

Course 102 – Understanding Jesus Christ
An apostolic teaching of the Global School of Ministry

COURSE OBJECTIVES

One single personality be-straddles the course of history, He existed before time. In the Bible, He was first mentioned on the day of creation as part of the God head. On the day of the fall, He was prophesied as the seed of the woman. While most people of other faiths are not averse to discussions of God as powerful and all sufficient, they immediately bristle with anger when you make mention of Jesus Christ. Why is this so? These questions are critical to the understanding of who Jesus Christ is:

- Who is this Jesus Christ?
- Why did God need to be incarnated in human form?
- Why did Jesus come?
- What are the implications of having a proper knowledge of the Biblical and not merely religious Christ?

This course will expound these dimensions of Jesus Christ that believers need to know since He is the reason for our being and the one to whose vineyard we are called to co-labour:

- i) The Pre-existent Christ
- ii) The Christ of prophecy spanning what was said of Him from Genesis to Malachi
- iii) The Incarnate Christ
- iv) The Paschal Lamb - His suffering, crucifixion and death.
- v) The risen Jesus and glorified Christ who reigns as king in the hearts of the redeemed so that through them, He exerts and expands the kingdom mandate where He plants them so that they dispense His presence and power where they live, work and have influence.
- vi) The Coming King whose return is now imminent to establish the Kingdom in its fullness and thereafter ensure that God is all in all.

What does the Word say of Him in each of these dimensions and how do they affect what we believe, teach or preach?

This course will also sketch an outline of the biblical presentation of Christ in these offices: Creator, Saviour, Redeemer, Justifier, Lord, Enabler, Model, Shepherd, High Priest and King.

Lesson 1

Who is this Jesus Christ? An Introductory treatise

This is the core question of the ages. In the Old Covenant, the encounter of Moses with YHWH on Mount Sinai produced such a transformative effect that when he came down, they could not behold his face. The people of Israel had to relate to Moses only when a veil covered his face [Exodus 34:27–35]. From that day, the veil beclouded the ability of the people of God to discern Him fully [2 Corinthians 3:13–15]. When therefore that which was prophesied concerning the Seed of the woman who was to redeem humanity from the grip of Satan manifested in the form of a tiny tot at Bethlehem, there was no way they would accept Him as the Messiah. Their reticence had historical and political undertones as well. At the time God was incarnated as the Son, Israel was under Roman rule (The *Leg of Iron* in Daniel's epic interpretation of the awesome dream of Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 2:24–47). This followed earlier captivities to Greece (the *Thigh and Belly of Bronze*); Medo-Persia the *Chest and Arms of Silver*) and Babylon (*Head of Gold*).

For four hundred years after the book of Malachi, the light had gone out in Israel, the voice of the Lord was not heard and despair had set in over the way they were treated by their Roman oppressors. The people of Israel in this valley of despair sensed that YHWH was up to something extraordinary. However in their normal human mindset, all they were looking up to was a liberator. A political messiah with real political clout who would defeat their oppressors and set up the long promised kingdom which would follow up on the earlier glorious eras enjoyed under David and his son Solomon when Israel was the Crown Jewel of the nations.

When John the Baptist appeared on the scene with his distinctive clothing and powerful sermons, the boldness and authority with which he spoke caused them to believe that he was the man. It was perfectly in order for Israel to flock to John who was of the priestly lineage, whose father was a priest of national renown and who lived an exceptionally out of this world life. Israel even knew of his extraordinary birth and how an angel appeared to his father; how both parents conceived him out of season and how the mouth of Zacharias was only loosed when naming his son [Luke 1: 5-25, 57–80]. True to his mission and assignment however, John plainly told the expectant nation that he was not the one they were waiting for [Matthew 3:1–12] but their wait was not for long. One day as John baptized the obscure carpenter of Nazareth; Jesus Christ, the heavens opened as God the Father and the Holy Spirit confirmed His divinity and mission [Matthew 3:13–17, John 1:29-34].

To suggest that the tot in the crib at Bethlehem was anything more than a mere human was clearly sacrilege and heresy to the men of Israel. When the young Jesus at the age of 12 confounded the learned men with His deep understanding of the real essence of the Torah, not a few people were dazed. It was only Mary and Joseph who were privy to a deep secret: *this was no ordinary human*. This was the very Son of God who was conceived supernaturally when the Holy Spirit planted Him in the womb of Mary and whose grand assignment was to redeem humanity and set up the Kingdom which had been lost in Adam (Please read the accounts in Luke chapters 1 and 2).

Not leaving the revelation of Jesus to the opinion of men, God supernaturally orchestrated a series of supernatural signs and prophetic fulfillment to attest that this was indeed no ordinary prophet and certainly not a mere mortal. Angels who were amazed at the extraordinary events they witnessed were dispatched to announce Him [Matthew 1:18–25].

Wise men were also dispatched from the East, following His star to pay homage. Herod quivered in fear as it dawned on him that if indeed this was the promised Son of David, his suzerainty over the Jews was in jeopardy [**Matthew 2:1-12**]. As he panicked, Herod caused all infants in Jerusalem to be slain, thus fulfilling one of the Messianic prophecies in the book of [**Jeremiah 31:15, Matthew 2:16-18**]. The flight of Joseph and Mary with the infant Jesus to Egypt fulfilled another of the Messianic prophecies in **Hosea 11:1**. When they returned to Israel, concern for the safety of the child Jesus was to drive Mary and Joseph to make their home in Nazareth, thus fulfilling another Messianic prophecy [**Matthew 2:19-23**].

To understand Jesus it is important to review the prophecies concerning him before He was born, and if these prophesy were fulfilled.

Jesus Christ in the Old Testament

Visit any part of the world today, talk to people of any religion, no matter how committed they are to their particular religion if they know anything about history, they will have to admit that there has never been a man like Jesus Christ of Nazareth. He is the most unique personality of all time. He is the greatest leader, the greatest teacher, the holiest man who has ever lived and the greatest personality of all time. He is the only begotten son of God. He is the Saviour of all mankind. He is the one who restored and changed man's relationship with God. He is the only one who can forgive sin. He is God. Jesus forever changed the way God relates to mankind. Sure, there are scriptural examples of God's catastrophic judgment on sin but God's greatest act of judgment was when He placed His entire wrath upon Jesus for our sins. This forever satisfied God's wrath and according to **2 Corinthians 5:19**, God no longer judges our sins. God is not angry with mankind as some would think; He is not even in a bad mood.

Jesus changed the direction of history. Even the date on our morning newspaper testifies to the fact that Jesus of Nazareth lived on earth nearly 2,000 years ago. B.C. means "before Christ"; A.D. Anno Domini, "the year of our Lord".

Hundreds of years before He was born, prophets predicted His coming in great details. The Old Testament which was written over a period of 1,500 years by several writers from different places and customs contains more than 300 prophecies describing His coming, His miraculous birth, His sinless life, His many miracles, His death, His resurrection and ascent into heaven, and His eventual return to banish evil and rule over the earth forever. Indeed all of these also point to the fact that Jesus is not merely man, but more than man. Jesus declared, "I and My Father are One" [**John 10:30**], "He who has seen Me has seen the Father" [**John 14:9**], and "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." [**John 14:6**].

Listed below are some Old Testament prophecies about Jesus that has already been fulfilled exactly as predicted, several hundred years before He was born.

Prophecies of Jesus Christ

Prophetic Scripture	Subject	Fulfilled
And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel." (<i>Genesis 3:15</i>)	Seed of a woman	But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law (<i>Galatians 4:4</i>)
Blessed be the LORD, The God of Shem; And let Canaan be his servant. May God enlarge Japheth, And let him dwell in the tents of Shem; And let Canaan be his servant." (<i>Genesis 9:26-27</i>)	Descendant of Shem	the son of Cainan, the son of Arphaxad, the son of Shem, the son of Noah, the son of Lamech, (<i>Luke 3:36</i>)
In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice." (<i>Genesis 18:18</i>)	Descendant of Abraham	The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. (<i>Matthew 1:1</i>)
But God said, "No, but Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; and I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant and with his descendants after him." (<i>Genesis 17:19</i>)	Descendant of Isaac	the son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, the son of Terah, the son of Nahor, (<i>Luke 3:34</i>)
"I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near; a star shall come forth from Jacob, and a scepter shall rise from Israel, and shall crush through the forehead of Moab, and tear down all the sons of Sheth." (<i>Numbers 24:17</i>)	Descendant of Jacob	To Abraham was born Isaac; and to Isaac, Jacob; and to Jacob, Judah and his brothers; (<i>Matthew 1:2</i>)
"The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until Shiloh comes, and to him shall be the obedience of the people." (<i>Genesis 49:10</i>)	From the tribe of Judah	the son of Amminadab, the son of Ram, the son of Hezron, the son of Perez, the son of Judah, (<i>Luke 3:33</i>)

