

Doctrine of Jesus Christ

1. Introduction:

"Here was a man who was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another obscure village, where He worked in a carpenter shop until he was thirty and for three years He was an itinerant preacher. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never owned a home. He never had a family. He never went to college. He never put His foot inside a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place where He was born. He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but Himself. He had nothing to do with the world except the naked power of His Divine manhood. While He was still a young man the tide of public opinion turned against Him. His friends ran away. One of them denied Him. He was turned over to His enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. His executioners gambled for the only piece of property He had own earth while He was dying--and that was His coat. When He was dead He was taken down and laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend. Nineteen wide centuries have come and gone and today He is the centerpiece of the human race and the leader of the column of progress. I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that were ever built, and all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned, put together have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as that One Solitary Life."

2. Jesus Christ is unique in several respects, not the least of which is the fact that in Him alone centers the gospel of the grace of God.

3. He has changed the face of history, for in Him eternity has invaded time, God became a man, and human life has achieved through His propitiation a significance that lifts it above the natural order of things making possible fellowship and service to God.

4. Some philosophers may be inclined to deny His power to propitiate God, reconcile man and redeem us from sin on the ground that the gulf between God and man is too great to be bridged in a single being.

4.1 Some may say the elements involved are too discrete to be combined in a unified personality.

4.2 Yet the Gospels present just such a personality.

4.3 One has the choice between supposing a literary miracle based on fantasy or accepting an historical miracle which is based on far more historicity than secular history at its best.

5. Most historians when cornered feel that it is true that they cannot dismiss Jesus Christ as unhistorical, in view of the substantial character of the evidence, but nevertheless some acknowledge misgivings as to the factuality of many elements of His story.

6. Though Jesus wrote nothing for posterity, He gave assurance to His closest followers that the Spirit of God would have a peculiar part in His ministry--the bringing to remembrance the things that Jesus had said.

Joh 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

7. Even apart from supernatural aid the disciples could never forget the stirring scenes they had shared with the Master.

7.1 Some incidents involved Jesus alone, such as the temptation, but there is no reason to suppose that He would have refrained from informing them of what transpired.

7.2 A total understanding however of the nuances of the respective ages had to await the glorification of Christ and the coming ministry of God the Holy Spirit.

8. The Gospels have not been arranged in chronological order.

8.1 The book of Mark provides the best indication of a chronological order.

9. The setting for this greatest of all lives is the land of Palestine at a time when Rome had established her sovereignty over much of the Near East.

9.1 Government officials, military men and tax gatherers were constant and unpleasant reminders that Israel was not totally free.

9.2 Restlessness, at least among the Zealots, was gradually building up toward open revolt.

9.3 Although Jesus spent His days on earth under the Roman eagle, His life was far more heavily influenced by His Jewish inheritance.

9.4 Born of a Jewish mother, nurtured in a home of piety and possibly of near poverty, encouraged to love the Scriptures, trained in the worship and instruction of the synagogue, Jesus grew spiritually, physically and intellectually.

9.5 The readiness with which He could quote Scripture and the appropriateness of His references to it testify to His prolonged and thoughtful study.

9.6 His boyhood development along this line is hidden from us; but this much is clear, that He turned to the Old Testament parchments not only for spiritual nourishment but also to find the indication of His own mission.

Luk 4:18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

Luk 4:19 To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

Luk 4:20 And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him.

Luk 4:21 And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.

Luk 22:37 For I say unto you, that this that is written must yet be accomplished in me, And he was reckoned among the transgressors: for the things concerning me have an end.

Luk 24:44 And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.

Luk 24:45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,

Luk 24:46 And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:

Luk 24:47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

9.7 He was able to assess the spiritual needs of His nation in an independent manner, and could point out the various ways in which the religious leaders had led the people astray.

10. Scriptures about His birth and boyhood are rather scant.

10.1 Herod the Great was still reigning at the time Jesus was born.

Mat 2:1 Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,

10.2 Herod's jealous apprehension made it unwise for Jews to show any great enthusiasm over the arrival of their promised King.

10.3 Yet the response of the shepherds presaged a kindly reception from the common people even as the Magi constituted the first fruits of the Gentiles.

