

# THE TRUTH OF JESUS DEITY

What is the truth of the deity of Jesus Christ? This very important matter in our spiritual life is of concern to Muslims and Christians and to every true seeker of the truth.

Our conviction—and we believe every true seeker would share this conviction—is that of first importance in understanding this question, one must know what the Almighty Creator has said. For His words alone can reveal the truth or falsehood of Jesus' deity.

It is our obligation to God, when we know, obey and worship Him, that we hear His words and ponder them in our hearts. When we believe in Him, we must believe His words. God is the complete truth, thus what He says is absolutely true.

I do not think any Muslim disputes certain beliefs he learned from his religion about Jesus. According to these beliefs, the Muslim believes that Jesus was the Word of God, and was born by God's spirit to the virgin Mary; and that He was blessed and honored by God, was sinless, and was strengthened by the Holy Spirit. The Muslim also believes that Jesus performed miracles and even raised some people from the dead and had the power to create, and that He is alive since God lifted Him up.

## WORD OF GOD

These beliefs ought to lead the Muslim to the heart of the truth about Jesus. If we take one attribute, the Word of God, and examine it we will realize the depth and greatness of its meaning.

The Muslim believes that God created the Universe by His Word. Jesus is referred to as His Word, thus Jesus was before creation.

The Muslim also believes God's attributes are eternal. One of His attributes is "the hearer." God then heard from eternity, and what He heard was His Word. So, Jesus who was His Word was with God from the beginning.

## WHAT JESUS SAID

Some of the other attributes of Jesus, in which the Muslim believes, are attributes appearing in Him when He did His human work on earth. No other human possessed them because they are divine attributes.

The Muslim believes that Jesus never said anything untruthful. Therefore, the Muslim trusts what Jesus said because He was the sinless and blessed one. He was God's Word and God's Spirit. But the Muslim often does not know and often does not hear what Jesus said about Himself.

For this, it is important that we explore, with our Muslim reader, some of Jesus Christ's sayings about Himself, so we can know the truth of His deity.

## HE CAME FROM HEAVEN

Jesus spoke about His coming from heaven. He said, "You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world."

He said also, "What if you see the Son of Man ascend to where He was before?"

By the Son of Man, He meant Himself.

And He said, "No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven, the Son of Man."

#### HIS RELATIONSHIP TO GOD THE FATHER

Jesus called God His Father. And in many occasions He explained the relationship between Him and God by these sayings:

"I and the Father are one."

"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. If you really knew Me, you would know My Father as well. From now on, you do know Him and have seen Him." (Jesus, here, was talking to His disciples. One of them said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.")

Jesus then said, "Don't you know Me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father. How can you say 'Show us the Father'? Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in Me?"

He also said, "All things have been committed to me by the Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal Him."

And He addressed God saying, "All I have is yours, and all you have is Mine."

#### THE GOD AND THE MAN

Jesus spoke of Himself sometimes as the Son of God and other times as the Son of Man. He said, "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him."

When He was arrested before His death, He was taken to the high priest who asked Him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?" And Jesus said, "I am. And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of Heaven."

Jesus asked His disciples "who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God." Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven."

#### SOURCE OF LIFE AND RESURRECTION

He also said, "For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom He is pleased to give it.

"For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself. I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.

"... Every one who looks to the Son and believes in Him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."

#### HE WAS BEFORE THE WORLD

Jesus prayed for His disciples; He looked toward heaven and said, "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in Me

through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in Me and I am in You. ...

"Father, I want those You have given Me to be with Me where I am, and to see My glory, the glory You have given Me because You loved Me before the creation of the world."

In the same prayer, Jesus also said, "I have brought You glory on earth by completing the work You gave Me to do. And now, Father, glorify Me in Your presence with the glory I had with You before the world began."

On another occasion, He said, "The reason My Father loves Me is that I lay down My life, only to take it up again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of My own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again." And that is what He did when He was crucified and He rose from death.

### HE FORGIVES SINS

One day some people came carrying a paralytic on a mat. They found Jesus was teaching in a certain house. Since they could not get the sick man to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof of the house, and lowered the paralyzed man down in front of Jesus. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

Some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, "Why does this fellow talk like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

Immediately Jesus knew, in His Spirit, their thoughts and said to them, "Why do you entertain evil thought in your hearts? Which is easier to say 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say 'Get up and walk'? But so that you know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins," then He said to the paralytic, "Get up, take your mat and go home." He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all.

### LIGHT OF THE WORLD AND BREAD OF LIFE

Jesus said, also, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

"I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me will never go hungry, and he who believes in Me will never be thirsty."

### HIS RETURN

In His talk about signs of His return and the end of the age, He said, "Immediately after the distress of those days, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken. At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory. And He will send His angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather His elect from the

four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other."

#### HIS AUTHORITY IN THE DAY OF JUDGMENT

Also He said, "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, He will sit on His throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats."

"The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will weed out of His kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father."

Jesus spoke also about His deity in many of the parables that He told. And He proved it by the miracles He performed.

God's words that He revealed in His Holy Book, tell us more about the truth of Jesus' deity.

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