<p>The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your countrymen, you shall listen to him. ¹⁶"This is according to all that you asked of the LORD your God in Horeb on the day of the assembly, saying, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, let me not see this great fire anymore, or I will die.' ¹⁷" The LORD said to me, 'They have spoken well. ¹⁸'I will raise up a prophet from among their countrymen like you, and I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. ¹⁹' It shall come about that whoever will not listen to My words which he shall speak in My name, I will require it of him. (<i>Deuteronomy 18:15-19</i>)</p>	<p>The Messiah will be a prophet like Moses</p>	<p>Moses said, ' THE LORD GOD WILL RAISE UP FOR YOU A PROPHET LIKE ME FROM YOUR BRETHREN; TO HIM YOU SHALL GIVE HEED to everything He says to you. ²³ And it will be that every soul that does not heed that prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.' (<i>Acts 3:22-23</i>)</p>
<p>Then it will come about in that day that the nations will resort to the root of Jesse, Who will stand as a signal for the people; and His resting place will be glorious. (<i>Isaiah 11:10</i>)</p>	<p>Descendent of Jesse</p>	<p>And again Isaiah says, "THERE SHALL COME THE ROOT OF JESSE, AND HE WHO ARISES TO RULE OVER THE GENTILES, and IN HIM SHALL THE GENTILES HOPE." (<i>Romans 15:12</i>)</p>
<p>"Behold, the days are coming," declares the LORD, "When I shall raise up for David a righteous Branch; and He will reign as king and act wisely and do justice and righteousness in the land. In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely; and this is His name by which He will be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS (<i>Jeremiah 23:5-6</i>)</p>	<p>Descendant of David</p>	<p>The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. (<i>Matthew 1:1</i>)</p>
<p>"And My servant David will be king over them, and they will all have one shepherd; and they will walk in My ordinances, and keep My statutes, and observe them." (<i>Ezekiel 37:24</i>)</p>	<p>Will shepherd His people</p>	<p>"And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, Are by no means least among the leaders of Judah; For out of you shall come forth a Ruler, Who will shepherd My people Israel." (<i>Matthew 2:6</i>)</p>
<p>There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this. (<i>Isaiah 9:7</i>)</p>	<p>Heir to the throne of David</p>	<p>"He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and His kingdom will have no end." (<i>Luke 1:32-33</i>)</p>

<p>Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of uprightness is the scepter of Thy kingdom. Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated wickedness; therefore God, Thy God, has anointed Thee with the oil of joy above Thy fellows. (<i>Psalm 45:6-7</i>)</p> <p>"Of old Thou didst found the earth; and the heavens are the work of Thy hands. Even they will perish, but Thou dost endure; and all of them will wear out like a garment; like clothing Thou wilt change them, and they will be changed. But Thou art the same, and Thy years will not come to an end." (<i>Psalm 102:25-27</i>)</p>	<p>Anointed and eternal</p>	<p>But of the Son He says, "Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous sceptre is the sceptre of His kingdom. Thou hast loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; therefore God, Thy God, hath anointed Thee with the oil of gladness above Thy companions." And, "Thou, Lord, in the beginning didst lay the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the works of Thy hands; They will perish, but Thou remainest; and they all will become old as a garment, and as a mantle Thou wilt roll them up; as a garment they will also be changed. But Thou art the same, and Thy years will not come to an end." (<i>Hebrews 1:8-12</i>)</p>
<p>"But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity." (<i>Micah 5:2</i>)</p>	<p>Born in Bethlehem</p>	<p>And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, in order to register, along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child.... And she gave birth to her first-born son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. (<i>Luke 2:4-5, 7</i>)</p>
<p>"So you are to know and discern that from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress. (<i>Daniel 9:25</i>)</p>	<p>Time for His birth</p>	<p>Now it came about in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth. This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. (<i>Luke 2:1-2</i>)</p>
<p>"Therefore the LORD Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel. (<i>Isaiah 7:14</i>)</p>	<p>To be born of a virgin</p>	<p>Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee, called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.... And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb, and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus." (<i>Luke 1:26-27, 30-31</i>)</p>

<p>Let the nomads of the desert bow before him; And his enemies lick the dust. (<i>Psalm 72:9</i>)</p>	<p>Worshipped by shepherds</p>	<p>And in the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields, and keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. And the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which shall be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."... And it came about when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds began saying to one another, "Let us go straight to Bethlehem then, and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us." (<i>Luke 2:8-15</i>)</p>
<p>Let the kings of Tarshish and of the islands bring presents; The kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts... So may he live; and may the gold of Sheba be given to him; And let them pray for him continually; Let them bless him all day long. (<i>Psalm 72:10, 15</i>)</p> <p>"And nations will come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising." (<i>Isaiah 60:3</i>)</p>	<p>Honoured by great kings</p>	<p>Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east, and have come to worship Him."... And they came into the house and saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell down and worshiped Him; and opening their treasures they presented to Him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. (<i>Matthew 2:1-11</i>)</p>
<p>Thus says the LORD, "A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more." (<i>Jeremiah 31:15</i>)</p>	<p>Massacre of children</p>	<p>Then when Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he became very enraged, and sent and slew all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its environs, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the magi. Then that which was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled, saying, "A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children; and she refused to be comforted, because they were no more." (<i>Matthew 2:16-18</i>)</p>

<p>When Israel was a youth I loved him, and out of Egypt I called My son. (<i>Hosea 11:1</i>)</p>	<p>Flight to Egypt</p>	<p>And he arose and took the Child and His mother by night, and departed for Egypt; and was there until the death of Herod, that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled, saying, "Out of Egypt did I call My Son." (<i>Matthew 2:14-15</i>)</p>
<p>A voice is calling, "Clear the way for the LORD in the wilderness; make smooth in the desert a highway for our God. Let every valley be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; and let the rough ground become a plain, and the rugged terrain a broad valley; Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all flesh will see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." (<i>Isaiah 40:3-5</i>)</p>	<p>The way prepared</p>	<p>And he came into all the district around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins; as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness, `Make ready the way of the Lord, make His paths straight. `Every ravine shall be filled up, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low; and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough roads smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'" (<i>Luke 3:3-6</i>)</p>
<p>"Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. And the LORD, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming," says the LORD of hosts. (<i>Malachi 3:1</i>)</p>	<p>Preceded by a forerunner</p>	<p>And when the messengers of John had left, He began to speak to the multitudes about John, "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind?... "This is the one about whom it is written: `Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You.`" (<i>Luke 7:24, 27</i>)</p>
<p>"Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD. And he will restore the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the land with a curse." (<i>Malachi 4:5-6</i>)</p>	<p>Preceded by Elijah</p>	<p>"For all the prophets and the Law prophesied until John. And if you care to accept it, he himself is Elijah, who was to come." (<i>Matthew 11:13-14</i>)</p>
<p>"I will surely tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to Me, `Thou art My Son, today I have begotten Thee.'" (<i>Psalms 2:7</i>)</p> <p>Who has ascended into heaven and descended? Who has gathered the wind in His fists? Who has wrapped the waters in His garment? Who has established all</p>	<p>He will be called the Son of God</p>	<p>"He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David;" (<i>Luke 1:32</i>)</p> <p>And behold, a voice out of the heavens, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased." (<i>Matthew 3:17</i>)</p>

<p>the ends of the earth? What is His name or His son's name? Surely you know! (<i>Proverbs 30:4</i>)</p>		
<p>But there will be no more gloom for her who was in anguish; in earlier times He treated the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali with contempt, but later on He shall make it glorious, by the way of the sea, on the other side of Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles. The people who walk in darkness will see a great light; those who live in a dark land, the light will shine on them. (<i>Isaiah 9:1-2</i>)</p>	<p>Galilean ministry</p>	<p>And leaving Nazareth, He came and settled in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali. This was to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet, saying, "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles" The people who were sitting in darkness saw a great light, and to those who were sitting in the land and shadow of death, upon them a light dawned." (<i>Matthew 4:13-16</i>)</p>
<p>I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings of old, which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. We will not conceal them from their children, but tell to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wondrous works that He has done. (<i>Psalms 78:2-4</i>)</p>	<p>Speaks in parables</p>	<p>All these things Jesus spoke to the multitudes in parables, and He did not speak to them without a parable, so that what was spoken through the prophet might be fulfilled, saying, "I will open My mouth in parables; I will utter things hidden since the foundation of the world." (<i>Matthew 13:34-35</i>)</p>
<p>...For My house will be called a house of prayer for all the people. " (<i>Isaiah 56:7</i>)</p> <p>"Has this house, which is called by My name, become a den of robbers in your sight? Behold, I, even I, have seen it," declares the LORD. (<i>Jeremiah 7:11</i>)</p>	<p>Temple becomes a house of merchandise instead of prayer</p>	<p>And He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer'; but you are making it a robbers' den." (<i>Matthew 21:13</i>)</p>
<p>For zeal for Thy house has consumed me, and the reproaches of those who reproach Thee have fallen on me. (<i>Psalms 69:9</i>)</p>	<p>Zeal of Jews for the temple instead of God</p>	<p>His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for Thy house will consume me." (<i>John 2:17</i>)</p>
<p>"The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your countrymen, you shall listen to him." (<i>Deuteronomy 18:15</i>)</p>	<p>A prophet</p>	<p>and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you... "Moses said, 'The Lord God shall raise up for you a prophet like me from your brethren; to Him you shall give heed in everything He says to you.' " (<i>Acts 3:20, 22</i>)</p>
<p>And on that day the deaf shall hear words of a book, and out of their gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind shall see. (<i>Isaiah 29:18</i>)</p> <p>Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, And the ears of the deaf will be unstopped. Then the lame will leap like a</p>	<p>Blind, deaf, and lame are healed by the Messiah</p>	<p>And He answered and said to them, "Go and report to John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have the gospel preached to them." (<i>Luke 7:22</i>)</p>

