

GRACE BIBLE CHURCH

Robert R. McLaughlin Bible Ministries

DOCTRINE OF THE DEITY OF JESUS CHRIST

- The corrected translation of Phi 2:5-7a says, "*Keep on thinking this [doctrine] within yourselves which was also resident in Christ Jesus, who [Jesus Christ], although He pre-existed in the essence of God*" -

Point 1. Definition

Deity is defined as the essential nature or condition of being God. Jesus Christ is eternal God. As a member of the Trinity, He always existed. There never was a time when He did not exist. He is co-equal and co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit. To begin to prove that Jesus Christ is God, you can point out that it says in Gen 1:1 "*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*" Who created the heavens & the earth? God did!

Joh 1:1 "*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*"

Joh 1:2 "*He was in the beginning with God.*" The Deity of Christ always existed.

Joh 1:3 "*All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.*"

In eternity past, Jesus Christ had the same essence as the Father and Spirit. In time, He still had the same functions of deity, but He also became true humanity. He is now different than the Father and the Holy Spirit, because He is also true humanity. Therefore, He is unique!

Col 1:15 "*And He [Jesus Christ] keeps on being the exact image*

of the invisible God, the privileged first-born with reference to all creation."

When it says that He is "*the privileged first-born*," it doesn't mean that He was born and that He didn't always exist. The word "*first-born*" is **prototokos**. It refers to the first-born of a new creation. The humanity of Christ was born as taught in Isa 7:14, "*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.*" This was fulfilled in Mat 1:20-23. So, the "*first-born*" not only indicates the first-born of a new creation but also "**special privilege.**"

There were 3 privileges of the first-born sons in Israel.

1. The first-born had the privilege of rulership.
2. The first-born in the Levitical tribe had the priesthood of the family.
3. The first-born had the privilege of heirship.

In Rev 5:5, we are told that sitting on the throne is the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David.

We read that the elders say to Him in Rev 4:11 "*Worthy art Thou, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for Thou didst create all things, and because of Thy will they existed, and were created.*"

And so, as in Col 1:15, He is called the first-born of every creature. The word "**creature**" is **Ktiseos**, which means creature or the original creation, including angels. So, please note that Jesus Christ was not created, but He is the first-born of every creature. We do not know what type of redemption angels had, but verses like this and Heb 2:2 seem to leave a door open for some eternal mystery concerning angelic redemption. And this is what we call a genitive of reference, which means "**Christ was the first born with reference to all created beings.**" That's the way Col 1:15 should be translated. In other words, the passage doesn't say He is the first-born among creatures, but the first-born with reference to all creation

or creatures.

The Williams translation says, ***"Who existed before any created thing."*** So this verse, Col 1:15 says, ***"And He [Jesus Christ] keeps on being the exact image of the invisible God, the privileged first-born with reference to all creation."***

Now the Lord Jesus Christ (TLJC) is God, and He created all humanity. Jesus Christ is unique!

Your salvation...

Your eternity...

Your provisions in time...

Everything...depends upon the fact that Jesus Christ is unique! And it is the uniqueness of Christ that leads to the uniqueness of His Savior-hood. And everything that you will ever possess and ever have possessed depends upon the uniqueness of Jesus Christ!

Col 1:16 ***"For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities -- all things have been created by Him and for Him."***

Col 1:17 ***"And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together."***

The rulership of Christ is discussed in such passages like Col 1:18. ***"He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead; so that He Himself might come to have first place in everything."***

Christ is the ruler of the church. He is also the High Priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

Heb 5:6 ***"Thou art a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek."***

Christ is also the Heir of all things.

Heb 1:2 *"in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world."*

Heirship included the double portion, and Christ has the double portion in eternity of both Israel and the Church. Now, why is understanding and mastering this doctrine so important? 1Jo 2:22 ***"Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son."***

1Jo 2:23 ***"Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also."***

Point 2. The Syllogism of Deity.

A syllogism is a logical formula consisting of two premises and a conclusion: a major and minor premise, plus a conclusion derived from deductive reasoning. For example, every virtue is admirable (major premise), kindness is a virtue (minor premise); therefore, kindness is admirable (conclusion). Now, following this formula:

The Trinity is eternal. Christ is a member of the Trinity. Therefore, Christ is eternal. There are at least three verses of scripture where the deity of Christ is presented as a syllogism. Let's note the scriptures, and then we'll be able to identify the syllogism.

