore, the topic of prophecies is of vital importance, for they show that our belief in Christ is not something new, or even one that started with His birth 2,000 years ago, nor is it derived through deduction or based on fabrications by Christians or myths created by Christ's apostles and authors of the gospels. Rather, it was known thousands of years before Christ came to the world that He was going to be, namely that in the fullness of time God would come from heaven in the form of a man (Jesus) to redeem fallen humanity, and would return to heaven after making salvation for those who believe on His name.

Undoubtedly, it greatly strengthens our faith that Christ's deity was documented in the Old Testament, long before Lord Jesus or His apostles were born.

Needless to say, it would have been impossible for all those prophets to make so many prophecies over thousands of years about the deity of Christ – prophecies that have been fulfilled to the letter – unless it was God Himself who had inspired them and revealed these things to them by the Holy Spirit.

Accordingly, we can say that those prophecies which proclaim the deity of Christ, made as they were by some 40 prophets spanning 1,600 years, when they got fulfilled, have become irrefutable evidence that the Bible is the inspired Word of God which has been protected by God from any error or change.

In this context, St. Peter says of Lord Jesus “To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins.” (Acts 10:43), and “For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: ‘This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.’ And we heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place...knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.” (2 Pet. 1: 16-21).

Here we find St. Peter, after talking about his personal eyewitness on the mountain of transfiguration, assures believers that there is an even greater proof and more objective evidence than his own personal witness, namely the prophecies about Christ that preceded His incarnation by centuries and their complete agreement both among themselves and also with the eyewitness testimony of the apostles and disciples. This provides Christians with complete assurance and removes the possibility of any doubt.

In this context, we shall not list the more than 300 prophecies dealing with various details of the life of Christ, which would require a separate book. Rather, by God’s grace we shall mention only 25 prophecies that focus on the divinity of Christ with some comments.

PART 2

Examples of Prophecies that deal with the Deity of Christ

In Part 1, we gave a brief synopsis of prophecies that dealt in a general way with the life of Christ, the Lord of Glory. Here we will focus on prophecies that specifically deal with His deity in its various aspects.

1. Christ's Miraculous Birth:

Some 800 years before Christ, the prophet Isaiah wrote: "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel. ", which means "God-With-Us" (Isa. 7:14; Matt 1: 23). Furthermore, such birth is through means that is beyond the capacity of humans, For Lord Jesus was miraculously conceived by the Holy Spirit in a virgin who had " not known a man ", i.e. who had not had intimate relations with a man. This is why Christ was referred to as the Seed of a woman who would crush the head of the serpent (Satan) (see Gen. 3:15).

This astounding virginal birth had a purpose; for Christ came to save man from the sin of Adam, therefore it was necessary that He himself did not inherit from the first Adam that sinful nature through normal birth. And as Adam was the head of the human race (physically speaking), so is Christ the Last Adam, the head of the human race, spiritually speaking. This is why the Angel announced to the Virgin Mary "...*The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.*" (Luke 1:35).

The New Testament talks about Christ as the Last Adam, and the Second Man, saying, "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive...And so it is written, 'The first man Adam became a living being, the last Adam became a life-giving

spirit...The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven” (1Cor 15: 22, 45, 47).

2. Christ’s Divinity:

The prophet Isaiah says, “ For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the govern-ment will be upon His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His govern-ment and peace there will be no end” (Isa. 9:6, 7). Christ is indeed wonderful in all respects: His birth, His moral perfection, His teachings, His miracles, His attributes, His love for His enemies, His Resur-rection and His ascension to heaven! **Note how this prophecy called Christ “Mighty God”!**

3. The Lordship of Christ and How the Angels Worship Him:

Reporting a vision he saw, Isaiah wrote, “In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings...And one cried to another and said: ‘Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!’” (Isa. 6:1-3). The Gospel of John explains this vision saying that the Lord of Hosts seen by Isaiah was Lord Jesus Christ, and that Isaiah wrote of Him when he beheld His glory (John 12:38- 41).

4. Christ’s Divine Light Shines on Egypt and Other Nations:

Isaiah also prophesied “Behold, the LORD rides on a swift cloud, and will come into Egypt; the idols of Egypt will totter at His presence...In that day there will be an altar to the LORD in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a pillar to the LORD at its border...and the Egyptians will know the LORD” (Isa. 19:1-21).

These two prophecies were fulfilled in 2 stages:

First: When Christ came to Egypt as an infant (and Tradition speaks of Egypt’s idols breaking before Him), and:

Secondly: When Christianity arrived in Egypt as a result of the missionary work of St. Mark (the author of the Gospel bearing his name) and the establishment of the altar of the Egyptian Coptic Orthodox Church in 68 A.D.

Isaiah also says of the people of Zebulun and Naphtali beyond the Jordan, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined." (Isa 9:2; Matt 4:12-16). He also calls on the church everywhere to "Arise, shine; for your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you." (Isa 60:1).

Furthermore, Malachi, the last prophet of the Old Testament, says under inspiration of the Holy Spirit "But to you who fear My name, The Sun of Righteousness shall arise With healing in His wings" (Mal 4:2). This was affirmed by Lord Jesus when He said, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life" (John 8:12; 9:5; 12:46). See the application when the Lord Jesus Christ was on the Mount of Transfiguration, we read that His face shone like the sun" (Matt. 17:2), and when He appeared to Saul of Tarsus, the later described the scene to king Agrippa saying, "At midday, O king, along the road I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me.." (Acts 26:13, 14); also in the Book of Revelation St. John described Christ saying, "And His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength" (Rev. 1:16).

5. Christ's temporal birth in Bethlehem when He is the Everlasting God, begotten from the Father before time began:

The prophet Micah (750 B.C.) prophesied, "But you, Bethlehem...out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting" (Micah 5:2).

This verse states that Christ is everlasting, i.e. without beginning, but also that He would have a temporal physical birth when incarnated from the Virgin Mary (Matt. 2:5).

6. Opposition to the Lord and to His Anointed by kings and rulers:

Psalms 2 by David (1,050 B.C.) talks about Christ's birth, reign, rule and authority, warning kings and rulers to be in awe of Him, to serve Him with fear, and to submit to Him lest they perish:

“Why do the nations rage and the people plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against His Anointed, *saying*, ‘Let us break their bonds in pieces and cast away their cords from us.’ ...The LORD has said to Me, ‘You *are* My Son, today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will give *You* the nations *for* Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth *for* Your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron; you shall dash them to pieces like a potter’s vessel.’

Now therefore, be wise, O kings; be instructed, you judges of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest He be angry and you perish *in* the way...”

7. Christ’s eternal throne:

The prophet David says, “Your throne, O God, *is* forever and ever, a scepter of righteousness *is* the scepter of Your kingdom” (Psa. 45:6). This is explained by St. Paul in the New Testament as “But to the Son *He says* ‘*Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom.*’” (Heb 1:8).

This is the reason we - in the Coptic Orthodox Church - sing to Lord Jesus on Good Friday the tune “*Pikothronos*” about the throne of the cross by which Christ lovingly reigns forever in the hearts of all those who have been redeemed by His blood.

8. Christ as Lord and Son of God, seated on the right hand of the Father:

Inspired by the Holy Spirit, David wrote, “The LORD said to my Lord, ‘Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool’.” (Ps 110:1). This was explained in the New Testament by Lord Jesus: “While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, saying, ‘What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?’

They said to Him, ‘*The Son* of David.’

He said to them, ‘How then does David in the Spirit call Him ‘*Lord*,’ saying:

‘The LORD said to my Lord, ‘Sit at My right hand, till I make

Your enemies Your footstool? If David then calls Him ‘*Lord,*’ how is He his Son?’ And no one was able to answer Him a word...” (Matt 22:41- 46).

Lord Jesus’ question was aimed at getting the Pharisees to realize that while Christ was the Son of David in the flesh, He was also Lord of David by virtue of His divinity.

9. Christ is eternal and is Co-Creator of the universe:

King Solomon (1,000 B.C.) says of Christ “The LORD possessed me at the beginning of His way, before His works of old. I have been established from everlasting, from the beginning, before there was ever an earth...When He prepared the heavens, I was there, when He drew a circle on the face of the deep, when He established the clouds above, when He assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters would not transgress His command, when He marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside Him as a master craftsman...” (Prov. 8:22-30).

10. Christ’s descent from and ascension to heaven and His total control over nature:

Solomon also in his prophecy asks five questions saying,

“Who has ascended into heaven, or descended?

Who has gathered the wind in His fists?

Who has bound the waters in a garment?

Who has established all the ends of the earth?

What is His name, and what is His Son’s name, if you know?” (Prov. 30:4).

One thousand years later, the New Testament explained these prophecies:

• “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.” (John 1:1-3)

• “God ...through whom (His Son) also He made the worlds” (Heb 1: 1-2).

• “No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from

heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven” (John 3:13)

• “...And suddenly a great tempest arose on the sea, so that the boat was covered with the waves...Then He (Christ) arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. So the men marveled, saying, “Who this can be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?” (Matt 8:23-27).

11. “The Lord Our Righteousness” is Christ’s name:

Jeremiah, inspired by the Holy Spirit, prophesied about Christ, saying “Behold, the days are coming,” says the LORD that I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper, and execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell safely; now this is His name by which He will be called:

THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.” (Jer. 23:5-6).

This prophecy explains that Christ would come from the offspring of David, that He would be King ruling with justice, that He would be Savior and Justifier, and that His name would be The Lord Our Righteousness. This is confirmed in the New Testament: “But of Him (God) you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption.” (1Cor1:30).

12. Christ, worshipped by all peoples, will come on the clouds as the Son of Man:

In a vision, the prophet Daniel (590 B.C.) saw Christ: “I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven...Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed.” (Dan 7:13-14)

This prophecy was explained by Lord Jesus during His trial “...And the high priest ... said to Him, ‘I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!’ 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” (Matt 26:63-64; Rev 1:7).

13. Christ is the Everlasting Righteousness, the Seal of Prophecy and the Most Holy:

Another prophecy about Christ by Daniel is:

“To finish the transgression,
To make an end of sins,
To make reconciliation for iniquity,
To bring in everlasting righteousness,
To seal up vision and prophecy,
And to anoint the Most Holy.” (Dan 9:24).

Clearly, these prophetic words describe actions by God and cannot be applied to humans, for the Bible says, “ Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, for Your judgments have been manifested.” (Rev 15:4).

14. Christ’s Act of Redemption and its Timing:

Daniel also speaks of the act of redemption and its timing, “Seventy weeks are determined For your people and for your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy... And after the sixty-two weeks, Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; And the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary.” (Dan 9:24-26).

(Note: Daniel’s “weeks” are seven years and not seven days).

These are explicit prophecies that describe Christ’s coming in the flesh in a form “like the Son of Man” to redeem and atone for the sins of mankind; He is the Everlasting Righteousness and Most Holy who is anointed for this great salvific act, and once finished, He would return to His former glory in heaven, so that all nations would worship Him for eternity.

Considering the above 3 prophecies by Daniel, it is clear that the

person who appeared “like the Son of Man”, who sits on the clouds, who is worshipped by all peoples, nations and tongues, and whose kingdom has no end cannot be a human being, but is God Incarnate, and that is why Christ called Himself “the Son of Man”.

15. Christ is the Eternal King of Kings; all kings shall fall down before Him and all nations shall serve Him:

King Solomon prophesied about the reign of Christ saying, “He will judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice...He will save...He shall have dominion also from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth. Those who dwell in the wilderness will bow before Him, and His enemies will lick the dust...

Yes, all kings shall fall down before Him; All nations shall serve Him.

His name shall endure forever;

His name shall continue as long as the sun.

And men shall be blessed in Him;

All nations shall call Him blessed... And let the whole earth be filled with His glory (Ps. 72)

16. Christ is the Divine Good Shepherd:

Several prophets, namely David, Solomon, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Zechariah prophesied that Christ is the Good Shepherd who gives His people food, water, rest; who restores their souls, guides, protects, redeems and comforts them even in the valley of the shadow of death. (Ps. 23; Song 2:16; 6:2; Isa. 40:11; Ezek 34; Zech 13:7).

Lord Jesus applied this title to Himself when He said, “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.” (John 10:11). He also exhibited all the attributes and works of the good shepherd in His life. Noteworthy is that He said, “No one is good but one; that is God”, yet He called Himself Good Shepherd for He is God. In addition, He is the Good Teacher and the Good Portion (Matt 19:16; Luke 10:42).

17. Christ is the Mediator and Divine Reconciler between God and man:

Long ago, Job complained, saying, “Nor is there any mediator between us (that is God and man) who may lay his hand on us both.” (Job 9:33). Likewise, Paul says, “For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus.” (1Tim 2:5). This means that the only Mediator and Intercessor between God and men is God Incarnate, Christ the Son of God and the Son of Man. In this context, the Bible says, “...God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them...” (2 Cor. 5:19).

18. Christ is the Justifier of and Intercessor for the Transgressors:

Isaiah prophesied of Christ saying “(He) shall justify many, for He shall bear their iniquities. Because He poured out His soul unto death, and He was numbered with the transgressors, and He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.” (Isa. 53:11-12; see also Isa. 59:16, 17; Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25; 1 John 2:1).

19. Christ’s Second Coming for Judgment:

Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about Christ, saying “...Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints to execute judgment on all...” (Jude 14, 15; Psa. 97).

20. Christ’s Second Coming with His Saints:

Similarly, Zechariah prophesied saying, “Thus the LORD my God will come, and all the saints with You.” (Zech 14:5; see 1 Thes. 4:14 & Matthew 16:27).

21. Christ, the Desire of All Nations:

The Prophet Haggai described Christ as the “Desire of All Nations” who will visit Herod’s temple, thereby making it more glorious than Solomon’s great temple “and I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill this temple with glory,’ says the LORD of hosts.” (Haggai 2:7).

22. Christ is the Lord of the Temple who will come suddenly to clean His temple:

Malachi, the last prophet of the Old Testament (444 B.C.) wrote: “And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His tem-

ple, even the Messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight. Behold, He is coming,” Says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner’s fire and like launderers’ soap. He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer to the LORD an offering in righteousness.” (Mal 3:1-3).

23. Christ is the Sun of Righteousness and the Healer:

The last prophecy concerning Christ in the Old Testament was made by Malachi, “...But to you who fear My name The Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings” (Mal 4:2).

Lord Jesus Himself said “I Am the light of the world” (John 8:12), and in the transfiguration, His face shone like the sun. Furthermore, God has been described like the “sun” (Psa. 84:11) for the sun gives life, heat, light, health and healing.

Likewise, Christ proved that he is the Healing Physician who heals all diseases, for He healed all those who were sick in the spirit, soul or body. Moreover, He healed incurable diseases with one word or one touch. In fact, Lord Jesus’ word healed a sick person who was miles away! (Jer. 8:22; Psalm 107:20; Matthew 9:12).

24. Christ’s Redemption of Mankind, Bearing their Sins and Justifying them:

The prophet Isaiah says, “But He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray. We have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. For the transgressions of My people He was stricken...Because He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in His mouth. ...when You make His soul an offering for sin...because He poured out His soul unto death, and He was numbered with the transgressors. And He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.” (Isa. 53:5-12).

Likewise, David speaks for Christ on the cross saying, “My

God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? I am poured out like water, and all My bones are out of joint; My heart is like wax; it has melted within Me. My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and My tongue clings to My jaws; You have brought Me to the dust of death...

They pierced My hands and My feet...They divide My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots. (Ps 22:1-18)

And Jeremiah prophesied about Christ's justification of repentant sinners, quoting one of His divine names:

“ Behold, *the* days are coming,’ says the LORD,
‘That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness;
A King shall reign and prosper,
And execute judgment and righteousness in the earth...

In His days Judah will be saved...

Now this *is* His name by which He will be called:

THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.’” (Jer. 23:5-6).

These marvelous prophecies are crystal clear and hardly need explaining in proving the deity of Christ, for who can redeem and save mankind from the beginning of creation till its end, intercede for them, justify them and grant them eternal life except God alone? For if that person were human, he would be as much of a sinner as the rest, for no man is without a sin.

Only God is without a sin, and it is His name that was explicitly mentioned in the last prophecy that said,

“He will be called ‘THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS’”.

And since these prophecies do not apply to anyone except Christ, they confirm that He is the LORD, the source of righteousness, and is God of whom it is written “who became for us wisdom...and righteousness and sanctification and redemption” (1Cor. 1:30).

25. Christ's Second Coming with His Saints at the End of the World for Judgment:

In his epistle, the apostle Jude quoted an ancient prophecy made by Enoch (the seventh generation from Adam) concerning Lord Jesus' second coming for judgment: “For certain men have crept in

unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ...Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, 'Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment on all...' (Jude 4, 14-15).

Lord Jesus Himself confirmed this prophecy saying, "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man (the Cross) will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other." (Matt 24:29-31).

Lord Jesus also said, "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world'...Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels...And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'" (Matt. 25:31- 46).

These then are some examples of prophecies that address aspects of Christ's deity, namely His divine attributes, His divine works, His divine position, and the reverence due Him. There are many other prophecies that could not be included here due to space limitations. However, the ones we mentioned here which are clear and well known should suffice, and should be understood and even memorized by every one.

THE SECOND PROOF

CHRIST'S DECLARATIONS OF HIS DEITY

Christ the Lord declared His deity, His equality with God the Father, and the fulfillment of the Law, the Prophets and the Psalms in Him. Discussion of this proof comprises:

- a) Christ's declaration that prophecies had been fulfilled in Him.
- b) Christ's proclamation of His equality with God the Father in all divine aspects.
- c) Christ's other self-testimonies that point to His deity.
- d) Evaluating this proof.

PART 1

CHRIST'S DECLARATIONS CONCERNING THE FULFILLMENT OF ALL PROPHECIES IN HIM

Christ declared frequently that He was the long-awaited Messiah, the person who had been promised by the prophets since the dawn of creation to save man from sin and destruction, and to restore him to the kingdom of God. He declared that those prophecies were being fulfilled in Him:

1. According to Luke 4, "So He (Jesus) came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written:

The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me,

Because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor;

He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,

To proclaim liberty to the captives

And recovery of sight to the blind,

To set at liberty those who are oppressed;
To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD.'

Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogues were fixed on Him. And He began to say to them,

'Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.' (Luke 4:16-21).

2. "The Samaritan woman said to Him, 'I know that Messiah is coming' (who is called Christ). 'When He comes, He will tell us all things.' Jesus said to her, 'I who speak to you am He.'" (John 4:25-26).

3. "When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, 'Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?'...Simon Peter answered and said, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' Jesus answered and said to him, 'Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven.'" Lord Jesus added that this confession of His deity and Son-ship of God was the rock of faith on which He would build His church, and that the gates of Hades would not prevail against it (Matt. 16:13,16-17).

4. Lord Jesus asked a group of Pharisees:

- "What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?"
- They said to Him, 'The Son of David.'
- He said to them, 'How then does David in the Spirit call Him **'Lord,'** saying:

The LORD said to my Lord, 'Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool'?"

If David then calls Him **'Lord,'** how is He his Son?" (Matt. 22:42-45).

By this, Christ revealed His deity; that from the perspective of His divine nature He is the Lord and Creator of David, but also from the perspective of His human nature that He is the Son of David in the flesh. That is why David, inspired by the Holy Spirit, prophesied about Christ calling Him Lord, which agrees with what Christ called Himself in Revelation : "I, Jesus.... **am the Root and the**

Offspring of David...” (Rev. 22:16)

5. Christ also said “**You search the Scriptures**, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are **they which testify of Me...**For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me.” (John 5:39, 46).

6. After His Resurrection from the dead, Christ rebuked the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, saying “**O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?**” And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.” (Luke 24:25-27).

7. “The Son of Man indeed goes **just as it is written of Him...**” (Matt. 26:24)

8. “Then Jesus said to them, ‘All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, **for it is written: ‘I will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’**” (Matt. 26: 31).

9. “But Jesus said to him (Peter), ‘Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide

Me with more than twelve legions of angels? **How then could the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen thus?**” (Matt 26:52-54)

10. “In that hour Jesus said to the multitudes, ‘Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs to take Me? I sat daily with you, teaching in the temple, and you did not seize Me. **But all this was done that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled.**” (Matt. 26:55-56).

11. “And Jesus said to them, ‘Yes. **Have you never read, ‘Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have perfected praise?’**” (Matt 21:16; see the original prophecy in psalm 8:2).

12. “Jesus said to them, ‘**have you never read in the Scriptures: ‘The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.**”“(Matt. 21:42).

13. “But *this happened* that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, **‘They hated Me without a cause.’**” (John 15:25)

14. “While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and **none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.**” (John 17:12)

15. “Jesus answered, ‘I have told you that I am *He*. Therefore, if you seek Me, let these go their way,’ **that the saying might be fulfilled which He spoke, ‘Of those whom You gave Me I have lost none.’**” (John 18:8-9).

16. Lord Jesus told His twelve disciples that, **“All things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and *the* Prophets and *the* Psalms concerning Me...** Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations...” (Luke 24:44-47).

17. “.....If He called them gods, to whom the word of God came, **and the Scripture cannot be broken,** do you say of Him whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, ‘You are blaspheming, because I said, ‘I am the son of God?’” (John 10: 35, 36).

PART 2

CHRIST'S DECLARATION OF HIS DEITY BY EQUATING HIMSELF WITH GOD THE FATHER AND BY HIS UNITY WITH HIM

Due to the large number of these declarations, we will focus on the most important aspects of Christ's unity with God the Father:

1. Unity of essence and divine nature:

- "I and My Father are one." (John 10:30)
- "I am in the Father and the Father in Me" (John 14:11)
- "He who has seen Me has seen the Father" (John 14:9)
- "All things that the Father has are Mine." (John 16:15)
- "... (O Father)... all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine" (John 17:10)
- "... He who sees Me sees Him who sent Me." (John 12:45).

2. To Know the Father, one must know the Son

- "Jesus answered, 'You know neither Me nor My Father. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also'" (John 8:19).
- "No one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him". (Matt 11:27).
- "No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him." (John 1:18).

3. Unity in self-existence

- "For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself." (John 5:26)
- "In the beginning was the Word (Jesus), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1)
- "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory." (John 1:14)

4. Equality in eternity and omnipresence

- “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End,” says the Lord, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty...I am the First and the Last.” (Rev 1:8, 17; Isa. 48:12)
- “Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.” (John 8:58).

Note that Abraham lived before Christ’s earthly ministry by over 2,000 years!

- “And lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (Matt 28:20)
- “For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.” (Matt 18:20)
- “No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven.” (John 3:13)
- “And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was...for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.” (John 17:5,24)

5. Equality in omnipotence (absolute power), and in sovereign authority to raise the dead:

- “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.” (Matt 28:18)
- “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End,” says the Lord, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.” (Rev1:8)
- “For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to them, even so the Son gives life to whom He will.” (John 5:21)
- “And He said, ‘Young man, I say to you, arise.’ So he who was dead sat up and began to speak.” (Luke 7:14-15)
- “He...took her by the hand and called, saying, ‘Little girl, arise.’ Then her spirit returned, and she arose immediately.” (Luke 8:54-55)

- “...He cried with a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, come forth!’ And he who had died came out...” (John 11:43-44). Note that Lazarus had been dead for 4 days!
 - Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live... Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.” (John 5:25, 28-29)
 - “I am the resurrection and the life” (John 11:25).
 - “I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever’.” (John 6:51)
 - “Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.” (John 6:54)
 - “The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand.” (John 3:35)
 - “...The Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.” (Phil 3:20-21)
 - “...Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.” (1Pet 3:21-22)
- 6. Equality in the results of believing in the Father and the Son:**
- “You believe in God, believe also in Me.” (John 14:1).
 - “He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.” (John 3:36)
 - “And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.” (John 6:40).