<p>deer, and the tongue of the dumb will shout for joy. For waters will break forth in the wilderness and streams in the Arabah. (<i>Isaiah 35:5-6</i>)</p>		<p>and said to Him, "Are You the Expected One, or shall we look for someone else?" And Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and report to John what you hear and see: the blind receive sight and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. (<i>Matthew 11:3-5</i>)</p>
<p>"He will not cry out or raise His voice, Nor make His voice heard in the street. "A bruised reed He will not break, And a dimly burning wick He will not extinguish; He will faithfully bring forth justice. (<i>Isaiah 42:2-3</i>)</p> <p>He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He did not open His mouth; like a lamb that is led to slaughter, and like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, so He did not open His mouth. (<i>Isaiah 53:7</i>)</p>	<p>Messiah will be meek and mild</p>	<p>"Behold, My Servant whom I have chosen; My Beloved in whom My soul is well-pleased; I will put My Spirit upon Him, And He shall proclaim justice to the Gentiles. He will not quarrel, nor cry out; Nor will anyone hear His voice in the streets. A battered reed He will not break off, And a smoldering wick He will not put out, Until He leads justice to victory." (<i>Matthew 12:18-20</i>)</p> <p>"Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls. <i>Matthew 11:29</i>)</p>
<p>"Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold; My chosen one in whom My soul delights. I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations. (<i>Isaiah 42:1</i>)</p> <p>Listen to Me, O islands, and pay attention, you people from afar. The LORD called Me from the womb; from the body of My mother He named Me. (<i>Isaiah 49:1</i>)</p>	<p>He will minister to Gentiles</p>	<p>"Behold, My Servant whom I have chosen; My Beloved in whom My soul is well-pleased; I will put My Spirit upon Him, and He shall proclaim justice to the Gentiles... "And in His name the Gentiles will hope." (<i>Matthew 12:18-21</i>)</p> <p>A light of revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Thy people Israel. " (<i>Luke 2:32</i>)</p>
<p>The Spirit of the LORD God is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives, and freedom to prisoners; to proclaim the favorable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn, (<i>Isaiah 61:1-2</i>)</p>	<p>To bind up the broken hearted</p>	<p>"He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are downtrodden, to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord." (<i>Luke 4:18-19</i>)</p>
<p>Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great, And He will divide the booty with the strong; Because He poured out Himself to death, And was numbered with the transgressors; Yet He Himself bore the sin of many, And interceded for</p>	<p>To intercede for the people</p>	<p>who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. (<i>Romans 8:34</i>)</p>

<p>the transgressors. <i>(Isaiah 53:12)</i></p> <p>And He saw that there was no man, And was astonished that there was no one to intercede; Then His own arm brought salvation to Him; And His righteousness upheld Him. <i>(Isaiah 59:16)</i></p>		<p>Hence, also, He is able to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. <i>(Hebrews 7:25)</i></p>
<p>As the cattle which go down into the valley, The Spirit of the LORD gave them rest. So didst Thou lead Thy people, To make for Thyself a glorious name. <i>(Isaiah 63:14)</i></p> <p>Thus says the LORD, "Stand by the ways and see and ask for the ancient paths, Where the good way is, and walk in it; And you shall find rest for your souls. But they said, `We will not walk in it.'" <i>(Jeremiah 6:16)</i></p>	<p>Gives rest to our souls</p>	<p>"Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and YOU SHALL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. For My yoke is easy, and My load is light." <i>(Matthew 11:29-30)</i></p>
<p>He was despised and forsaken of men, a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and like one from whom men hide their face, He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. <i>(Isaiah 53:3)</i></p> <p>"Then He shall become a sanctuary; But to both the houses of Israel, a stone to strike and a rock to stumble over, And a snare and a trap for the inhabitants of Jerusalem." <i>(Isaiah 8:14)</i></p> <p>Therefore thus says the LORD God, "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a tested stone, A costly cornerstone for the foundation, firmly placed. He who believes in it will not be disturbed." <i>(Isaiah 28:16)</i></p> <p>The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief corner stone. <i>(Psalm 118:22)</i></p>	<p>Rejected by His own people, the Jews</p>	<p>He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. <i>(John 1:11)</i></p> <p>But they cried out all together, saying, "Away with this man, and release for us Barabbas!" <i>(Luke 23:18)</i></p> <p>He is the stone which was rejected by you, the builders, but which became the very corner stone. <i>(Acts 4:11)</i></p> <p>For this is contained in Scripture: "Behold I lay in Zion a choice stone, a precious cornerstone, And he who believes in Him shall not be disappointed." This precious value, then, is for you who believe. But for those who disbelieve, "The stone which the builders rejected, This became the very cornerstone," and, "A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense"; for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this doom they were also appointed. <i>(1 Peter 2:6-8)</i></p>

<p>The LORD has sworn and will not change His mind, "Thou art a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek." (<i>Psalms 110:4</i>)</p>	<p>Priest after the order of Melchizedek</p>	<p>So also Christ did not glorify Himself so as to become a high priest, but He who said to Him, "Thou art My Son, Today I have begotten Thee"; just as He says also in another passage, "Thou art a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek." (<i>Hebrews 5:5-6</i>)</p>
<p>Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; He is just and endowed with salvation, Humble, and mounted on a donkey, even on a colt, the foal of a donkey. (<i>Zechariah 9:9</i>)</p>	<p>Triumphal entry</p>	<p>And they brought the colt to Jesus and put their garments on it; and He sat upon it.... And those who went before, and those who followed after, were crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord;"... And He entered Jerusalem and came into the temple; and after looking all around, He departed for Bethany with the twelve, since it was already late. (<i>Mark 11:7, 9, 11</i>)</p>
<p>"Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. And the LORD, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming," says the LORD of hosts. (<i>Malachi 3:1</i>)</p>	<p>Entered the temple with authority</p>	<p>And Jesus entered the temple and cast out all those who were buying and selling in the temple, and overturned the tables of the moneychangers and the seats of those who were selling doves. (<i>Matthew 21:12</i>)</p>
<p>From the mouth of infants and nursing babes Thou hast established strength, because of Thine adversaries, to make the enemy and the revengeful cease. (<i>Psalms 8:2</i>)</p>	<p>Adored by infants</p>	<p>But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the wonderful things that He had done, and the children who were crying out in the temple and saying, "Hosanna to the Son of David," they became indignant, and said to Him, "Do You hear what these are saying?" And Jesus said to them, "Yes; have you never read, 'Out of the mouth of infants and nursing babes Thou hast prepared praise for Thyself?' " (<i>Matthew 21:15-16</i>)</p>
<p>Who has believed our message? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? (<i>Isaiah 53:1</i>)</p>	<p>He will not be believed</p>	<p>But though He had performed so many signs before them, yet they were not believing in Him; that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke, "Lord, who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?" (<i>John 12:37-38</i>)</p>

<p>"Awake, O sword, against My Shepherd, And against the man, My Associate," Declares the LORD of hosts. "Strike the Shepherd that the sheep may be scattered; and I will turn My hand against the little ones." (<i>Zechariah 13:7</i>)</p>	<p>Sheep of the Shepherd scattered</p>	<p>Then Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away because of Me this night, for it is written, 'I will strike down the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered.'" (<i>Matthew 26:31</i>)</p>
<p>Even my close friend, in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted up his heel against me. (<i>Psalms 41:9</i>)</p> <p>For it is not an enemy who reproaches me, Then I could bear it; Nor is it one who hates me who has exalted himself against me, Then I could hide myself from him. But it is you, a man my equal, My companion and my familiar friend. (<i>Psalms 55:12-13</i>)</p> <p>"And one will say to him, 'What are these wounds between your arms?' Then he will say, 'Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.'" (<i>Zechariah 13:6</i>)</p>	<p>Betrayed by a close friend</p>	<p>"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor." While He was still speaking, behold, a multitude came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was preceding them; and he approached Jesus to kiss Him. But Jesus said to him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?" (<i>Luke 22:47-48</i>)</p> <p>And immediately he went to Jesus and said, "Hail, Rabbi!" and kissed Him. And Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you have come for." Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and seized Him. (<i>Matthew 26:49-50</i>)</p>
<p>And I said to them, "If it is good in your sight, give me my wages; but if not, never mind!" So they weighed out thirty shekels of silver as my wages. (<i>Zechariah 11:12</i>)</p>	<p>Betrayed for thirty pieces of silver</p>	<p>Then one of the twelve, named Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests, and said, "What are you willing to give me to deliver Him up to you?" And they weighed out to him thirty pieces of silver. (<i>Matthew 26:14-15</i>)</p>
<p>Then the LORD said to me, "Throw it to the potter, that magnificent price at which I was valued by them." So I took the thirty shekels of silver and threw them to the potter in the house of the LORD. (<i>Zechariah 11:13</i>)</p>	<p>Betrayal money used to buy Potter's field</p>	<p>And the chief priests took the pieces of silver and said, "It is not lawful to put them into the temple treasury, since it is the price of blood." And they counseled together and with the money bought the Potter's Field as a burial place for strangers. (<i>Matthew 27:6-7</i>)</p>
<p>Malicious witnesses rise up; they ask me of things that I do not know. (<i>Psalms 35:11</i>)</p>	<p>Accused by false witnesses</p>	<p>And some stood up and began to give false testimony against Him, saying, "We heard Him say, 'I will destroy this temple made with hands, and in three days I will build another made without hands.'" (<i>Mark 14:57-58</i>)</p>
<p>He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth; like a lamb that is led to slaughter, and like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, so He did not open His mouth. (<i>Isaiah 53:7</i>)</p>	<p>Silent to accusations</p>	<p>And Pilate was questioning Him again, saying, "Do You make no answer? See how many charges they bring against You!" But Jesus made no further answer; so that Pilate was</p>

		amazed. (<i>Mark 15:4-5</i>)
I gave My back to those who strike Me, and My cheeks to those who pluck out the beard; I did not cover My face from humiliation and spitting. (<i>Isaiah 50:6</i>)	Spat on and struck	Then they spat in His face and beat Him with their fists; and others slapped Him, (<i>Matthew 26:67</i>) And they spat on Him, and took the reed and began to beat Him on the head. (<i>Matthew 27:30</i>)
But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed. (<i>Isaiah 53:5</i>)	Scourged	Then he released Barabbas for them; but after having Jesus scourged, he delivered Him to be crucified. (<i>Matthew 27:26</i>)
Do not let those who are wrongfully my enemies rejoice over me; neither let those who hate me without cause wink maliciously. (<i>Psalms 35:19</i>)	Hated without reason	"If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would not have sinned; but now they have both seen and hated Me and My Father as well. But they have done this in order that the word may be fulfilled that is written in their Law, 'They hated Me without a cause.'" (<i>John 15:24-25</i>)
But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed. (<i>Isaiah 53:5</i>)	Vicarious sacrifice	For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.... But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (<i>Romans 5:6, 8</i>)
Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great, and He will divide the booty with the strong; because He poured out Himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet He Himself bore the sin of many, and interceded for the transgressors. (<i>Isaiah 53:12</i>)	Crucified with transgressors	And they crucified two robbers with Him, one on His right and one on His left. [And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "And He was numbered with transgressors."] (<i>Mark 15:27-28</i>)
"And I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him, like the bitter weeping over a first-born. (<i>Zechariah 12:10</i>) For dogs have surrounded me; A band of evildoers has encompassed me; They	Pierced through hands and feet	The other disciples therefore were saying to him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I shall see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."... Then He said to Thomas, "Reach here your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand, and put it into My side; and be not unbelieving, but believing." (<i>John 20:25-27</i>)