1) 1Pe 1:1 ***"Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen."***

1Pe 1:2 ***"according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, that you may obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in fullest measure."***

Notice we have God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit all mentioned in this verse. We have the omniscience of God the Father mentioned by the word foreknowledge, the omnipotence

of God the Holy Spirit sanctifying the believer, and obedience to TLJC.

2) 2Co 13:14 ***"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all."***

3) Mat 28:19 ***"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,"***

So the syllogism is that the Trinity is eternal, Christ is the member of the trinity; therefore, Christ is eternal. In fact, Isa 48:16 is also a syllogism. Isa 48:16 ***"Come near to Me, listen to this: From the first I have not spoken in secret, From the time it took place, I was there. And now the Lord God [God the Father] has sent Me [God the Son], and His Spirit [God the Holy Spirit]."***

This leads us to a real important and detailed point in our doctrine that deals with scriptural documentation concerning the deity of Christ.

Point 3. Scriptural Documentation.

Mic 5:2 says, during the incarnation, Jesus Christ is eternal God.

Mic 5:2 ***"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."***

Our Lord fulfilled this in Mat 2:5-6. So notice the phrase, ***"His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity."*** This same Hebrew word for "eternity" olam is used to affirm the eternal existence of the Father in many passages, Gen 21:33; Psa 41:13; 90:2; 103:17; Isa 40:28. What this proves for the Father, it also proves for the Son. Joh 1:1 ***"In a beginning which was not a beginning there existed the Word [Jesus Christ],"***

Joh 8:56 ***"Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw [it] and was glad."***

Joh 8:57 *"The Jews therefore said to Him, 'You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?'"*

Joh 8:58 *"Jesus said to them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am.'"*

"I am" means - I have always existed.

In Exo 3:13 *"Then Moses said to God, 'Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I shall say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you.' Now they may say to me, 'What is His name?' What shall I say to them?'"*

Exo 3:14 *"And God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM'; and He said, 'Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"*

Unless it affirms His eternal existence, the language that TLJC uses in this passage is absolute. **"I am"** in the Greek is **ego eimi**, and it cannot be correctly rendered as anything except **"I am."** Jesus was not saying, "Before Abraham was, I have been" as in the New World Translation of the JW's Bible. In fact, in other verses in the same chapter, as well as, a host of other passages in the New Testament, they translate **ego eimi** as **"I am."** Joh 8:24, 28.

Our Lord used the same terminology that the Father used to describe Himself in Exo 3:14 (Septuagint Version) - **ego eimi** - **"I am."** In fact, the Jews understood His use of **ego eimi** to be the same as when used by the Father, as evidenced by the fact that they sought to kill him, when He said it.

Joh 8:59 *"Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself, and went out of the temple."*

Jehovah is the traditional translation of the Hebrew consonants JHWH - the special name for the one true God. However, the Jews said that this name was too sacred to be pronounced. So, they replaced it by a variety of names - such as "Lord" or "the Name". From Exo 3:14, we know that JHWH was derived from the verb "to be." God said to Moses, **"I AM WHO I AM;"** and He said, **"Thus**

you shall say to the sons of Israel (This is what you are to say to the Israelites), *'I AM has sent me to you.'*"

On a number of occasions, Jesus refers to himself by using, "**I am.**" For example, in Joh 6:35, Jesus said, "**I am** the bread of life." Joh 6:41 "I am the bread that came down out of heaven." Joh 6:51; "**I am** the living bread." Joh 8:12 "**I am** the light of the world." Joh 8:18 "**I am** He who bears witness of Myself." Joh 10:7 "**I am** the door of the sheep." Joh 10:14 "**I am** the good shepherd." Joh 11:25 "**I am** the resurrection and the life." Joh 14:6 "**I am** the way, and the truth, and the life." Joh 15:1 "**I am** the true vine." Those are the ten "**I AM's**" of the Gospel of John. Of course, ten represents the number of completion of the divine order, and TLJC was completely identifying Himself as the great "**I am!**"

Many people say that Jesus Christ never claimed to be God; yet this is not true! At the time of His trial, the high priest asked Jesus about His Messiahship. Mar 14:60 "*And the high priest stood up [and came] forward and questioned Jesus, saying, 'Do You make no answer? What is it that these men are testifying against You?'*"

Mar 14:61-64 "*But He kept silent, and made no answer. Again the high priest was questioning Him, and saying to Him, 'Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed [One]?' And Jesus said, 'I am; and you shall see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven.'* And tearing his clothes, the high priest said, '*What further need do we have of witnesses? You have heard the blasphemy; how does it seem to you?'* And they all condemned Him to be deserving of death."

