

# Chapter 1

## THE DEITY OF THE SON

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God (John 1:1).*

**M**ake no mistake about it. The infallible Word of God clearly identifies Jesus Christ as God. He is “the great God” (Titus 2:13), “the mighty God” (Isaiah 9:6), and “the true God” (1 John 5:20). Full and complete deity is ascribed to Him: “The Word was God” (John 1:1). Although a Jew according to the flesh, He is the One “who is over all, God blessed for ever” (Romans 9:5).<sup>1</sup>

To know Jesus Christ is to know God (John 14:8-9). To see Jesus Christ is to see God: “He that hath seen me hath seen the Father” (John 14:9). Christ is the “image of the invisible God” (Colossians 1:15), “the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person” (Hebrews 1:3). “In him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily” (Colossians 2:9). “All men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father” (John 5:23). We honor the Father as God, and we must honor the Son in the same way. The Son of God is not honored when His deity is denied.

Witnesses to Christ’s deity are many. Peter referred to Jesus Christ as God (2 Peter 1:1).<sup>2</sup> The apostle Paul declared Christ’s deity in several places (Titus 2:13; Philippians 2:6; Romans 9:5). Isaiah identified the Messiah as God (Isaiah 7:14; 9:6). Worshiping the risen Lord, Thomas said, “My Lord and my God” (John 20:28) and Jesus did not rebuke him for this. What Thomas said was true.

Because Jesus Christ is God, He is all that God is. The Lord Jesus fully possesses all the attributes of deity. He is holy (Luke 1:35), righteous (1 John 2:1), eternal (Micah 5:2), unchangeable (Hebrews 13:8), omnipotent (Revelation 1:8; 22:12-13), omnipresent (Matthew 28:20), and omniscient (John 2:24-25; 6:64; 16:30). Every attribute that belongs to the Father belongs to the Son: "All things that the Father hath are mine" (John 16:15).

Because Jesus Christ is God, He can perform works that only God can do. Only God is the Creator, and the Bible declares that by the Son all things were created (John 1:3; Colossians 1:16). Only God can forgive sins, and Jesus Christ forgave sins (Mark 2:5-7). Only God answers prayer, and the Lord Jesus said, "If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it" (John 14:14). Only God will sit on the final throne of judgment, and the Scriptures identify Jesus Christ as the final judge of all men (John 5:22,27).

Cults and liberal theologians commonly deny the full deity of Jesus Christ. Unbelieving hearts refuse to face up to who He really is.

The term *God* (the Hebrew *Elohim*) may be applied to the true God (Genesis 1:1) and also to false gods (Exodus 20:3). However, the sacred name *Jehovah* (written in capital letters as LORD or GOD in the Old Testament) is applicable to none but deity. It is derived from the verb *to be* and communicates that Jehovah is the One who was, who is, and who ever shall be (Revelation 1:8). The Lord Himself jealously guards this name and all that it stands for, as seen in the following two passages: Psalm 83:18, "That men may know that thou, whose name alone is JEHOVAH, art the most high over all the earth"; and Isaiah 42:8, "I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another." Thus no greater proof of deity could be presented concerning Christ than that He should rightfully be called Jehovah.

Consider the following evidence that the Lord Jesus Christ is rightfully called Jehovah:

1. In Zechariah 12 Jehovah is speaking (see verses 1 and 4). In verse 10 Jehovah says, "They shall look upon me whom they have pierced." This can refer to no one but Christ (John 19:37 and Revelation 1:7).

2. Jehovah of the Old Testament declares Himself to be the first and the last (Isaiah 44:6). In the New Testament Jesus Christ is said to be the first and the last (Revelation 1:8,11,17-18; 22:13).

3. In Isaiah 6:5 the prophet said, "Mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD [Jehovah] of hosts." Isaiah saw Jehovah! The apostle John referred to this event in John 12:41 and made it clear that the person whom Isaiah saw was actually Jesus Christ: "These things said Esaias [Isaiah], when he saw his [Christ's] glory, and spake of him."

4. In Psalm 23:1 David declared that Jehovah is the great Shepherd of the sheep. The New Testament identifies Jesus Christ as the great Shepherd of the sheep (Hebrews 13:20; John 10:11,14).

5. The Old Testament repeatedly refers to Jehovah as Israel's Rock (Deuteronomy 32:3-4,18; Psalm 18:2; 62:1-2). The New Testament clearly identifies this Rock as Christ (1 Corinthians 10:4).

6. Jehovah declares Himself to be the only Savior (Isaiah 43:10-11; 45:21). There is no Savior apart from Him! In the New Testament Peter declared that Jesus is the only Savior (Acts 4:12). In Isaiah 45:22 Jehovah says, "Look unto me, and be ye saved . . . there is none else." In John 3:14-16 we are told to look unto the crucified One to be saved.

7. In Isaiah 45:23 Jehovah says, "That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear." This passage is applied to Christ in Philippians 2:9-11. He is the One before whom all will someday bow. Every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.<sup>3</sup>

8. In Isaiah 24:23 and Zephaniah 3:15-17 we learn that Jehovah Himself will reign in Jerusalem during the coming kingdom age and He will be in the midst of His people. The

New Testament clearly identifies this future, millennial King as Jesus Christ (Revelation 19:11-16; 20:4,6).

9. In Isaiah 40:3 we read that the forerunner was to prepare the way for the coming of Jehovah. The same passage is applied to Christ in Mark 1:1-3. John the Baptist prepared the way for Christ.

10. Isaiah 8:13-14 prophetically states that “the LORD” (Jehovah) will be “for a stone of stumbling and for a rock of offence.” These verses are applied to Jesus Christ in 1 Peter 2:7-8.

11. In Psalm 34:8 we are invited to taste and see that Jehovah is good. This passage is clearly alluded to in 1 Peter 2:3. Referring to the goodness and graciousness of Jesus Christ, Peter wrote, “If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.”

12. The Old Testament promises salvation and deliverance to those who call on the name of Jehovah (Joel 2:32). In the New Testament this passage is used to present a promise of salvation to all those who call on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 10:13; Acts 2:21; also see Acts 2:36).

The above evidence shows beyond doubt that the name *Jehovah* may rightfully be applied to Jesus Christ.<sup>4</sup> Since this term is applicable only to deity and can rightfully be applied to Jesus Christ, we must conclude that the Lord Jesus is Jehovah God. He is the Son of God (Matthew 16:16) and He is God the Son (1 John 5:20; Hebrews 1:8). To Him be glory and honor, both now and forevermore!<sup>5</sup>