7. Equality with the Father in being worshipped, accepting worship and answering prayers:

- “And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.” (John 14:13).
- “Jesus ...said to him, ‘Do you believe in the Son of God?’ He answered and said, ‘Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?’ And Jesus said to him, ‘You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you.’ Then he said, ‘Lord, I believe!’ And he worshiped Him.” (John 9:35-38).
- “And Thomas answered and said to Him, ‘My Lord and my God!’ Jesus said to him, ‘Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.’” (John 20:28).
- “When they saw Him, they worshiped Him” (Matt 28:17).
- “Then he (the thief on the right) said to Jesus, ‘Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.’ And Jesus said to him, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.’” (Luke 23:42).
- “And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, ‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.’” (Acts 7:59).
- “...Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you.” (John 16:23).

8. Equality in glory between God the Father and God the Son

- “Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You.” (John 17:1)
- “And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.” (John 17:5).
- “...Jesus... said, ‘This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it.’” (John 11:4).
- “To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His

throne.” (Rev 3:21).

- “All things that the Father has are Mine.” (John 16:15).
- “It is My Father who honors Me, of whom you say that He is your God. Yet you have not known Him...” (John 8:54-55).

9. Equality with God the Father in judging the world:

- “For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son.” (John 5:22).
- “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.” (Matt 28:18)
- “When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats.” (Matt 25:31-32)
- “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’” (Matt. 7:21-23).
- “And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.” (Rev 1:7, 22:12; Acts 17:31; Rom 8:34)
- “ ...For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ...So then each of us shall give account of himself to God” (Rom 14:10-12)

10. Equality with the Father in deserving all honor due to God:

- “That all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.” (John 5:23)
- “But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: ‘Let all the angels of God worship Him’” (Heb1:6)

- "...As I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne." (Rev 3:21).
- "For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.'" (2Pet 1:17; Matt 17:5; 3:17)
- "He who comes from above is above all" (John 3:31)
- "Jesus asked them, saying, 'What do you think about the Christ?'... 'How then does David in the Spirit call Him 'Lord,' saying: The LORD said to my Lord, ' Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool?'" (Matt 22:42-44)
- "And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: 'Blessing and honor and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb (Christ), forever and ever!'" (Rev5:13)
- "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth." (Phil 2:10)

* * *

PART 3

CHRIST'S OTHER TESTIMONIES OF HIS DEITY

The Lord Jesus Christ made a great many statements that proclaim His deity, either explicitly or implicitly. We present here 71 of these:

1. "I am the resurrection and the life..." (John 11:25).
2. "I am the way, the truth, and the life..." (John 14:6)
3. "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst" (John 6:35).

4. "I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever" (John 6:51).
5. "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away." (Matt. 24:35).
6. "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Matt 11:28).
7. "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life." (John 8:12).
8. "Which of you convicts Me of sin?" (John 8:46).
9. "Most assuredly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he shall never see death." (John 8:51).
10. "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM." (John 8:58).
11. Jesus asked the man who was born blind after He created in him two new seeing eyes "Do you believe in the Son of God?" He answered and said, 'Who is He, Lord that I may believe in Him?' And Jesus said to him, 'You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you.' Then he said, 'Lord, I believe!' And he worshiped Him." (John 9:35-38).
12. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).
13. "No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him" (John 1:18).
14. Even though Christ declared that "No one is good but One, that is, God" (Matt 19:17), He said about Himself "I am the good shepherd." (John 10:11). He also says about Himself "But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her" (Luke 10:42).

15. "For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them" (Matt 18:20).
16. "And, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matt 28:20).
17. "For the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath." (Matt 12:8)
18. "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 7:21)
19. "You are from beneath; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world...for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins." (John 8:23-24).
20. "And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day." (John 6:40)
21. "Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven." (Matt 10:32).
22. "For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works." (Matt 16:27).
23. "And He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man." (John 1:51)
24. "Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper (Holy Spirit) will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you...He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you." (John 16:7, 14).
25. "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the

Holy Spirit.” (Matt 28:19).

26. “Jesus answered and said to them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up...But He was speaking of the temple of His body” (John 2:19, 21).
27. “But Jesus answered them, ‘My Father has been working until now, and I have been working.’ Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.” (John 5:17, 18)
28. “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.” (John 5:24)
29. “He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me...He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.” (Matt. 10:37-39).
30. “And if anyone asks you, ‘Why are you losing It (the colt)?’ thus you shall say to him, ‘Because the Lord has need of it.’” (Luke 19:31)
31. “Then, as He was now drawing near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works they had seen, saying: ‘Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the LORD! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!’ And some of the Pharisees called to Him from the crowd, ‘Teacher, rebuke Your disciples.’ But He answered and said to them, ‘I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out.’” (Luke 19:37-40)
32. “And He said to them, ‘How can they say that the Christ is the Son of David? Now David himself said in the Book

of Psalms:

*‘ The LORD said to my Lord,
“ Sit at My right hand,
Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.’*

Therefore David calls Him ‘Lord’; how is He then his Son?”
(Luke 20:41-44)

33. “Then He looked at them and said, ‘what then is this that is written: *‘The stone which the builders rejected, Has become the chief cornerstone’?*’ Whoever falls on that stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder.” (Luke 20:17-18).
34. “And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; men’s hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.” (Luke 21:25-27).
35. “Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass and to stand before the Son of Man.” (Luke 21:36).
36. “And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, ‘Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.’” (Rev 1:17-18).
37. “And Jesus said to him, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise” (Luke 23:43).
38. “But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins”—He said to the paralytic, ‘I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.’” (Mark 2:10-11).

39. "Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live... Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation." (John 5:25, 28-29).
40. "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand" (John 10:28).
41. "I and My Father are one." (John 10:30).
42. "...He who has seen Me has seen the Father..." (John 14:9).
43. "Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, 'Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name.' And He said to them, 'I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.'" (Luke 10:17-18).
44. "And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover." (Mark 16:17-18).
45. "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches." (Rev. 22:16).
46. "He who is holy, He who is true, He who has the key of David, *He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens.*" (Rev 3:7).
47. "And Thomas answered and said to Him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.'" (John 20:28-29).

48. "Jesus said to him, 'If I will that he remain till I come (at the end of the age), what is that to you? You follow Me.'" (John 21:22).
49. "Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world." (John 17:24).
50. "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions...I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also." (John 14: 1-3)
51. "For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to them, even so the Son gives life to whom He will." (John 5:21)
52. "For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son." (John 5:22).
53. "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'" (Matt. 7:22-23).
54. "The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness." (Matt 13:41).
55. "...On this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it." (Matt 16:18).
56. "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth." (Matt 28:18)
57. "Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven..." (Matt 24:30)
58. "Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the

Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.” (Matt 19:28).

59. Six times, Lord Jesus speaking as God said “You have heard that it was said...”, But I say to you...” (Matt 5:21, 27, 31, 33, 38, 43).
60. “Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.” (Matt. 8:26)
61. “...Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.” (Matt 11:27)
62. “So it will be at the end of this age. The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.” (Matt 13:40-42).
63. “...For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.” (Matt 24:27).
64. “And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name’s sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life.” (Matt 19:29).
65. “Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming... Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.” (Matt 24:42 44; 25:13, 31)
66. “That all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father...” (John 5:23).
67. “He who has seen Me has seen the Father...” (John 14:9).
68. “And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.” (John 14:13).

69. "To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God." (Rev 2:7).
70. "For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works." (Matt 16:27).
71. "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last...the Beginning and the End" (Rev 1:11; 21:6).

PART 4

THE IMPORTANCE OF CHRIST'S DECLARATION OF HIS DEITY

Evaluating this proof

The general rule is that if a person testifies for himself, such a testimony is not accepted; rather, it needs to be corroborated either by other witnesses, or by other means, e.g. documents, photos, recordings, etc. And while Christ's self-testimony had in itself the power of proof, it was also corroborated by numerous other supporting proofs.

First: Christ's self-witness was necessary:

By reviewing the 71 verses in Part 3 above, we see Christ proclaiming that He is the Savior of the world, the Redeemer of mankind, the One who grants forgiveness of sins, the Comforter of the weary, the Giver of life, the One who hears and answers prayers, the Sovereign over all creation, the Just Judge of humanity at the end of the age: those who believe in Him are not condemned, while those who do not believe in Him shall perish. Christ also declared that He and God the Father are One, that heaven and earth shall pass away, but that no word of His shall pass away, etc.

Now, is it conceivable for Christ to be God, to demonstrate such divine attributes and miraculous works, and to have the eternal destiny of people hinging on their belief in Him, yet for Him to keep

silent about His true identity?

Clearly it was necessary for Christ to declare His deity, for if He did not, the enemies of Christianity would have used such an omission as evidence that He is not God!

Thus, Christ's self-witness that He is God has great value and utmost significance and was absolutely necessary. For it is neither usual nor common: no angel, prophet or any sane ordinary human would dare make it. Rather, it came from a most uncommon Person who was absolutely truthful all the time; even His worst enemies did not and could not accuse Him of a single lie.

Secondly: Christ's claim that he is God explained His miraculous works, and His works supported His claim that He is God.

Christ performed unique and amazing miracles that were never duplicated before or after, and which He performed totally by His sovereign will and absolute authority. Clearly, those works are inseparable from His proclamations, for they furnish ample proof of the veracity of His claim of deity, thus He said, "If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father." (John 15:24). Lord Jesus also said "Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves." (John 14:11), and "...For the works which the Father has given Me to finish—the very works that I do—bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me." (John 5:36).

Other Witnesses Who Support Christ's Self-Testimony....

Thirdly: The Witness of the Heavenly Father:

The gospels record that God the Father audibly testified of His Son Jesus Christ three times. The first time was immediately after Christ's baptism when a voice came from heaven saying, "...This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." (Matt 3:17). The second time was on the mountain of the Transfiguration when the Father repeated this exact same announcement (Matt 17:5). Last, when Lord Jesus prayed "'Father, glorify Your name.' Then a voice came from heaven, saying, 'I have both glorified it and will glorify

it again.” (John 12:28).

Christ, who is Truth, also said more than once that the Father testifies of Him (see John 8:18; John 5:37).

Fourthly: The Witness of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit descended visibly in the form of a dove on Lord Jesus immediately after His baptism, thereby supporting the witness of the Heavenly Father who proclaimed, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” (Matt 3:17).

Christ, whose every word is absolute truth, also talked about the Holy Spirit’s witness of Him, saying, ““But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.” (John 15:26), adding, “He (the Holy Spirit) will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.” (John 16:14).

Fifthly: The Witness of the Apostles

Christ spoke about His apostles’ and disciples’ eyewitness of His deity, saying”And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning.” (John 15:27).

Moreover, His last words to His disciples before ascending to heaven were, “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (Acts 1:8).

And indeed, all the apostles gave witness of Christ’s deity in countless verses that require a future separate chapter, but here we mention a few by way of example:

1. Every page of the gospel of John contains testimonies of the deity of Christ by the apostle John, the beloved disciple. For example, the opening goes “In the beginning was the Word (Greek ‘LOGOS’, a title of Christ), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men...And the Word became flesh and

dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory...” (John 1:1-14). Likewise, towards the end of that gospel, St. John says “And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.” (John 20:30-31; See also 21:24-25).

2. St. James called Christ “**The Lord of Glory**” (James 2:1).
3. The apostle Thomas addressed Him as “*My Lord and my God*” (John 20:28).
4. The apostle Paul described Lord Jesus as “...*He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen.*” (1Tim 6:15-16). Earlier in the same epistle, he says, “...*God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up in glory.*” (1Tim 3:16)
5. According to St. Luke, Lord Jesus said to His apostles, “**All things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.**’ And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. Then He said to them, ‘Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And you are witnesses of these things...and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven. And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy...’ (Luke 24:44-52).

6. St. Mark started his gospel with **“The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God”** (Mark 1:1)
7. St. Matthew recorded what the angel told Joseph, the fiancé of the Virgin Mary **“...Do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.’ So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: ‘Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,’ which is translated, ‘God with us.’”** (Matt 1:20-23)
8. The apostle Jude wrote **“Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ...For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.”** (Jude 1, 4)
9. St. Peter said, **“Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold...but with the precious blood of Christ, He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world...”** (1Pet 1:18-20). He also said, **“...Through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.”** (1Pet. 3:21-22)

Six: The Witness of Angels:

The angels testified of the deity of Christ, confirming His self-witness, for the angel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary **“...The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.”** (Luke 1:35).

Another angel said of Him, **“And you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.”** (Matt 1:21). The name Jesus itself means **“The Lord Saves.”**

Furthermore, an angel heralded the birth of Lord Jesus to the shepherds saying, "...For behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord...And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" (Luke 2:10-14).

Seven: The Witness of Demons

Even demons testified of Christ's deity! For example, the demon that possessed the man from the Gadarenes, "...When he saw Jesus, he cried out, fell down before Him, and with a loud voice said, 'What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me!'" (Luke 8:28). Here we see that the demons that possessed this man testified that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and confirmed that Christ has the authority and power to send them to the abyss and to have them tortured.

Eight: The Testimony of the Prophets who preceded Christ

You will recall that we have already discussed in the First Proof 25 of the more than 300 amazing prophecies that addressed Christ's deity.

To sum, all the various testimonies we covered here, together with the witness of Christ's perfect and sinless life on earth, corroborate what He said about Himself. *What more does the human heart need in order to believe, or the sound mind in order to accept and be assured!*

THE THIRD PROOF

CHRIST'S DIVINE POSITION IS GREATER THAN THAT OF ANGELS OR HUMANS

We have seen in many prophecies (which represent God speaking through the prophets) that Christ is God, that His name is Immanuel which means "God with us" (Isa 7:14; Matt 1:23), that He is "Mighty God" (Isa. 9:6, 7), and the prophet David addresses Him saying "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom." (Ps 45:6; Heb 1:8). The Bible confirms that Jesus Christ is the 'Word of God' and that "The Word was God" (John 1:1). Furthermore, the apostle Paul said of Him "...God was manifested in the flesh..." (1Tim 3:16), and that Christ is "...The image of the invisible God... For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible...All things were created through Him and for Him." (Col 1:15-16). Lord Jesus Himself confirmed this by saying "I and My Father are one" (John 10:30).

Thus, it is evident that Christ is greater than all created beings for He is their Creator. We discuss this in some detail next.

PART 1

CHRIST IS LORD OF ALL

The Holy Bible is full of references to the deity of Christ and to His supreme divine position above all, describing Him as "Lord of all" (Acts 10:26), "Lord of glory" (1Cor 2:8; Jas 2:1), "Lord of peace" (2 Thess. 3:16), "Lord of the Sabbath" (Mark 2:28), that "He who comes from above is above all" (John 3:31), and as "King of kings and Lord of lords" (1Tim 6:15; Rev 19:16). Noteworthy is that the last title is the same one used by Moses in the Old Testament to describe God to the Israelites, "For the LORD your

God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome..." (Deut 10:17).

Examples of explicit verses that denote the deity of Christ and therefore His superiority to angels, prophets and kings include:

1. **"For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily"** (Col 2:9)
2. **"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible...All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist."** (Col 1:15-17).
3. **"That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth"** (Phil 2:10).
4. **"...Let all the angels of God worship Him."** (Heb 1:6)
5. **"To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins."** (Acts 10:43).
6. **"Now therefore, be wise, O kings;
Be instructed, you judges of the earth...
Kiss the Son, lest He be angry,
And you perish *in* the way..."**

Blessed are those who put their trust in Him" (Psalm 2:10, 12).

PART 2

CHRIST IS GREATER THAN ANGELS WHO WORSHIP AND SERVE HIM

This was clearly stated in the first chapter of the Epistle to the Hebrews which starts with proclaiming the deity of Christ, that He is the Son of God, His incarnation, power, redemption, equality

with the Father in essence, His distinctiveness as the Son of God from the prophets who are slaves of God, and from angels who are servants of God. It concludes by comparing Christ the Lord and Creator with angels. The Scripture says, "God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they." (Heb 1:1-4). It goes on to explain Christ's superiority as Lord and Son of God to angels who are His servants by asking the following five questions and making specific comparisons:

1. "For to which of the angels did He ever say: '**You are My Son, today I have begotten You**'"? (Heb 1:5).
2. "**And again: 'I will be to Him a Father,**
And He shall be to Me a Son'"? (Heb 1:5).
3. "But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: '**Let all the angels of God worship Him.**'" (Heb 1:6).
4. "And of the angels He says:

'Who makes His angels spirits
And His ministers a flame of fire.'

But to the Son He says: 'Your throne, O God, is forever and ever... And 'You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You remain; and they will all grow old like a garment; like a cloak You will fold them up, and they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will not fail.'" (Heb 1:7-12).

5. "*But to which of the angels has He ever said:
'Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your foot-*

stool'? Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?" (Heb 1:13, 14).

Likewise, St. Peter says of Christ, "Who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him." (1 Pet. 3:22).

The fact that Christ is far greater than angels rests on the following 2 pillars:

A. Christ's own proclamation of His Lordship and authority over angels:

1. When Lord Jesus talked about His Second Coming to judge the world He said "...And then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other." (Matt 24:30-31).

2. When Lord Jesus rebuked His disciple Peter for using a sword to defend Him, He said, "...Do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels?" (Matt 26:53). Recall that when Sennacherib the king of Assyria attacked Jerusalem, "...The angel of the LORD went out, and killed in the camp of the Assyrians one hundred and eighty-five thousand" (Isa 37:36).

3. When Nathanael first met Lord Jesus, he was amazed that Christ told him his secrets, so he exclaimed 'Rabbi, You are the Son of God!' to which "Jesus answered ...'You will see greater things than these.' And He said to him, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.'" (John 1:49-51; compare to Jacob's ladder in Gen 28:12).

4. When Jesus Christ was tempted by Satan in the wilderness for forty days, "...The angels ministered to Him." (Mark 1:13).

5. The book of Revelation starts with "The Revelation of Jesus Christ...He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John"

(Rev 1:1), and ends with “I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches...” (John 22:16).

6. These verses make it clear that Christ declares His lordship over angels, and that He has divine authority to send them and to use them in His service as He wills.

B. Angels testify of Christ’s divine position and Lordship

1. When the angel Gabriel announced the upcoming birth of Lord Jesus to the Virgin Mary, he said, “And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest...and of His kingdom there will be no end.” (Luke 1:31-33).

2. And the angel continued by explaining how that miraculous birth was to take place, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.” (Luke 1:35; note that only God is Holy-in an absolute sense- see Rev 15:4).

3. The angel told the shepherds “...Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord...And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!’” (Luke 2:10-14).

4. In the book of Revelation, St. John records, “Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice, ‘Worthy is the Lamb who was slain (i.e. the Crucified Christ) to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!’ And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: ‘Blessing and honor and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!’” (Rev 5:11-13).

Furthermore, the angels testified to this fact by words and deeds from the moment they announced His upcoming birth, throughout His life on earth and up to His ascension:

a. The angel announcing to Zacharias the birth of John the Baptist who would prepare the way for Christ (Luke 1:5-20).

b. The angel Gabriel announcing the birth of Lord Jesus to the Virgin Mary (Luke 1:26-38).

c. An angel appearing to shepherds to announce the birth of Christ (Luke 2:10-14).

d. On the same occasion: “And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!’” (Luke 2:13-14).

e. The angel appearing to Joseph to tell him “...That which is conceived in her (the Virgin Mary) is of the Holy Spirit... that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: ‘*Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,*’ which is translated, ‘God with us.’” (Matt 1:20-23).

f. Another appearance by an angel to Joseph to inform him of King Herod’s plan to destroy the young child Jesus and to instruct him to flee to Egypt with the child and His mother (Matt 2:13).

g. A third appearance by an angel to Joseph, after the death of King Herod, telling him to leave Egypt to go back with the family to Israel (Matt 2:19).

h. A multitude of angels ministering to Christ after His fast for 40 days in the wilderness and after His temptation by Satan (Mark 1:13).

i. An angel coming to strengthen Christ during His prayer in the garden of Gethsemane the night before His crucifixion (Luke 22:43).

j. An angel of the Lord descended from heaven and rolled back the stone from the door of the tomb where the body of Christ was laid to announce His Resurrection to the world (Matt 28:2).

k. Two angels appeared to Mary Magdalene, one at the head and

the other at the feet of where Lord Jesus' body had lain, and announced to her the joyful news of His Resurrection (John 20:12).

1. Two angels appeared to the apostles when Christ ascended to heaven and told them, "This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven." (Acts 1:10-11).

From the foregoing, it is evident that Christ the Lord is divine and accordingly is far greater than angels who worship, praise, bless and glorify Him (Rev 5:11; Heb 1:6), submit to Him (1Pet 3:22), serve Him (Mark 1:13) and obey His commands (Matt 24:31).

PART 3

CHRIST IS GREATER THAN PROPHETS, KINGS, AND ALL HUMANS

As the Bible declares that Christ is God and is greater than angels, it naturally affirms that He is greater than even the greatest humans. Some examples are:

1. Christ is greater than Abraham:

Christ told the Jews "your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad.' Then the Jews said to Him, 'You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?' Jesus said to them, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.'" (John 8:56-58). This means that Abraham saw in the spirit the events of Christ's incarnation and atonement, and rejoiced because his salvation from hell and his hope in paradise hinged upon that incarnation and redemption. It should be noted that the sacrifice of Isaac mentioned in Genesis 22 was a type that foreshadowed the sacrifice of Lord Jesus on the cross (Heb 11:19), as was the ram that God provided in place of Isaac. Clearly then, Christ, the eternal God and Savior of Abraham is greater than Abraham.

2. Christ is greater than Moses:

The Bible says, “For this One (Christ) has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as He who built the house has more honor than the house...And Moses indeed was faithful in all His house as a servant...but Christ as a Son over His own house...” (Heb 3:3-6).

3. Christ is greater than David:

Lord Jesus said that David called Him Lord when he said: “The LORD said to my Lord, ‘Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool.’”(Psa. 110:1; Matt 22:45).

4. Christ is greater than Solomon:

Talking about Himself, Christ said “Indeed a greater than Solomon is here.” (Matt. 12:42).

5. Christ is greater than the prophet Jonah:

Jesus said about Himself, “and indeed a greater than Jonah is here.” (Matt 12:41).

6. Christ is greater than the kings and judges:

David calls on kings and judges to be wise, to humble themselves and to believe in Christ, love Him, kiss Him lest they perish” (Psa. 2).

7. Christ is greater than prophets and priests:

The New Testament says,

- “For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens” (Heb 7:26).
- “To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins.” (Acts 10:43).
- “Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He

humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God (the Father) also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven (angels), and of those on earth (people), and of those under the earth (demons), and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (Phil 2:5-11).

- “Christ when He (the Father) raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things...” (Eph 1: 20-22).
- Thus, Christ is the Creator while all others, whether angels or humans, are created. Christ, to Him be the glory, is the Redeemer and Savior of the world, without whom mankind would perish. And Christ is holy, perfect, sinless and infallible, while humans are imperfect sinners. Last, Christ is the great eternal and everlasting God, while humans and angels alike owe Him worship and service.