The violent reaction from the high priest can only be explained if this was a claim to Deity. He said, "You have heard the blasphemy!" There are many other roles or titles of Jehovah from the Old Testament used of and by Jesus: author of eternal law, bridegroom, redeemer, shepherd, savior, rock, forgiver of sins, judge.

In Isa 45:22-23, God says of Himself (through the prophet), "*Turn to Me, and be saved, all the ends of the earth; For I am God, and there is no other. I have sworn by Myself, The word has gone forth*

from My mouth in righteousness And will not turn back, That to Me every knee will bow, every tongue will swear [allegiance]."

In Phi 2:10-11, Paul says, *"that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."*

In Joh 5:18 *"For this cause therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God."*

As we read in John's Gospel, Jesus was indeed "making himself equal with God." He was teaching that the "unity" of God involved a true uniting of three "persons" in the Godhead or in the divine nature; and He was claiming to be one of them. In COL 2:9, Paul writes, *"in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form."*

Jesus Christ is called God in Tit 2:13, *"looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus;"*

You will note that the Bible clearly teaches the Deity of Jesus Christ. You will recall doubting Thomas who at first could not believe in the resurrection of Jesus. And then, of course, TLJC appeared to him. Joh 20:24 *"But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came."*

Joh 20:25-26 *"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. And after eight days again His disciples were inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst, and said, "Peace [be] with you."*

Joh 20:27 *"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. Thomas answered and said to Him, My Lord and my God!"

It was Paul who said, ***"If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord [Jehovah], and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved"*** in Rom 10:9.

Comparing scripture with scripture proves the deity of TLJC!

1. Who is omnipotent (all powerful)? The answer according to the Scriptures is God! 1Ch 29:11. In Phi 3:21, Jesus Christ is all-powerful; He exerts ***"the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself."***
2. Who is omniscient (all knowing)? 1Jo 3:20 ***"God knows all things."*** In Col 2:2-3, Jesus Christ has ***"all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."***
3. Who is Lord of the Sabbath? In Gen 2:3, God is! Mat 12:8 ***"For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."***
4. Who is the great ***"I AM"***? In Exo 3:14, God is! Joh 8:58 ***"Jesus said to them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am.'"***
5. Who is the only creator? Isa 44:24 ***"Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, and the one who formed you from the womb, I, the Lord, am the maker of all things, Stretching out the heavens by Myself, And spreading out the earth all alone."*** In Col 1:16, we are told about TLJC, ***"For by Him all things were created, [both] in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created by Him and for Him."***
6. Who is the only savior? Isa 43:11 ***"I, even I, am the Lord; And there is no savior besides Me."*** Act 4:12 ***"And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved."***

7. Who will judge mankind? Jehovah! Isa 3:13 ***"The Lord arises to contend, And stands to judge the people."*** In 2Co 5:10 ***"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ."***

8. Who will judge between the sheep and goats? Eze 34:17 ***"And as for you, My flock, thus says the Lord God, 'Behold, I will judge between one sheep and another, between the rams and the male goats.'"*** In Mat 25:31-34, TLJC will judge between the sheep and goats. Mat 25:31-35 ***"But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. And all the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left; Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.'"***

9. Who sent the prophets? Jer 7:25 ***"Since the day that your fathers came out of the land of Egypt until this day, I have sent you all My servants the prophets, daily rising early and sending [them]."*** Mat 23:34 ***"Therefore, behold, I am sending you prophets and wise men and scribes; some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues, and persecute from city to city,"***

10. Who resurrected Jesus? Act 4:10 ***"let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead."*** Joh 2:20-21 ***"The Jews therefore said, 'It took forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?' But He was speaking of the temple of His body."***

11. Who is "coming in glory?" Isa 40:5 ***"Then the glory of the Lord will be revealed, And all flesh will see [it] together; For the mouth of the Lord has spoken."*** Mat 24:30 ***"and then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory."***

12. Who is our Father? Isa 63:16 *"For Thou art our Father, though Abraham does not know us, And Israel does not recognize us. Thou, O Lord, art our Father, Our Redeemer from of old is Thy name."* Isa 9:6 *"For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace."*

13. Who is the "first and last?" Isa 44:6 *"Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel And his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: 'I am the first and I am the last, And there is no God besides Me.'" Rev 1:17 "And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as a dead man. And He laid His right hand upon me, saying, "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last."*