10.4 The circumstances surrounding the conception of Jesus were such as to give rise among unbelieving Jews to ugly rumors to the effect that He was an illegitimate child.

10.5 Little information is given about the boyhood of Jesus, and this very fact underscores the truth that our Gospels were not intended to be biographies in the accepted sense of that word.

10.6 Although they provide some materials for a life of Christ, they were not written from a biographical standpoint, but rather as furnishing information leading to a better understanding of the message of the gospel.

10.7 The silence concerning this period of Jesus' life is relieved by the account of the visit to the Temple at the age of twelve, preceded and followed by summary statements about His development (Luk 2:40-52).

11. Jesus had to learn and prepare for the road to the cross.

11.1 In the providence of God Jesus had a herald who prepared the way for Him.

11.2 John the Baptist, fully aware of the impact he was making on Israel, nevertheless publicly proclaimed that a greater One was coming, One who would be both Savior (Joh 1:29) and Judge (Mat 25:41). John demanded that men must repent of their sins to enter the kingdom (Mat 3:2).

Joh 1:29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

Mat 25:41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

Mat 3:2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

11.3 Jesus' baptism at the hands of John marked the abandonment of the secluded life in Nazareth and the assumption of His role as the Servant of Jehovah.

11.4 The Baptism of Jesus occurred when he was approximately 30 years of age in approximately A.D. 27.

Luk 3:23 And Jesus himself began to be about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, which was the son of Heli,

11.5 To equip Himself for His mission the Holy Spirit came upon Him and heaven acknowledged Him.

11.6 The Son of God was not yet ready to launch out in His work, even though He had divine approval and equipment to add to His own dedication to the task.

11.7 He must first be subjected to a grueling temptation at the hands of Satan.

11.8 Jesus would be dealing with minds blinded by Satan, with people whose bodies were bound by him and reduced to virtual helplessness, with lives darkened and tortured by his emissaries the unclean spirits.

11.9 By meeting every test of the evil one Jesus earned the right to banish the demons and deliver men from the fearful grip of the devil.

11.10 He could challenge the sway of Satan's kingdom by having defeated the prince of this world, blunting every dart with the shield of faith and counterpunching with the Word of God.

11.11 Out of the temptation experience came a pattern of resolute dependence on the Word of God, a dependence that remained a permanent feature of His ministry.

12. The locale and length of His ministry and a day by day chronicle of Jesus' activity is lacking.

12.1 Notices of time and place are occasionally given, but they are insufficient to provide more than a sketchy outline.

12.2 It is clear from the Synoptics (Matthew, Mark and Luke) that the bulk of His ministry took place in Galilee, with considerable itinerating among the towns and villages.

12.3 Capernaum proved a suitable headquarters, because of its central location.

12.4 A journey to Tyre and Sidon on one occasion took Jesus and the disciples outside the bounds of Palestine. Mar 7:24

Mar 7:24 And from thence he arose, and went into the borders of Tyre and Sidon, and entered into an house, and would have no man know it: but he could not be hid.

12.5 Another trip took them through a portion of the Decapolis region consisting of a scattered group of Greek communities to the east of the Sea of Galilee.

Mar 7:31 And again, departing from the coasts of Tyre and Sidon, he came unto the sea of Galilee, through the midst of the coasts of Decapolis.

12.6 In addition there was a withdrawal north to Caesarea Philippi and some activity in Perea, another territory east of the Jordan.

Mar 8:27 And Jesus went out, and his disciples, into the towns of Caesarea Philippi: and by the way he asked his disciples, saying unto them, Whom do men say that I am?

Mar 10:1 And he arose from thence, and cometh into the coasts of Judaea by the farther side of Jordan: and the people resort unto him again; and, as he was wont, he taught them again.

12.7 From the Gospel according to John we learn little about Jesus' work in Galilee. Most of John's narrative centers around visits to Jerusalem, especially in connection with the various annual festivals of the Jews.

12.7.1 These included the Passover (Joh 2:23; 6:4; 13:1), Tabernacles (Joh 7:2), Dedication (Joh 10:22) and an unnamed feast (Joh 5:1).