THE FOURTH PROOF

THE DIVINE NAMES AND TITLES OF CHRIST

In this section, we will show that Christ has the same names and titles of God alone, and that these, Divine names and titles, proclaim the essence of His personality, attributes and works. These names were announced by angels, by prophets inspired by the Holy Spirit, by apostles and by Lord Jesus Himself.

It is noteworthy, that Muslim's Quran mentions a group of names known as "The good names of Allah" composed of 99 names. Among those names you notice that they are some attributes and descriptions of their god.

These are some examples of the names of God (Allah) in Islam: The compassionate, merciful, king, giver, forgiver, just, patient, mighty, great, the elevator, the humiliator, the terrible, the fearful, the destroyer, the avenger, the retaliator.....etc.! You cannot find at all the word LOVE among all these names. The word "love" does not exist about God in their Quran one single time!

What I would like to draw the reader's attention to, here, is that the Divine names and Holy titles of God, which are mentioned in the Bible, both Old and New Testaments, are the same names and titles of the Lord Jesus Christ. All these Divine names cannot be applied on any human or creature, but to God alone.

PART 1

THE NAMES OF CHRIST

Below, we mention the most important names of Christ and provide Scriptural references:

1. GOD

Christ is explicitly called “God” in several verses:

1. “In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the **Word was God**...And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...” (John 1:1, 14).
2. “The Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall *conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel,*” which is translated, “**God with us.**” (Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:23).
3. “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**” (Isa. 9:6).
4. “And Thomas answered and said to Him, ‘My Lord and **my God**’” (John 20:28).
5. “From whom, according to the flesh, **Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God.** Amen.” (Rom 9:5).
6. “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: **God was manifested in the flesh...**” (1Tim 3:16).
7. “**For in Him (Christ) dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily**” (Col 2:9).
8. “....To shepherd the church **of God which He purchased with His own blood**” (Acts 20:28).
9. “**But to the Son He says: ‘Your throne, O God, is forever and ever...’**” (Heb 1:8).
10. “Looking for the **blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ**” (Tit 2:13).
11. “But when the kindness and **the love of God our**

Savior toward man appeared...He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit” (Tit 3:4, 5).

12. “...That they may adorn **the doctrine of God our Savior...**” (Tit. 2:10)

13. “Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called *to be* an apostle, separated **to the gospel of God**” (Rom 1:1).

14. “Paul, an apostle (not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ...)” (Gal 1:1).

15. “Who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men. **And being found in appearance as a man,** He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of death*, even the death of the cross.” (Phil 2:6-8).

16. “...And we are in Him who is true, **in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God** and eternal life.” (1 John 5:20).

17. “...To those who have obtained like precious faith with us **by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ.**” (2 Pet. 1:1).

(See also Genesis 32:30 & Judges 13:18. when both Jacob and Manoah saw Christ in His Pre-Incarnated appearances, in the form of the angel of the Lord, and they said, “we have seen God”; also, Joshua 5:15; Psalms 84:11; 85:8-11; Zech. 14:5; Col. 1:15-17; Heb. 1:1-3; John 5:18; 10:33; Jude 24, 25).

2. Lord

In the New Testament, Christ is called Lord approximately 375 times. Here are some famous examples:

1. The angel announced to the shepherds “For there is born to you this day in the city of David a **Savior, who is Christ the Lord**” (Luke 2:11).
2. Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, welcomed the Virgin Mary saying, “**But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?**” (Luke 1:43).
3. “**...Jesus Christ— He is Lord of all...**” (Acts 10:36).
4. “**...Do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, *the Lord of glory*, with partiality.**” (Jam. 2:1).
5. “**No one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.**” (1Cor 12:3).
6. “**And His name is called The Word of God...And He has on *His robe* and on *His thigh* a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.**” (Rev 19:13-16).
7. “And Thomas answered and said to Him, “**My Lord and my God!**” (John 20:28).
8. On the cross, the thief “said to Jesus, ‘**Lord, remember me when You come into Your Kingdom.**’” (Luke 23:42).
9. Speaking about Himself, **Lord Jesus said**, “**Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven...**” (Matt 7:21).
10. “**...For had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory**” (1 Cor 2:8).
11. “The first man (Adam) *was* of the earth, *made* of dust; **the second Man (Christ) is the Lord from heaven**” (1Cor 15:47).

12. "But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our **Lord Jesus Christ.**" (1Cor 15:57).
13. "...Eagerly waiting for the **revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ**, who will also confirm you to the end, *that you may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.* God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of **His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.** Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our **Lord Jesus Christ...**" 2 Cor. 1:7-10).
14. "And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on *God* and saying, '**Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.**'" (Acts 7:59).
15. "...Then the Lord said, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting... So he (Saul), trembling and astonished, said, '**Lord, what do You want me to do?**'" (Acts 9:5, 6).

3. LORD GOD & the TRUE GOD

In the Old Testament, God introduced the Ten Commandments by saying, "I am the LORD your God...You shall have no other gods before Me" (Exodus 20:2-3). (Most often, in the New Testament, the name of God "YHWH", "YAHWEH", or "Jehovah" is translated as LORD, all in uppercase letters as in this verse).

Likewise, the Bible says, "...The LORD our God, the LORD is one." (Deut 6:4). Christ confirmed this in rebuffing Satan, saying, "...You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve." (Matt 4:10).

For the LORD is the only God, as the Bible says, "Know that the LORD, He is God; it is He who has made us..." (Psalm 100:3; 1Kings 18:37, 39).

+ "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" (Isa. 9:6).

+ “According to the flesh, **Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God.** Amen” (Rom.9:5).

+ “**We are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God** and eternal life” (1 John 5:20).

+ “**And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent**” (John 17:3).

Therefore, we Christians believe – just as Muslims do- that “There is no God but ‘Allah’ (God)”! However, we also believe that Christ is LORD and He is God, True God as seen from the verses above. He is “**true God of true God**” as we say in our Christian Creed.

4. “I AM”

When Moses, in the incident of the “Burning Bush”, asked God about His name so that, if asked, he might give it to the Israelites, “...God said to Moses, ‘**I AM WHO I AM.**’ And He said, ‘Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, ‘**I AM has sent me to you.**’” (Exodus 3:14).

The meaning of that Hebrew name (written in Arabic letters) is “I AM the self-existent One who I AM”; its meaning is explained in the following verse, “Moreover God said to Moses,

‘Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: ‘**The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is My name forever, and this is My memorial to all generations.**’” (Exod. 3:15). Jehovah, or the Lord, Yahweh, is the Self Existing God, the Everlasting God, who is and who was and who is to come.

In light of the New Testament revelations, we find Christ declaring that He is the “I AM”:

- “**I am** the Alpha and the Omega, *the Beginning and the End,*’ says the Lord, ‘who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty’” (Rev 1:8).

- “...**I am** the way, the truth, and the life...” (John 14:6).
 - “...**I am** the resurrection and the life” (John 11:25).
 - “...**I am** the bread of life...” (John 6:35, 48)
 - “...For if you do not believe that **I am He**, you will die in your sins” (John 8:24).
 - “...**I am** the light of the world” (John 9:5).
 - “...**I am** the door of the sheep.” (John 10:7).
 - “**I am** the good shepherd...” (John 10:11, 14).
 - “**I am** the true vine...” (John 15:1).
 - “...Before Abraham was, **I AM.**” (John 8:58).
- (See the book titled “I AM” by the author).

5. The Lord of Hosts

Isaiah says, “...I saw the Lord sitting on a throne...Above it stood Seraphim...And one cried to another and said: ‘**Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts**; the whole earth *is* full of His glory!’” (Isa. 6:1-3). Concerning this, the Gospel of St. John explains, “These things Isaiah said when he saw His (Christ’s) glory and spoke of Him” (John 12:41). Thus it is evident that the One who is Holy, the Lord of Hosts who is worshipped by angels and Seraphim is none other than Christ.

Furthermore, since God alone is Holy (Rev 15:4), and since the angel said to St. Mary, “...That **Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.**” (Luke 1:35), and given that

“the Lord of Hosts” (hosts means angels) is a title of God, it becomes crystal clear that the Holy One, the Lord of Hosts who is worshipped by angels and who was born from the Virgin Mary in the fullness of time is Christ, the Son of God who is God the Son, who came in the flesh to save mankind.

6. Rock of Ages

Isaiah says, "...For in YAH, the LORD, *is Rock of Ages* (or everlasting strength)." (Isa. 26:4). This means that the Rock of Ages is Christ, YAH, the great I AM, the LORD.

The meaning in this metaphoric speech is derived from the strength of the rock and its immutability all over the years and ages. So Christ also is almighty and does not change in His person nor in His love and salvation as described, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever" (Heb. 13:8).

In this context, it should be noted that numerous verses in both the Old and the New Testament refer to Christ as the Rock:

- St. Paul says "...And that Rock was Christ" (1Cor. 10:4).
- Christ says "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock" (Matt 7:24).
- "...Nor is there any rock like our God" (1Sam 2:2).
- "He is the Rock, His work is perfect ..." (Deut 32:4).
- Lord Jesus said to Peter, "...And on this rock I will build My church..." (Matt 16:18).
- There are also types and symbols refer to Christ in the Old Testament as the rock such as the "Stricken Rock" at Horeb, which Moses stroke and water came out of it (Exod. 17:6,7; Num. 20: 9, 10; 1 Cor. 10:4).

7. Wonderful

Isaiah prophesied about Lord Jesus, saying, "For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given...and **His name will be called Wonderful...**" (Isa. 9:6). Likewise, when the Lord appeared in the form of an angel to Manoah to announce the birth of his son

Samson, and Manoah asked about His name, He replied “**Why do you ask My name, seeing it is wonderful?**” (Judges 13:18). And when the Angel of the Lord ascended to heaven in the flame of the altar, Manoah discovered His true identity, saying “We shall surely die, because we have seen God!” (Judges 13:22).

Thus we see that this Wonderful Person appearing in the form of an angel was God appearing to humans, specifically Christ in one of His pre-Incarnate appearances, and that one of His names is Wonderful. Indeed He was wonderful and unique in His virginal birth, attributes, works, moral perfection, love, teachings, redemption, resurrection from the dead and ascension to heaven. In short, He was Wonderful in everything. (see Matt. 8:27; John 8:46; Rev. 15:3).

8. The Sun of Righteousness

The Bible says, “But to you who fear My name the Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings” (Mal 4:2). And in Psalms, “For the LORD God *is* a sun...” (Ps 84:11). Moreover, St. Paul recounts his amazing encounter with Lord Jesus on the road to Damascus, saying, “...I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and those who

journeyed with me. And when we all had fallen to the ground, I heard a voice speaking to me and saying... ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?’ ...*So I said, ‘Who are You, Lord?’ And He said, ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting’*” (Acts 26:13-15). Lord Jesus also appeared to St. John, who said, “...**And His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength**” (Rev. 1:16). We find the same description of Christ’s face on the Mount of Transfiguration “as the sun” (Matt. 17:2).

Last, Christ Himself talks about His miraculous healing of all the sick (Matt 11:4), and adds, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness” (John 8:12); “As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world” (John 9:5; see also John 12:35).

By comparing these verses, we see that the prophecy describing Christ as the Sun of Righteous-ness with healing in His wings for those who fear His name finds its fulfillment in the fact that Christ is God who gives light and life to all and who heals humankind from sicknesses, sin, death and hell.

9. The Word of God

St. John starts his gospel with, **“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made...and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory...”** (John 1:1-3, 14). And in Revelation, he describes Christ saying, **“And on His head were many crowns...He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.”** (Rev 19:12-13). In the Old Testament too, Christ is described as the Word of God, **“He sent His word and healed them”** (Psalm 107:20).

Even the Muslim Quran describes Lord Jesus, more than once, as the Word of God saying,

“Christ Jesus the son of Mary was His (God) Word, which He bestowed on Mary and a Spirit proceeding from Him” (Sura 3, *Al Omran*: 171). **“Behold, the angels said: O Mary! God gives you glad tidings of a Word from Him, his name will be Christ Jesus, the son of Mary, held in honor in this world and the Hereafter...”** (Sura 2, the *Bakarah* “cow”:45).

What the “Word of God” means is not His spoken Word, but rather the “Wisdom of God” or “Mind of God”, for this word in Greek is *Logos*, from which we get Logic in English. **Naturally, God and His Word are One**; similarly, God and His Mind are One. To illustrate, I mention this true story:

The well-known Coptic Orthodox Archdeacon Ayad Ayad had a Muslim friend who was a judge. One day, the judge said to him, “We Muslims believe that Christ is a great prophet, while you say that he is God which we cannot understand. Mr. Ayad replied, “This

is a simple matter, and I'll prove it to you from the Quran!" He then asked the judge:

- Mr. Ayad: Is God everlasting, i.e. without a beginning, or not?
- The Judge: Yes, He is everlasting.
- Mr. Ayad: And is there any other than God who is everlasting?
- The Judge: No, absolutely not.
- Mr. Ayad: Does God have a Word or not?
- The Judge: Yes of course, God has a word.
- Mr. Ayad: And is the Word of God everlasting like Him or not? (In other words, did God have a word or wisdom from the beginning, or was there a time when He had neither?).
- The Judge: God forbid! Obviously the word of God is everlasting, like all His other attributes.
- Mr. Ayad: Great! And since you admitted a moment ago that nobody is everlasting except God, and that the Word of God is everlasting, and given that the Quran acknowledges that Christ is the word of God, therefore it follows that the everlasting Christ is God!

The Judge was quite astonished that he never understood this truth in that manner before and promised to study the Bible!

10. The Only Begotten Son of God

Christ, to Him be glory, proclaimed, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). He added, "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" (John 3:18). St. John

also writes “No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.” (John 1:18).

Christ’s encounter with the man who was born blind is instructive. After restoring his sight, Lord Jesus asked him “...Do you believe in the Son of God?’ He answered and said, ‘Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?’ And Jesus said to him, ‘You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you.’ Then he said, ‘Lord, I believe!’ And he worshiped Him.” (John 9:35-38). Similarly, “When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him...And suddenly a voice *came* from heaven, saying, ‘This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.’” (Matt 3:16-17). This was repeated on the mountain of the Transfiguration (Matt 17:5).

Now all humans are considered children of God since He created them. Moreover, Christians are considered children of God through adoption and the second birth by the Holy Spirit in baptism.

But only Christ is called the Only Begotten Son of God to differentiate Him from humans, for He is God’s Son, of the same nature and essence as God the Father. As the Nicene Creed says of Christ, “Begotten, not created, equal to the Father in essence...Begotten from the Father before all ages... Light from Light, True God from True God...”

This means that His Sonship is not physical like humans but spiritual and divine, as light comes forth from light. As Lord Jesus said, “I came forth from the Father and have come into the world. Again, I leave the world and go to the Father.” (John 16:28).

Actually, the Jews believed that God has a Son, and this is documented in the Old Testament, thus is not a new doctrine introduced in Christianity. The Old Testament says:

- **“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.”** (Isa 9:6)

- “Who has ascended into heaven, or descended?
Who has gathered the wind in His fists?
Who has bound the waters in a garment?
Who has established all the ends of the earth?
**What is His name, and what is His Son’s name,
If you know?”** (Prov. 30:4; see also Ps 2:7, 12).

11. The Image of the Invisible GOD

The Bible says that Christ “Is the image of the invisible God” (Col. 1:15). And when “Philip said to Him, ‘Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.’ Jesus said to him, ‘**Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father**’” (John 14:8-9). **Jesus Christ also said, “I and My Father are one”** (John 10:30). And St. Paul writes, “...The glory of **Christ, who is the image of God**” (2 Cor. 4:4).

12. Jesus

The name Jesus means “Yahweh is Salvation” i.e., God saves. This was explained by the angel in announcing the birth of the Lord “you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.” (Matt 1:21).

Now the Savior must be God, for man is a sinner in need of salvation, and so obviously cannot save another sinner.

13. Immanuel

The Old Testament prophecy says, “...Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.” (Isa. 7:14). Immanuel means “God with us” (Matt 1:23).

14. Son of Man

Despite appearances to the contrary, this too is among the divine titles of Christ. It indicates not only His humility and His love of man, but also refers to the prophecy of the Daniel, “I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, And His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed.” (Dan. 7:13-14).

Clearly, the “One like the Son of Man” is not human, for a mere human does not come with the clouds, nor is worshipped by all peoples and nations, nor does his kingdom endure forever. Rather, this prophecy refers to God who appears in the flesh (Lord Jesus Christ) for our salvation. Christ Himself confirmed on several occasions that He would come on the clouds with His angels to judge the world. For example:

- During the trial of Christ, “...The high priest...said to Him, ‘I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!’ 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.’*” (Matt 26:63-64).
- Talking about the signs of His Second Coming, Christ said, “Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.” (Matt. 24:29-30).

15. The First and the Last, the Alpha and the Omega, The Beginning and the End

These are names of God in the Old Testament; yet Christ applied them to Himself, thereby proclaiming that He is God.

In Isaiah, God says “Listen to Me, O Jacob, and Israel, My called: I am He, I am the First, I am also the Last. Indeed My hand has laid the foundation of the earth, and My right hand has stretched out the heavens” (Isa. 48:12-13).

And again, “Thus says the LORD... ‘ I am the First and I am the Last; besides Me there is no God.’” (Isa. 44:6).

Lord Jesus Christ applied that name to Himself three times in Revelation:

- “**I am the Alpha and the Omega, *the Beginning and the End,***’ says the Lord, ‘who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.’” (Rev 1:8).
- “**...I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last...**” (Rev. 1:11)
- “**I am the Alpha and the Omega, *the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.***” (Rev. 22:13).

Needless to say, no human or angel could so describe himself; only God can.

PART 2

THE TITLES AND DESCRIPTORS OF CHRIST

In the previous Part, we mentioned 15 divine names of Christ and provided brief comments. However, since the names and titles of Christ are so many as to warrant a separate book, we will only list them below, giving the scriptural references (looking these up is an enjoyable and profitable exercise). As this Part is a continuation,

we start with number 16:

16. “The brightness of *His* glory and the express image of His person...” (Heb 1:3).
17. “The Holy One of God!” (Luke 4:34), and “The Most Holy” (Dan. 9:24).
18. “The Lamb of God...” (John 1:29, 36).
19. “The Wisdom of God...” (1Cor 1:24, 30; see also Prov. 8).
20. “The Righteousness of God” (Rom 3:21). **“THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS”** (Jer.23:6)
21. “The Power of God...” (1 Cor. 1:24).
22. “The Messiah” (John 1:41; 4:25-26).
23. “Messiah the Prince...” (Dan. 9:25)
24. “The LORD God” and “The self existing God” (Exod. 3:14; Jn. 8:58).
25. “Yahweh, Jehovah, the LORD”, “Who is and who was and who is to come” (Isa. 40:28; 41:4; Rev. 1:8).
26. “Shiloh” (Gen 49:10), means the One who gives rest to the people (see Matthew 11:28).
27. “The Lord of Hosts (Isa. 6:3; Jn. 12:41).
28. “Lord of the Sabbath.” (Matt. 12:8).
29. **“KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS”** (Rev. 19:16; 1Tim. 6:15; Deut. 10:17).
30. “The Lord of glory...” (James 2:1; 1Cor 2:8).
31. “Lord of all.” (Acts 10:36)
32. “The Lord God of the holy prophets” (Rev. 22:6).
33. **“THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS”** (Jer. 23:6).

34. "The LORD *is* our Judge; the LORD *is* our Lawgiver" (Isa. 33:22; Acts 17:31).
- 35. The Lord and Son of David** (Luke 20:44).
36. The Root and the Offspring of David" (Rev 22:16)
37. The Seed of the woman who shall bruise the serpent's head. (Gen 3:15; 1John 3:8)
38. The Seed of Abraham in whom all the nations of the earth shall be blessed. (Gen 22:18; Gal 3:16).
39. The Everlasting God (Prov. 8:23; Micah 5:2; Heb. 9:14).
40. "Mighty God..." (Isa. 9:6), and "The Almighty." (Rev1:8).
41. God our Savior, who alone is wise..." (Jude 25).
42. The True God..." (1 John 5:20).
43. *The Eternally Blessed God*" (Rom 9:5).
44. The God of patience and comfort" (Rom 15:5).
45. Savior..." (Matt 1:21; Luke 2:11; Acts 5:31)
46. The Just" (Acts 3:14; 7:52; Rom 3:10)
47. "Wonderful..." (Isa. 9:6; Judges 13:18)
48. Counselor..." (Isa. 9:6; Rev.3:18).
49. The Chief Cornerstone..." (Eph 2:20; Ps 118:22) and "...the
50. Capstone..." (Zech 4:7)
51. The Good Shepherd" (John 10:11; Ps 23; Isa 40:11; Ezek.34)
52. The Good Part" (Luke 10:42)
53. Good Teacher" (Mark 10:17)
54. The True Light " (John 1:9; 1John 1:5)

55. The Light of the World” (John 8:12)
56. The Truth” (John 14:6)
57. The Life” (John 14:6)
58. The Bread of Life” (John 6:35, 48) and “The Living Bread” (John 6:51)
59. The Tree of Life” (Gen 2:9, 3:24)
60. The True Vine” (John 15:1)
61. He who lives...forevermore...” (Rev 1:18; 1Tim 6:16)
62. The Life-Giver (John 5:21; 11:25)
63. “The Resurrection” (John 11:25)
64. “The Prince of life” (Acts 3:15)
65. “Prince of Peace.” (Isa 9:6)
66. “The Ruler over the kings of the earth” (Rev 1:5)
67. “A great High Priest” (Heb 4:14)
68. “...The Author and Finisher of our faith” (Heb 12:2)
69. “...The Captain, author and finisher of our salvation” (Heb 2:10)
70. “Commander of the army of the LORD” (Josh. 5:14)
71. “The Shepherd and Overseer of souls” (1 Pet 2:25)
72. The Everlasting and Eternal God (Heb. 13:8; Matt 28:20; Rev 1:8).
73. The Judge (John 5:22; Rom 8:34; Matt 16:27; 2 Cor. 5:10)
74. “...The Firstborn” (Col 1:15,18; Ps 89:27)
75. The One who fills all things (Eph 1:23; 4:10)

76. The One who is present everywhere at all times (Matt. 18:20; 28:20)
77. The Everlasting and Immutable (i.e. Unchanging) One (Heb 13:8; John 17:5)
78. "The Desire of All Nations" (Hag 2:7).
79. "Fairer than the sons of men" (Ps 45:2; Song 2:3, 5:10)
80. The Redeemer (Pss 19:14; 34:22; 1Pet 1:18; Eph 1:7; Job 19:25)
81. "The Deliverer..." (Rom. 11:26).
82. The Conqueror (Rev. 6:2; Rom 8:37; 2 Cor. 2:14).
83. "The Almighty..." (Rev 1:8; 4:8)
84. "Mighty One..." (Psalms 45:3, 24:8)
85. "Merciful..." (Heb 2:17)
86. "Great" (Ps 77:13; Luke 1:32; Isa 63:1)
87. Omniscient (i.e. All-Knowing) (1Sam 2:3; John 6:64, 16:30)
88. "The Faithful and True Witness..." (Rev. 3:14; 1 John 1:9)
89. Forgiver of sins (Matt 9:2; Col 1:14; Acts 10:43)
90. "Ruler and Controller..." (Matt. 2:6; Micah 5:2)
91. The Creator (John 1:3, 10; Col. 1:16; Heb 1:2)
92. "The only Lord..." (Jude 4)
93. "The searcher of the minds and hearts..." (Rev 2:23; Acts 1:24)
94. The one who is worshipped and served by all (Psa. 72:11; Phil 2:10)
95. The One who has the keys of Hades and of Death (Rev 1:18)