14. Who is Rock of salvation? 2Sa 22:32 *"For who is God, besides the Lord? And who is a rock, besides our God?" 1Co 10:4 "and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ."*

15. Who is the "stone of stumbling?" In Isa 8:13-15, Jehovah is! Isa 8:13-15 *"It is the Lord of hosts whom you should regard as holy. And He shall be your fear, And He shall be your dread. Then He shall become a sanctuary; But to both the houses of Israel, a stone to strike and a rock to stumble over, a snare and a trap for the inhabitants of Jerusalem. And many will stumble over them, Then they will fall and be broken; They will even be snared and caught."*

1Pe 2:8 *"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."*

16. *"One crying in the wilderness"* came to prepare a way for whom? Isa 40:3 *"A voice is calling, 'Clear the way for the Lord in the wilderness; Make smooth in the desert a highway for our God.'" Mat 3:3 "For this is the one referred to by Isaiah the prophet, saying, 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Make ready the way of the Lord, Make His paths straight!'"*

17. Who is eternal? Gen 21:33; *"and there he (Abraham) called on the name of the Lord, the Everlasting (Eternal) God."* Mic 5:2 *"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."*

18. Who is the fountain of living waters? Jer 17:13 *"O Lord, the hope of Israel, All who forsake Thee will be put to shame. Those who turn away on earth will be written down, Because they have forsaken the fountain of living water, even the Lord."* Joh 4:14 *"but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life."*

19. Who resurrects the dead? Act 26:8 *"Why is it considered incredible among you [people] if God does raise the dead?"* Joh 6:40 *"For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him, may have eternal life; and I Myself will raise him up on the last day."*

20. Who gives rewards to man? Isa 40:10 *"Behold, the Lord God will come with might, With His arm ruling for Him. Behold, His reward is with Him, And His recompense before Him."* Mat 16:27 *"For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels; and will then recompense every man according to his deeds."*

21. Who has all authority and power? 1Ch 29:11 *"Thine, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth; Thine is the dominion, O Lord, and Thou dost exalt Thyself as head over all."* Mat 28:18 *"And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.'"*

22. Who gives power and authority to man? Psa 68:35 *"O God, [Thou art] awesome from Thy sanctuary. The God of Israel Himself gives strength and power to the people. Blessed be God!"*

Luk 9:1 ***"And He called the twelve together, and gave them power and authority over all the demons, and to heal diseases."***

23. Who forgives sin? 2Ch 7:14 ***"and My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray, and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."*** Mat 9:6 ***"But in order that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins' --then He said to the paralytic-- 'Rise, take up your bed, and go home.'"***

24. Who sent the Holy Spirit? Joh 14:16 ***"And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever."***

Joh 16:7 ***"But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper shall not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you."***

25. Who has the greatest name? Neh 9:5 ***"Arise, bless the Lord your God forever and ever! O may Thy glorious name be blessed And exalted above all blessing and praise!"***

Phi 2:9 ***"Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name."***

26. Who are we to worship? Exo 34:14 ***"-for you shall not worship any other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God-"***

Rev 5:12-13 ***"saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing. And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever."***

27. Who is the good Shepherd? Gen 48:15 ***"And he blessed Joseph, and said, The God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac***

walked, The God who has been my shepherd all my life to this day."

Joh 10:14 "I am the good shepherd; and I know My own, and My own know Me,"

28. Who searches for the lost sheep of Israel? Eze 34:11 *"For thus says the Lord God, "Behold, I Myself will search for My sheep and seek them out."*

Mat 15:24 "But He answered and said, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

29. Who is *"Lord of lords?"* Deu 10:17 *"For the Lord your God is the God of gods and the Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God who does not show partiality, nor take a bribe."*

Rev 17:14 "These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him [are the] called and chosen and faithful."

30. To whom shall every knee bow? Isa 45:22 *"Turn to Me, and be saved, all the ends of the earth; For I am God, and there is no other."*

Isa 45:23 "I have sworn by Myself, The word has gone forth from My mouth in righteousness And will not turn back, That to Me every knee will bow, every tongue will swear [allegiance]."

Phi 2:10 "that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth,"

31. Who is the righteous branch of David? Jer 23:5 *"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."*

Jer 23:6 "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.'''

Jer 33:15 "In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch of David to spring forth; and He shall execute justice and righteousness on the earth."

32. Who alone is Holy? 1Sa 2:2; "There is no one holy like the Lord, Indeed, there is no one besides Thee, Nor is there any rock like our God."