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Passover

Joh 2:23 Now while he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many people saw the miraculous signs he was doing and believed in his name.

Joh 6:4 The Jewish Passover Feast was near.

Joh 13:1 It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love.

Tabernacles

Joh 7:2 But when the Jewish Feast of Tabernacles was near,

Dedication (Hanukah)

Joh 10:22 Then came the Feast of Dedication at Jerusalem. It was winter,
Joh 10:23 and Jesus was in the temple area walking in Solomon's Colonnade.

Unnamed Feast

Joh 5:1 Some time later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for a feast of the Jews.

12.8 The Synoptics mentioned only one Passover, the occasion of the passion.

12.9 From Acts 10:37 it is possible to assume that Jesus had a ministry in other parts of Judea than Jerusalem and vicinity.

Acts 10:37 That word, I say, ye know, which was published throughout all Judaea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached;

12.10 With the help of these references to festivals in John, the duration of the ministry can be calculated roughly. It must have exceeded two years and probably approximated three. Some advocate a four year period--believing the "Unnamed Feast was the Passover.

13. There is no doubt Jesus was the Messiah King and the Son of God.

Joh 5:17 But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.

Joh 5:18 Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, **but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.**

Joh 9:35 Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, **Dost thou believe on the Son of God?**

Joh 9:36 **He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him?**

Joh 9:37 And Jesus said unto him, **Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee.**

Joh 9:38 And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him.

Joh 10:33 "We are not stoning you for any of these things," replied the Jews, "but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God."

Joh 10:34 Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your Law, 'I have said you are gods'?"

Joh 10:35 If he called them 'gods,' to whom the word of God came-- and the
Joh 10:36 what about the one whom the Father set apart as his very own and sent into the world? **Why then do you accuse me of blasphemy because I said, 'I am God's Son'?**

Joh 10:37 Do not believe me unless I do what my Father does.

Joh 10:38 But if I do it, even though you do not believe me, believe the miracles, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father."

Joh 5:22 Moreover, **the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son,**

Joh 5:23 that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him.

Joh 5:24 "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.

Joh 5:25 I tell you the truth, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live.

Joh 4:24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."

Joh 4:25 The woman said, **"I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming.** When he comes, he will explain everything to us."

Joh 4:26 Then Jesus declared, **"I who speak to you am he."**

Luk 24:27 And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, **Jesus expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.**

Luk 24:44 And **Jesus said** unto them, "These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that **all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.**"

Joh 5:39 **"Search the scriptures;** for in them you think you have eternal life: and they are **they which testify of me ...**

Joh 5:46 For had you had believed Moses, you would have believed me; for Moses wrote of me."

Joh 5:47 But if ye believe not his writings, how shall you believe my words?"

Luk 4:20 And after reading Isa 61:1-2 in part Jesus closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him.

Luk 4:21 And then **Jesus said to them, "This day is Isa 61:1-2 fulfilled in your ears."**

Isa 61:1 **The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;**

Isa 61:2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;

13.1 The New Testament is of itself of no value if Jesus was not the Messiah; New Testament writers appeal often to various Old Testament prophecies being fulfilled in Jesus.

Acts 3:18 But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, **that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled.**

Acts 10:43 **To him give all the prophets witness,** that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.

Acts 13:29 **And when they had fulfilled all that was written of him,** they took him down from the tree, and laid him in a sepulcher.

Acts 17:2 And **Paul,** as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days **reasoned with them out of the scriptures,**

Acts 17:3 Opening and **alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ.**

1Co 15:3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that **Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;**

1Co 15:4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

Rom 1:2 **(Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,)**

Rom 1:3 **Concerning his Son Jesus Christ** our Lord, which was **made of the seed of David** according to the flesh;

Mat 2:4 And when **Herod the Great** had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he **demanded** of them **where the Christ should be born.**

Mat 2:5 And they said unto him, **In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet,**

Mat 2:6 And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, art not the least among the princes of Judah: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.

14. Let's conclude our *Doctrine of Jesus* where we began.

We am far within the mark when we say that all the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that were ever built, and all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned, put together have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as that One Solitary Life."