

God Dwells With Us (Part 2)

This evening we will continue our study of how Jesus Christ is and always has been God and He came and dwelt with man in human form, subject to every type of temptation that confronts mankind, yet He lived without sin and now acts as our High Priest (Hebrews 4:15). He literally was as His name Immanuel says, **“God With Us.”** John wrote in Revelation 1:8, 17-18, **“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, ‘Who is, and Who was, and Who is to come, the Almighty.’ When I saw Him, I fell at His feet as though dead. Then He placed His right hand on me and said: ‘Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.’”** Jesus undeniably claims to be God in this vision given to the Apostle John.

John also quotes Jesus as saying in Revelation 22:12-13, 16, **“Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with Me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. I, Jesus, have sent My angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright and Morning Star.”**

Note the glorious titles of **“the Alpha and the Omega,” “the Beginning and the End,” “the First and the Last,” “the Almighty,” “the Lord God, Who is, and Who was, and Who is to come.”** All of these titles speak volumes about the Deity of Jesus Christ. Every last one of these in its context is applied specifically to Jesus. Remember, this book *is* the revelation of Jesus the Divine Son!

Let’s take another look at some passages from the Old Testament found in the Book of Isaiah. Isaiah 7:14 says, **“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a Son, and will call Him Immanuel.”** We see this Messianic prophecy fulfilled in verse 23 of chapter 1 of the Gospel of Matthew: **“The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a Son, and they will call Him Immanuel” – which means, ‘God with us.’”**

Isaiah gave us this glorious prophecy of Jesus’ virgin birth. Matthew amplifies the prophecy by identifying this promised Son as **“Immanuel – which means, ‘God with us.’”** Jesus is **“GOD with us”!** “A Son”, yes, but He also is “God”!

In two different places Jeremiah, the weeping prophet, says in reference to the coming Messiah, **“And this is His name by which He shall be called, Jehovah, our righteousness”** (Jeremiah 23:5-6; Jeremiah 33:15-16). Jeremiah had no doubt that the Messiah, Jesus Christ, was none other than God Jehovah.

Isaiah continues his declaration of the Deity of the coming Anointed One, Jesus Christ, the long awaited Messiah of Israel, when he stated in Isaiah 9:6, **“For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”** Isaiah says that Jesus, the prophesied Son, **“...will be called...Mighty God,**

Everlasting Father.” These are titles that **only** can be given to God. No mere man would have the right to take such titles upon himself. We see the fulfillment of this prophecy from the mouth of Thomas in John 20:27-28 when the resurrected, living Savior appears to Thomas for the first time: **“Then He said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here; see My hands. Reach out your hand and put it into My side. Stop doubting and believe.’ Thomas said to Him, ‘My Lord and my God!’”** The apostle Thomas **correctly** addressed Jesus Christ as **“My Lord and my God.”**

David prophesied in Psalm 45:6, **“Your throne, O God, will last forever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of Your kingdom.”** The Hebrews writer notes the fulfillment of this prophecy in Jesus Christ in Hebrews 1:8: **“But about the Son He says, ‘Your throne, O God, will last forever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of Your kingdom.’”** The Old Testament Hebrew word used here in **“Your throne, O God”** is **Elohim**, used for “God” well over a thousand times in the Bible. This exact scripture from the Psalms is quoted in Hebrews and is applied to Jesus the Son. Jesus is God! Not just “a god,” as some would have us believe. The New Testament Greek word for “God” that is specifically applied to Jesus in Hebrews 1:8 is **Theos**, used for “God” over 1,300 times in the New Testament.

In John 1:1 and 1:14 we have the Apostle John writing, **“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, Who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”**

Jesus is called **“the Word”**, the Logos, of God. As the Logos, He is the manifestation or expression of God to us, **“...the image of the invisible God...”** as Paul states in Colossians 1:15. **“The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of His being”** says the Hebrews writer in Hebrews 1:3. He **“came from the Father”** because He had existed with the Father eternally.