Act 3:14 "But you disowned the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you."

33. Whose blood cleanses us? Act 20:28 "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood."

1Jo 1:7 "but if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin."

34. The world was created for whom? Pro 16:4 "The Lord has made everything for its own purpose, Even the wicked for the day of evil."

Col 1:16 "For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created by Him and for Him."

35. Who is above all? Neh 9:6 "Thou alone art the Lord. Thou hast made the heavens, The heaven of heavens with all their host, The earth and all that is on it, The seas and all that is in them. Thou dost give life to all of them And the heavenly host bows down before Thee."

Rom 9:5 "whose are the fathers, and from whom is the Christ according to the flesh, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen."

36. Who is forever the same? According to Psa 102:24-27, God is!
Psa 102:24-27 *"I say, O my God, do not take me away in the midst of my days, Thy years are throughout all generations. 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."*

Heb 1:8-12 *"But of the Son He says, 'Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever, And the righteous scepter is the scepter 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.'"*

37. Who is our light? Psa 27:1 *"The Lord is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the defense of my life; Whom shall I dread?"*

Joh 8:12 *"Again therefore Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall not walk in the darkness, but shall have the light of life."*

38. Who is the way or path? Psa 16:11 *"Thou wilt make known to me the path of life; In Thy presence is fullness of joy; In Thy right hand there are pleasures forever."*

Joh 14:6 *"Jesus said to him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me."*

39. Who is in charge of the angels? Psa 103:20 *"Bless the Lord, you His angels, Mighty in strength, who perform His word, Obeying the voice of His word!"*

2Th 1:7 *"and [to give] relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire."*

40. Who gives us rest? Exo 33:14 *"And He said, My presence shall go [with you], and I will give you rest."*

Mat 11:28 *"Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest."*

41. Who gives eternal life? Rom 6:23 *"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

Joh 10:28 *"and I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and no one shall snatch them out of My hand."*

Point 4. Bible Verses Stating Jesus is God.

Mat 1:23 *"Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which translated means, God with us."*

Luk 7:12-16 *"Now as He approached the gate of the city, behold, a dead man was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow; and a sizeable crowd from the city was with her. And when the Lord saw her, He felt compassion for her, and said to her, 'Do not weep.' And He came up and touched the coffin; and the bearers came to a halt. And He said, 'Young man, I say to you, arise!' And the dead man sat up, and began to speak. And [Jesus] gave him back to his mother. And fear gripped them all, and they [began] glorifying God, saying, 'A great prophet has arisen among us!' and, 'God has visited His people!'"*

Joh 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 came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being."*

In Joh 1:18 *"No man has seen God at any time; the only begotten*

God, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained [Him]."

Joh 5:18 "For this cause therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God."

Joh 10:30-33 "'I and the Father are one.' The Jews took up stones again to stone Him. Jesus answered them, 'I showed you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you stoning Me?' The Jews answered Him, 'For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy; and because You, being a man, make Yourself out [to be] God.'"

Joh 13:12-13 "And so when He had washed their feet, and taken His garments, and reclined [at the table] again, He said to them, 'Do you know what I have done to you? You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for [so] I am.'"

In Joh 14:8-9 "Philip said to Him, Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us. Jesus said to him, Have I been so long with you, and [yet] you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how do you say, Show us the Father?"

Joh 17:4-5 "I glorified Thee on the earth, having accomplished the work which Thou hast given Me to do. And now, glorify Thou Me together with Thyself, Father, with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was."

Joh 20:26-28 "And after eight days again His disciples were inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst, and said, Peace [be] with you. 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. Thomas answered and said to Him, My Lord and my God!"

2Co 4:4 "in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of

the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."

Phi 2:6 "who, although He preexisted in the essence of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,"

Col 2:9 "For in Him all the fulness of Deity dwells in bodily form,"

1Ti 3:16 "And by common confession great is the mystery of godliness: He [God] who was revealed in the flesh,"

1Ti 6:13-15 "I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who testified the good confession before Pontius Pilate, that you keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which He will bring about at the proper time-- He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords;"

In Heb 1:1-8 "God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in [His] Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high; having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they. For to which of the angels did He ever say, 'Thou art My Son, Today I have begotten Thee?' And again, 'I will be a Father to Him And He shall be a Son to Me?' And when He again brings the first-born into the world, He says, 'And let all the angels of God worship Him.' And of the angels He says, 'Who makes His angels winds, And His ministers a flame of fire.' But of the Son [He says], 'Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever, And the righteous scepter is the scepter of His kingdom.'"