96. "He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens" (Rev 3:7)
97. "He who has the seven Spirits of God" (Rev. 3:1).
98. "The blessed and only Potentate..." (1Tim. 6:15; Isa. 63:3)
99. Unique; Unlike any other; Incomparable (Isa. 40:18; 46:5; Dan 3:25; Heb 1:5)
100. "Heir of all things..." (Ps 2:8; Heb. 1:2)
101. "The Last Adam (and) the Second Man..." (1Cor. 15:45, 47)
102. "The Lion of the tribe of Judah" (Rev 5:5; Gen 49:9).
103. "Glorious in holiness..." (Ex 15:11).
104. The Advocate, who makes intercession for us (1 John 2:1; Heb 7:25; Rom 8:34)
105. The One who reconciled us to God the Father (2 Cor. 5:19)
106. The "... One Mediator between God and men" (1Tim. 2:5; Job 9:33)
107. The Physician and Healer (Exod. 15:26; Matt 9:12; Isa. 35:5; Jer 8:22)
108. The Comforter (Isa 61:2; 66:13; John 14:16)
109. The Keeper (John 17:12; Rev 3:10; 2Tim 1:12)
110. The Guarantor (Job 17:3; Ps 119:122; John 10:28)
111. Lover and Love (John 15:9; 1 John 4:8, 16)
112. The Refiner (Mal 3:2; Matt 3:12).
113. The Visitor (Luke 19:44)
114. "The King of glory" (Ps 24:7)

115. “King of righteousness...” (Heb 7:2)
116. “King of peace” (Heb 7:2)
117. “The Son of the Highest” (Luke 1:32)
118. “Everlasting Father” (Isa 9:6).
119. “The word of truth...” (James 1:18)
120. “The King eternal, immortal...” (1Tim 1:17)
121. “The Amen, the Faithful and True Witness...” (Rev 3:14; Tit 1:2)
122. “The One who disciplines the nations (Psa. 2:9; Rev 19:15)
123. “The One who foretells the future and tells the unknown (Isa 42:9; John 1:48)
124. “The spirit of prophecy.” (Rev 19:10)
125. “The One who is “...Dwelling in unapproachable light...” (1Tim 6:16)
126. “Him who sits on the throne...” (Rev 6:16; 7:10; Matt 25:31)
127. “He who sits above the circle of the earth...” (Isa 40:22)
128. The One who sits at the right hand of the Father (Psa. 110:1)
129. The One who is coming with the clouds (Dan 7:13; Rev 1:7)
130. The Owner of the Book of Life (Rev 3:5, 21:27)
131. The “*Pantocrator*” in Greek (i.e. the One who controls and upholds all things by His power (Heb 1:3; Col 1:16; Prov. 30:4; Isa 40:22)

132. The Just (Zech 9:9)
133. The One who counts everything (Ps 147:4; Luke 12:7)
134. Perfect (Isa 42:19)
135. The One who stretches out the heavens like a curtain.” (Ps 104:2; Prov. 8:27; Heb 1:2).
136. “(He) Who walks on the wings of the wind” (Ps 104:3; Acts 1:9)
137. “He dwells between the Cherubim” (Psa. 99:1; Ezek 1)
138. “The hope of glory.” (Col. 1:27)
139. “In His name Gentiles will trust.” (Matt 12:21)
140. The One who hears and answers prayers (John 14:13-14; Acts 1:24; 7:59)
141. The One who has “...All authority...in heaven and on earth.” (Matt 28:18)
142. “The One who “ heal(s) the brokenhearted” (Luke 4:18)
143. “The one who holds the seven stars in His right hand” (Rev 2:1; Ps 147:4)
144. He who “...proclaim(s) liberty to the captives...(and)... set(s) at liberty those who are oppressed” (Luke 4:18)
145. He who “...comfort(s) all who mourn” (Isa. 61:2,3; Luke 4:16 f. ;7:13)
146. “A precious cornerstone, a sure foundation” (Isa. 28:16; 1 Cor 3:11)
147. “Propitiation for sins (Rom 3:25; 1 John 2:2; 4:10)
148. “Him who dwelt in the bush” (Deut 33:16; Exod. 3:2)
149. “...The King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who

alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever” (1Tim 1:17)

150. “The (heavenly) Bridegroom...” (Matt 25:1; John 3:29-31; Rev 19:7)

151. The One “...Who has abolished death” (2Tim 1:10; John 11:25)

152. The One who bore the sins of the world (Isa 53:6; John 1:29; 1Pet 2:24)

153. The One who “...will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.” (Matt 3:11, 16)

154. The One who grants Paradise and eternal life. (Luke 23:43; John 5:24)

155. The One who started God’s creation (according to the better translation from the original Greek) (Rev 3:14)

156. “To Him all the prophets witness” (Acts 10:43)

157. The One “upholding all things by the word of His power” (Heb 1:3; Col 1:16)

158. “The Dayspring from on high” (Luke 1:78)

159. “The Lamb who is in the midst of the throne” (Rev 7:17)

160. The immutable “Jesus Christ (who) is the same yesterday, today and forever (Heb. 13:8)

“A living stone...A chief cornerstone, elect, precious” (1 Pet 2:4, 6), and the stone (which) was cut out without hands... and (which shall) consume all these kingdoms” (Dan 2:34, 45).

While this list is not comprehensive, it should shed light on the divine names, titles and descriptors of Lord Jesus Christ.

The Bible says that He was given “...The name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of

those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth.” (Phil. 2:9-10; Eph 1:21).

The Bible also says that the Father “...seated Him (Jesus) at His right hand in the heavenly *places*, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. And He put all *things* under His feet, and gave Him *to be* head over all *things*...” (Eph. 1:20-22).

This then is our Lord and God and Savior, Jesus Christ, whose name was also celebrated in several prophecies of the Old Testament:

- “...Your name *is* ointment poured forth...” (Song 1:3)
- “...The desire of *our* soul *is* for Your name and for the remembrance of You.” (Isa 26:8)
- “...I will bless Your name forever and ever... I will praise Your name forever and ever... All flesh shall bless His holy name forever and ever.” (Ps 145:1, 2, 21)
- “...And in His name Gentiles will trust.” (Matt 12:21)

* * *

THE FIFTH PROOF

CHRIST'S DIVINE ATTRIBUTES

Christ possesses attributes that cannot be ascribed to any created being, whether an angel or an exalted human, for they belong to God alone. Accordingly, we Christians believe that Jesus Christ is God!

The Bible is very clear about this. It emphasizes its significance to such an extent that it is considered absolutely essential for our faith and for the salvation of mankind.

These divine attributes of Christ are:

- 1. Everlasting Eternal and; existing always.**
- 2. Omnipresent (i.e. present everywhere).**
- 3. Omniscient (i.e. All-Knowing; knows everything).**
- 4. Omnipotent (i.e. All-Powerful; can do everything).**
- 5. Absolutely Holy and Infallible (i.e. cannot do wrong).**
- 6. Self-Existent.**
- 7. Immutable (i.e. Unchanging, Constant).**
- 8. Comes from heaven.**
- 9. Absolutely Perfect in all attributes and virtues.**
- 10. Infallible.**

We discuss in this section each of these attributes and give the corresponding Scriptures.

PART 1

CHRIST IS EVERLASTING & ETERNAL

Needless to say, God has always existed and will always exist. He is everlasting, eternal and without a beginning or an end. God is “beyond time” or “outside time and above time”; there was never a time when God did not exist and will never be.

Obviously, no one except God can rightfully claim to be everlasting. Any created being had a beginning, before which he/she did not exist.

Jesus Christ, on the other hand, is the only person who is eternal and everlasting, in as much as He is God Incarnate, and “The Word and Spirit of God”.

(Since Muslims also share with us the belief that Christ is the Word of God. So, they must accordingly and logically, admit that Christ is God, because the Word of God and the Spirit of God are everlasting and eternal, and no one but God is everlasting and eternal and no rational man can imagine God at any-time without His Word or His Spirit).

This fact is proclaimed in the Bible, in both the Old and the New Testaments. Here are some examples:

1. Inspired by God, the same Old Testament prophecy that foretold the exact location where Christ would be born, namely Bethlehem, also declared that He existed before time began: “(Christ)...Whose goings forth *are* from of old, from everlasting.” (Micah 5:2; Matt 2:5, 6).
2. The divine inspiration gave King Solomon words as though uttered by Christ saying, “*I have been established from everlasting*, from the beginning, before there was ever an earth. When *there were* no depths I was brought forth, when *there were* no fountains abounding with water. Before the mountains were settled...” (Prov. 8:23-25).

3. "From the beginning; from the time that it was, I was there. And now the Lord GOD and His Spirit have sent Me." (Jesus here is speaking through the lips of the prophet Isaiah about His coming in the flesh to redeem and save mankind) (Isa. 48:16).
4. Jesus Christ told the Jews, "...“Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.” (John 8:58), even though Abraham lived some 2,000 years before Christ was born in the flesh.
5. Christ the Lord also said, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, *the* Beginning and *the* End...The First and the Last" (Rev 1:8, 11, 17). Now compare this same proclamation to how God described Himself in Isa. 44:6 "Thus says the LORD, King...and...Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: 'I *am* the First and I *am* the Last; Besides Me *there is no God*'".
6. Furthermore, Jesus Christ said "And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was... For You loved Me before the foundation of the world." (John 17:5, 24).
7. "Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself..." (Heb. 9:14).
8. Isaiah prophesied about the Everlasting Christ saying "... And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, **Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**"(Isa 9:6).
9. "Jesus Christ *is* the same yesterday, today, and forever." (Heb 13:8).
10. Lord Jesus said "...And lo, I am with you always, *even to the end of the age*"(Matt 28:20).

From these verses, it is evident that Christ the Lord exists at all times, from eternity past to eternity future. Theologians express this by saying that He is "above time", and that of necessi-

ty He exists at all times. This is the first of many attributes that only God possesses.

This is why the early church prays in the *Gregorian Liturgy* addressing Christ, the Son of God, saying, “You, who are and have always been, and who will be forever, the Self-Existent, Equal, Reigning and Co-Creator with the Father...” and adds, “You who exist at all times, came to us on earth, came to the womb of the Virgin...” etc.

* * *

PART 2

CHRIST IS OMNIPRESENT

All religions agree that God not only exists at all times, but also that He is present everywhere. Clearly, only the Creator God possesses this divine attribute for a created being cannot be present everywhere simultaneously, not even in just two places at once. Yet, Christ is omnipresent according to the Bible.

1. Jesus Christ said about Himself, “**No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, *that is*, the Son of Man who is in heaven.**” (John 3:13; 16:28).
2. Christ also said “**For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.**” (Matt 18:20). This means that Christ is simultaneously present in millions of churches, meetings and homes of those who believe on His name and gather together throughout the world.
3. Likewise, Christ told His apostles “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...**and lo, I am**

with you always, even to the end of the age.” (Matt 28:19-20). This blessed verse indicates that Christ would be with them and with their successors in all nations and places at all times until the end of the age and of the world.

4. “*Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated, ‘God with us.’*” (Matt 1:23; Isa. 7:14). Therefore, Jesus Christ, born of the Virgin Mary is Immanuel, which means ‘God with us’ everywhere all the time.
5. And He said to them, “You are from beneath; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am *He*, you will die in your sins.” (John 8:23-24).

These verses affirm that Lord Jesus Christ is present everywhere, in heavens and on earth, at all times. Even when He was in the flesh on earth, His body did not limit His divine nature, which fills all in all. As the Nicene Creed says, He is “Light from Light, True God from True God”.

Christ has been called “the Sun of Righteousness”. If the rays of the sun reach everywhere, how much more would the Creator of the sun be present everywhere!

PART 3

CHRIST IS OMNISCIENT (ALL-KNOWING)

No creature can know everything; only God is All-Knowing. In other words, God alone knows everything about everything in the past, present and future. He knows our thoughts, intentions, motives, feelings, secrets, unseen things, etc. Nothing, absolutely nothing is hidden from Him. The Bible says of God “For You alone know the hearts of all the sons of men” (1Kings 8:39). Also, “For the righteous God tests the hearts and minds.” (Ps 7:9). Thus God knows everything about all His creation, both the visible and the invisible.

Christ is omniscient:

That Christ is All-Knowing is attested by His testimony, by His miracles and works, as well as by the testimony of the apostles and that of the Bible (even the Muslim Koran says that of Him).

First: Christ's Testimony

Lord Jesus Christ said, "...All the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works" (Rev 2:23). Likewise, He began all of His letters to the Bishops of the seven churches by saying "I know your works" (Rev 2:2, 9, 13, 19; 3:1, 8, 15). Many times, Christ told His disciples of future events that later came to pass, as well as of events that had just happened in far away places, e.g. Lazarus' death, adding "Now I tell you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe that I am He." (John 13:19; 11:14-15).

Secondly: Knowing People's Thoughts

When Lord Jesus forgave the sins of the paralytic, "...Some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, 'Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?' But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, 'Why do you reason about these things in your hearts? Which is easier...'" (Mark 2:6-9; Matt 9:3-4; Luke 5:21-22).

In another incident, when a woman who was sinful came to Lord Jesus and washed His feet with her tears, "...When the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he spoke to himself, saying, 'This Man, if He were a prophet, would know who and what manner of woman this is who is touching Him, for she is a sinner.' And Jesus answered and said to him, 'Simon, I have something to say to you...'" and proceeded to answer the man's thoughts. (Luke 7:39-40).

Many more such examples are found in the Bible (see for example Matt 12:24-25; 16:8; Luke 6:7-8; 9:46-47; 11:17).

Thirdly: Christ's knowledge of people's secrets and past

When Christ met the Samaritan woman, he told her the secrets of her past and present life, "...Jesus said to her, 'You have well

said, 'I have no husband,' for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly.' The woman said to Him, 'Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet...I know that Messiah is coming (who is called Christ). When He comes, He will tell us all things.' Jesus said to her, 'I who speak to you am He.'" (John 4:16-26).

Fourthly: Christ's knowledge of the secrets of nature, seas, and even fish

One day, "...Those who received the temple tax came to Peter and said, 'Does your Teacher not pay the temple tax?' ...And when he had come into the house, Jesus anticipated him, saying...'go to the sea, cast in a hook, and take the fish that comes up first. And when you have opened its mouth, you will find a piece of money; take that and give it to them for Me and you.'" Now who except God would know what Peter wanted to tell Him, which fish had swallowed a specific coin, the exact moment when that fish would pass close to Peter's fishing line and that Peter would catch this particular fish?

Fifthly: Christ's instant knowledge of events in far away places

Christ told His disciples of Lazarus' death the moment it occurred, even though Lazarus was in Bethany, a 2-day trip from where Lord Jesus was (John 11:1-15).

Six: Christ's knowledge of the future

Christ the Lord foretold that Peter would deny Him three times before the rooster crowed (Mark 14:30; John 13:38). He also foretold Peter's crucifixion (John 21:18-19). And He foretold the doubting by Thomas and the disciples (Matt 26:31), and the betrayal by Judas Iscariot (John 13:18-28). He also foretold the fall of Capernaum, Tiro and Sidon, the destruction of Jerusalem, and the signs that would precede His Second Coming and the end of the world (Matt 24; Mark 13).

Seventh: The Apostles' Testimony

Peter said to Christ "Lord, You know all things" (John 21:17). And John wrote, "Jesus therefore, knowing all things that would

come upon Him, went forward...”(John 18:4). John also described Lord Jesus in Revelation as “...His eyes like a flame of fire.” (Rev 1:14), and “...Having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.” (Rev 5:6). These verses mean that Christ sees and knows everything, and that He is “...Perfect in knowledge.” (Job 37:16).

Eight: Christ is the Judge of the Living and the Dead:

The Bible states in several places that it is Christ who will judge the world in the last day. We will discuss this in detail later on, when we address Christ’s divine works. However, we can say here that the judge of all mankind throughout all generations must know all the circumstances of life, the secrets, names, works, words, thoughts, intentions and motives of every person. But since only God can have such complete knowledge, then it follows that Christ is God.

Jesus Christ said, “For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.” (Matt 16:27; see also Matt 13:41-42; 25:31-46; Rev 22:13-14). Specifically, Christ said, “For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son.” (John 5:22).

Likewise, St. Paul says “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.” (2 Cor. 5:10).

Nine, Christ’s Knowledge is Infinite:

- “He counts the number of the stars; He calls them all by name” (Psa. 147:4 & Psa. 139).
- Jesus said, “But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.” (Matt 10:30).

Ten: Even the Muslim Quran Testifies that Christ has this Divine Attribute:

Although the Quran limits the knowledge of the unknown to God (Allah) alone, it declares that Christ has this divine knowledge saying,

“And I heal those who are born blind and the lepers, and I quicken (raise) the dead..

and I declare to you what you eat and what you store in your houses.

Surely therein is a Sign for you if you did believe”

(Sura Al-Imran 49)

From the foregoing, it is evident that the Omniscient Christ is God Himself, for God does not give His divine, perfect and infinite attributes and works to humans. Rather, Christ is God’s Word, His Son, His Spirit, His Mind and His Wisdom, His power who appeared in the flesh to lead us to a better and complete knowledge of God, to redeem and save us, and to restore us to eternal life with Him.

PART 4

CHRIST IS OMNIPOTENT, ALMIGHTY, ALL-POWERFUL

To be All-Powerful, i.e. to be able to do anything at all, is a divine attribute of God alone. Thus it is impossible for a created being, whether an angel or a human, to possess this infinite power. Yet, Christ, as the following will show, possesses this attribute, therefore he must be God.

Christ’s unlimited power can be discerned from:

- 1. His works.**
- 2. His sayings**
- 3. The witness of people and of demons.**
- 4. The witness of the Old Testament.**

5. Even the witness of the Islamic Koran.

First: Christ's Sayings indicate that He is Omnipotent:

On several occasions, Lord Jesus Christ declared that He is able to do anything:

- “I am the Alpha and the Omega, *the Beginning and the End*,” says the Lord, “who is and who was and who is to come, **the Almighty**.” (Rev 1:8).
- “**All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.**” (Matt 28:18).
- “**But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins...**” (Mark 2:10).
- “**For the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.**” (Matt 12:8).
- “**Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.**” (Matt 24:35).
- “If I will that he (John, the beloved disciple) remain till I come (at the end of the world), what *is that* to you?” (John 21:22).
- “...Assuredly, I say to you (the repentant thief on the cross), today you will be with Me in Paradise.” (Luke 23:43).
- “...For the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His (Christ's) voice, and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.” (John 5:28-29).
- “...And He (Christ) will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.” (Matt 24:31).
- “...If I depart, I will send Him (the Holy Spirit) to you.” (John 16:7).
- “...And they will see the Son of Man (Christ) coming on the

clouds of heaven with power and great glory.” (Matt 24:30; 2Pet 3:10).

- “That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord...” (Phil 2:10).
- “For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son.” (John 5:22; Rev 20:11-15).
- “When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.” (Matt 25:31).

Secondly: Christ’s Works Demonstrate His Unlimited Power

- Christ’s power over water as seen in turning it to wine, and in turning the raging sea into a “bridge” on which to walk and to enable Peter also to walk. (John 2; Matt 14).
- His power over the wind, which He stilled by His command. (Matt 8:26).
- His power over the fish in the sea when He commanded a huge number of fish to gather on the right-hand of Peter’s boat (John 21:6), and when He commanded a particular fish to swallow a specific coin, then to get to where Peter was to be, then to be caught by Peter (Matt 17:27).
- His power over the plant kingdom, when He cursed the barren fig tree, causing it to wither instantly from the roots (Mark 11:14, 21).
- His authority and power to heal thousands of sick people who had incurable diseases and handicaps by a touch or a word, sometimes spoken far away from the sick person. (Matt 8:16, 17; 14:36).
- His power to exorcise demons and evil spirits and His author-

ity and power to send them into the abyss. (Luke 8:31).

- His authority over sin, for He forgave sins, gave His apostles authority to forgive sins, and was Himself without a sin. (Mark 2:10; John 20:23).
- His power over hearts: He taught and spoke with authority such that in one case the officers of the chief priests sent to arrest Him returned in awe saying, “No man ever spoke like this Man!” (John 7:46). Thus He captured the hearts of the millions who loved Him, worshipped Him and sacrificed their lives for Him, not through intimidation, terror, the sword, or war, but through love, respect for the mind and the will, true faith and virtue.
- Christ was able to save and regenerate the worst of sinners including Zachaeus the tax collector, the penitent thief on the cross, the Samaritan woman, Mary Magdalene, and after His ascension to heaven and up to the present, hundreds of millions of sinners, including murderers, adulterers, atheists, alcoholics, thieves, etc.
- He manifested His authority over history, dividing it into 2 eras: before His birth (B.C.), and After His birth (A.D.).
- Jesus Christ also demonstrated His authority and power over nature and all creation (and the fact that He voluntarily chose to die on the cross), when the sun became dark at noon and the earth quaked, the rocks were split, the tombs were opened, many corpses of saints were resurrected (and appeared to many), and the veil in the temple was torn from top to bottom (Matt 27:45-53).
- Jesus, the Lord of glory demonstrated His power over death, which has tormented mankind since the fall of Adam, by raising the dead by His word and command (Matt 9:25; Luke 7:14-15; John 11:43-44). By His own power, He Himself rose from the dead after three days thus fulfilling His own former words when He said, “...Destroy this temple, and in three days I will

raise it up.” (John 2:19).

- He showed His power over matter, passing through closed doors after His Resurrection (John 20:19).
- He manifested His power over the law governing vision by disappearing and appearing at will (Luke 3:30; John 20:19, 26).
- Christ displayed His power over the law of gravity by ascending to heaven (Acts 1:9).
- He demonstrated His power in sending the Holy Spirit on Pentecost as He had promised His apostles (Acts 1:5; 2:1-4).

Thirdly: The Testimony of People and Demons that Christ is All-Powerful:

- St. Peter testified that Christ “... Has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.” (1Pet 3:22).
- St. Paul testified that Christ is “...The brightness of His (God’s) glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power...” (Heb 1:3).
- St. Paul also said, “...Christ...(is now) seated...at His (i.e. God’s) right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. And He put all things under His feet...” (Eph 1:20-22).
- St. Paul also said that Christ “...Will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.” (Phil 3:21).
- And that “...We shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.” (Rom 14:10).
- Even the demons “...Begged Him (Lord Jesus) that He would not command them to go out into the abyss...(but) that He

would permit them to enter them (a herd of swine). And He permitted them. Then the demons went out of the man and entered the swine..." (Luke 8:31-33).

Fourthly: The Old Testament Prophecies of Christ's Omnipotence:

The prophet Isaiah prophesied about Christ, saying:

- "...And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, **Mighty God...**" (Isa 9:6).
- The Lord speaking through Isaiah said "Indeed with My rebuke I dry up the sea" (Isa. 50:2).
- **"Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.
Then the lame shall leap like a deer,
And the tongue of the dumb sing..."** (Isa 35:5-6).
- **"It is He who sits above the circle of the earth, And its inhabitants are like grasshoppers...Who brings out their (the stars') host by number; He calls them all by name, by the greatness of His might and the strength of His power; not one is missing."** (Isa 40:22-26).
- **"Look to Me, and be saved, all you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other."** (Isa 45:22).
- **"I am He, I am the First, I am also the Last. Indeed My hand has laid the foundation of the earth, and My right hand has stretched out the heavens"** (Isa 48:12-13).

