

## Humanity of Christ

- In the early church, there were many heretics that denied His humanity.
  - This is the opposite of today.
  - Back then they could not grasp how God could become flesh.
- Early unbelieving false views:
  - Docetism – Jesus appeared to be a man.
  - Gnosticism – spirit is good, flesh is bad, thus good God cannot become bad flesh.
- Early “Christian” false views:
  - Apollinarianism – Jesus was 2/3 human.
  - Eutychianism – Same as above.
  - They thought He had a human body and mind, but they believed that God was His soul.
- The humanity of Christ is just as crucial to Christology as His divinity. Our salvation depends on it.



## This is a Non-Negotiable Doctrine

- John makes this a necessary doctrine to be a Christian.
  - 1 John 4:2-3 – By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 3) and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.
- The Bible shows both natures since heretics deny one or the other.



## NT Shows Full Humanity

- Jesus declares Himself to be a man.
  - John 8:40 – but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did.
- John the Baptist declared Jesus to be a man.
  - John 1:30 – This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.'
- Peter preached that Jesus was a man.
  - Act 2:22 – Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know--
- Paul attests to both natures in one passage:
  - Philippians 2:7-8 – but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8) And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

## Other Lines of Evidence

- He had a human lineage.
- He was born of a woman.
  - Galatians 4:4 – But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law,
- He is a descendent of known humans (Abraham and David).
  - Matt 1:1 – The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.
  - Romans 1:3 – concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh
- He was the legal son of Joseph.
  - Luke 4:22 – And all spoke well of him and marveled at the gracious words that were coming from his mouth. And they said, "Is not this Joseph's son?"
  - John 1:45 – Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."
  - Matt 13:55 – Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas?
- Paul said Jesus was an Israelite through the flesh.
  - Rom 9:5 – To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.

## Other Lines of Evidence

- He was subject to normal laws of human development.
  - Luke 2:40 – And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.
  - Luke 2:52 – And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.
- Jesus was tempted (a trait that happens to humans). He also suffered physically.
  - Heb 2:18 – For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.



## He Had Recognizable Human Features

- He was physically recognizable as a Jew.
  - John 4:9 – The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)
- He looked so much like a man, the Jews considered His claims blasphemous.
  - John 10:33 – The Jews answered him, "It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God."
- He also bled on the cross.
- He also had a human soul (thus fully man).
  - Matt 26:38 – Then he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me."



## And Even More

- He possessed the infirmities of human nature that are not a result of the Fall (hunger, anger, thirst).
  - Mat 4:2 – And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.
  - Mar 3:5 – And he looked around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, and said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was restored.
  - John 19:28 – After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst."
- He also slept, groaned, and showed love.
  - Luke 8:23 – and as they sailed he fell asleep. And a windstorm came down on the lake, and they were filling with water and were in danger.
  - John 11:33 – When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved (*or groaned*) in his spirit and greatly troubled.
  - Mar 10:21 And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "You lack one thing; go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me."
- His humanity was anticipated by prophecy (Passover, Seed of the Woman).

## Qualifications to be Made

- It was already shown He is God, not is shown that He is man. Is that contradictory?
  - One is infinite by nature and the other is finite by nature.
  - The answer is the Hypostatic Union, which will be in the next lesson.
- Did Jesus suffer from the sin nature?
  - Luke 1:34-35 – And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" 35) And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy--the Son of God.
  - His supernatural conception in a virgin made it to where He did not have an earthly father. This will be covered in Anthropology, but one popular view is the sin nature is passed through the father.
  - Jesus clearly was not under the curse, nor did He have a sin nature. He possessed a nature as pure as Adam's prior to the Fall. This is why He could obey the Law. This is also why Jesus and Adam are the only two who naturally could ontologically be called the Son of God.

## Perpetual Humanity

- Jesus Christ's humanity is perpetual. After the resurrection, He still possessed human attributes.
  - Luke 24:39 – See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have."
- We are told that today, He exists as the man who is a mediator between God and men (1 Timothy 2:5).
- When He returns, He will still come again as a man (Matthew 16:27).
- Acts 17:31 states that God will judge the world by this man.
- There is no indication in the Scriptures that Christ will ever cease to be a human being. So when He took on the flesh, He did so permanently.