Let’s examine three passages of scripture: Exodus 34:10; Matthew 4:10; and Hebrews 1:8:

Exodus 34:14: **“Do not worship any other god, for the LORD, Whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.”**

Matthew 4:10: **“Jesus said to him, ‘Away from Me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.’”**

Hebrews 1:6: **“And again, when God brings His firstborn into the world, He says, ‘Let all God’s angels worship Him.’”**

In the Book of Exodus God commands that He alone is to be worshiped. Jesus reiterated the commandment to worship God only. Yet God the Father’s command in Hebrews 1:6 that His angels worship the Son indicates that the Son, too, is God. If Jesus were not Deity, this would be idolatry.

Paul wrote in 1 Timothy 3:16, ***“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”*** The phrase, ***“GOD was manifest in the flesh,”*** clearly in context is referring to Jesus.

Genesis 1:1: ***“In the beginning God created the heavens and the Earth.”*** The word of God does not contradict itself. Therefore, when we read the following passages about Jesus Christ creating the universe we know without a doubt that He is God!

“He [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in Him were all things created, in the heavens and upon the Earth, things visible and things invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers; all things have been created through Him, and unto Him; and He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church: Who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things He might have the preeminence.” (Colossians 1:15-18)

Hebrews 3:3-4: ***“For He [Jesus] has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, by so much as He that built the house has more honor than the house. For every house is built by someone; but He that built all things is God.”*** In verse 3 Jesus is called the builder. In verse 4 God is called the builder of all things. Thus, the Hebrews writer is stating that Jesus is God!

John 1:1-3, 10: ***“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. He was in the world, and though the world was made through Him, the world did not recognize Him.”*** The Bible speaks of both God the Father and Jesus being Creator of all. Jesus is divine, the Co-Creator!

John 5:22-23: ***“Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, 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.”*** This tells us that Jesus is to be given equal honor with the Father.

Matthew 28:19, the Great Commission: ***“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”***

In His Great Commission baptismal command, Jesus said to baptize in the name (not “names”) of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. There is a strong implication of co-equality among Father, Son and Holy Spirit in this verse.

Psalms 23:1 and Ezekiel 34:31 both speak of God as being our Shepherd.

Psalm 23:1: ***“The LORD is my Shepherd, I shall not be in want.”***

Ezekiel 34:31: ***“You My sheep, the sheep of My pasture, are people, and I am your God,’ declares the Sovereign LORD.”***

Jesus makes this same claim of being our Shepherd in John 10:14: ***“I am the good Shepherd; I know My sheep and My sheep know Me.”*** Additionally, the Hebrews writer states in Hebrews 13:20, ***“...our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep....”***

Paul warns the elders at Ephesus in Acts 20:28 to, ***“Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which He bought with His own blood.***

“...God...His own blood”! The blood of Jesus Christ, shed for our redemption, is called God’s own blood. The blood of Deity, nothing less!

Isaiah 8:13-14a says, ***“The LORD Almighty is the One you are to regard as holy, He is the One you are to fear, He is the One you are to dread, and He will be a sanctuary; but for both houses of Israel He [the Lord Almighty] will be a stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.”***

We then have Peter saying that Jesus is the fulfillment of this prophecy in 1 Peter 2:4, 7-8a: ***“As you come to Him [Jesus], the Living Stone – rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to Him – ... Now to you who believe, this Stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, ‘The Stone the builders rejected has become the capstone,’ and, ‘A Stone that causes men to stumble and a Rock that makes them fall.’”***

It is evident that the ***“Stone that causes men to stumble and [the] Rock that makes them fall”*** of Isaiah and Peter are one and the same. The wording in the Old and New Testaments is identical. Peter knows Him as Jesus Christ; Isaiah calls Him ***“The Lord Almighty”!*** The name ***“the Lord Almighty”*** is used in the Bible, then, to identify both Jesus the Son and God the Father.

In Exodus 3:13-14 Moses said to God, ***“Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is His name?’ Then what shall I tell them?”*** God said to Moses, ***“I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”***

John 8:58-59 says, ***“I tell you the truth,”*** Jesus answered, ***‘before Abraham was born, I am!’*** At this, they picked up stones to stone Him, but Jesus hid Himself, slipping away from the Temple grounds.”

God identified Himself to Moses by the name ***“I AM.”*** Jesus identified Himself to the Jews as that very same ***“I AM.”*** The Jews knew exactly what He was claiming and

sought to stone Him for such apparent blasphemy – that is, His (true!) claim to be the **“I AM”** who spoke to Moses.