Elsewhere in the Old Testament, we find:

- "...As Commander of the army of the LORD I have now come..." (Josh 5:14).
- "And the Angel of the LORD said to him, 'Why do you ask My name, seeing it is wonderful?'...And Manoah said to his wife, 'We shall surely die, because we have seen God!'"

(Judges 13:18-22).

- “Who *is* this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty...” (Ps 24:8).
- “Your throne, O God, *is* forever and ever” (Ps 45:6; Heb 1:8).
- “Who has ascended into heaven, or descended?
- Who has gathered the wind in His fists?
- Who has bound the waters in a garment?
- Who has established all the ends of the earth? What *is* His name, and what *is* His Son’s name...?” (Prov 30:4).
- “...I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.” (Dan 3:25).
- “... And behold, **One** like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion *is* an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom *the one* which shall not be destroyed.” (Dan 7:13-14).

Fifthly: The Witness of the Quran

Despite we Christians neither believe in the Quran as an inspired book from God, nor Mohammad as a prophet for so many reasons which this is not its proper place to mention, because it needs a separate book. Yet we may use some of the Quranic verses to help our Muslim brothers to understand what we are talking about, and also for the information of the Christians and for the best interest of the research itself.

The Quran mentioned the following facts about Christ:

1. Christ, *Isa-Ebn-Mariam* (son of Mary) is the Word of God and His Spirit:

- * “Behold, the angels said, O Mary! God gives you glad tidings

of **a Word from Him**: his name will be Christ Jesus, the son of Mary, held in honor in this world and the hereafter” (*Sura Al-Imran: 45*)

* “Christ Jesus the son of Mary was no more than an apostle of **God, and His Word**, which He bestowed on Mary, and a **Spirit** proceeding from Him” (*Sura Nisaa (4:171)*).

(Note that even this translation of the Quran which Muslims delivered to the Library of the Congress, is not accurate and it is different from the original Arabic. But any way by comparison with other Quranic verses it is clear that the Quran admitted that Jesus Christ is the **W**ord of God (with capital letter **W**) and He is the **S**pirit of God with capital **S**). And as we saw earlier that God’s Word and God’s Spirit are everlasting and God did not exist at any time without them, which leads directly to the Divinity of Christ. You will find the Quran say otherwise in other verses, because it is full of contradictions and this is one of the reasons we don’t believe it as a word of God, because God does not contradict Himself.

2. The Quran also said that Jesus Christ is “**honored in this world and the hereafter**”, meaning according to the Islamic scholars: He is a great Intercessor in this life and in eternity.
3. The Quran volunteered a great miracle (which Jesus did not do!), claiming that He spoke to the people during His infancy in the cradle! (*Sura Al-Imran 46*).
4. The Quran confirmed the great healing miracles of Christ saying, “And I heal those born blind, and the lepers” (*Sura Al-Imran 49*).
5. Jesus Christ raises the dead, “and I raise the dead by God’s leave” (Note that Jesus has never said by God’s permission or “God willing”, because He is God, and all the miracles which He performed were by His own will and command.
6. **According to the Quran, Jesus Christ is a Creator:**

*“I make for you out of clay, as it were, the figure of a bird, and breathe into it and it becomes a bird by God’s leave“
(Sura 3:49).*

Comments:

- (1) God is the only Creator and no one else can create other than God.
- (2) Since the Quran attributed the work of creation to Christ, so it attributed the Deity to Christ automatically.
- (3) The statement at the end “by God’s leave or permission,” does not change anything and it is nonsense and ridiculous, because God does not delegate His own characteristics or Divine attributes and works, such as Creation or Last Judgment, to a creature. Was God in a leave (vacation) to give someone else a leave?!
- (4) Anyone who claims otherwise is totally ignorant of the simplest principles of Theology.
- (5) The Quran is full of contradictions, it says one thing then its opposite, and also it canceled many verses or changed its contents to the opposite, as if God has committed mistakes or discovered that He was wrong and corrected his statements!]
- (6) Note that this great divine attributes and works which the Quran attributed to Christ, it did not attribute any of them to Mohammad himself, the prophet of Islam!

7. According to Quran, Christ knows the unknown and the secrets of others: *“I declare to you what you eat, and what you store in your houses. Surely therein is a Sign for you if you did believe” (Sura Al-Imran 3:49).*

Note that the Quran itself considered the knowledge of the unknown exclusively belongs to God alone, and this is another indication that Christ is God according the Quran itself.

8. The Quran admitted the ascension of Christ to heaven: “Behold, God said, ‘*O Jesus, I will take thee and raise thee to Myself* and clear thee of those who blaspheme; I will make those who follow thee superior to those who reject faith, to the Day of Resurrection” (*Al-Imran 3:55 & Sura Nisaa /women 158*).

9. The Quran admitted that God supported Christ with the Holy Spirit and miracles: “We gave Moses the Book and followed him up with a succession of Apostles; We gave Jesus the son of Mary clear Signs and strengthened (supported) him with the Holy Spirit” (*Sura Baqara or the Heifer or Cow 2:87*).

PART 5

CHRIST’S HOLINESS AND INFALLIBILITY

Christ’s Perfect Holiness and His Infallibility

This can be seen from the witness of angels, humans and demons, as well as from Christ’s own witness, His life and works.

The Angels’ Witness:

- When the angel Gabriel announced the upcoming birth of Lord Jesus to the Blessed Virgin Mary, he said, “...The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, **that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.**” (Luke 1:35).
- Another angel told St. Joseph “And she (the Virgin Mary) will bring forth a Son, and you shall call **His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.**” (Matt 1:21). Doubtless, the Savior from sin has to be Himself sinless.
- In the vision of Isaiah, he saw and heard the seraphim worship Lord Jesus saying, “**Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!**” (Isa. 6:3; John 12:41; Rev. 4:8).

- Another angel announced “*Behold, the virgin shall be with child...and they shall call **His name Immanuel,***” which is translated, ‘God with us.’” (Matt 1:23). Needless to say, God is holy and is infallible (i.e. cannot sin because this is against his divine nature).

The Witness of the People:

- The prophet Daniel described Christ as “...**The Most Holy**” (Dan. 9:24).
- St. Paul wrote of Christ “*And declared to be the Son of God with power according to the **Spirit of holiness,** by the resurrection from the dead.*” (Rom 1:4).
- And “For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who **is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens;**” (Heb 7:26).
- Also “...You will not allow **Your Holy One** to see corruption.” (Acts 13:35).
- St. Peter said to the Jews “**But you denied the Holy One** and the Just, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you.” (Acts 3:14).
- The apostles prayed, “For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together.” (Acts 4:27).

From The Sayings of Christ about Himself

- “These things says He **who is holy**, He who is true, ‘He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens.’” (Rev 3:7).

(Translator’s note : While believers are called upon to be holy, only God is absolutely holy. In English, the word “holy” is used for God and man (as well as objects). In Arabic, the word “Koddoos” is reserved for God alone, while the word “keddees”

is applied to humans and means ‘saint’).

Accordingly, the redeemed in heaven sing:

“Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints! Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You.” (Rev 15:3-4).

Even Demons confessed that Christ is Holy:

- When Lord Jesus cast out an unclean spirit from the man in the synagogue, the demon cried out “saying ‘let *us* alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? **I know who You are—the Holy One of God!**” (Mark 1:24; see a similar incident in Luke 4:34).

Absolute holiness is the highest level of purity, sinlessness, and virtue, and Christ is absolutely holy, righteous, sinless and furthermore is immune to sin. It was said of Him “**Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth.**” (1Pet 2:22), and “...Him **who knew no sin**” (2 Cor. 5:21).

In that vein, He challenged His detractors saying, “**Which of you convicts Me of sin?**” (John 8:46). And while the Bible says “They have all turned aside, they have together become corrupt; *there is* none who does good, no, not one.” (Pss 14:3; 53:3; Rom 3:12), and while Lord Jesus says, “...No one *is* good but One, *that is*, God” (Matt 19:17), we find Him describing Himself as good, saying, “**I am the good shepherd**” (John 10:11), and “that Mary had chosen **the good part...**” (Luke 10:42).

From the above, we see that Christ the Lord is the absolutely holy, perfectly good, totally righteous and infallible God, who is worshipped by angels singing “**For You alone are holy...**” (Rev 15:4).

PART 6

CHRIST'S SELF-EXISTENCE

By definition, God alone has life in Himself, meaning that He does not derive His life from another being, while people, angels, animals and plants (i.e. all living beings) do not have life of their own, but rather derive their life from God, the source of life.

Yet, Christ has life in Himself according to His saying, "For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted **the Son to have life in Himself**" (John 5:26). He proved this by first saying "...Destroy this temple (referring to His body), and in three days I will raise it up." (John 2:19), and then by doing exactly that...arising from the dead at the predicted time by His own authority. Lord Jesus confirmed this saying, "...Because I lay down My life that I may take it again. **No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again**" (John 10:17-18).

Taking the above two points together, it is clear that Christ is God, the source and giver of life; that is why the Bible says of Him **"In Him was life, and the life was the light of men."** (John 1:4). In this same vein, we find Christ repeatedly saying of Himself what nobody but God would dare to proclaim:

- "...**I am the resurrection and the life...**" (John 11:25).
- "...**I am the way, the truth, and the life...**" (John 14:6).
- "...**I am the bread of life...**" (John 6:35, 48).
- "...**I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.**" (John 10:10).

This is why the Coptic Orthodox church, in its prayer to and worship of Christ the Lord says, "Holy God, Holy Almighty, Holy One who lives forever (or who is immortal)".

PART 7

CHRIST IS IMMUTABLE

It is well known that immutability (i.e. unchangeability) is a divine attribute, for God alone is eternal, everlasting, who never changes in essence, attributes, moral principles or anything else. He does not increase nor decrease. He does not weaken neither slumber nor sleep. He never dies. He does not change in His love, mercy, power, wisdom, holiness or knowledge.

Man, on the other hand, is born a small infant, weak and ignorant, then he changes as he ages by growing in size and abilities, learning, doing, and also by getting sick, old, wrinkled and eventually dying; his body returning to dust. Moreover, man changes a lot -depending on his circumstances- in his wishes, desires, emotions, thoughts, moods, likes and dislikes and even in his character.

As for Christ the Lord, He never changes, for as the Bible says, **“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”** (Heb 13:8), and **“With whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.”** (James 1:17).

For He is Immanuel which means “God with us” (Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:23), who also said, “...And lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.” (Matt 28:20)

Christ is the “Rock of Ages”, mighty, constant and everlasting, “...”and that Rock was Christ” (1Cor. 10:4). He never decreases in His infinite love, or in His unlimited saving power, or in His perfect divine holiness, wisdom and mercy, or in any of His other perfect moral attributes. He is One with the Father in essence (John 10:30), and “He is the image of the invisible God” (Col 1:15).

It is He to whom we pray in the Gregorian Liturgy saying, “O You, the Being, who were and who abide forever, the eternal, co-essential, co-enthroned, and co-creator with the Father... but You, without change, were incarnate and became man and resembled us in everything, except for sin alone....the lover of mankind, the

invisible, infinite, without beginning, everlasting, timeless, immeasurable, incomprehensible, unchangeable, creator of all, Savior of everyone.

PART 8

CHRIST COMES FROM HEAVEN

The Heavenly Christ

Long ago, King Solomon prophesied about Christ saying,

“Who has ascended into heaven, or descended?
Who has gathered the wind in His fists?
Who has bound the waters in a garment?
Who has established all the ends of the earth?
What is His name, and what is His Son’s name,
If you know?” (Prov 30:4).

In these questions, Solomon mentioned some divine attributes and works of God and of the Son of God, starting with His ascent into and descent from heaven. Remarkably, Lord Jesus answered these questions when He told Nicodemus, **“No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven”** (John 3:13). Furthermore, by His actions, He answered the second and third questions concerning the wind and water by demonstrating His absolute authority over them when He rebuked the wind and the raging waves of the sea causing them to become still (Matt 8:26). As to the question about creation, the New Testament gives the answer, saying of Christ, “All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.” (John 1:3).

The New Testament clearly teaches that Christ is the Son of God who called Himself the Son of Man to point to His incarnation and to His amazing love for mankind.

The Bible also teaches that Christ came down from heaven to

redeem and save humanity, and when His redemptive work was completed, He ascended into heaven, from whence He came. That the Bible declares that Christ is heavenly can be seen from the following:

First, Examples from the Old Testament:

1. Solomon's prophecy quoted above, namely "**Who has ascended into heaven, or descended...What is His Son's name?**" (Prov. 30:4).
2. *I am* He, *I am* the First, *I am* also the Last. Indeed My hand has laid the foundation of the earth, and My right hand has stretched out the heavens...From the time that it was, *I was* there. And now the Lord GOD and His Spirit have sent Me." (Isa 48:12-16). This last sentence points to the incarnation of Lord Jesus, who was sent by the Father and the Holy Spirit to redeem mankind.
3. This is the same proclamation as that given later to the Virgin Mary by the angel Gabriel when he told her, "*The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.*" (Luke 1:35).
4. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, Isaiah also addresses Christ saying "**Oh, that You would rend the heavens! That You would come down!** That the mountains might shake at Your presence." (Isa 64:1).
5. And King David, prophesying about the ascension of Christ to His former glory after finishing His salvation says, "**Lift up your heads, O you gates! And be lifted up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in.** Who *is* this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty...the LORD of hosts, He *is* the King of glory." (Ps 24:7-10).
6. And "**You have ascended on high, You have led captivity captive;** You have received gifts among men..." (Ps 68:18).

St. Paul explains this prophecy saying that **He who ascended is the One who descended, namely Christ** (Eph 4:8-9).

7. It is well known that **all the materials, metals, liquids, fabrics and colors that were used in the tabernacle and in Solomon's temple point in an amazing symbolic way to the Lord Jesus in His divine attributes, His nature and His redemptive work.** Among these are:

Gold: Points to His deity and divine righteousness.

Sky-Blue: Points to the fact that Christ is heavenly in nature, and came from heaven;

Purple: The purple is a blend of blue and red, denoting that this Heavenly (blue) King shed His blood (red) on the cross, and that the color blue got combined with the color red, meaning that His divinity (blue) did not separate from His humanity (the red blood on the cross). (See Exodus 25:1-9).

8. The prophet Daniel saw this clear vision of Christ, "I was watching in the night visions, and behold, **One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven!** He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion *is* an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom *the one* which shall not be destroyed." (Dan 7:13-14).

Christ Himself explained this prophecy during His trial: "...The high priest...said to Him, 'I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!' 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.**'" (Matt 26:63-64).

Second, in the New Testament:

The New Testament confirmed emphatically that Christ is heavenly, meaning that His nature is divine, that He descended from heaven and took on flesh, that He ascended to heaven after His

Resurrection, and that He fills heavens and earth. This is evidenced from the following:

1. Christ told the Jews “...You are from beneath; **I am from above.** You are of this world; **I am not of this world.**” (John 8:23).
2. He also said “**No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven.**” (John 3:13). Note that Christ was talking to Nicodemus on earth while saying that He was simultaneously in heaven. Needless to say, no one but God can be in two places at once. And Christ has supported His claim by His miracles and moral perfection.
3. John the Baptist testified about Jesus saying, “**He who comes from above is above all...He who comes from heaven is above all.**” (John 3:31).
4. Lord Jesus told Nathaniel, “**Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man**” (John 1:51). Here Lord Jesus was referring to Jacob’s ladder, mentioned in Gen 28, which reached from heaven to earth, with the Lord at its top and the angels climbing up and down the ladder, pointing to Christ’s incarnation and His being the only way to heaven and to the Father (see John 14:6), and that He is the Mediator who reconciles the Heavenly Father to man.
5. St. Mark concluded His Gospel with “**So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God.**” (Mark 16:19).
6. Likewise, St. Luke concluded His Gospel with, “**Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven.**” (Luke 24:51).
7. Lord Jesus said “**All authority has been given to Me in**

heaven and on earth.’ (Matt 28:18).

8. When “...The high priest...said to Him (Jesus), ‘I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!’ 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.*’” (Matt 26:63-64). Here, Christ was referring to Daniel’s prophecy concerning Himself, a prophecy that should have been understood by the High Priest.
9. Lord Jesus said “**I am the bread which came down from heaven**” (John 6:41).
10. And “**I came forth from the Father and have come into the world. Again, I leave the world and go to the Father.**” (John 16:28; cf. 16:27; 8:42).
11. The book of Acts describes Christ’s ascension to heaven thusly, “Now when He (Christ) had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men (angels) stood by them in white apparel, who also said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This *same* Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.’” (Acts 1:9-11).

12. On the cross, when the penitent thief “...Said to Jesus, ‘Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.’ ...Jesus said to him, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise’” (Luke 23:42-43). This shows Christ’s authority in Paradise, which is the third heaven (see 2Cor 12:2).
13. After He ascended to heaven, Christ appeared twice

from heaven:

- **The first time was to the deacon Stephen** when he was about to be stoned to death, who said, "...Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" (Acts 7:56). "And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on *God* and saying, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." (Acts 7:59).
- **The second appearance was to Saul (or Paul)**, "As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?'

And he said, 'Who are You, Lord?' Then the Lord said, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads.'" (Acts 9:3-5). Paul later provided further elaboration about that light, saying, "At midday...I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and those who journeyed with me." (Acts 26:13). At other times, Lord Jesus appeared to Paul in visions (see, for example Acts 18:9).

14. Christ also said about His Second Coming from heaven to judge the world at the end of time, "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man (the cross) will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory." (Matt. 24:29-30).

15. Elsewhere in the New Testament:

- "...He (God the Father) raised Him (Christ) from the dead and seated *Him* at His right hand **in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in**

that which is to come. And He put all *things* under His feet” (Eph 1:20-22).

- “...At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth.” (Phil 2:10), meaning that angels, people (both live and dead), and even demons will worship Him.
- “...Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him...for...(He) is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, **and has become higher than the heavens.**” (Heb 7:25-26).
- “**Who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.**” (1Pet 3:22).
- “Behold, **He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him...**” (Rev 1:7).

The Testimony of the Muslim Qurana:

Needless to say the Muslim Quran testifies about Christ’s ascension and elevation to heaven. In Al-Imran Sura: 55, it says, “Behold, God said, “**O Jesus, I will take you and raise you to Myself.**” It also said in the Sura of Nisaa: 157, “They (the Jews) killed him not, Nay; **God raised him up unto Himself.**”

* * *

PART 9

CHRIST'S ABSOLUTE PERFECTION

“Everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher.”
(Luke 6:40)

It is well known that there are two kinds of perfection:

1. Absolute perfection,
2. Relative perfection.

As for Absolute perfection, it is God's alone. This means that God is perfect in everything: perfect in His attributes, perfect in His ways and His works, perfect in His power, knowledge, wisdom, holiness, love, mercy, justice, etc.

Relative perfection, on the other hand is human perfection, i.e. relative to the era in which one lives, or the place, or as compared to other humans. For example, it was said of Noah that he “Was a just man, perfect in his generations” (Gen 6:9), meaning that he was perfect in comparison to his generations.

This same meaning was used to describe Jacob and Job as perfect (Job 1:1). Clearly, those three people were not sinless, for the Bible mentions sins, errors and human faults for each of them. Nevertheless, they were the best of their contemporaries.

Now absolute perfection, which is God's alone, is seen in Christ, the Son of the Living God, who said “I and *My* Father are one.” (John 10:30), and “...He who has seen Me has seen the Father...” (John 14:9).

Similarly, St. Paul described Lord Jesus as “...The image of the invisible God...” (Col. 1:15), and “...Who being the brightness of His (God's) glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power” (Heb 1:3).

Moreover, the Heavenly Father testified for Him twice, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased” (Matt 3:17).

And of course, Christ's moral life was a testimony to this perfection, for He committed no sin, no deceit was found in His mouth, and He did not ever know sin.

As to Christ's Perfect Holiness

Angels, archangels, the Seraphim, humans and even demons attested to it. This is not surprising, for He is Holy, without sin or blemish, has never sinned during His earthly life, not in thought, word or deed. On one occasion, He challenged His adversaries saying, "Which of you convicts Me of sin..." (John 8:46). No one dared accuse Him of any sin. Not once did He apologize, and He never retracted a word He spoke, or regretted something He did. He never had wives, concubines, harems or slaves. He never committed aggression or launched war. His life – in its perfection of Holiness- was purer than the fresh snow on mountaintops. The Bible says of Him "For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens." (Heb 7:26).

Christ is Perfect in His Power

The Bible described Him as "...the Almighty." (Rev 1:8), and "...Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isa 9:6). We have already discussed in the preceding sections His absolute power over all things. Thus His self-testimony was backed up by His works and agreed fully with all the prophecies concerning Him.

Christ is Perfect in His Love

For He loved the world in an unprecedented and sublime way: He loved friends and foes, asked for forgiveness for the murderers who crucified Him, even interceding for them by praying "...Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do..." (Luke 23:34). He also said, "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends." (John 15:13). In fact, He loved the sinners, the weak, the ungodly, the lost, the despised, the rejected, the sick, the poor and the ignorant. He equally loved the poor and the rich regardless of nationality, color or religion.

He is the One who taught the most sublime teachings on love ever, e.g. "...Love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do

good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you.” (Matt 5:44). Thus, Christ is the embodiment of love, and in Him we see God’s perfect love as we see love perfected.

Christ is Perfect in His Justice

He is the Just Judge who will judge the world – both the living and the dead- with absolute justice in the last day (see John 5:22; Matt 25:31; Rev 20:11-15).

Christ is Perfect in His Mercy

For He was merciful to the adulteress who was caught in the act, saving her from death by stoning and setting her free (John 8:1ff). He was also merciful to the penitent thief on the cross, forgiving his sins and granting him entry into paradise (Luke 23:43). He forgave the sinful woman who anointed His feet with fragrant oil (Luke 7:36ff), the paralytic (Mark 2:5), Zacchaeus the chief tax collector (Luke 19:1ff), and Mary Magdalene. Indeed, He had mercy on all creation by redeeming it, and He gave and still gives complete salvation and free forgiveness to all who believe on Him.

And Christ is Perfect in His Knowledge and Wisdom

He knows everything in heaven and on earth. He knows the thoughts, secrets of the heart and hidden intentions. He knows the past, present and future. Within the Trinity, He is the Word, Wisdom and Mind of God. The Bible says of Him “...In whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” (Col. 2:3).

Needless to say, Christ is perfect in His humility, meekness, patience, gentleness and firmness; He is absolutely perfect in His attributes and virtues. His is the perfection of God.

This should not come as a surprise, for He is God who came in the flesh to save us, and showed us in Himself the absolute perfection of God, calling on us to emulate Him (see Matt 5:48; Luke 6:40).

* * *

THE SIXTH PROOF

CHRIST'S DIVINE WORKS

The divine works of Christ can be summarized in the following:

1. Creation.
2. Providence.
3. Salvation.
4. Inspiration
5. Forgiveness of sins.
6. Healing the Sick.
7. Resurrection.
8. Sending the Holy Spirit.
9. Judging the Living and the Dead.

By “divine works” we mean those works that only God can perform; no human can perform them. Yet, as we shall see in this sixth proof, Christ the Lord performed them and claimed them for Himself. Thus He performed them by words and deeds, something that no other person- whether human or angelic has ever done.

PART 1

CHRIST'S DIVINE WORKS: CREATION

God alone is the Creator

To create is purely a divine act. It means to make something exist out of nothing. Humans, on the other hand, can and do make, produce, transform or change things that already exist... things that were created by God.