<p>pierced my hands and my feet. (<i>Psalm 22:16</i>)</p>		
<p>All who see me sneer at me; they separate with the lip, they wag the head, saying, "Commit yourself to the LORD; let Him deliver him; let Him rescue him, because He delights in him." (<i>Psalm 22:7-8</i>)</p>	<p>Sneered and mocked</p>	<p>And the people stood by, looking on. And even the rulers were sneering at Him, saying, "He saved others; let Him save Himself if this is the Christ of God, His Chosen One." (<i>Luke 23:35</i>)</p>
<p>For zeal for Thy house has consumed me, and the reproaches of those who reproach Thee have fallen on me. (<i>Psalm 69:9</i>)</p>	<p>He was reproached</p>	<p>For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached Thee fell upon Me." (<i>Romans 15:3</i>)</p>
<p>I also have become a reproach to them; When they see me, they wag their head. (<i>Psalm 109:25</i>)</p>	<p>People shook their heads</p>	<p>And those passing by were hurling abuse at Him, wagging their heads, (<i>Matthew 27:39</i>)</p>
<p>They also gave me gall for my food, And for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink. (<i>Psalm 69:21</i>)</p>	<p>Given vinegar for His thirst</p>	<p>After this, Jesus, knowing that all things had already been accomplished, in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I am thirsty." A jar full of sour wine was standing there; so they put a sponge full of the sour wine upon a branch of hyssop, and brought it up to His mouth. (<i>John 19:28-29</i>)</p>
<p>In return for my love they act as my accusers; but I am in prayer. (<i>Psalm 109:4</i>) ... yet He Himself bore the sin of many, and interceded for the transgressors. (<i>Isaiah 53:12</i>)</p>	<p>Prayer for His enemies</p>	<p>But Jesus was saying, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots, dividing up His garments among themselves. (<i>Luke 23:34</i>)</p>
<p>I can count all my bones. They look, they stare at me; they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots. (<i>Psalm 22:17-18</i>)</p>	<p>Soldiers gambled for His clothing</p>	<p>And when they had crucified Him, they divided up His garments among themselves, casting lots; and sitting down, they began to keep watch over Him there. (<i>Matthew 27:35-36</i>)</p>
<p>My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me? Far from my deliverance are the words of my groaning. (<i>Psalm 22:1</i>)</p>	<p>Forsaken by God</p>	<p>And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?" (<i>Matthew 27:46</i>)</p>
<p>Into Thy hand I commit my spirit; Thou hast ransomed me, O Lord, God of truth. (<i>Psalm 31:5</i>)</p>	<p>Committed His Spirit to God</p>	<p>And Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into Thy hands I commit My spirit." And having said this, He breathed His last. (<i>Luke 23:46</i>)</p>

<p>My loved ones and my friends stand aloof from my plague; And my kinsmen stand afar off. (<i>Psalm 38:11</i>)</p>	<p>Friends stood afar off</p>	<p>And all His acquaintances and the women who accompanied Him from Galilee, were standing at a distance, seeing these things. (<i>Luke 23:49</i>)</p>
<p>He keeps all his bones; not one of them is broken. (<i>Psalm 34:20</i>)</p>	<p>No bones broken</p>	<p>The soldiers therefore came, and broke the legs of the first man, and of the other man who was crucified with Him; but coming to Jesus, when they saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs;... For these things came to pass, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, "Not a bone of Him shall be broken." (<i>John 19:32, 33, 36</i>)</p>
<p>"And I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him, like the bitter weeping over a first-born. (<i>Zechariah 12:10</i>)</p>	<p>His side pierced</p>	<p>but one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately there came out blood and water. (<i>John 19:34</i>)</p>
<p>"And it will come about in that day," declares the Lord God, "That I shall make the sun go down at noon And make the earth dark in broad daylight. (<i>Amos 8:9</i>)</p>	<p>Darkness over the Land</p>	<p>Now from the sixth hour darkness fell upon all the land until the ninth hour. (<i>Matthew 27:45</i>)</p>
<p>His grave was assigned with wicked men, yet He was with a rich man in His death, because He had done no violence, nor was there any deceit in His mouth. (<i>Isaiah 53:9</i>)</p>	<p>Buried with the rich</p>	<p>And when it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given over to him. And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the entrance of the tomb and went away. (<i>Matthew 27:57-60</i>)</p>
<p>For Thou wilt not abandon my soul to Sheol; Neither wilt Thou allow Thy Holy One to undergo decay. (<i>Psalm 16:10</i>)</p> <p>O LORD, Thou hast brought up my soul from Sheol; Thou hast kept me alive, that I should not go down to the pit. (<i>Psalm 30:3</i>)</p>	<p>He will be resurrected</p>	<p>And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; you are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who has been crucified. He has risen; He is not here; behold, here is the place where they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples and Peter, `He is going before you into Galilee; there you</p>

<p>But God will redeem my soul from the power of Sheol; for He will receive me. Selah. <i>(Psalm 49:15)</i></p> <p>I shall not die, but live, And tell of the works of the LORD. <i>(Psalm 118:17)</i></p>		<p>will see Him, just as He said to you." <i>(Mark 16:6-7)</i></p>
<p>“For I will pour out water on the thirsty land and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out My Spirit on your offspring, and My blessing on your descendants;” <i>(Isaiah 44:3)</i></p> <p>"And it will come about after this That I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; And your sons and daughters will prophesy, Your old men will dream dreams, Your young men will see visions. <i>(Joel 2:28)</i></p>	<p>Sent the Holy Spirit</p>	<p>And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit." <i>(John 20:22)</i></p> <p>"but this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel: ‘And it shall be in the last days,’ God says, ‘That I will pour forth of My Spirit upon all mankind; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams;’” <i>(Acts 2:16-17)</i></p>
<p>"Incline your ear and come to Me. Listen, that you may live; And I will make an everlasting covenant with you, According to the faithful mercies shown to David. Behold, I have made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. <i>(Isaiah 55:3-4)</i></p> <p>Behold, days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah,...But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the LORD, "I will put My law within them, and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. <i>(Jeremiah 31:31)</i></p>	<p>Establishes a new covenant</p>	<p>for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins. <i>(Matthew 26:28)</i></p> <p>And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood. <i>(Luke 22:20)</i></p> <p>But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as He is also the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises... For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel After those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws into their minds, And I will write them upon their hearts. And I will be their God, And they shall be My people. <i>(Hebrews 8:6-10)</i></p>
<p>Thou hast ascended on high, Thou hast led captive Thy captives; Thou hast received gifts among men, even among the rebellious also, that the LORD God may dwell there. <i>(Psalm 68:18)</i></p> <p>The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at My right hand, until I make Thine enemies a footstool for Thy feet." <i>(Psalm 110:1)</i></p>	<p>His ascension to God's right hand</p>	<p>So then, when the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. <i>(Mark 16:19)</i></p> <p>and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, <i>(1 Corinthians 15:4)</i> Therefore it</p>

		<p>says, "When He ascended on high, He led captive a host of captives, And He gave gifts to men." (<i>Ephesians 4:8</i>)</p>
<p>The people who walk in darkness will see a great light; Those who live in a dark land, The light will shine on them. (<i>Isaiah 9:2</i>)</p> <p>Then it will come about in that day that the nations will resort to the root of Jesse, Who will stand as a signal for the peoples; and His resting place will be glorious. (<i>Isaiah 11:10</i>)</p> <p>"I permitted Myself to be sought by those who did not ask for Me; I permitted Myself to be found by those who did not seek Me. I said, 'Here am I, here am I,' To a nation which did not call on My name." (<i>Isaiah 65:1</i>)</p>	<p>The Gentiles will seek the Messiah</p>	<p>For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery, lest you be wise in your own estimation, that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in; (<i>Romans 11:25</i>)</p> <p>"THE PEOPLE WHO WERE SITTING IN DARKNESS SAW A GREAT LIGHT, AND TO THOSE WHO WERE SITTING IN THE LAND AND SHADOW OF DEATH, UPON THEM A LIGHT DAWNED." (<i>Matthew 4:16</i>)</p>

Lesson 2

Who is this Jesus: the dangerous leaven of the neo-kingdom movement.

What Israel rejected; what Herod sought to destroy; what the religious leaders did not receive is still what almost all religious organizations are fighting today. The intensity of this fight shows that this is the central spiritual battle of the ages: where men stand on the Divinity of Jesus Christ. It is easy to deal with the opposition from the various religious organizations of the world. As a matter of fact, you could lose your head or both arms for daring to proclaim the divinity of Jesus Christ in several nations on earth in this day and age.

What is not so obvious and certainly of great concern is that many supposed kingdom movements are built on one central plank which is masked beneath layers of verbiage: *that Jesus is not God*. These neo kingdom movements are certainly far more dangerous to deal with because they have wisely couched their rejection of Christ in such a way that **IT IS JUST NOT SAID AT ALL!**

Like all cults through the ages, they claim to have received a special revelation which denounces as religion, any teachings on the Divinity of Jesus Christ. Their poster people are all over the world, proudly flaunting their assumed “superior wisdom” and expecting all men to believe them. These people all have the same inspiration: they are all offshoots of the works of Arius, the infamous priest of Alexandria who propounded the doctrine that Jesus was a created being, the first of the creation of God, and that although Jesus functioned supernaturally, he was not God. This doctrine was to spawn what is now referred to as the Arian controversy from which the term Arianism was derived.