"O God" is used in reference to Jesus by the Father Himself in Heb 1:8. The Father is addressed by the same identical term in Psa 83:1.

Heb 1:9-10 "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."

Tit 2:13-14 "looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and [kai] Savior, Christ Jesus; who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds."

According to Granville Sharp's rule of Greek grammar, **"When a Greek kai connects two nouns of the same case, if the article precedes the first noun and is not repeated before the second noun, the latter noun always refers to the same person that is expressed or described by the first noun."**

For example, "and some pastors and teachers" refers to the same office.

Jesus is addressed in this fashion in Tit 2:13-14 and 2Pe 1:1. Since there is only one true God, Jesus is of the same nature with the Father.

Isa 43:10 "You are My witnesses, declares the Lord, And My servant whom I have chosen, In order that you may know and believe Me, And understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, And there will be none after Me."

Isa 43:11 "I, even I, am the Lord; And there is no savior besides Me."

2Pe 1:1 "Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ:"

Rev 19:16 "And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."

1Jo 5:20 "And we know that the Son of God has come, and has

given us understanding, in order that we might know Him who is true, and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life."

Whoever is the true God is also eternal life. Therefore, if we identify the one who is eternal life, we also identify the true God. There are many more that we could note, but these are just a few. For example, in Luk 4:8 Jesus said to Satan, ***"It is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.'"*** To worship anyone but the Lord your God is sin. Mat 28:17 ***"And when they [the disciples] saw Him, they worshiped Him."*** TLJC also received worship from the blind man in Joh 9:38 ***"And he said, 'Lord, I believe.' And he worshiped Him."*** He also received worship from Thomas in Joh 20:28 ***"Thomas answered and said to Him, 'My Lord and my God!'"***

In Zec 12:10, it is Jehovah who has pierced hands. And in Mal 3:1, we are told that Jehovah would come to His temple, ***"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 in Mat 21:12-13 ***"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. 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.'"*** The temple could not be the Lord's house unless He is Jehovah.

Let's consider the Sabbath. The Sabbath was Jehovah's day. Mat 12:8 ***"For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."***

In Isa 41:4, the Lord Jehovah says, ***"I, the Lord, am the first, and with the last. I am He."*** In Rev 1:8, Jesus Christ says, ***"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, 'who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.'"*** Rev 1:17-18 ***"And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as a dead man. And He laid His right hand upon me, saying, 'Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades.'"***

Rev 2:8 "And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: The first and the last, who was dead, and has come to life, says this:"

Rev 21:6 "And He said to me, It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost."

Rev 22:12-13 "Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward [is] with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

Isa 44:6-8 "Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel And his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: 'I am the first and I am the last, And there is no God besides Me. And who is like Me? Let him proclaim and declare it; Yes, let him recount it to Me in order, From the time that I established the ancient nation. And let them declare to them the things that are coming And the events that are going to take place. Do not tremble and do not be afraid; Have I not long since announced it to you and declared it? And you are My witnesses. Is there any God besides Me, Or is there any [other] Rock? I know of none.'"

In Isa 44:24 "Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, and the one who formed you from the womb, 'I, the Lord, am the maker of all things, Stretching out the heavens by Myself, And spreading out the earth all alone.'"

Isaiah tells us in Isa 43:25, 44:22 that only Jehovah can forgive sin. And in Col 3:13 and Act 5:31, Jesus Christ forgives sin.

Point 5. The Preincarnate Work of Jesus Christ Indicates He Was God.

The most obvious pre-incarnate work is the fact that TLJC is the Creator of the universe, Joh 1:3; Col 1:16; Heb 1:10.

Joh 1:3 "All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being."

He had to be God to pre-exist all other creatures. We have a lot of

Biblical documentation of His pre-incarnate person. Joh 1:14-15
"And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. John bore witness of Him, and cried out, saying, 'This was He of whom I said, He who comes after me has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.'"

Joh 3:13 *"And no one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven, [even] the Son of Man."*

Joh 8:23 *"And He was saying to them, You are from below, I am from above; you are of this world, I am not of this world."*

Joh 8:56-59 *"Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad. The Jews therefore said to Him, 'You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?' Jesus said to them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am.' Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself, and went out of the temple."*

Joh 17:4 *I glorified Thee on the earth, having accomplished the work which Thou hast given Me to do."*

Joh 17:5 *"And now, glorify Thou Me together with Thyself, Father, with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was."*

Joh 17:14 *"I have given them Thy word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world."*

Joh 17:18 *"As Thou didst send Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world."*

So, the fact that He existed before He became a man points to His deity.