The first verse in the Bible says, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." (Gen 1:1). The same chapter goes on to say "So God created man in His own image..." (Gen 1:27). And in the story of the flood, we read, "So the LORD said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth..." (Gen 6:7).

There are countless verses in the Bible that proclaim that God alone is the Creator.

Here are a few:

- + "Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary..." (Isa. 40:28).
- + "Thus says God the LORD, Who created the heavens and stretched them out? Who spread forth the earth and that which comes from it?" (Isa 42:5).
- + "That they may know from the rising of the sun to its setting that *there is* none besides Me. I *am* the LORD, and *there is* no other; I form the light and create darkness" (Isa. 45:6-7).
- + "You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created." (Rev 4:11).

- That is why David prays, “Create in me a clean heart, O God...” (Ps 51:10).
- And Solomon exhorts, “Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth...” (Ecclesiastes 12:1).

Christ is Creator

The Bible does not attribute the act of creation to anyone other than God, except for Christ, thus proving that Christ is God. Here are proofs from the Bible that Christ is Creator:

First, the Old Testament foretold that Christ is Creator:

1. “I have been established from everlasting, from the beginning, before there was ever an earth...before the mountains were settled...when He prepared the heavens, I was there...when He assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters would not transgress His command, when He marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside Him as a master craftsman” (Prov 8:23-30). In the Catholic translation, “I was beside Him as an engineer”, meaning designer of all creation before it came into existence.
2. “Who has ascended into heaven, or descended? Who has gathered the wind in His fists? Who has bound the waters in a garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is His name, and what is His Son’s name, if you know?” (Prov 30:4).
3. David said, “By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth.” (Ps 33:6). Here we see the Trinity involved in creation, with the “Word” referring to Christ, the “Lord” to God the Father, and “the breath of His mouth” to the Holy Spirit.

Secondly, The Works of Christ as Creator:

1. From the repeated miracles of feeding the multitudes we see Christ's work as Creator, for He created thousands of fish and loaves of bread from a few. On one occasion, He started with five loaves and two fish, and miraculously multiplied them, "So they all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments that remained. Now those who had eaten were about five thousand men, besides women and children." (Matt 14: 20). On another occasion, "...He took the seven loaves and the fish...broke *them* and the disciples *gave* to the multitude. So they all ate and were filled, and they took up seven large baskets full of the fragments that were left. Now those who ate were four thousand men, besides women and children." (Matt 15:36-38).

2. In the miracle of the man born blind, **Lord Jesus created two new eyes for him** from clay and water, just as He had created Adam in the beginning! In giving him new seeing eyes, Lord Jesus created all the veins, arteries, lenses, optic nerves connected to the brain etc. That man was able to see for the first time in his life, and he worshipped Jesus Christ as the Son of God (John 9).

3. At the wedding at Cana, Lord Jesus miraculously turned water into wine. This entailed amazing divine works of creation, for from where did alcohol and other wine ingredients come, so that the taste, scent and color of the water changed? This happened without adding any other elements, and in nature would require so many other natural and man-made elements e.g., the sun's light and temperature, air, water, planting, agriculture, watering, pruning, distillation, time, etc. In seconds, and merely by His will and word, Lord Jesus miraculously caused the desired outcome to occur, telling the servants, "Fill the water pots with water...Draw *some* out now, and take *it* to the master of the feast." (John 2: 7-8).

By this miracle, Lord Jesus proved that He is Lord over nature, its Creator, the One who ordained its laws, and that He has absolute authority over it so that nature and all creation are subject to Him and obedient to His commands.

4. How numerous are the healing miracles performed by Christ! In reality, many of these were not just treatment of illness-

es but rather creation, e.g., healing the dumb blindcrazed man who was afflicted in his brain and nerves. These diseases are called incurable, and cannot be healed short of creating new cells, tissues, veins and arteries requiring God's work. And that is precisely what Christ did, which is another reason we believe that He is God! Little wonder that when "Philip said to Him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father...or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.'" (John 14:8-11).

5. Christ's miracles of raising the dead are an even stronger proof. When Christ raised Lazarus who had been dead for four days, his brain, heart and other organs, members and systems of his body had already decayed and rotted, prompting his sister Martha to say, "...Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been *dead* four days." (John 11:39). So, restoring Lazarus' corpse to life meant that Christ created a complete new body for him!

Thirdly, New Testament Verses that Testify to Christ as Creator:

There are several, the most important of which are:

1. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. *All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.*" (John 1:1-3). This shows that even atheists who deny the existence of God were made through Christ (and as the next verse will show, were made by Christ)! This also applies to Muslims, Jews, Buddhists, etc. who do not confess the Lordship of Christ; they are all created through and by Christ unbeknownst to them! As the Gospel of John says of Christ, "He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him." (John 1:10).

2. St. Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit, says of Christ, "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. **For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible...All things were created through Him and for Him.**" (Col 1:15-16).

3. “God who created all things through Jesus Christ.” (Eph. 3:9).

4. “And one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom *are* all things, and through whom we live.” (1Cor 8:6).

5. “God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by *His Son...through whom also He made the worlds.*” (Heb.1:1-2).

Fourthly, even the Muslim Quran testifies that Christ did create:

The Quran says of Jesus Christ “*I make for you out of clay; as it were, the figure of a bird, and breathe into it and it becomes a bird* by God’s leave” (Sura 3:49).

So, should we believe the Bible that recorded the works and words of Lord Jesus shortly after they happened, or the Muslim Quran that was written more than 650 years after the earthly life of Christ?

The key thing here is that the Quran acknowledges that Christ created living creatures, which – as we know- only God can do.

PART 2

The Divine Works of Christ

PROVIDENCE

Next to creation, the second work of Christ is providence. Lord Jesus is the One who sustains and runs the universe He created.

The laws that God established in nature to make this awesome universe run smoothly are laws and systems that are truly astounding in their wisdom, precision and perfection. Even after thousands of years and despite the dizzying advances in science when everyday brings new discoveries, there is an awful lot that man does not know.

The act of providence is no less important than the act of cre-

ation, for if God did not take care of this creation, running and sustaining it, life would have vanished ages ago. Just think of what would happen if planets and stars had collided with each other and with our earth, or if the earth had moved away from or closer to the sun!

Evidently, this marvelous providence requires complete and accurate knowledge of every single detail in creation, which cannot be attained except by its Creator. For providence encompasses amazing wisdom, total knowledge and a mighty mind. It also requires miraculous divine power to control this creation, run it, and manage it. Lord Jesus is the wisdom of God, His Word and His power.

Among the Bible verses that proclaim that Christ is the One who cares for, runs and controls the universe are:

1. "God...has in these last days spoken to us by *His Son... through whom also He made the worlds*; who being the brightness of *His* glory and the express image of His person, *and upholding all things by the word of His power...*" (Heb 1:1-3).
2. "He counts the number of the stars; He calls them all by name." (Psa. 147:4). "He had in His right hand seven stars..." (Rev 1:16). "...These things, says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lamp-stands." (Rev 2:1).
3. St. Paul says "...For I know whom I have believed and *am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.*" (2 Tim. 1:12). And in this same vein, Job says, "You have granted me life and favor, *and Your care has preserved my spirit.*" (Job 10:12).
4. St. Peter says, "Casting all your care upon Him, *for He cares for you.*" (1 Pet. 5:7).

5. Lord Jesus told His apostles “And you will be hated by all for My name’s sake. ***But not a hair of your head shall be lost.***” (Luke 21:17-18).
6. He also said, “Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father’s will. ***But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.*** Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.” (Matt 10:29-31).
7. “And He said to them, ‘When I sent you without money bag, knapsack, and sandals, did you lack anything? So they said, ‘Nothing.’” (Luke 22:35). This confirms King David’s experience and prophecy about the Good Shepherd, when he said “The LORD *is* my shepherd; I shall not want... Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You *are* with me...” (Ps 23).
8. Lord Jesus said, “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. ***And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.***” (John 10:27-28).
9. Hear Him say also, “...***Those whom You (the Father) gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost*** except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.”(John 17:12).
10. “And they stoned Stephen as he was *calling on God and saying, ‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.’*” (Acts 7:59).
11. “Lift up your eyes on high,
And see who has created these *things*,
Who brings out their host by number;
He calls them all by name,
***By the greatness of His might
And the strength of His power;
Not one is missing.***” (Isa 40:26).
12. “Listen to Me, O house of Jacob...

Who have been upheld *by Me* from birth,
Who have been carried from the womb:
Even to your old age, I am He, and even to gray
hairs I will carry you!” (Isa. 46:3-4).

Among the titles with which the Coptic Orthodox Church refers to Christ is “*The Pantokrator*”, which is a Greek word meaning “*the Upholder or Ruler of All Things*”. This is taken from the verse that speaks of Christ as “...*Upholding all things by the word of His power...*” (Heb 1:3).

Moreover, the entire book of Esther in the Old Testament is called the “Book of Providence” as it describes how the Lord cares for His people, and how He directs all events for their good according to His purpose. “

PART 3

The Divine Works of Christ

SALVATION

Salvation is a Divine Act

Having discussed Christ’s first work of creation, and His second work of providence, we now turn to His third act of salvation. Christ not only created mankind and sustains them, but also saves them. For it would be futile to create man and be unable to save him, leaving him a prey to Satan, sin, death, and eternal torment in hell.

Salvation is and must be a divine act since all humans are sinners, and since no sinner who is dead in trespasses can save another perishing sinner like himself. Examples of this from everyday life include:

- A drowning person is unable to save another drowning person.
- A bankrupt who is up to his ears in debt cannot cover the

debt of another bankrupt debtor.

- Likewise, a weak, imperfect sinner cannot redeem another in that same condition.

This is why the psalmist says, “None of them can by any means redeem his brother...But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave.” (Psa. 49:7, 15), and, “Into Your hand I commit my spirit; You have redeemed me, O LORD God of truth.” (Ps 31:5), and, “Bless the LORD, O my soul...who redeems your life from destruction...” (Ps 103:1, 4).

Speaking through the prophet Hosea, the Lord says, “I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death” (Hos. 13:14). He also says in Isaiah, “...Is My hand shortened at all that it cannot redeem? Or have I no power to deliver? Indeed with My rebuke I dry up the sea...” (Isa. 50:2).

We also find the priest Zacharias, filled with the Holy Spirit, prophesying, “Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited and redeemed His people, and has raised up a horn of salvation for us...” (Luke 1:68-69). Likewise, King David emphasizes that salvation is a work of God and must not be attributed to a human:

- “Do not put your trust in princes, nor in a son of man, in whom there is no help.
His spirit departs, he returns to his earth” (Psa. 146:3-4).
- “Our God is the God of salvation...” (Psa. 68:20).
- “The LORD is my light and my salvation...” (Ps 27:1).

From the early beginnings, Jacob realized this fact, saying, “I have waited for your salvation, O LORD!” (Gen 49:18). Likewise, Moses, speaking of Israel who turned away from God, said, “...Then he forsook God *who* made him, and scornfully esteemed the Rock of his salvation.”(Deut 32:15).

So, while the Bible restricted salvation and redemption to God alone, it attributed them also to Christ. For example, **St. Peter says of Lord Jesus, “Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we**

must be saved.” (Acts 4:12).

Likewise, St. Paul writes of Christ, “In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.” (Col. 1:14; Eph. 1:7).

Why must the Savior be Divine?

Salvation is from sin, and from its wages and punishment that is death (Rom 5:12; 6:23). But since all humans have sinned and fallen and brought death upon themselves, *it was necessary that their Savior be absolutely Holy, without sin, and stronger than death*; one who has “...The keys of Hades and of Death.” (Rev 1:18).

And since Satan is the energizer of sin and its cause, and is the one responsible for people’s destruction in hell, *it is necessary that their Savior be stronger than Satan, and that He hold dominion over the abyss and hell so that He could save them from these.*

And since sin directed at the infinite God requires infinite atonement, and only God is infinite, it becomes necessary that the Redeemer and Savior of mankind be God Himself, who has accomplished this through His incarnation in the form of man, voluntary substitutionary death and Resurrection from the dead.

Thus, God’s wonderful plan of salvation, as announced by God Himself in His book (the Bible), is for Himself to take on a human form and to pay the penalty of death that was due man, so that whosoever believes on Him would be redeemed and freed from sin, death, Satan, and hell, and would be restored to righteousness and eternal life.

This is how God satisfies both His justice and mercy. This God Incarnate in the form of a perfect man was Jesus Christ (glory be to Him), who is the Word of God and the image of the invisible God (Col 1:15; Phil 2:5), and in whom “**Mercy and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed.**” (Psa. 85:10).

Christ is the Savior of the world and the only Savior from sin:

When the angel announced the upcoming birth of Christ, he said, “...And you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.” (Matt 1:21). The name “Jesus” itself means

“God the Savior” or “God saves”. And Lord Jesus said of Himself, “... Whoever commits sin is a slave of sin...Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.” (John 8:34-36; 1Tim. 1:15; Tit. 2:14; Gal. 3:13).

And Christ is the Savior of man from Satan:

For **He is the woman’s promised Seed who would crush the head of the serpent (Satan)** (see Gen. 3:15). The Bible says, “**For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.**” (1 John 3:8; Heb 2:14).

And Christ is the Savior of humanity from death:

By His voluntary atoning sacrificial death, Christ paid in full the debt of sin and death that man had incurred. And by His Resurrection, He overcame death, “And raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus (Eph. 2:6). That is why St. Paul says, “**Our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.**”(2 Tim 1:10).

Furthermore, Christ said about Himself:

- “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die...” (John 11:25).
- “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.” (John 5:24).
- “Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.” (John 6:54).
- “For the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.” (John 5:28-29).

And Christ is the Savior from Condemnation:

The Bible says, “There is therefore now no condemnation to

those who are in Christ Jesus..." (Rom. 8:1; John 5:24). And, "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already" (John 3:18).

Of Christ's perfect and eternal salvation, it is written, **"Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost..."** (Heb 7:25), and **"...He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him."** (Heb 5:9).

Noteworthy is the fact that Noah's ark was a symbol of Christ, His church and baptism. For as there was no other means of deliverance from God's wrath and judgment of the flood except the ark, so is there no other salvation except through Christ who bore God's wrath and judgment in our place and reconciled us to God the Father. This is the reason St. Peter wrote "There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism..." (1Pet 3:21; see v 18-21).

The Work of Salvation is the Irrefutable Proof of Christ's Divinity:

This is a theological and logical proof as well as a practical one that anyone can experience. For Lord Jesus Christ has saved by His divine power billions of sinners and wicked people over two millennia. He changed their lives, washed, cleansed, justified and sanctified them. He changed adulterers into saints, and the murderers, thieves, drunkards, and atheists into righteous, pure, loving and humble people, and into servants who are altruistic, productive, and godly people. Millions of these changed people were martyred - and millions still do - for their steadfast faith, faithful witness, and for the sake of truth and eternal life.

Christ saved the Samaritan woman who had 5 husbands and was living in sin with another. He freed Mary Magdalene who had been possessed by 7 demons. He drastically changed the life of Zacchaeus, the tax collector. He accepted in paradise the penitent thief on the cross. He chose simple unlearned fishermen to become the greatest apostles, who shamed the wise and invaded the world with the gospel. And He transformed the most rabid persecutors, like Saul of Tarsus, into the greatest evangelists.

And Arianus, the bloody governor who tortured and killed thou-

sands of martyrs into a faithful witness who got martyred, and the playboy Augustine into a bishop and a very great Christian philosopher. Christ still saves daily everyone who believes on and seeks Him. He said, “...**Whoever commits sin is a slave of sin... Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.**” (John 8:34-36).

PART 4

INSPIRATION

How beautiful and marvelous the Word of God is! It is pure, true, powerful and living. It is simple enough for the young to understand, yet deep enough that the old and wise cannot fully plumb its depth. And Lord Jesus Himself is the Incarnate Word of God, “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...” (John 1:14). The Bible says, “...The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.” (Rev 19:10), meaning that He is the center of prophecies, their subject, goal, fulfillment and spirit, and that without Christ, prophecies would be meaningless and of no value.

Christ is the One who Inspires Prophets and Apostles:

The Bible teaches that Christ is the source of inspiration. From before His incarnation, during His appearance in the flesh on earth, and after His ascension to heaven, He inspired the hearts and minds of the prophets and apostles, notwithstanding their large number, their diversity of nations, cultures, languages, generations, backgrounds and positions. He inspired them to know and proclaim His will, law and judgments, which proves His divinity and the fact that He is the source of wisdom.

The following verses confirm that Christ is the source of inspiration:

1. St. Paul says, “But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught *it*, but *it came* through the revelation of Jesus Christ.” (Gal 1:11-12). Thus the source of

what Paul knew and preached was not human, but superhuman: a direct divine revelation from Lord Jesus.

2. St. Paul also says, “And He Himself (Christ) gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers.” (Eph 4:11). Therefore, Christ is the One who calls, sends and inspires apostles, prophets, evangelists and teachers, clothing them with the Spirit of wisdom, power and prophecy and with His Word.

3. Jesus Christ told His apostles, “Therefore settle *it* in your hearts not to meditate beforehand on what you will answer; for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist.” (Luke 21:14-15). Therefore, He is the One who speaks through His disciples and apostles, and the source of their inspiration of all wisdom and every thought and word, clothed with such power that even kings and rulers would not be able to contradict it.

4. He also said, “...Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and *the one* to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.” (Matt 11:27).

5. Speaking of the Old Testament prophets, St. Peter said, “Searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.” (1Pet 1:11).

6. The book of Revelation starts with “The Revelation of Jesus Christ...to His servant John.” (Rev 1:1). And even when Christ the Lord told His disciples to await the Holy Spirit so as to be endued with power to witness, He said, “He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare *it* to you.” (John 16:14). In fact, the Holy Spirit is described as “...The Spirit of Christ...” (Rom 8:9).

From these verses, it is clear that Jesus Christ is not a prophet (as Muslims believe), but the Lord of prophets and apostles (messengers); the One who calls them, commissions them, sends them and inspires them as part of His divine works.

PART 5

Christ's Divine Works

FORGIVENESS OF SINS

Among Christ's divine works is the forgiveness of sins, for only God can forgive sins. As the Jews said, "...Who can forgive sins but God alone?" (Mark 2:7). Christ the Lord proved that He is God by forgiving people's sins as is evident from His works, sayings and the testimony of the apostles and prophets:

1. When Lord Jesus healed the paralytic who was lowered through the roof by four people, He said, "...Son, your sins are forgiven you." (Mark 2:5).

2. Christ answered the scribes who believed that what He said was blasphemous and did encroach on God's authority to forgive sins, "Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, '*Your* sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise, take up your bed and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins, He said to the paralytic, 'I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.' Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, '*we never saw anything like this!*'" (Mark 2:9-12).

Perhaps those scribes thought it impossible to verify whether the sins of that paralytic were really forgiven, for this is invisible, but they considered his physical healing – when his brain cells and nerves had died- something impossible for humans to accomplish, and that whoever can do the more difficult act can do the lesser one.

Or perhaps they reasoned that both forgiveness of sins and healing are divine acts, so verifying one provides assurance of the other. Accordingly, Christ performed the visible act that had appeared to them to be the more difficult, thus proving to them that He also has authority to forgive sins.

3. Lord Jesus said to the sinful woman in the house of Simon the Pharisee, **“Your sins are forgiven.”** (Luke 7:48).

4. Not only did Christ forgive sins, but He also gave His apostles and their successors the right to forgive sins, “...He breathed on them, and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.’” (John 20:22-23).

5. The Bible says of Lord Jesus, **“To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins”** (Acts 10:43). Now all the prophets, being human, have sinned, but they prophesied of the coming of Christ the Savior and Redeemer of all humanity, who has the authority and power to forgive sins, for He Himself paid on the cross the sin debt of all who believe on Him.

6. As St. Stephen - the first Martyr – was being stoned to death, he asked God to forgive his murderers, praying to Lord Jesus saying, “...Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” (Acts 7:59-60).

7. When Christ instituted the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper (also known as the Eucharist or Communion), He said, **“For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.”** (Matt 26:28).

8. The apostle Paul writes, **“In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins...”** (Eph 1:7).

9. St. Paul also says, “Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as propitiation (atoning sacrifice) by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed.” (Rom 3:24-25).

10. **“The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...**And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.” (1 John 1:7; 2:2).

11. Isaiah, prophesying of Christ’s cross and anguish, says, “But He *was* wounded for our transgressions, *He was* bruised for our iniquities...He shall bear their iniquities...He bore the sin of

many, and made intercession for the transgressors” (Isa. 53:5, 11, 12).

12. “God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them...” (2 Cor. 5: 19).

To sum, it is evident from Lord Jesus’ self-witness, from the prophecies that preceded by centuries His coming in the flesh, and from His works, that He is the forgiver of sins, and that without Him there is no forgiveness of sins. By this divine act, He proves His deity.

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PART 6

Christ’s Divine Works

DIVINE HEALING

Sin is the Original Cause of Sickness:

Sickness entered into the world and into the life of man after the fall and as a consequence of the fall. It became one of the factors leading to death. This is the reason we do not read that Adam and Eve before the fall got sick or complained of any pain. But after the fall, there came judgments of “...Pain...toil...thorns and thistles...sweat...till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are, and to dust you shall return.” (Gen 3:16-19).

Likewise, Lord Jesus (the Last Adam) never got sick, for He is perfect, Holy, and sinless. Furthermore, as the Savior of the world, He healed by His divine authority not only the physical diseases of all the sick but also their spiritual diseases, forgiving their sins as well.

Some of the verses that reveal that sin is the general and original cause of sickness are:

- Among the curses that afflict people as a result of sin, rebellion and disobedience to God’s commandments is a list of terri-

ble diseases given in the 28th chapter of the book of Deuteronomy. Listen to Moses warning the Israelites, saying, "...If you do not obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes...that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you: Cursed *shall you be* in the city, and cursed *shall you be* in the country...the LORD will send on you cursing, confusion, and rebuke...until you are destroyed and until you perish quickly...the LORD will make the plague cling to you until He has consumed you from the land...the LORD will strike you with consumption, with fever, with inflammation, with severe burning fever, with the sword, with scorching, and with mildew...

- The LORD will strike you with the boils of Egypt, with tumors, with the scab, and with the itch, from which you cannot be healed...the LORD will strike you with madness and blindness and confusion of heart...the LORD will strike you in the knees and on the legs with severe boils which cannot be healed, and from the sole of your foot to the top of your head." (Deut 28:15-36).

- Likewise, Lord Jesus said to the man who had an infirmity for thirty-eight years after healing him, "...See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you." (John 5:14).

- "If you diligently heed the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I *am* the LORD who heals you." (Ex 15:26).

- Check also the following verses (Gen 20:7, 17; Nu 12:13; 2Chron 21:12-20; Ps 41:4; Acts 10:38; James 5:15).

Some diseases are a direct result of sin

Examples of this are the alcoholic who gets liver disease, a

smoker who gets lung or throat cancer, or a promiscuous person who contracts AIDS or other STDs. Likewise, hatred, anger, envy, despair and worry could cause angina, hypertension, stomach ulcer, diabetes, etc.

The Bible warns of another sin, namely partaking of Communion without repentance and being ready, which leads to sickness, even death, saying, "But let a man examine himself... for he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep (die)." (1 Cor. 11:28-30).

This however does not mean that every sickness is the result of a specific sin, for diseases can be caused by many other factors.

