

The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ (3)

Introduction

- A. The message of the New Testament Church revolved around a person - the Lord Jesus Christ. He was central in its proclamation and practice.
- B. As evidence for their belief in Jesus Christ as the Son of God the early Christians showed how Old Testament prophecy was fulfilled in the Lord Jesus. They looked upon fulfilled prophecy as the credentials of the Messiah. In this they were in harmony with the Old Testament. In His challenge to the idol worshippers God refers to prophecy as an evidence of deity.

Produce your cause, saith the Lord, bring forth your strong reasons, saith the King of Jacob. Let them bring them forth and shew us what shall happen, let them shew the former things, what they be, that we may consider them and know the latter end of them or declare us things for to come. Show the things that are to come hereafter, that we may know that ye are gods
Isaiah 41:21-23. (See also 46:9,10; 48:3,5)

I. It was Prophesied that Jesus Christ would be Born of a Virgin,

Prophecy: Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign; Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son and shall call His name Immanuel.
Isaiah 7:14.

Fulfillment: ... Behold the angel of the Lord appeared unto him . . . saying, Joseph, thou son of David fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she shall bring forth a son and thou shalt call His name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child and shall bring forth a son and they shall call His name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. Matthew 1:20-23.

Observation: Isaiah prophesied about 700 years before Jesus Christ was born. Under inspiration he used the Hebrew word "almah" which combines the thought of virginity and marriageable age. Matthew was directed to use the word "parthenos" which also indicated the same. It is interesting that when the translators of the Septuagint came to Isaiah 7:14 they used "parthenos". This was made about 270 B. C. It is an amazing truth: God became a member of our race through the virgin Mary and His birth was prophesied 700 years before it took place.

II. It was Prophesied that Jesus Christ would be Born in Bethlehem.

Prophecy: But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall He come forth unto Me that is to be ruler in Israel, whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting. Micah 5:2 |

Fulfillment: Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea Matt. 2:1

Observation: We might question why God gave such a specific prophecy concerning the birth of the Lord Jesus? It would seem a part of the answer would be, that He wanted us to have historical and Biblical evidence for the deity of Jesus Christ as well as the comforting experience that He is our Lord and Savior. Micah lived 700 years B.C.

III. It was Prophesied that Jesus Christ would Ride into Jerusalem.

Prophecy: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion, behold, thy King cometh unto thee, He is just and having salvation, lowly, and riding upon an ass and upon a colt the foal of an ass. Zechariah 9:9.

Fulfillment: And when they drew nigh unto Jerusalem . . . all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, Tell ye the daughter of Sion, Behold, thy King cometh unto thee Matthew 21:1-5

Observation: Zechariah prophesied about 500 years before Jesus Christ was born. In His entrance into Jerusalem He was recognized by many to be the promised Messiah (Matthew 21:9; Mark 11:9,10; Luke 19:37-39; John 12:12-15). Whoever heard of a king coming to his subjects as the Lord Jesus? This indicated His love for us.

IV. It was Prophesied that Jesus Christ was to be Crucified.

Prophecy: All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way, and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all . . . because He hath poured out His soul unto death and He was numbered with the transgressors and He bare the sins of many and made intercession for the transgressors. Isaiah 43:6,12

Fulfillment: And there were also two other, malefactors, led with Him to be put to death. And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified Him and the malefactors, one on the right hand and the other on the left. Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do. And they parted His raiment, and cast lots. Luke 23:32-31.

Observation: It is overwhelming to realize that Jesus Christ was willing to die as our Substitute end to bear our guilt with its judgment. This He did in love for us so that all who believe on Him would have eternal life. His death was a fulfillment of prophecy.

V. It was Prophesied that Jesus Christ would be Resurrected.

Prophecy: For Thou wilt not leave My soul in hell, neither wilt Thou suffer Thine Holy One to see corruption. Psalm 16:10

Fulfillment: He (David) seeing this before spake of the Resurrection of Christ, that His soul was not left in hell, neither His flesh did see corruption. This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. Acts 2:31,32

Observation: The early Christians not only understood the Resurrection to be the fulfillment of prophecy they were witnesses to the event. The deity of Jesus Christ is evidenced by fulfilled prophecy.

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