Point 6. TLJC also is identified as God by the Old Testament Theophanies.

TLJC often appeared as a man in the Old Testament. For example: He was the one who wrestled with Jacob in Gen 32:24-30. He also

came as the burning bush to Moses in Exo 3:1-6. In the Old Testament, He appeared as the angel of the Lord or the angel of Jehovah. And, there are passages where TLJC is not only called the angel of Jehovah, but at the same time, He is also called Jehovah.

Gen 16:7-10 "Now the angel of the Lord found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, by the spring on the way to Shur. And he said, 'Hagar, Sarai's maid, where have you come from and where are you going?' And she said, 'I am fleeing from the presence of my mistress Sarai.' Then the angel of the Lord said to her, 'Return to your mistress, and submit yourself to her authority. Moreover, the angel of the Lord said to her, I will greatly multiply your descendants so that they shall be too many to count.' The angel of the Lord said to her further, 'Behold, you are with child, And you shall bear a son; And you shall call his name Ishmael, Because the Lord has given heed to your affliction. And he will be a wild donkey of a man, His hand {will} be against everyone, And everyone's hand will be against him; And he will live to the east of all his brothers.' Then she called the name of the Lord who spoke to her, 'Thou art a God who sees;' for she said, 'Have I even remained alive here after seeing Him?'"

Look at Gen 22:11-15 "But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, and said, 'Abraham, Abraham!' And he said, 'Here I am.' And he said, 'Do not stretch out your hand against the lad, and do nothing to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.' Then Abraham raised his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him a ram caught in the thicket by his horns; and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the place of his son. And Abraham called the name of that place The Lord Will Provide, as it is said to this day, In the mount of the Lord it will be provided. Then the angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, 'By Myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son, indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens, and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall

possess the gate of their enemies. And in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.'"

In Gen 31:11-13 "Then the angel of God said to me in the dream, 'Jacob,' and I said, 'Here I am.' And he said, 'Lift up, now, your eyes and see that all the male goats which are mating are striped, speckled, and mottled; for I have seen all that Laban has been doing to you. I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed a pillar, where you made a vow to Me; now arise, leave this land, and return to the land of your birth.'"

In Gen 48:15-16 "And he blessed Joseph, and said, 'The God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, The God who has been my shepherd all my life to this day, The angel who has redeemed me from all evil, Bless the lads; And may my name live on in them, And the names of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; And may they grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth.'"

You can also take note of Exo 3:1-6, Act 7:31-35, Exo 13:21, 14:19, Jud 6:11-23, and 13:9-22.

In all of these passages, you will find TLJC mentioned in context as the angel of Jehovah. Now, there is also something else that is very interesting. The angel of Jehovah is also distinguished from Jehovah. Why? Because, the angel of Jehovah is always Jesus Christ. And, there are times that Jehovah can refer to God the Father, God the Son, or God the Spirit. For example, let's take the word Elohim. Elohim is in the plural, and as a plural word is translated God in the Old Testament. It refers to the entire Trinity. The plural pronoun for God, Elohim, is used in Gen 1:26, 3:22.

Gen 1:26 "Then God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness..."

Gen 3:22 "Then the Lord God said, Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil..."

Isa 6:8 "Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?' Then I said, 'Here am I. Send

me!'"

Psa 110:1 *"The Lord [God the Father] says to [David's] my Lord [God the Son]..."*

Now, whenever one or more persons are going to be mentioned, we have the word Jehovah. It is used for God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. However, it is only the Son who is the "angel of Jehovah." TLJC is the only visible member of the Trinity. Joh 1:18 ***"No man has seen God at any time; the only begotten God, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him."***

Joh 6:46 ***"Not that any man has seen the Father, except the One who is from God; He has seen the Father."***

1Ti 6:16 ***"who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light; whom no man has seen or can see. To Him be honor and eternal dominion! Amen."***

1Jo 4:12 ***"No one has beheld God at any time..."***

The point is that Jesus Christ is the only manifest person of the Godhead, but He is still God. He is the only person of the Godhead who ever is manifest to man, or to creatures in the form of a creature, or in some other form like the burning bush, or the pillar of fire at night, or the cloud by day. And so, Jesus Christ was the angel of Jehovah in the Old Testament. And since, He is also Jehovah, each passage says somewhere in it that "Jehovah said." This indicates that the angel of Jehovah is Jehovah, and that Jehovah is also the angel of Jehovah. The angel of Jehovah is a Theophany, and Jehovah is God. So, obviously when some other member of the Godhead is involved in the passage where the angel of Jehovah is functioning, it will say, "Jehovah said to the angel of Jehovah." Why? Because, the Father is Jehovah too. And so, the Father is talking to the angel of Jehovah, TLJC, in the passage.