Healing is a Divine Act (I AM the LORD Who heals you)

Physicians strive very hard to treat the sick, but they do not heal them, for God is the Healer. *Unless God heals, doctors will labor in vain.* Hear what the Lord says, "If you diligently heed the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the LORD who heals you." (Exod. 15:26).

The prophet David says, "...LORD, be merciful to me; heal my soul..." (Ps 41:4). He also says, "O LORD my God, I cried out to You, and You healed me" (Psa. 30:2). And "Bless the LORD, O my soul... Who heals all your diseases." (Ps 103:2-3).

The Bible also says, "And God healed Abimelech, his wife, and his female servants..." (Gen. 20:17).

It is also written, "And the LORD listened to Hezekiah and healed the people." (2Chron 30:20). And Eliphaz the Temanite says, "Behold, happy *is* the man whom God corrects; therefore do not despise the chastening of the Almighty. For He bruises, but He binds up; He wounds, but His hands make whole." (Job 5:17-18; see also Isa. 38 when God healed King Hezekiah from terminal illness and added 15 years to his life). Likewise, Jeremiah prays

“Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved.” (Jer. 17:14).

And when the king of Aram (Syria) sent the commander of his army Naaman the Leper to the king of Israel with a letter saying, “When this letter comes to you, that I have sent Naaman my servant to you, that you may heal him of his leprosy’...when the king of Israel read the letter...he tore his clothes and said, ‘Am I God...that this man sends a man to me to heal him of his leprosy?’” (See 2 Kings 5).

Therefore God is the Healer and He may use doctors and medicines as means of treatment and healing according to His will. In addition, in the sacrament of Anointing the Sick, God gave the priests the gift of healing (Jas 5:14-15).

God Answered Some Prophets’ Prayers for Healing

God granted petitions for healing from several Old Testament prophets, such as Abraham, Moses, Elijah and Elisha. And Lord Jesus bestowed the gift of healing on His apostles when He sent them out, “And when He had called His twelve disciples to *Him*, He gave them power *over* unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease...These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying...and as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.” (Matt 10:1, 5-8).

Likewise, when the apostles healed a sick person, they prayed to Lord Jesus for healing and they healed that person in the name of Jesus Christ. A case in point is when St. Peter healed the man who was lame from birth at the gate of the temple saying to him, “‘Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.’...And immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them—walking, leaping, and praising God.” (Acts 3:6- 8).

We also see that Philip the Evangelist healed many in the name of Christ (Acts 8:5-7), and that St. Peter healed the man who had

been paralyzed for eight years saying, “‘Aeneas, Jesus the Christ heals you. Arise and make your bed.’ Then he arose immediately.” (Acts 9:32-35).

In fact, St. Mark writes that just before His ascension to heaven, Lord Jesus Christ widened the circle of those who perform the sign of healing to numerous saints and believers: “*And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.*” (Mark 16:17-18). The Bible also says of the apostles that they “...Anointed with oil many who were sick, and healed them.” (Mark 6:13).

Christ is God, the Healing Physician in both Testaments:

First, in the Old Testament:

1. In the very last page of the Old Testament, Malachi prophesies of the Healing Christ, saying” But to you who fear My name, the Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings...” (Mal 4:2).

2. Jeremiah prophesies about Christ, the Healing Physician, saying “*Is there no balm in Gilead, is there no physician there? Why then is there no recovery for the health of the daughter of my people?*” *He also prays,* “Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved...” (Jer 17:14).

3. Christ, speaking through the prophet Hosea says “I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely...” (Hos 14:4).

4. David prophesies about the incarnation of the Healing Christ saying, “He sent His word and healed them...” (Ps 107:20).

5. Looking into the future, Isaiah describes the time of Christ and His healing miracles saying, “...’Behold, your God will come...and save you.’ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then the lame shall leap like
a deer,
and the tongue of the dumb sing.” (Isa 35:4-6).

6. Isaiah also says of the Redeeming and Healing Christ “Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows...and by His stripes we are healed.” (Isa 53:4-5).

Secondly, in the New Testament:

The four Gospels are full of the daily healing miracles of Christ received by vast numbers of the sick. As well, His own proclamations and the testimony of the apostles confirm that He is the Healer. Here are some examples:

1. “And when John (the Baptist) had heard in prison about the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples and said to Him, ‘Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?’ Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: *The* blind see and *the* lame walk; *the* lepers are cleansed and *the* deaf hear; *the* dead are raised up and *the* poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me.” (Matt 11:2-6).

2. After the Sermon on the Mount, “...Behold, a leper came and worshiped Him, saying, ‘Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean.’ Then Jesus put out *His* hand and touched him, saying, “I am willing; be cleansed.” Immediately his leprosy was cleansed.” (Matt 8:2-3).

3. “Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, saying, ‘Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented.’ And Jesus said to him, ‘I will come and heal him.’ The centurion answered and said, “Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed... Then Jesus said to the centurion, ‘Go your way; and as you have believed, *so* let it be done for you.’ And his servant was healed that same hour.” (Matt 8: 5-13).

4. “Now when Jesus had come into Peter’s house, He saw his wife’s mother lying sick with a fever. So He touched her hand, and the fever left her. And she arose and served them.” (Matt 8:14-15).

5. “When evening had come, they brought to Him many who

were demon-possessed. And *He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick*, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: ‘*He Himself took our infirmities And bore our sicknesses.*’” (Matt 8:16-17).

6. In the country of the Gergesenes, Christ healed the two demon-possessed *men, who were* coming out of the tombs exceedingly fierce, by casting out the *thousands* of demons who had possessed them (See Matt 8:28-34).

7. In Capernaum, Lord Jesus, by His word, healed the paralytic who was lowered through the roof by four men. (See Mark 2:1-12).

8. “Then one was brought to Him who was demon-possessed, blind and mute; and He healed him...” (Matt 12:22-23)

9. After His transfiguration, Christ healed the boy who was epileptic and severely convulsed by a demon. (See Matt 17:14-18).

10. After His triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, He entered the Temple, “Then *the blind and the lame* came to Him in the temple, and He healed them.” (Matt 21:14).

11. Christ healed the woman who had a flow of blood for twelve years *by the mere act that she touched the hem of His garment*. (See Mark 5:25-34).

12. *Lord Jesus healed the man who was born blind*, even creating new eyes for him. (See John 9).

13. We read about the healing of a multitude of sick people after the Sabbath sunset, “When the sun was setting, all those who had any that were sick with various diseases brought them to Him; and He laid His hands on every one of them and healed them. And demons also came out of many, crying out and saying, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of God!’” (Luke 4:40-41).

14. Lord Jesus said about Himself, “...Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call *the righteous*, but sinners, to repentance.” (Luke 5:31).

15. He healed the man with a withered hand. (See Luke 6:6-11).

16. St Luke records that “...A great multitude of people from all

Judea and Jerusalem, and from the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear Him (Christ) and be healed of their diseases, as well as those who were tormented with unclean spirits. And they were healed. And the whole multitude sought to touch Him, for power went out from Him and healed *them* all.” (Luke 6:17-19).

17. He healed the woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up. (See Luke 13:11-13).

18. Christ healed ten lepers with a single command. (See Luke 17:12-18).

19. He restored and healed the ear of Malchus, the servant of the high priest that Peter had cut off with a sword. (See Luke 22:50-51; John 18:10-11).

20. In Cana of Galilee, Jesus Christ instantaneously healed the dying son of the nobleman with a word, even though the boy was in another town! (See John 4:46-53).

21. He healed the man by the pool of Bethesda who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. (See John 5:1-15)

22. St Peter says of Christ, “...who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil...” (Acts 10:38).

23. In Jericho, Christ restored the sight of Bartimaeus, the blind beggar (See Mark 10: 46-52).

24. It was said of Him “...And as many as touched Him were made well.” (Mark 6:56).

25. The apostle John said, “And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.” (John 20:30-31). St. John concluded his Gospel with “And there are also many other things that Jesus did which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written...” (John 21:25).

The Difference between Christ’s and the Prophets’ Healing

The Old Testament recorded a limited number of healing miracles performed by a few prophets. But these differ greatly from the ones performed by Christ. The healings performed by prophets were the result of God answering their prayers. For example:

- Moses prayed for healing for his sister Miriam from leprosy when she spoke against him. (Nu 12:13)
- Abraham prayed to God; and God healed Abimelech, his wife, and his female servants. (Gen 20:17).
- Elisha prayed to the LORD to strike the Syrian army with blindness, and God did. Then he later prayed that God restore their sight and God granted his petition. (2Kings 6:18-20).

As for Christ's healing miracles, they were not the result of His petitions in prayer, but solely by His authority, command and will. And while healings by prophets were rare, Christ healed multitudes daily, estimated in the tens of thousands in total. Furthermore, by His own authority He gave His disciples gifts of healing. Last, while healings by prophets were not by their own power, Christ's healings were by His own personal power, so that "power went out of Him" for healing, according to the Bible.

The Muslim Koran testifies to Christ's Power to Heal:

It may be of interest to add that even the Muslim Quran testifies that Christ raised the dead and gave sight to those born blind: the official English translation of Quran, has Christ saying, " (Sourat Al-Omran:49).

And as we said earlier, the phrase "by God's permission" (Fr. Augustinos to check this wording), which the Koran added to Christ's proclamation, was never a part of Christ's life and He never said it. This is seen both from history as recorded in the four Gospels and also from theology and logic, for He is God, and whatever He commands happens as discussed in His miraculous healings above.

To sum, since healing is a divine act, and the healer is God, then Christ's healing of tens of thousands of the sick by His own authority, power and will, merely by a word or a touch, prove that He is

God. Let he who wants to believe do so; otherwise, Lord Jesus' following saying to the Jews would apply to him. "...*Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, And seeing you will see and not perceive; For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.*" (Matt 13:15).

PART 7

Christ's Divine Works

THE RESURRECTION

Christ is Sovereign Lord over Life, Death and Resurrection

Christ is Life:

Christ is the creator and source of life. In fact, He is life itself. Let us look at some revelations from the Bible:

Lord Jesus said about Himself:

1. "...I am *the resurrection and the life*. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die." (John 11:25-26).
2. "...I am the way, the truth, and *the life*..." (John 14:6).
3. "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life...the hour is coming, and now is, *when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live.*" (John 5:24-25).
4. "For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself." (John 5:26).
5. "...I have come that they may have life, and that they may

have *it* more abundantly.” (John 10:10).

6. “I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you...*Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.*” (Rev 22:16-17).

The Bible also contains testimonies by others:

7. St. John says, “In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.” (John 1:4).
8. John the Baptist says, “He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.” (John 3:36).
9. The apostle Paul says, “For to me, to live *is* Christ...” (Phil 1:21). And “When Christ *who is* our life appears...” (Col 3:4).
10. There are numerous other verses in the New Testament that attest to this fact, e.g. “...Jesus Christ, *who* has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.” (2Tim 1:10), “For in Him we live and move and have our being...” (Acts 17:28), “And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.” (John 20:30-31), and “For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.” (Rom 8:2).

Christ has Authority over Death:

Christ the Lord has authority over both physical death and spiritual or eternal death. He is the LORD God, Jehovah Adonai and He is the One who was walking in the garden in the cool of the day when Adam and Eve heard His sound, and He is the One who sentenced them to death as a result of their sin of disobedience (Gen 3:8,19). A more accurate translation of the phrase “And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden” is “And they heard the Word (Logos) of God”, the Christ, the second Person of

the Trinity. It was Christ the LORD, the Just Judge who pronounced the death sentence based on His earlier warning “But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” (Gen 2:17). And it was Him, the LORD God who promised salvation and hope of life by His incarnation and redemption, saying that the Seed of the woman (referring to Himself coming in the flesh) shall crush the head of the devil who brought death to mankind. (See Gen 3:15 NIV).

- This is why the New Testament says, “Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil.” (Heb 2:14).
- Lord Jesus said it plainly, “...I have the keys of Hades and of Death.” (Rev 1:18).
- Speaking of John, Christ said to Peter, “...If I will that he remain till I come, what *is that* to you?” (John 21:22).
- “And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on *God* and saying, ‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.’” (Acts 7:59).

Christ also has authority over eternal death (i.e. condemnation) in the lake of fire, for “...He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.’” (Matt 25:41; 24:50-51). This is the second and eternal death (See Rev 20:1, 14). Thus, Lord Jesus Christ is sovereign over life and death, both physical and spiritual, both temporal and eternal.

Christ is the One who Raises the Dead

As one would expect, the life-giver is the One who has the right to end it, for He gives it and takes it. This is echoed by Job who said at the death of his children, “...The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.” (Job 1:21). This is the exclusive prerogative of God, who said about Himself in the Old Testament, “Now see that I, *even I, am* He, and *there is* no God besides Me; I kill and I make alive...” (Deut 32:39;

1Sam 2:6).

It should be noted that “I AM” is the name of God who appeared to Moses in the burning bush, “...I AM WHO I AM...say ‘I AM has sent me...’” (Ex 3:14).

This name means that “I AM self-existent, the source of life and everlasting existence”. By repeatedly applying this name to Himself, Christ declared His divinity, e.g. “I AM the Bread of Life”, “I AM the Good Shepherd”, “I AM the Light of the World”, “I AM the Alpha and Omega”, etc.

This divine work of sovereignty over life, death and resurrection from death that is God’s alone, does not apply to anyone else except Christ the Lord.

To the above verses, we can add the following that deal with raising the dead by Christ’s command, authority and will:

- “Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.” (John 5:28-29).
- “Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and *I will raise him up at the last day.*” (John 6:54).
- “...*Everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.*” (John 6:40).
- “...Of all He (the Father) has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day.” (John 6:39).
- Lord Jesus proved this authority by raising Lazarus from the dead four days after he died (John 11), raising Jairus’ daughter (Matt 9:18,25), and raising the son of the widow of Nain by saying, “...Young man, I say to you, arise.” (Luke 7:14).
- Furthermore, Christ proved His divinity and authority over the resurrection by raising Himself from the dead after 3 days,

just as He had foretold about the “temple” of His body, “...Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” (John 2:19). It is Christ who in the last day will raise all the dead from the beginning of creation to the end of the world. (John 5:28-29; 11:25).

The Difference between Christ’s and the Prophets’ Raising the Dead

Needless to say, the miracles performed by Christ in raising the dead differ from the few performed by two of the Old Testament prophets, namely Elijah and Elisha, for theirs were the result of God answering their prayers, while Christ’s were done by His will, command, authority and power, for He is the Resurrection and will raise all the dead in the last day.

The Witness of the Muslim Quran to Christ’s Resurrection and His Raising the Dead

+ “O Jesus, I will take thee and raise thee to Myself and clear thee of those who blaspheme; I will make those who follow thee superior to those who reject faith, to the Day of Resurrection” (*Al-Imran, 3:55 & Sura Nisaa 158*).

+ “**I raise the dead** by God’s leave” (*Al-Imran: 49*)

+ “**And behold, thou (you: Jesus son of Mary) bring forth the dead** by My leave” (*Sura Maida: the Table 5:113*).

Notice that the Quran made the act of raising the dead exclusive and completely restricted for God alone as it is evident from the following verses:

- 1) “**It is He (God) Who gave you life, will cause you to die, and will again give you life...**” (*Sura Hajj- Pilgrimage- 22:66*).
- 2) “Verily, We shall give life to the dead” (*Sura, Yasin, 36:12*).
- 3) “Who can give life to dry bones and decomposed ones? Say, ‘He will give them life Who created them for the first time!’” (*Sura, Ya-sin 36:78, 79*).
- 4) See also *Sura, Shura:9*)...etc.,

So, if the Quran restricted the divine work of raising the dead to God alone, and in the same time it attributed it -many times- to Christ alone, then this proves that Jesus Christ is God, and the statement “by God’s leave” is irrelevant because as we saw before that God does not delegate His own works to humans.

And let us ask why Jesus Christ alone? Why God did not give His divine works to Mohammad or any other prophet or even to an angel?! It does not need too much intelligent to comprehend that God and the Lord Jesus Christ are ONE, and this was exactly what Christ said clearly and explicitly in the Gospel of St. John 10:30 and John 14: 9).

If any one interpreted that otherwise, he would be either ignorant or a liar, or else the Quran would be a man made false book full of contradictions and forgery.

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PART 8

Christ’s Divine Works

CHRIST SENDING THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is God

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God and is the third Person of the Trinity. He has the names and attributes of God and He performs God’s divine works. Among His names are the Holy Spirit of God, the Spirit of Holiness, the Spirit of the Lord, the Spirit of Christ, the Spirit of Truth, the Spirit of Life and Power and Wisdom. He creates, regenerates, baptizes, guides, testifies and glorifies God the Father and the Son.

God is self-existing, speaking by His Word, alive by His Spirit. Thus theologians call the Divine Self “the Father”, the Divine Word “the Son” and the Divine Spirit “the Holy Spirit”.

God is ONE in substance, essence and divine attributes, but is differentiated in function and divine works in three Persons. It is the True Living God Himself who declared His nature to us and introduced Himself to us as a Triune God or the Holy Trinity.

So, it would be wrong, for instance, to say that the Father came in the flesh, or that the Holy Spirit was crucified, for these are works of redemption that were performed by the Son, Jesus Christ. Yet, all three Persons of the Triune God participated in the great works of creating the world and man, saving mankind, the Resurrection of Christ and of humans, etc.

No Human has Authority over the Spirit of God

No human has authority over God and no creature has authority over the Creator. The Bible clearly says that the Holy Spirit is God and is a Co-Creator. Here are some verses that attest to this:

- “You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; and You renew the face of the earth.” (Psa. 104:30).
- “By the **word** of the **LORD** (the Son) the heavens were made, and all the host of them **by the breath of His mouth** (the Holy Spirit).” (Ps 33:6).
- “**The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.**” (Job 33:4).
- But it is God alone who has authority over His Spirit: “...Your heavenly Father give(s) the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!” (Luke 11:13), “...I am the LORD your God and there is no other...I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh...” (Joel 2:27-28), and it is God alone who sends His Spirit to come over the prophets and apostles.

Christ Sends the Spirit of God

The Lord Jesus said, ““**But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you** from the Father, **the Spirit of truth** who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.” (John 15:26). He also said to His apostles, “If I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; **but if I depart, I will send Him to you.**” (John 16:7), and later

on, “**He breathed on *them*, and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the *sins* of any, they are retained.’**” (John 20:22-23). Moreover, Christ, by the Spirit of God, cast out demons (Matt 12).

Now who has authority over the Holy Spirit of God to pour out, grant, send, give and breathe into the apostles except God Himself? Accordingly, it clearly follows from these verses that Christ is God. For it was He who was born in the flesh from the Holy Spirit as the angel Gabriel announced to the Virgin Mary, “...*The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.*” (Luke 1:35).

Thus Christ is the Holy One and the Son of God. He is the One Who was born of the Holy Spirit and also was “anointed with the Spirit of God” (Proverbs 8:23; Isaiah 61:1; Matthew 3:16; Luke 4:16), and “Who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God” (Heb 9:14). Moreover, Christ is the One who sent the Holy Spirit at Pentecost in the form of tongues of fire that landed on His apostles as Peter explained, “Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God...He poured out this (the Holy Spirit) which you now see and hear” (Acts 2:33).

Furthermore, Lord Jesus said about the Holy Spirit, “He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare *it* to you.” (John 16:14). Naturally, the Holy Spirit does not glorify a human but glorifies God, and does not take anything from man, but from God. So, it follows that if the Holy Spirit glorifies Christ and takes from Christ, then this proves that Christ is God and that Christ’s sending of the Holy Spirit is among His Divine works.

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THE SEVENTH PROOF

Christ's Divine Works

ANGELS AND DEMONS' TESTIMONY OF CHRIST'S DIVINITY

Both the sayings and the works of Christ the Lord clearly attest to the fact that He is far greater than angels, that He is the Lord and Creator of angels, and that angels worship and praise Him and obey His commands. Not only did He cast out demons by His own authority, but He also gave that authority to His apostles, disciples and saints.

This was confirmed by the testimony of angels and demons on numerous occasions as is seen below:

PART 1

ANGELS' TESTIMONY OF CHRIST'S DIVINITY AND LORDSHIP

1. "And I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice: 'Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!' And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: 'Blessing and honor and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!'" (Rev 5:11-13).

2. *Gabriel, the archangel told the Virgin Mary*, “Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest...and of His kingdom there will be no end.” (Luke 1:31-33), adding, “That Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.” (v. 35).
3. *The angel told the Shepherds*, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord...And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!’” (Luke 2:10-14).
4. “And He (Jesus) was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan, and was with the wild beasts; **and the angels ministered to Him**” (Mark 1:13).
5. “**...Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him**” (1Pet 3:21-22).
6. “*The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: ‘Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!’*” (Rev 4:8). **These four living creatures are angels of the highest order, namely Seraphim and Cherubim, and by repeating “holy” 3 times, they address the Father, Son (Christ) and Holy Spirit.**
7. Isaiah’s marvelous vision recorded in chapter 6 in which the Seraphim worship the Lord, and St. John’s explanation in his Gospel that the Lord in that vision was Lord Jesus Christ, “These things Isaiah said when he saw His (Lord Jesus’) glory and spoke of Him.” (Jn 12:41)

8. *The angel told St. Joseph about the divine baby to be born of the Virgin Mary, saying, "you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins...and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, 'God with us.'" (Matt 1:21-23).*
9. *The two angels who appeared to the apostles when Lord Jesus ascended to heaven announced that He would come back in like manner (to judge the world). This confirms that He is God as He can ascend to heaven and come back by His own authority (Acts 1:9-11).*
10. *The testimony of the angels of judgment: "Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and on the cloud sat One like the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, 'Thrust in Your sickle and reap, for the time has come for You to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe.' So He who sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped." (Rev 14:14-16). It is obvious that the One who was sitting on the cloud is Christ who judges the living and the dead, as He himself had explained earlier in the parable of the Wheat and the Tares, "...The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels...The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire." (Matt 13:37-43). Compare this to Daniel's prophecy in Dan 7:13-14 about the Son of Man coming with the clouds and Christ explaining this prophecy and applying it to Himself on many occasions, including Matt 24:30-31; 25:31; 26:63-64.*
11. *St. John says, "And I fell at his (the angel's) feet to worship him. But he said to me, 'See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.'" (Rev 19:9-10). And about the Son is*

said, “*Let all the angels of God worship Him.*” (Heb 1:6).

12. St. Paul says that the Father “...Seated *Him* (Christ) at His right hand in the heavenly *places*, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.” (Eph 1:20-21).
13. **And “That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven (meaning angels), and of those on earth (humans), and of those under the earth (demons)”** (Phil. 2:10).
14. To the above is added the continuous service to Christ the Lord by angels in an unprecedented fashion. While angels may have appeared to prophets a couple of times, angels and archangels appeared many times to herald Christ’s birth, to tell St. Joseph to take the Holy Family to Egypt and later to tell him to return home, to serve Lord Jesus in the wilderness (Mark 1:13), in Gethsemane, at the Resurrection and ascension to heaven. This fulfilled Christ’s prophecy about Himself when He said to Nathanael, “Hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man” (Jn. 1:51). These examples show by word and by deed, both explicitly and implicitly, the testimony of angels for Christ’s divinity and sovereignty as their Creator, Lord, Master, and Sender. The Bible says of Christ: “Who makes His angels spirits and His ministers a flame of fire” (Heb 1:7), and “**Having become so much better than the angels**, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.” (Heb 1:4), and “But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: ‘**Let all the angels of God worship Him**’” (Heb 1:6).