Isaiah prophesied in Isaiah 11:1-2: **“A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him – the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.”**

Jeremiah stated in 23:5-6, **“‘The days are coming,’ declares the LORD, ‘when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King Who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. In His days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which He will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness.’”**

Jesus Christ is the Lord’s Branch from the line of David. Jeremiah prophesied that the name of this Branch would be **“The Lord our Righteousness”** – in Hebrew, JEHOVAH-TSIDKENU. The divine name JEHOVAH (some translate it Yahweh) is applied to Jesus Christ.

Last week we studied how Isaiah and Mark spoke of the messenger sent before the Lord to prepare the way for the Messiah. Isaiah 40:3 says, **“A voice of one calling: ‘In the desert prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God.’”** Mark writes in Mark 1:1-3, **“The beginning of the Gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in Isaiah the prophet: ‘I will send My messenger ahead of You, who will prepare Your way’ – ‘a voice of one calling in the desert, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for Him.’”**

Isaiah speaks of a messenger preparing the way for **“our God.”** Mark shows that Isaiah’s prophecy spoke of John the Baptist’s preparing for the coming of JESUS! Truly He is **“our God.”** Truly He dwelt among men! It is no small wonder that Thomas, beholding the resurrected Son, could cry, **“My Lord and my God!”**

Let us examine some more passages from the Old Testament declaring how God is the Redeemer, and then see how Jesus is the fulfillment of those declarations.

Isaiah 48:12-13, 17 says, **“Listen to Me, O Jacob, Israel, whom I have called: I am He; I am the First and I am the Last. My own hand laid the foundations of the Earth, and My right hand spread out the heavens; when I summon them, they all stand up together . . . This is what the LORD says – your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: ‘I am the LORD your God . . . ’”**

Now listen to the words recorded by the Apostle John in Revelation 1:17-18: **“When I saw Him, I fell at His feet as though dead. Then He placed His right hand on me and said: ‘Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.’”**

Jesus, the resurrected, ever-living Son of God, calls Himself ***“the First and the Last,”*** a title ascribed to ***“the Lord your God”*** in Isaiah. How can anyone doubt that Jesus is God?

In Titus 1:3-4 Paul wrote to his young friend, saying, ***“And at His appointed season He brought His word to light through the preaching entrusted to me by the command of God our Savior. To Titus, my true son in our common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.”*** Please note the usages of the phrases ***“God our Savior”*** in verse 3 and ***“Christ Jesus our Savior”*** in verse 4. Jesus Christ is God; Jesus Christ is the Savior. It should be clear that Jesus is fully God (“true man and true God,” as the early Christians declared) and thereby coequal and coeternal with God the Father.

Listen to how God speaks of Himself in Isaiah 45:22-23: ***“Turn to Me and be saved, all you ends of the Earth; for I am God, and there is no other. By Myself I have sworn, My mouth has uttered in all integrity a word that will not be revoked: Before Me every knee will bow; by Me every tongue will swear.”***

Now compare that with what Paul says in Philippians 2:10-11: ***“that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in Heaven and on Earth and under the Earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”*** In the act of bowing the knee to and confessing Jesus, we are worshiping God, for He has said, ***“Before Me every knee will bow; by Me every tongue will swear.”***

John wrote in Revelation 17:14, ***“They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because He is Lord of lords and King of kings – and with Him will be His called, chosen and faithful followers.”*** Jesus is called ***“Lord of lords”*** and ***“King of kings,”*** both of which are titles ascribed elsewhere in scripture to God.

Moses in Deuteronomy 32:3-4 says, ***“I will proclaim the name of the LORD. Oh, praise the greatness of our God! He is the Rock, His works are perfect, and all His ways are just. A faithful God Who does no wrong, upright and just is He.”***

Paul in 1 Corinthians 10:1, 4 says, ***“For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers, that our forefathers were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea . . . and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual Rock that accompanied them, and that Rock was Christ.”***

There are many more such passages found in God’s holy word that demonstrate undeniably that Jesus Christ was and is God With Us, the very same Who dwelt with man. Praise God for His salvation!