To such groups, Jesus Christ is merely an agent God sent to deal with the devil, sin, death and disease. He is therefore “Lord” of the earth on that basis. Furthermore, since they claim He is merely the Son of God in the sense not of divinity but of undertaking an assignment given by the Father, they accept Him as the head of the Kingdom of God very much as you would have a Prime Minister in a Westminster type Government. The sum of their belief system is that the Father is the only God. Jesus is His messenger and the Holy Spirit is the one sent to enforce the ordinance of the Father. To them therefore, Jesus is merely our senior brother since by His death we have now been brought into a glorified state. This is some truly exotic twisting of scripture!

Armed with a vast media network, powerful protagonists and success in business, the neo-kingdom movement presents the greatest danger to the soul of unsuspecting Christians. They specifically target people who have been discouraged by the failure of the religious establishment and brethren who are not enjoying fellowship of the saints due to such factors as inadequate pastoral care, crises within denominations and apparent lack of power of the Holy Spirit within the confines of organized religion to offer a tasteful panacea: *a Kingdom movement where you are a god yourself*.

The devil has craftily helped the neo-Kingdom movement to mask its intent which is to cause people to deny the divinity of Jesus Christ. The principal means by which Satan has fostered his agenda has been to make the Church to forget its meaning and purpose and slide into denominationalism which is antithetic to the original intent of Jesus Christ for His called out ones.

It is fair to indicate that there are a few things about the Church phase of the kingdom of God which some in the neo-kingdom movement also subscribe to. These include:

- What is on ground today is not the proper structure and pattern of the Church of Jesus Christ.
- The Church of Jesus Christ is not an organized religious system. It is the aggregation of all the called out ones who were purchased by the Blood that Jesus Christ shed at the Cross of Calvary. Denominations divide the people of God, sap their strength and make a mockery of the purpose for which Christ came.
- The Church is therefore most effective at ground zero level when the redeemed of the Lord draw strength from the Holy Spirit to meet the needs of each other by the release of their spiritual gifts, talents, love and care through which they are mutually built up and preserved.
- The Lord did not ordain the concept of the Church as a building, organization or even set of programs. Rather, the Church is His Body and therefore ordained to function as a living organism of which the individuals are but parts of the same whole.

These are self evident truths. But it must be emphasized that because these neo-kingdom movements also profess these self-evident truths, it does not hide the fact that they are anti-Christ establishments. These religious corporations and their excessive promotion of money, buildings, programs and celebrity preachers and other human beings are surely blocking the view to He who matters most: Jesus Christ, the true Head of the Church, and the son of God, who is equally God Himself. Anyone who denies the divinity of Jesus works for Satan and cannot be trusted, no matter how materially successful they may appear. Jesus is Lord and Saviour. He is God.

Lesson 3

Who and What the Bible defines Jesus Christ to be.

In answer to the question “Who is Jesus Christ?” here are some of the clear and direct responses of the sure word of God taken from the Life Application Bible, New Living Translation:

Genesis 1:3: Then God said, “*Let there be light,*” and there **was** light.

To understand this Light, please study and meditate over John 1:1-13. The very first word uttered by God, was “Let there be Light”. God unknown to mankind here announces the Way, the Door, and the Path to Himself – the only way He can be known. You cannot enter a man’s abode unless you come through His door (It is the owner that decides his door). The door to God is Jesus. Jesus is the Light of men to find and to know God. Outside of His chosen way, door, and light – no one can know Him. Jesus is not an after-thought of God to redeem man after man sinned. Right before any sin of man or anything else, God declared the only path to Himself, and the only way through which man can reach Him. When man died spiritually because of sin, Jesus came to bring dead man back to life. Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, no one cometh to the Father except through Him.

John 1:1–5: “In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God and the Word was God. He existed in the beginning with God. God created everything through Him; and nothing was created except through Him. The Word gave life to everything that was created, and His life brought light to every one. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness can never extinguish it”.

It is significant that this is the clear testimony of a man considered by almost all true scholars of the bible as the human being who had the greatest degree of access to Jesus Christ and therefore the person most likely to fall into what Apostle Vance Russell calls the familiarity deception. God however opened the eyes of John to see clearly that this person, on whose breast he once leaned - Jesus, was no ordinary fellow but rather the very God whom Israel sought but could not find.

John the beloved did not waste time with preambles. He hit the ground running in His epic treatise from the very first verse proclaiming the Lordship of Christ. In so doing, John was used of the Holy Spirit to advance this as the right and proper foundational truth of all other truths concerning the kingdom of God.

The truth is that the Kingdom we are called to seek first rests on this solid foundation: that Jesus Christ is not just a King but more importantly, God made flesh, who once dwelt amongst His subjects; experienced life in human form and by overcoming all wiles of the wicked one, condemned sin in the flesh so that all who receive and accept this strategic revelation are automatically translated from the Kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of God.

Rejection of the divinity of Jesus Christ is the mother of all religions and secular humanistic thought patterns. Any kingdom teaching which rejects the divinity of Jesus Christ is another gospel of another kingdom [Galatians 1:6-10]. It is no wonder that such pretensions to the kingdom often do not proclaim the soon return of Christ but encourage their subscribers to possess this world in a fashion that directly contradicts the teachings of Jesus Christ. The return of the King of Kings to consummate the establishment of the eternal Kingdom of God will obviously settle all opinions on this matter. That is why the Lord encourages saints to prayerfully study the Word, asking the Holy Spirit for illumination so that their faith will rest on Him and not on any fanciful theories of men.

In **Colossians 1: 15–20**, Paul the Apostle, a man who God revealed great things of divinity had this to say, by the Spirit:

“15. Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation. 16. For through Him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can’t see- such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for Him.17. He existed before anything else, and holds all creation together.18 Christ is also the head of the Church, which is His body. He is the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead, so He is first in everything.19 For God in all His fullness was pleased to live in Christ, 20 and through Him God reconciled everything to Himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ’s blood on the Cross”

Proceeding further, we see additional potent declarations of the divinity of Jesus Christ in the Holy Writ:

John 1:18: No one has ever seen God. But the one and only Son is Himself God and is near to the Father’s heart. He has revealed God to us.

John 10:30: The Father and I are one

John 10:38: But if I do His work, believe in the evidence of the miraculous works I have done, even if you don’t believe me. Then you will know and understand that the Father is in me, and I am in the Father.

John 10:45: For when you see me, you are seeing the one who sent me.

John 14: 7: If you had really known me, you would know who my Father is. From now on, you do know Him and have seen Him.

John 14:8: Phillip said, “Lord show us the Father, and we will be satisfied” to which Jesus answered in verses 9 – 11: **“Have I been with you all this time, Phillip, and yet you still don’t know who I am? Any one who has seen me has seen the Father! So why are you asking me to show Him to you? 10. Don’t you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I speak are not my own, but my Father who lives in me does His work through me. 11. Just believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. Or at least believe because of the work you have seen me do”.**

These declarations are only the logical conclusion which can be drawn from the fact that Jesus came from heaven, not the earth. He could not have come from the angelic realm for angels were created as messengers of God. Let us receive these specific proclamations that lay the ground on which the divinity of Christ is established:

On the day of the fall of man when Satan successfully wrestled the Adamic phase of the Kingdom, God proclaimed, in **Genesis 3:15** **“And I will cause hostility (enmity) between you and the woman and between your offspring and her offspring (seed). He will strike (crush) your head and you will strike His heel”**

When the time came for the seed to be made manifest, here is how Luke, the physician who God used to write a gospel account says in **Luke 1:26 – 35**

26. In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, 27. To a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. 28. Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Greetings, favoured woman! The Lord is with you!" 29. Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. 30. "Don't be afraid, Mary," the angel told her, "for you have found favour with God! 31. You will conceive and give birth to a son and you will name Him Jesus. 32. He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give Him the throne of His ancestor David. 33. And He will reign over Israel forever; His kingdom will never end" To this the startled lowly lady Mary asked the timeless question in verse 34. "But how can this happen? I am a virgin". Hear the angel Gabriel releasing the secret of the ages in verse 35. "The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and He will be called the Son of God."

In effect, the angel Gabriel confirmed one of the messianic prophecies that a human body would be prepared for the Messiah to function. To live in as a perfect human without sin, to condemn sin in the flesh so that humanity would be liberated from the limitations imposed by Satan when he took away Adam's rightful place as overseer of creation [**Psalm 40: 6-10; Hebrews 10:5-10**]. This body was conceived in holiness, free from Adam's sinful primogeniture and was maintained holy by the will of Jesus, the perfect man who made the critical choice to love righteousness and hate iniquity [**Hebrews 1:8-10**].

Lesson 4

Why did God need to be incarnated in human form? Why did Jesus come?

This question was extensively answered in Course 101: Understanding God. We may as well lift the relevant section of the teaching on why a Son became necessary and place it squarely here in our systematic study of Jesus Christ.

Why a Son became necessary – it's all about the unsurpassable love of God!

It is significant to note that from the time of the fall when it was announced that the Seed of the Woman would crush the head of Satan [**Genesis 3:15**], till that Seed came in the form of Jesus Christ, provisions made for resolving the sin question were largely inadequate. The blood of bulls and goats and other sacrifices were ordained to provide temporary relief. The reason is that those sacrifices were of less stature than man and were all products of the curse on the earth (see **Genesis 3:17, 18**).