This is true in Gen 24:7 ***"The Lord, the God of heaven, who took me from my father's house and from the land of my birth, and who spoke to me, and who swore to me, saying, 'To your descendants I***

will give this land,' He will send His angel before you, and you will take a wife for my son from there." Gen 24:40 "And he said to me, 'The Lord, before whom I have walked, will send His angel with you to make your journey successful, and you will take a wife for my son from my relatives, and from my father's house.'"

Exo 23:20 "Behold, I am going to send an angel before you to guard you along the way, and to bring you into the place which I have prepared."

Exo 32:34 "But go now, lead the people where I told you. Behold, My angel shall go before you..."

1Ch 21:15-18 "And God sent an angel to Jerusalem to destroy it; but as he was about to destroy it, the Lord saw and was sorry over the calamity, and said to the destroying angel, 'It is enough; now relax your hand.' And the angel of the Lord was standing by the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite. Then David lifted up his eyes and saw the angel of the Lord standing between earth and heaven, with his drawn sword in his hand stretched out over Jerusalem. Then David and the elders, covered with sackcloth, fell on their faces. And David said to God, 'Is it not I who commanded to count the people? Indeed, I am the one who has sinned and done very wickedly, but these sheep, what have they done? O Lord my God, please let Thy hand be against me and my father's household, but not against Thy people that they should be plagued.' Then the angel of the Lord commanded Gad to say to David, that David should go up and build an altar to the Lord on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite."

Note that in these passages, the angel of Jehovah is distinguished from Jehovah. Then another principle emerges which is the fact that the angel of Jehovah is the second person of the Trinity. There are two forms of argument which prove this:

1. First of all, Jesus Christ is always said to be the visible God. The only member of the trinity who is ever visible is Jesus Christ. Joh 1:18; 6:46; 1Ti 6:15-16; 1Jo 4:12.

2. After the incarnation of Jesus Christ, the angel of Jehovah never appears again.

Point 7. The essence of God is ascribed to Jesus Christ.

Savior: Psa 2:6; Mat 28:18; Act 2:36; 2Pe 1:11; Rev 19:16.

1. Perfect righteousness and justice = holiness: Luk 1:35; Joh 6:69; Heb 7:26.

2. Love: Joh 13:1,34; 1Jo 3:16.

3. Eternal life: Isa 9:6; Mic 5:2; Joh 1:1; 8:58; Col 1:16-17; Eph 1:4; Rev 1:11.

4. Omniscience: Mat 9:4; Joh 2:25; 1Co 4:5; Col 2:3; Rev 2:23.

5. Omnipresence: Mat 28:20; Eph 1:23; Col 1:27.

6. Veracity: Joh 14:6; Rev 3:7.

7. Omnipotence: Rev 1:8.

For instance, God is sovereignty. He is the supreme being of the universe, king of heaven and earth! He has absolute authority and volition. TLJC is sovereign, and He affirmed His own sovereignty in Mat 28:18. Jesus Christ is also the sovereign One of the universe according to Gen 1:1; Rev 17:14; 1:5-6; 19:16. So God is sovereign, Jesus Christ is sovereign; therefore, Jesus Christ is God. God is also immutable. He is neither capable of nor susceptible to change. He is absolute stability. His word and His works are immutable. In Heb 13:8, we are told, "*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today, yes and forever.*"

Now, why does it matter that we say, "Jesus Christ is God?" Well, first of all, to say that Jesus Christ is God is to say that we can know the truth about God, or we can know what God is like. In fact, apart from Jesus Christ, we really cannot know God. There is no knowledge of God apart from the knowledge of TLJC. And there is no knowledge of TLJC apart from the knowledge of the Bible. The

second practical application of the truth that Jesus Christ is God is that God was always like Jesus. Sometimes, we tend to think of God as just, holy and stern, and that TLJC changed God. However, TLJC opened a window in time so that we might see the eternal and unchanging love of God.

Thirdly, because Jesus Christ is God, it means that He is available and able to satisfy all the needs of your heart.

God is infinite and has inexhaustible resources!

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