PART 2

The Demons' Confession of the Divinity of Christ

1. *In the temptation of Christ, Satan kept repeating, "If You are the Son of God..." (meaning 'since You are the Son of God...').*
2. *When Lord Jesus was about to cast out demons from the madman of the country of the Gadarenes, the unclean spirits cried out in the demonized man who "...Fell down before Him, and with a loud voice said, 'What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me... And they begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss... Now a herd of many swine was feeding there on the mountain. So they begged Him that He would permit them to enter them. And He permitted them..." (Luke 8:26-35). Here we see the testimony of demons that Lord Jesus is the Son of God, that He has authority to send them to the abyss and to torment them, and that they need His permission.*
3. **"And demons also came out of many, crying out and saying, 'You are the Christ, the Son of God!'" (Luke 4:41).**
4. **"Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, 'Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name.' And He said to them, 'I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions (i.e. demons), and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.'" (Luke 10:17-19).**
5. **"The demons believe—and tremble!" (Jas 2:19). They tremble because they know that there is no sacrifice for their sins, no salvation for them, and Christ has authority to send them to hell.**

6. “Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists took it upon themselves to call the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, ‘We exorcise you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches.’...And the evil spirit answered and said, ‘Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?’ Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded...and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified.” (Acts 19:13-17).

These verses, among many others, show that Christ is the Lord and Creator of angels and demons, (demons were angels before their fall), and that even demons testified to this.

Contrasting those humans who deny the divinity of Christ to demons who confess that Christ is God, shows how sad the state of the former is, having reached a lower state than demons!

* * *

THE EIGHTH PROOF

THE ADORATION OF CHRIST AS GOD

All would agree that the adoration that is due to God alone must not be offered to a mere human. Yet, such adoration has been offered to Christ. Let us examine that adoration.....

First: Worshipping Christ

Worship is due to God alone; it is part of adoring God as commanded by Him, "*You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.*" (Matt. 4:10; Deut. 6:13). This of course should not be confused with bowing to dignitaries in greeting.

This is why St. Peter objected to being worshiped when "Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshiped *him*. But Peter lifted him up, saying, 'Stand up; I myself am also a man.'" (Acts 10:25-26). Likewise, the angel protested when St. John worshiped him saying, "See *that you do not do that!* I am your fellow servant...Worship God!" (Rev 19:10; 22:8).

Also the Muslim Quran agrees with the Old and the New Testaments that worship should be addressed to God alone, "But fall te down in prostration to God, and adore Him" (Sura *El-Najm* / the Star: 62).

- Now while both the New and Old Testaments restricted worship to God alone, we find that the only exception is calling all creation to worship Christ since He is God Incarnate who came to earth in the flesh to redeem mankind and to show us God's perfect attributes. The Bible says, "*Let all the angels of God worship Him (Christ).*" (Heb. 1:6).
- Prior to Christ's incarnation, He appeared in the form of a man or of an angel to Abraham, Joshua, Gideon and Manoah, the father of Samson, and they all worshiped Him. (Gen. 18:19; Josh 5:14; Judges 13:21).

- Psalm 72 contains a prophecy about Christ: “*Yes, all kings shall fall down before Him; All nations shall serve Him.*” (Ps 72:11).
- In Daniel’s vision, he worshiped Christ who appeared to him as Son of Man. (Dan. 10:15-19).
- Ezekiel fell down and worshiped Christ who appeared to him in a vision. (Ezek 1; 2:1).

During Christ’s earthly ministry, many worshiped Him and He did not object to this. Here are some examples:

1. “And behold, a leper came and *worshiped Him*, saying, ‘Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean.’ Then Jesus put out *His* hand and touched him, saying, ‘I am willing; be cleansed.’ Immediately his leprosy was cleansed.” (Matt 8:2-3).
2. After Lord Jesus healed the man who was blind from birth, He asked him, “do you believe in the Son of God?” He answered and said, ‘Who is He, Lord that I may believe in Him?’ And Jesus said to him, ‘You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you.’ Then he said, “Lord, I believe!” **And he *worshiped Him.***” (John 9:35-38).
3. The Samaritan leper, out of the ten lepers that Christ healed, returned “And *fell down on his face at His feet*, giving Him thanks...” (Luke 17:16).
4. “When Simon Peter saw it (the miracle of a huge catch of fish), he *fell down at Jesus’ knees*, saying, ‘Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!’” (Luke 5:8).
5. After Christ’s Resurrection, the two Marys “...Came and held Him by the feet and *worshiped Him.*” (Matt 28:9).
6. “Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee... When they saw Him, they *worshiped Him...*” (Matt 28:17).
7. “Now it came to pass, while He (Christ) blessed them (the

eleven apostles, other disciples and the women, some 120 in total), that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven. And they *worshiped Him*, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy.”(Luke 24:51-52).

8. The Bible says that the angels, humans and demons worship Lord Jesus, “...(That He was given) the name which is above every name, that *at the name of Jesus every knee should bow*, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and *that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord...*” (Phil 2:9-10).
9. “Now when He (Christ) had taken the scroll, the four living creatures (archangels) and the twenty-four elders *fell down before the Lamb (Christ)*, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song, saying: ‘You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood.’” (Rev 5:8-9).
10. The Bible says that in the last day, “...We shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written: ‘*As I live, says the LORD, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall confess to God.*’” (Rom 14:10-11).

Second: Praying to Lord Jesus

Prayer is worship that is due to God alone and is a link between a person and God, his Creator; thus it cannot be offered to other humans, or to angels who are servants of God. In fact, prayer is the oldest and best-known means of worshiping God.

The book of Psalms contains hundreds of prayers to God, including, “O You who hear prayer, to You all flesh will come.” (Psa. 65:2), and “Everyone who is godly shall pray to You” (Psa. 32:6). This is confirmed countless times throughout the Scriptures. Conversely, the Bible derides those who pray to idols, saying, “They have no knowledge, who carry the wood of their carved image, and pray to a god that cannot save.” (Isa. 45:20).

Now while the Bible forbids praying to anyone but God, it teaches to offer prayer to Christ and the necessity of praying in the name of Christ, as seen in the following examples:

1. “And they (the Jews) stoned Stephen as he was calling on **God and saying, ‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.’** Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, ‘Lord, do not charge them with this sin.’ And when he had said this, he fell asleep (died).” (Acts 7:59-60).
2. The Bible says that **Christians were calling on the name of Lord Jesus** (See Acts 9:14).
3. **The thief who was crucified on the right hand of Christ prayed to Him saying, “Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.”** (Luke 23:42).
4. After Christ ascended to heaven, the eleven apostles prayed to Him to reveal His choice for a replacement for Judas Iscariot. (See Acts 1:24).
5. St. Paul wrote “To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called *to be* saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord” (1Cor 1:2).
6. And “*Whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.*” (Rom 10:13).
7. **Lord Jesus Himself said, “And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.”** (John 14:13-14). He also said, “**Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.**” (John 16:24).

Since Lord Jesus said, “I and My Father are one.” (John 10:30), and since we believe that the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are one God- “For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word (Son), and the Holy Spirit; and these three are

one.” (1John 5:7)- then it is permissible both theologically and scripturally to offer prayer to any of the three Persons of the Trinity. This is confirmed by the Tradition of the Orthodox Church and by the sayings of the Patristic Fathers. For example, the Basilic Liturgy is addressed to the Father, while the Gregorian Liturgy is addressed to the Son. Likewise, the Prayer of the third hour has portions addressed to the Holy Spirit, saying, “O heavenly King he Comforter the spirit of truth Who are in all places and fills all things the treasury of goodness and the giver of life, graciously come, O Good one, and dwell within us and cleanse us of all defilement and save our souls.”

Third: Offering Adoration and Praise to Christ

1. St. John says in Revelation, “Then I looked, and I heard the voice of **many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice: ‘Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!’** And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: ‘Blessing and honor and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!’” (Rev 5:11-13).
2. St. Paul, in offering a doxology to Lord Jesus says, “...*He who is* the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light...to whom *be* honor and everlasting power. Amen.” (1Tim. 6:15-16).
3. St. Peter writes, “But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him *be* the glory both now and forever. Amen” (1Pet 3:18; see also Rev 1:4-6).
4. The apostle Paul calls himself, “...A bondservant of Jesus Christ” (Rom 1:1).

Fourth: Preaching and Evangelization in the Name of Christ

Jesus Christ is the subject of preaching, evangelization and teaching in Christianity, for He Himself said, "...Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations..." (Luke 24:46).

Christ the Lord also said to His apostles, "...Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved..." (Mark 16:15-16). Likewise, St. Paul says, "But we preach Christ crucified" (1Cor. 1:23).

Fifth: Baptism in the Name of Christ

Lord Jesus instructed His disciples saying "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, **baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.**" (Matt 28:19). This signifies complete equality among the three Persons of the Trinity. And the fact that "*name*" is singular shows that the Three Persons of the Trinity are One God. As to baptism, it is the seal of faith and the new birth of the spirit from above; it signifies sanctification and consecration to Christ.

The Bible says, "For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ." (Gal 3:27), and St. Peter preached, "...Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:38).

Six: All Seven Sacraments are performed in the Name of Christ just as in the Name of the Father and the Holy Spirit.

Seven: The Father and the Holy Spirit Honor and Glorify Christ

1. As examples of this, Lord Jesus said:

- "**And the Father Himself, who sent Me, has testified of Me**" (John 5:37).
- "**I am the One who bears witness of Myself, and the Father who sent Me bears witness of Me.**" (John 8:18).

- **“It is My Father who honors Me”** (John 8:54).
 - **“Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: ‘Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You.’”** (John 17:1).
2. **At the baptism of Lord Jesus, the Heavenly Father testified and glorified Him saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”** (Matt 3:17).
 3. This same testimony by the Father was repeated at the Transfiguration of Christ, adding the words **“Hear Him!”** (Matt 17:5).
 4. St. Peter confirmed this saying, **“(We) were eyewitnesses of His (Christ’s) majesty. For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: ‘This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.’ And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.”** (2Pet 1:16-18).
 5. The fact that the Father raised the Son from the dead glorifies the Son (Rom 6:4; Eph. 1:20). The Father also seated the Son at His right hand and put His enemies and all things under His feet, thus glorifying Him beyond measure (Psa. 110:1; Eph. 1:20-22).
 6. **And the supreme glorification of the Father for the Son is that “The Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father...”** (John 5:22-23).
 7. **Likewise, the Holy Spirit glorified Lord Jesus by descending from heaven like a dove, and remaining upon Him and by testifying of Him** (John 1:31-34; 15:26).
 8. Christ also said of the Holy Spirit, **“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all**

truth...He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare *it* to you.” (John 16:13-14).

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THE NINTH PROOF

THE WITNESS OF HISTORY AND PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

THE WITNESS OF HISTORY TO THE DEITY OF CHRIST

In these last days, Satan is working desperately to drown the world in a deluge of doubts, fallacies, atheistic ideas, materialistic outlook, sexual aberrations, flood of drugs and all sorts of serious crimes. Furthermore, Satan has enticed people to use or rather abuse many of the scientific and technological discoveries for destructive purposes such as nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, just as the Internet, television, videos and satellite have become major sources of pornography, corruption, filth and poisonous ideas.

Cloning has wrongly been used to call man creator equal to God, and space discoveries have been used to cast doubts about the existence of God rather than as evidence of His existence and infinite wisdom and power.

Liberty and democracy in the modern world, in America, Canada, Europe and Australia have been used, to separate God from society and educational institutions, and this in the greatest nations that until very recently were considered Christian and had worldwide missionary programs. How true is the prophecy of St. Paul, written nearly 2,000 years ago:

“Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons.” (1Tim 4:1).

Is this not what Lord Jesus was referring to when He talked about the darkest days that precede His second coming, saying, “*Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?*” (Luke 18:8).

Among the campaigns of casting doubts on established facts and first principles is a virulent attempt, not only to cast doubts on the divinity of Christ, but also about His historicity, claiming that there is no historical evidence to prove that He ever walked the earth!

In an effort to bring those atheists back to their senses, and more importantly to protect the innocent from their deception, we present the following facts:

First: Christ is the Centre of History that divides it into Two Parts:

The calendar that is used worldwide starts with the birth of Christ, regardless of whether a nation is big or small, developed or not, Muslim, Jewish or atheist! Thus, when billions of people in all nations quote the day's date, they are referring to the time elapsed since the birth of Christ.

It is evident that by His birth, Christ has asserted His authority over history and time, dividing it into two parts: that before Him is called B.C., while that after Him is denoted A.D.

Clearly, this fact alone is the strongest proof not only of the historicity of Christ, but also of His divinity, for what human could have such an influence on all generations throughout the whole wide world with all its continents and countries, even the non-Christians?!

Secondly: The Testimony of the New Testament

The four gospels and the book of Acts are considered the history books of the New Testament, for they recorded the life of Christ, His sayings, teachings, movements, works and divine miracles. Inspired by the Holy Spirit and written by eyewitnesses such as Matthew, Mark and John) and close companions to eyewitnesses (Luke), these books recorded His miraculous conception by the Holy Spirit and His birth from a virgin, as well as a few of His miracles, e.g. raising the dead, restoring sight to the blind, healing serious incurable diseases simply by a word or a touch, and His author-

ity and power to cast out demons, to still raging sea storms, to walk on water, to pass through closed doors, etc.

These history books also described Christ's crucifixion, death, resurrection and ascension to heaven. They showed His moral perfection, absolute holiness, abounding mercies and amazing wisdom and love – even for those who crucified Him, forgiving them and interceding for them!

Indeed, the history books of the New Testament present unquestionable and irrefutable proof that Christ was not only a historical figure but also that He is God. Similarly, the historical, prophetic and wisdom books of the Old Testament referred to Christ as God as we have already discussed. This was foretold by a consensus of the prophets since the beginning of creation through prophecies inspired by the Holy Spirit, through symbols and through pre-incarnate appearances by Christ. The Bible confirms this, saying, "For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." (Rev 19:10), and "To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins" (Acts 10:43).

Undoubtedly the Bible, the inspired Word of God, is the greatest and truest history. It testifies that after His Resurrection, Christ appeared to more than 600 people, 500 of them at one time (1 Cor. 15:1-6), and that many of them were still alive when St. Paul wrote that.

Consider also how St. Luke, a physician, meticulously researched and recorded the political and civil dates in the first two verses of the third chapter of his gospel - dates that agree with secular history: "**Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, while Annas and Caiaphas were high priests, the word of God came to John...!**" (Luke 3:1-2).

See also, how accurate historian St. Luke was when he recorded, "**It came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This**

census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria.”
(Luke 2:1-2).

* * *

Thirdly: the Realization of Christ’s Own Prophecies is History And Proves His Deity

Christ foretold the destruction of some cities such as Capernaum and Chorazin, which came to pass; they were wiped out off the face of the earth. He also predicted the destruction of Jerusalem, which took place in 70 A.D., some 40 years after His death, resurrection and ascension to heaven.

Lord Jesus predicted the betrayal by Judas Iscariot, the denial by Peter and his restoration; all these came to pass. He foretold the preaching of the gospel to the ends of the earth prior to His Second Coming, and this has largely been achieved.

The Lord Jesus Christ predicted the persecution and hatred of His followers by the world, saying, **“In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer I have overcome the world”** (John 16:33), **“You will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake”** (Matt 24:9), and He explained the reason of this strange hatred saying, **“You are the light of the world...everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed,”** (Matt. 5:14 & John 3:20); also, **“Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves.”** (Matt 10:16), and **“...The world hates you...they will also persecute you”** (John 15:19-20). All these prophecies came to pass, for the world has not seen centuries of such terrible persecutions and bloody torture and martyrdom as occurred in the first four centuries of Christianity. Even today, persecution of Christians is rampant and extensive in almost all the Islamic countries such as Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Iran, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Turkey, Nigeria, Libya, Iraq, Morocco, Algeria and Indonesia, Malaysia and many parts of India...etc. Communist countries also persecute Christians such as China, Curia and the previous Soviet Union before its fall.

Prophecies that became History

Similarly, Christ's prophecies about the signs that would precede His Second Coming and the end of the world came true, witness the return of the Jews to Israel, the preaching of the gospel throughout the world, the persecutions, apostasy, cooling off of the love of many, devastating earthquakes, famines, plagues, wars, and the coming of false prophets who lead many astray, etc. (Matt. 24; Mark 13).

Clearly, the One whose eyes penetrate time, know the unknown and see the distant future is God who is Omniscient (All-Knowing). Therefore, the actual realizations of all Christ's prophecies that have become part of history prove both His historicity and His divinity. It has been said, "History is His story"! Christ is the Lord of history who sees the past, present and future laid bare before Him.

Fourthly: The History of the Church is the Best Witness to the Divinity of Christ

- * The history of the church testifies powerfully to the divinity of Christ. This applies both to the universal church and especially to the Coptic Orthodox Church. Through the shed blood of over a million martyrs, the church testified that Christ is Lord and God, and that He is One with the Father in essence.
- * The church has also testified, by its teachings, Tradition, liturgies and decisions of ecumenical councils, that Christ is God Incarnate who came in the flesh to save the world. The church fought battles of faith against numerous heresies, and staunchly defended the divinity of Christ in the first Council of Nicea (325 A.D.), ex-communicated Arius and formulated the Nicene Creed that is recited in churches until today.
- * In that Creed, all the Orthodox and Catholic churches, billions around the world recite in every service:

"We believe in One Lord, Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all ages. Light of

light, true God of true God. Begotten not created. Of O n e essence with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and of the Virgin Mary, and became man. He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, suffered and was buried. On the third day He rose from the dead, according to the Scriptures, and ascended into the heavens,...He will come again in His glory to judge the living and the dead, whose kingdom shall have no end....etc.”

- * Likewise, the church testified of the deity of Christ in the sermons, writings and teachings of hundreds of the Patristic Fathers of the early centuries after Christ’s ascension, including the following saints: Ignatius, Polycarp, Ireneas, Papias, Athanathius, Pontynus, Didymus, Clement of Alexandria, Origen, Cyril the Great, John Chrysostom, Jerome, Augustine, Gregory The Theologian, Basil, Eusebius of Caesarea - who is known as “the Father of Church History”, and others who lived in the first 5 centuries and whose writings we still have today.

Fifth: Some Testimonies from Secular History

- * In his book “Church History”, the historian Eusebius of Caesarea - who lived from 264 to 340 A.D. – wrote, “When the news of Christ’s Resurrection spread, Pontius Pilate – the Roman Governor who had condemned Christ to death by crucifixion – sent to Emperor Tiberius reports of the amazing story of Christ’s Resurrection, and gave descriptions of other miracles performed by Christ the Lord.” (Page 67).
- * Furthermore, Tertullian, who was born in Carthage in 160 A.D., confirmed these events. It is noteworthy that his father was a Roman centurion, while he himself worked as a lawyer in Rome and converted to Christianity in 180 A.D.
- * Philo wrote 5 books in which he described the disasters and catastrophes that befell the Jews during the reign of emperor Gaius who succeeded Caesar Tiberius, as a result of their crucifixion of Christ and their hypocritical shout, “We have no

king but Caesar” and their cry about Christ “Crucify Him, crucify Him, His blood is upon us and our children!”

* **Josephus, the famous Jewish historian who was a contemporary of Christ, referred to these matters in book 18 of his epic work “Antiquities”.** He also described the death of King Herod Agrippa I - who had the apostle James, the son of Zebedee and the brother of St. John, killed by the sword- in details that match what St. Luke wrote in the book of Acts, chapter 12.

* **Josephus also described in accurate detail the story of John the Baptist,** and mentioned Herodias by name, stating that she was the wife of king Herod Antipas, who married her after divorcing his first wife - the daughter of Aretas, king of Petra – and separating Herodias from her husband, Antipas’ half brother Philip I. He also wrote that Herod Antipas killed John the Baptist because of Herodias and declared war on Aretas, and that in this war, Herod Antipas’ army got annihilated and that he met this disaster because of his crime against John the Baptist. All this is in agreement with the Tradition of the Church.

In this context, Josephus agreed with the Gospel account that John the Baptist was exceedingly righteous, and that King Herod Antipas lost his throne because of Herodias, and that he got banished with her to Gall (Josephus’ Antiquities, Book 18, and Eusebius’ Church History, translated by Rev. Fr. Morcos Dawoud, pages 49, 50)

* Noteworthy is the fact that Eusebius, Bishop of Caesarea, wrote in his “Church History” the story of how Christ healed King Abgar, king of Edessa (currently Raha) through Thomas His disciple just as He had promised. He wrote, “When the news about the divinity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ spread abroad among all mankind due to His miracle-working power, He attracted countless people from far-away nations who hoped to get healed from their diseases. For example, King Abgar, who ruled the nations beyond the Euphrates, when he got afflicted by a terrible incurable disease, and having heard of the name and miracles of Jesus which were attested by all, he sent to Him a per-

sonal message with an emissary begging Him to heal him...etc.”

This incident was confirmed in the official records of Edessa that included the works of King Abgar, and is among “the many other things that Jesus performed which are not recorded in the gospels” (John 21:25).

- Furthermore, Eusebius mentions that Josephus, after writing about John the Baptist, went on in the same book to talk about our Savior saying:
- **“And there lived at that time Jesus, a wise man, if indeed it is proper to call him a man, for he did amazing deeds, taught the people and they accepted truth joyfully, and attracted a large number of Jews as well as Greeks to himself. He was the Christ. And when Pontius Pilate condemned him to death by crucifixion due to accusations by our officials, those who had loved him from the beginning continued to do so, for he appeared to them alive again on the third day. The blessed prophets had prophesied earlier of these things, as well as of other countless wonders. Moreover, his followers, who are called Christians after him, still exist to the present day.”**

Do we need proofs from history when the best testimony comes from enemies?!

* * *

Six: The Testimony of Personal Experience:

The witness of practical personal experience is the strongest testimony and proof of the divinity of Christ, and that He is indeed the Savior of the world.

Millions of people everywhere and over a span of 2,000 years have experienced firsthand Christ the Lord as the living God who saves, liberates, heals and cleanses from the leprosy of sin. He is able to change the life of every sinner who believes in Him and comes to Him. He changes atheists into believers and missionaries,

adulterers into pure and godly people, thieves and greedy people into honest, giving people. He breaks the chains of slavery to Satan and sinful habits, turning the captives into liberated saints whose lives are characterized by purity, honesty, unselfish love, giving, sacrifice, truthfulness, humility, meekness, contentedness, courage, good works, and steadfast witness to the truth even at the cost of their lives.

Yes, whoever has known Christ and has experienced Him as a living and mighty Savior, loving Redeemer and Good Shepherd, testifies with St. Thomas saying,

“My Lord and My God” (John 20:28).

Amen.



The Divinity of Christ

The doctrine of Christ's Divinity is considered the foundation and Corner-stone of Christianity. It is the ROCK on which the Lord Jesus Christ said that He will build His church (Matthew 16:18). Christianity revolves around the Divinity or Deity of Christ and that Christ is LORD and GOD. Unless Christ is God, there would be no Trinity...no Incarnation...No Redemption...no Salvation and no Eternal Life for mankind. It is possible that millions of people live and die without hearing about all the prophets, and yet their salvation would not be affected. But no one can be saved without believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world.

In this book you will read about:

- + The prophecies focusing on Christ
- + Christ's declarations on His Divinity
- + Christ's Divine names and titles
- + The Divine attributes of Christ
- + The Divine works of Christ
- + The testimony of angels and demons
- + The Divine honor of Christ
- + Testimony of history and personal experience