The sacrifice that would satisfy the just requirements of God as a righteous judge of the original sin of Adam and Eve:

- needed to be of the class of man or higher
- needed to have capacity to take away the sins of the whole world from Adam till the time of consummation of all things
- needed to be pure and also have the capacity to open the doors for the entire human family to have access to Father God again

Only a perfect human of divine origin could meet all these requirements. Jesus the Christ (The anointed One) was the perfect human of divine origin [**Hebrews 9:11- 28; Hebrews 10:1-23**]. The divine plan of action which made it possible for all of mankind – regardless of race, color, gender or status – to be reconciled to God was hidden from both Satan, his cohorts as well as humankind for thousands of years until a misguided zealot of the Old Covenant named Saul of Tarsus, was arrested by the very Jesus Christ He sought to expunge from the consciousness of Jewish believers [**Acts 9:1-30**]. In a funny twist of destiny, the said Saul was specifically commissioned and sent to the Gentiles to explain the strange events of the past few years when a fellow assumed to be a Jewish Rabbi named Jesus, son of as was popularly assumed Joseph and Mary was cruelly killed by Roman soldiers, at the instigation of religious leaders of the land [**Acts 13:1-49; Acts 17:16-34; Acts 22:1-20; Acts 23:1-9; Acts 24:1-26; Acts 26:1-32; Acts 28:17-31. Ephesians 3:1-21**].

What John the beloved wrote about in his epic treatise – the Gospel according to Saint John and his epistles regarding the divinity of He who was pierced on the Cross reveal an exceptional wonder: that a personality in the God-head actually shed His glory and for 33 ½ years, lived in flesh and blood to qualify as a paschal Lamb whose death was ordained to open the doors of reconciliation of not just Jews but gentiles as well to a Father whose essential nature is love [**1 John 4: 7, 8; John 3:16**]. The revelation of this mystery lies at the heart of the Pauline Epistles which some pseudo kingdom preachers prefer to be expunged from the Holy Writ because of the blindness that covers their eyes of understanding. It is impossible to fully understand God, the Kingdom and the Church without factoring in the special revelations granted to Paul the Apostle. Even Peter, a leading light of the early Church recognized this much when he wrote in **2 Peter 3: 14-17**.

Study and meditate on: Ephesians 1, 2 and 3; Galatians 3:10-29; Philippians 2:5-11.

In essence, the divine plan of redemption required the sacrifice of a divine personality whose sinless blood could atone for the original sin of Adam. This second Adam needed to come from heaven (a divine being) and take on a human body prepared for the purpose of taking away the sins of all those who would believe entirely by faith [Luke 1:26–35; 1 Corinthians 15:45–49; John 1:29; John 3:16; Romans 3:21–31; Hebrews 10:5]. Hebrews chapters 1 and 2 present solid truths on how and why this miracle of a divine personality came in order to restore the sons to glory. Philippians 2:5–11 offers an insight into what theologians call the Kenosis or the voluntary laying aside of His glory and rights in order to operate on earth, for a speck of time, as paschal Lamb for the whole world and the fact that He has assumed His full glory again, following the resurrection and ascension to heaven. The Unique Personality who is fully God and fully man is the key to recovering the Kingdom Adam lost.

The New Testament offers us an incisive understanding of why Jesus Christ is very God and very man. In presenting the most intimate account of the one on whose chest He once leaned [John 13:23–25], here is what John the beloved states in John 1:1–3 *“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”* (remember Genesis 1:26?). In verse 14, John states as a matter of fact *“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth”*. Contrasting Him and Moses, here is what John wrote in verse 17 *“For the Law was given through Moses but Grace and Truth came through Jesus Christ”*. Of this grace, John postulated in verse 12 that *“As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name”*. The exclusivity of Himself as the only access to the Father was strongly made by Jesus Himself in John 14:6

References of the divinity of Jesus Christ are so clearly stated in the Holy Bible that only those who are blind or of reprobate heart can reject the self evident conclusion. His virgin birth was prophesied at the Garden of Eden [Genesis 3:15] about 700 years before He was born, the prophet even fore-told His birth [Isaiah 7:14]. The significance of the virgin birth lies in the fact that Jesus was not conceived as an outcome of the normal procreation between Joseph and Mary which would have introduced Adam’s sinful blood into His being. The only way to get around this matter was for another divine personality (the Holy Spirit) to supernaturally plant the designated human body in the womb of Mary so that Jesus (the seed) would qualify to be a Son of man with legal rights to operate on earth [Psalm 115:16]. Hebrews 10:5–10; Isaiah 9:6-7 speaks of His divinity in clear language. In the New Testament, other passages affirming the divinity of Jesus Christ includes: Matthew 11:27; Matthew 24:23–31; Matthew 28:19-20; Luke 1:35; John 1:1–5, 9-14; John 5:16-18; John 8:37-58; John 10:30, 31-38; John 12:34–45; John 9:7; John 20:28; Acts 7:55; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Galatians 1:1; Philippians 2:5–11; Colossians 1:16; Colossians 2:9; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 1:1–12; Hebrews 9:14; 2 Peter 1:1; 1 John 5:7.

Lesson 5

Dimensions of Jesus Christ

In order to have a full and proper understanding of who Jesus Christ is, we shall now sketch out these dimensions of His being and personality. We expect every student of the Global School of Ministry to complete the survey by locating other relevant scriptures. Please make out time to explore the Bible prayerfully by yourself, asking the Holy Spirit for illumination.

i) **The Pre-existent Christ:** That Christ existed in eternity past is one that we need to be assured of as we see His foot prints which pre-date time. These are some scriptures:

- **John 1:1–5,10,14,18,23,26,29,34**
- **Colossians 1:15-17**
- **Revelation 13:8** – This scripture is particularly pivotal for it proves that the divine plan of salvation in Genesis 3:15 *was not a plan B* unfolded by a God who was taken by surprise when Adam fell. This scripture reveals that God knew that Adam would fall and determined that the only just and legally acceptable avenue to reclaim the kingdom would be by the incarnation and propitiation offered by a divine personality to be revealed at the appointed time as the Son of God and Seed of the woman [**Luke 1:35**].

ii) **The Christ of Prophecy:** This outlines prophecies spanning what was said of Him from Genesis to Malachi. The fact of their fulfillment in Him reveals that we are not looking at a mere man. This matter was dealt with in Lesson 1, however a few will be listed here:

- **Genesis 3: 15 – Seed of the woman.** This unique prophecy that God would be incarnated as human and yet spared the inheritance of Adam's polluted blood line set the stage for a war of the ages between Satan and woman hood. In pursuance of an evil machination to abort this prophecy, Satan threw everything into the bargain, including inducing demons to co-habit with women to create the giants who were wiped out in the flood. [**2 Peter 2:4; Jude 1:6**]. It was also in pursuance of his plan to abort the emergence of the Seed of the woman that Satan levies war unceasingly against the people of God, especially the lineage that would produce the Messiah. Until today, wiping out the Jews has been an obsession of Satan. Consider the broken lives of the messianic lineage: Judah/Tamar/Pharez; Rahab, the prostitute of Jericho; Ruth the Moabitess; David/Bathsheba/Solomon. Thank God for election and for the reality that He does not call the qualified but rather qualifies the called.
- **Genesis 22: 18 - Seed of Abraham.** This prophecy was generally misunderstood to apply only to the natural children of Abraham, the Jews as a people. As Paul the Apostle was to clearly articulate by the Spirit, this Seed was truly Jesus Christ [**Galatians 3:10-18**].
- **Exodus 17: 1-7; 1 Corinthians 10:4** Christ was the Rock that supplied water to the Church in the wilderness.
- **Isaiah 9:6-7** here the prophet declared in vivid detail the miraculous nature of He who would come as Emmanuel.
- **Isaiah 11:1–5** describes the fullness of the Holy Spirit with whom Emmanuel would function on planet earth. This was certified by John the Baptist in **John 3:27–36**

- **Isaiah 53:1–12**, this powerful Messianic prophecy graphically captures the passion of Christ.
- **Isaiah 61:1-3**, this scripture was dramatically fulfilled after the baptism of John and temptation by the devil when Jesus entered the synagogue at Nazareth [**Luke 4:14 – 28**].
- **Psalms 2** is one of many messianic psalms which capture the revelations God gave David and other worship leaders of He who would come.
- **Malachi 3:1** Here we see that the appearance of the Messiah would be without fan fare.

Assignment

Every student is required to look up all the Messianic Psalms and present a working paper of what they say of Jesus Christ. Sharing your paper with us would be appreciated.

iii) **The Incarnate Christ**

- **Luke 1:26–35**: In his meticulous manner as a physician, historian and biographer, Luke documented the awesome conversation of the angel Gabriel with the innocent virgin, Mary. We see here the process by which Christ was supernaturally conceived.
- John the beloved was a man very close to Jesus. The affinity included service to the master by his own mother and elder brother James. However, he did not allow his privileged access to becloud his sense of spiritual sensitivity. God graciously granted John a rare view of the divinity of Jesus Christ and he faithfully penned such for our records in John chapter 1. In **John 20:30, 31**, He clearly articulated the purpose of his gospel account is to prove that Jesus is the Son of God, a divine personality.

iv) **The Paschal Lamb** (His suffering, crucifixion and death)

Jesus has two equal and opposite natures. He was fully God and fully human. In order to be human, He had to be begotten; this is implied that He had to be “Fathered”. That was prefigured in the Old Testament - **Genesis 3:15**. In **Psalms 2**, the special Father-Son relationship is established and whose end will be the inheritance of the nations as affirmed in **Isaiah 9:6,7; Daniel 2:34, 44, 45; Daniel 3:24, 25; Daniel 7:13,14** (compare with Matthew 26: 64,65;).

The Holy Spirit was the principal agent for bringing to pass this unique work of birthing a Messiah for the fallen creation [**Luke 1:35**]. There are other texts affirming this reality including: **John 10:33; Revelation 1:5–8, 10–18; Revelations 3:1, 20, 21**.

In effect, Jesus Christ was truly the Lamb that was slain before the foundation of the world as **Revelation 13:8** puts it. As we have observed earlier, the divine plan of salvation was not a Plan B of a God who was caught off guard. The Godhead knew that man would miss the mark and divinity resolved that one of the Godhead would model ultimate love – death of self (by shedding of the glory and the humiliation of becoming as it were an earthling, to recover unworthy human species for no personal benefit), a truth captured vividly in **Romans 5:6–21**. This helps us to understand **John 3:16** better. In effect, the Law was given to provide a temporary remedy so that when the one who had the original mandate to restore humanity back to God came, He would be received by faith as the Seed of the Woman in **Genesis 3:15** and the Seed of Abraham in **Genesis 22:18, Galatians 3:19–25**.

When He eventually appeared, Jesus announced that He came not to abolish but to fulfill the Law-
Matthew 5:17.

As Jesus yielded up the ghost and uttered those powerful words “*It is finished*”, Jesus pronounced the end of the dominion of Satan over man. Earlier, he had announced in?? that the Prince of this world had been judged. Thus the blood of the new covenant was poured out as sufficient and conclusive propitiation for the sins of the whole world. He was truly the Lamb of God who took away the sins of the world and open the life gate that as many as accepted His propitiatory sacrifice to stream into the kingdom of God [**John 1:29; John 19:30; Colossians 1:13–18; Hebrews 9:11-28; Hebrews 10:1–29**]. It is significant that the passions of Christ during the final day of His tenure on earth were amply prophesied down to the last detail in such passages as **Isaiah 53:1-12.**

v) **The Risen Jesus and Glorified Christ who reigns as King in the hearts of the redeemed.**

The present phase of the Kingdom of God is manifest fully in the heart of the redeemed. The Kingdom of God is the sphere of life and creation which is fully subject to His authority. Citizens of the Kingdom therefore are men and women, young and old of all races, ethnicities, ages and socio-economic status who have received Jesus as very God and very man in their hearts and prove it by the way they have abandoned their agendas and taken on His; who yield completely to the Holy Spirit in all decisions, trusting Him to guide them into the perfect will of God and who are willing to lay down their lives if need be, should God think that as best for them. They have no ambition that is driving them, no opinion they clutch to and certainly realize that their ultimate kingdom is not of this world. They know that in spite of all the glitter this world offers, it is fundamentally out of sync with the will of God [**1 John 2:15–17**]. These people are not engaged in what is now called “Churchianity” which is simply membership of denominations and subjection to the whims and caprices of men and women who claim superior standing.

Those who qualify as kingdom citizens are those who have denied self, taken up their own bespoke crosses to follow Jesus, to be crucified with Him so that the life they live in the flesh is no longer theirs but that of He who died for them. These are saints who have experienced the reality of **Matthew 16:24–26; Galatians 2:20** and **Psalm 50:5**. Such people are simply incapable of glorying in the flesh any more – neither physical features, nor qualifications nor financial stature matter much to them [**Galatians 6:14**]. They simply have accepted the liberating yoke of Christ which delivers them from anxiety, worry and the cares of this life [**Matthew 6:25–34; Matthew 11:28-30; 1 Peter 5:7**]. These people have translated from being mere believers, not because of superior actions but because they dare to lay aside their own human wisdom and rather put their whole trust in God and His written word. These people are not sinless. They occasionally stumble, often not by conscious decisions to displease God.

When they do, they run immediately to the pool of the blood for cleansing. Because they are mature in Him, they are able to receive forgiveness and do not give room for the enemy to dredge their past and lay accusations against them [**Micah 7:18–20; 1 John 2:1-2**]. They are simply living by grace, with lively consciences which tremble at the word of God and ever conscious of the Omniscience and

Omnipresence of God. They are thus in a state of brokenness before God, thus attracting divine approval [**Isaiah 66:1-2**].

In this present dispensation of time known as the Church Age, there is only a tiny fraction of the US Census bureau estimated 6.793 billion people on earth who are completely sold out to God in the manner He prescribed. The name by which Jesus would have these kinds of people called is “**disciples**”. In the city of Antioch, the disciples earned the sobriquet “Christian” because of the way they emulated their Lord and Saviour [**Acts 11:26**]. It is significant that the PSEUDO-KINGDOM MOVEMENT HATES THE WORD “CHRISTIAN” AND HAS SOUGHT TO ABOLISH IT FROM ITS VOCABULARY. This speaks volumes of a sinister agenda to confuse the saints.

Four things constitute the central pillars on which the faith and lifestyle of true Christians’ rests:

- *Firstly*, they entered the Kingdom of God through the front door which is simply on the basis of the finished work of Christ on the Cross as the perfect God-Perfect man who alone is the bridge between divinity and humanity - **Matthew 7:13–23**. It was this revelation of His divinity that Jesus considered the proper foundation of building His Church - **Matthew 16:18**.
- *Secondly*, their entire life is one that is lived through the grace they draw from the risen Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit - **John 15:1-17; Philippians 1:6; Philippians 2:13**.
- *Thirdly*, they are fully engaged in seeking first the Kingdom – putting the overall strategic interests of God above their own personal goals as they engage in the ministry of reconciliation called the Great Commission according to the quantum of the Holy Spirit functioning within them with the graces and gifts received - **2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Matthew 28:18–20; Acts 1:8**.
- *Fourthly*, true Kingdom citizens realize that they are strangers and pilgrims in this present life which will one day pass away. So they are in earnest expectation of the return of the Lord to stamp out all rebellion and establish the fullness of the Kingdom of God. This expectation keeps them pure and otherwise not worldly, even when they have the opportunity to impact the various so-called mountains of society - **John 14:1-11; 1 Peter 2:11-12; 1 John 3:1-3**

Through His disciples, Jesus exerts and expands the kingdom mandate where He plants them in this present life time so that they dispense His presence and power where they live, work and has influence. It is the earnest expectation of the creation of God that such disciples emerge and show the way to God by being possessors, rather than professors of the kingdom.

The central agenda of any true leader in the kingdom of God is to deliver saints of God from all self imposed and religious limitations, as well as, the deadly poison of doctrines of devils so that people of God will seek Him and His righteousness with all their heart (spirit), soul and strength (body) - **Deuteronomy 6:4-5. Matthew 6:33** thus acquires an added urgency in the hearts of all true Kingdom citizens as a lifestyle rather than a creed.

The risen and gloried Christ is at once the Head of the Church, which is His Body; as well He is also its chief Cornerstone. This is because the Church is not a building or a denomination but the totality of all those who are redeemed by the Blood of the Lamb from all races, kindred and tongues

[**Ephesians 2:19–22; Ephesians 5:23-27; Colossians 1:9–18**]. As the head of all principality and power, Christ assures all who are His that EVERYTHING, including satanic activities against them, shall ultimately work together for good. The risen Christ is truly in charge, if we let go and allow Him to run our lives [**Colossians 1:9–18; Colossians 2:1-10; Romans 8:28–39**].

v) **The Coming King whose return is now imminent to establish the kingdom in its fullness and thereafter ensure that God is all in all.**

The entire creation has run its course. Presidents of nations, legislatures and transnational organizations including the United Nations are at wits end concerning the future of mankind. Several theories fly around concerning the future. There is panic on several fronts. The pace of climate change worries conservationists; the inability of a New World Order to emerge confuses the star gazers. Knowledge is increasing and the world is now truly a global village. Jerusalem has finally become the tough burdensome stone predicted and the statesmen of the world are increasingly impatient with the nation of Israel while various kinds of extremism are on the rise. Wars and rumors of wars are springing up all over the world. Economic and financial markets and models based on greed are crumbling world-wide. Natural disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, famine, pestilences ravage developed and developing nations alike. Sins of the flesh have received legal endorsements in several nations and human beings have become lovers of self at a rate which defies logic. Urban gangs and terrorists have turned cities into war zones as prophesied in several scriptures. All these were prophesied as necessary events that will precede the return of the King of Kings [**Matthew 24:3–41; 1 Timothy 4:1–3; 2 Timothy 3:1–9; 2 Timothy 4:3-5**].

The emergence of strong Anti-Semitic sentiments and stronger ultra nationalistic movements in Europe all point to one end: we have come to the fullness of the times of the gentiles; the last empire to oppress the Jews. Even the feet and toes mixed with clay and iron speaks of the emergence of the offshoot of the old Roman Empire. Whether this will be a rejuvenated Europe, the G12, G20 or the outcome of a re-engineered nation that will be radically different from what its founders planned or even the United Nations, one thing is certain: it is time for the stone cut from the mountain without hands to emerge according to **Daniel 2:31–45**. That stone is Jesus Christ, the God-Man who straddles time and eternity as the enigma of the ages. It takes grace and special revelation to know Him [**Matthew 11:25–27**]

While mortal men and women are full of apprehension, the redeemed of the Lord eagerly await the return of the King who has been on a long journey. They look up in eager anticipation, getting ready for the blast of the trumpet [**Matthew 24:42–51; 1 John 3:1–3; 1 Corinthians 15:50 –58**]. We however do not fold our arms waiting for the blast of the trumpet. We are girded for work, occupying till He comes. We trade with the spiritual gifts and talents and other endowments, putting them to optimum use to produce maximum results so that when He returns, we receive His commendation [**Matthew 25:14–30**] and in extensive ministry of doing good to all manner of men, especially to those of the house hold of faith [**Matthew 25:31–46, Galatians 6:9-10**]. Fulfillment of all prophecies preceding His return are but pointers to the accuracy of the Word of God concerning the things that are about to happen.

Any kingdom teacher who keeps the hearts and minds of the redeemed focused on the glitter this present world has to offer is working contrary to the principles of the kingdom.

Lesson 6

Offices of Christ in the Kingdom of God

Creator: Genesis 1:26; Colossians 1:16 - One of the most profound truths is the fact that Jesus is creator and that all things were made by Him and for His glory.

Savior: Ephesians 5:23 - Jesus is the Savior of the Church, which is His Body.

Redeemer: John 1:29; Hebrews 2:5–13 - Jesus is the redeemer of His people. He took our sins on Himself so that sin would be judged in the flesh. Those who put their trust in Him are fully redeemed from their sins and the power of darkness - Colossians 1:13, 14, 19-22; Colossians 2: 13–15.

Justifier: Romans 5:1–2; Romans 8:1–3 - Jesus is the justifier of those who come to God by and through Him. By justifying His people, Jesus wipes away their past so that they can begin life anew - 2 Corinthians 5:17.

Lord: Philippians 2:9–11 - By successful completion of His redemptive mission, Jesus obtained full rights as lord of all realms of existence – in heaven, on earth and underneath the earth.

Empowerer: John 14:15–18; John 16:5–15; John 20:22; Acts 1:8; Acts 2:1–4, 14-21, 32–39. Jesus is the baptizer in the Holy Spirit. John made it clear that Jesus would baptize his followers with the Holy Spirit and fire - John 1:30–34.

Model: John 13:1–17 - Jesus came to model for us how we should relate with the Father in absolute submission to His will - John 5:30; John 6:38. In life and in death, Jesus was content to do the will of the Father, showing us that this is the central requirement of God from His elect Matthew 26:36–46. It is no wonder that submission to the will of God was the heart of the pattern of prayer Jesus taught His disciples - Matthew 6:10.

Shepherd: John 10:1–30 - Jesus is the Great Shepherd who cares for the sheep even at the expense of His own life. He is the one who could leave 99 sheep in search of the missing one - Matthew 18:10–14; Luke 15:1–7.

High Priest: Hebrews 2:14–18; Hebrews 4:14–16; Hebrews 9:11-28. Jesus is the High Priest of the New Covenant. The Covenant was sealed by His own blood and is all sufficient to deal with the sin problem once and for all.

King: Jesus is the King of Kings. All Governments and human rule shall be on His shoulders to order them as it pleases Him. The day is coming when He will finally appear to set up His eternal Kingdom. The day when the Kingdoms of this world become His Kingdom is close at hand- 2 Peter 3:1–14; Revelations 3:11; Revelations 22:20.

The Critical Test

Receiving Jesus Christ as Emmanuel or God made flesh is still the contentious issue of our time. While every religion will heartily embrace most of what you have to say about a Supreme God, they will never accept the central basis of the true Kingdom message which is that Jesus Christ is both God and Man. He was God made flesh in order to redeem mortal man. *He was not just a supernatural being or one of the great prophets. Jesus is not just a King or the King. He is God.* This is the very defining point at which every pretension to belong to God stands or comes unstuck and on which religions of this world get real mad. Unfortunately, it is also the very point at which some of those who consider themselves Kingdom citizens stumble because of an undercurrent of Arianism which defines most perversions of the faith!

Unfortunately for such anti Christ doctrines, the word of God offers a sure description of whom they are and what their end shall be [**1 John 2:18–22; 2 John 1:7**]. In **Romans 8:9c**, the Holy Writ warns “*if any one does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His*”. To this agrees the words of **1 John 4:2-3** which says that affirmation that divinity became humanity in Christ Jesus is a critical basis of true kingdom citizenship. In effect, acceptance of the dual divinity and humanity of Christ is the central pivot on which everything purported to be of Christ hangs.

Inability to understand the dual nature and mandate of Christ has caused many to stumble. When **1 Corinthians 11:3** states that the head of Christ is God, the obvious reference is to His humanity. Christ Himself pointedly elevated the Father in His state of humanity. This is consistent with the revelation of the plan of salvation which occasioned the laying aside of His glory for the purpose of recovery of mankind. **1 Corinthians 15:20–28** gives us a sneak peek into the end game: that a day is coming when Jesus Christ will deliver up the fully recovered kingdom to the Father as the ultimate end of the great and mysterious plan of salvation. At that point declares the Holy Writ, God may be all in all. We cannot speculate as to what this means, for that will be evidently unprofitable. We must however take note of one very significant title of Jesus Christ which resonates at the beginning and end of the book of revelation: Alpha (the Beginning) and Omega (the End) [**Revelations 1:8; Revelations 22:12-13**].

We are thus warned to beware of the danger to our souls if we jump on any sweet sounding band wagon without first checking out where they stand on the critical issue of the divinity of Christ [**1 John 2:24–27; 1 John 4:1–3; 2 John 1:8–11**]. For this reason, Jude exhorts us in very strong language to stand for the Truth which was committed to the saints and not cling to any pseudo kingdom sweet talk which denies the essence of the true gospel of the kingdom [**Jude: 3–23**]. This is serious business, brethren. Whoever is preaching a so-called kingdom message and denies the divinity of Christ is not qualified to speak into your life. Do not assume, ask this critical question from any one – locally or on TV or even on face book who would preach to you: “*where do you stand on the perfect divinity and perfect humanity of Christ Jesus?*”

Implications of having a proper biblical, non-religious understanding of Jesus Christ

No Other way!

To all intent and purposes, the Kingdom of God cannot be accessed by any other way other than that straight gate and narrow way which is the divinity and humanity of its central character, Jesus Christ of Nazareth, very God and very man. No one can gate crash into the kingdom nor is there room to sneak in through any window. A proper biblical understanding and a resting of our faith on this solid truth is not negotiable. Those who set aside or twist the word to offer exotic concepts are merely day-dreaming. Those who reject the divinity of Christ are not ready for His return for they crucify Him afresh by so doing. For those who do not accept the divinity of Christ because they do not understand, all true saints have a responsibility to intercede that their eyes of understanding be opened to receive like babies, this central truth on which all other truths hang [**Matthew 18:1–5**]. Let us join our brother Paul the Apostle to pray for such people [**Ephesians 1:15–23; Colossians 1:9–18**].

What Then Shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?

This question by Pilate at the judgement seat in **Matthew 27:22** is still ringing out today. It rings in the ears of the various religions which are opposed to Jesus Christ as Lord of the earth. It rings even more in the ears of those who claim to be Christians and kingdom citizens but deny His deity. To be fair to all such, what any one does with this Jesus is a personal choice. Let no one however be in any doubt of the consequences of rejecting He who is the only Way, Truth and Life in the very essence of His Being as God made flesh.

Emmanuel came as a baby in a manger amongst animals. He lived without property, doing the will of the Father; died semi-naked on the Old Rugged Cross, hung between heavens and earth; exited this world to snatch the authority over mankind from Satan and on the third day resurrected [**Matthew 28:18**]. Before His followers, He ascended on High and is seated at the right hand of Majesty waiting for the exact hour and minute, down to the very second when it has been determined that He will return in great glory and power to consummate the dealings of God with man.

Let us base our faith in Him on the full counsel of the Word and not on the opinions of men or the works of people who have used His name to amass fame and fortune, living anti-kingdom lifestyles as superstars with superior revelation and knowledge. Jesus Christ is God who was made flesh. The degree of love that will drive God to make this very sacrifice is simply too high for the finite human mind to fully comprehend. We can truly only receive this truth by faith and then reason will follow.

While waiting, we need to mature in Christ. Our God is a God of process. We are called to grow in grace since we entered the kingdom as babes with limited understanding of our position in Him and who He is in us [**2 Peter 3:18**]. We also begin our service in the vineyard as servants of His with limited knowledge of His will and grand purpose. There comes a time however when the Lord requires us to make a transition to become His friends. This is the state of intimacy in which we desire His Presence and fellowship more than the toys that we used to fancy. We learn to be satisfied in Him and yearn to obey Him and co-labour out of love and not out of duty [**John 15:9–16**]. This was the same transition which made God to single Moses out for an intimate fellowship for the man had this testimony: *while God revealed His acts to Israel, to Moses He revealed His ways* [**Psalms 103:7**]. The ways of God are what we need to pursue in this last hour and not to chase after signs and

wonders. If we seek God, even chase after Him, signs and wonders will chase us and be our normal kingdom experience in everyday life [**Mark 16:17-18**]. We do not need to rent huge stadia, compose and sing special songs in a particular way with special effects and stage lightings and spend loads of money for the Holy Spirit to show up. It is time for the Holy Spirit to show up anywhere and everywhere we are. It is a shame that we try to confine the very God who breathed order into the chaos that was on the earth at the dawn of history into buildings called churches or programs we organize and expect Him to show up. We are not to dictate for Him when to show up. The Holy Spirit is to use us and situations as He wills and when He purposes. The Holy Spirit will always show up wherever Jesus is glorified in spirit and in truth.

However as the Holy Writ clearly reveals, we are also to mature into the realm of sonship where we take full responsibility to represent Christ in any part of the earth where we have been planted. We have the authority to boldly use His name to bring down all rebellion to His authority and exert influence of the kingdom over everything, animate and inanimate. In so doing, we are totally sold out to the Lord and are dead to humanistic ambitions. We accumulate no perishing goods and fancies because we are using every capacity, gift and resources available to advance the Kingdom and its righteousness. We lay our treasures in heaven with a zest which makes our natural brothers and friends to wonder if we are out of our minds. Sons do the business of their Fathers with all strength knowing assuredly that all of His assets are theirs. There can be thus no hireling spirit within the heart of a true son. It is in this regard that we are seen as brothers of Jesus Christ.

It is unfortunate that Satan has corrupted this glorious maturation process through the neo-kingdom movement, to present Jesus as no more than a messenger of God and to elevate men to assume they are equal to Him. This cultic error is an expensive joke. What a shame that some people buy this distortion and hold on to it tenaciously [**John 20:17; Romans 8:14-17; Galatians 4:1-7; Hebrews 2:1-18; Matthew 6:24-34**].

The signs of the times are very clear: Jesus is coming soon. Let us live in great carefulness of what we believe, how we live and prepare our hearts and minds to receive Him. Let us therefore allow the Holy Spirit to perfect holiness in us in thought, words and deeds. Let us love the Lord our God with all our hearts, soul and strength and our neighbours as ourselves. On these two, rest all we can ever do. Let us, in love and great conviction, present this same Jesus to those who are lost so that their names can also be inscribed in the Lamb's Book of Life. Let us also intercede earnestly for friends and relations who claim to believe in Him but deny His divinity. They are in great danger of crucifying Him afresh when they affirm such a bold lie. Brethren, be bold to confess Christ as very God, very man who shed His blood that all who believe can be saved [**Matthew 10:32-33; John 3:16-17**].

Further reading: 1 John 3:1-3; 2 Peter 3:17, 18; Revelations 21:1-8; Revelations 22:1-21.

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