## Christophanies

- Many times in the OT, a being described as either an angel or man, appears and is clearly God.
  - Early Christian theologians called these theophanies.
  - Many modern theologians updated the term to Christophany, believing that these appearances more appropriately should be seen as the preincarnate Christ.
  - Of course, there must be a good reason to specifically identify the 2<sup>nd</sup> person of the Trinity with these theophanies.
- The theophanies appear in two forms.
  - Malak Yahweh (Angel of the Lord).
  - A Man.
  - Both manifestations are called Angel of the Lord.
  - How could God be an angel? Well it is best to understand this not as the created beings, but as the word's other common meaning – "messenger." If God is His own messenger, this works.

## Angel of the Lord

- Exodus 3:1-6 is a good passage to start with. He is called the Angel of the Lord, but then it is clear He is God Himself.
  - Exo 3:1-6 Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. 2) And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. 3) And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned." 4) When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." 5) Then he said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." 6) And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.
- Genesis 22:11-12 is another good example.
  - Gen 22:11-12 But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I." 12) He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me."



## Theophanies

- The Angel of the Lord appears many more times to people such as Hagar, Gideon, and Samson's mother.
- However, there are times where the theophany appears as a man, rather than an angel.
  - An example of this is when three men appear to Abraham and his wife in Genesis 18:1-33.
  - One of the three is constantly referred to as the Lord.
  - Later in the chapter, the three walk off with Abraham and the lead man asked if He should share with Abraham what He planned to do to Sodom and Gomorrah.
  - Many times in this chapter, this man is referred to as God.
  - Keep in mind, the word Lord in these passages is YHWH.
  - Gen 18:13 The LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?'"
  - Gen 18:25 Far be it from you to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?"
  - Gen 18:33 And the LORD went his way, when he had finished speaking to Abraham, and Abraham returned to his place.
- So can we equate this lead man with the Angel of the Lord. Yes, the next verse (Gen 19:1) identifies the other two as angels. Thus, it was not three men that visited.

## Christophanies

- Theophanies are undeniable, but why do so many scholars consider these to be Christophanies?
  - Most of the reasoning is circumstantial, but strong nevertheless.
- First there are parallels between Christ and the Angel of the Lord.
  - Jesus is the physical appearance and representation of God in heaven. This is why Jesus told Philip that since He saw Christ, He did see the Father.
  - We never have any occurrence anywhere in the Bible where the Father or the Holy Spirit take a physical form that can be seen with the eye, or touched with the flesh.
  - Yet, the second person of the Trinity is the one who became visible through His incarnation.
  - Recall, **Colossians 2:9** states that the fullness of God existed in bodily form in Christ. Thus, since the Angel of Lord was a visible form of God that met with people and wrestled or ate with them, He matches much closer to Jesus than to the Father or Spirit.
- Another important point is the Angel of the Lord appears nowhere in the New Testament.
  - This makes sense if the Angel of the Lord is the 2<sup>nd</sup> person of the Trinity, and that person permanently took on physical form.
- The Angel of the Lord is sent by God, but then speaks as God. So did Christ.
- Both accepted worship (whereas righteous angels and men refused worship).
- Both are sent to execute judgment (against Balaam, David; 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming).

## A Possible Explicit Reference

- John 8:56-59 may be a possible explicit reference.
  - John 8:56-59 Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad." 57) So the Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?" 58) Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." 59) So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.
- Besides taking on the divine name (I AM), there are other points to note here.
  - Abraham rejoiced (past tense). So when did this happen?
  - Pharisees rightly see the difficulty in a man less than 50 having Abraham rejoice in His day over 2,000 years prior.
  - Jesus then clears it up by declaring Himself to be God (I AM).
  - Well, in Genesis 18, Abraham rejoiced when the three men/angels came to his place. They feasted. Jesus brought good news of a miracle birth.
  - Fast forward 2,000 years, and Jesus said that Abraham rejoiced (in the past) to see His day.
- This is a formidable connection.
  - If Abraham's dealings here were with the Angel of the Lord, and Jesus speaks as though it was He that Abraham rejoiced in, then Jesus is the Angel of the Lord.

## Prophecies

- Be sure to look at your notes. I gave you over 100.

## Conclusion

- Christology truly is a fascinating subject to study, especially in light of the fact that all other Christian doctrines revolve in orbit around it.
  - In fact, if you get your Christology wrong, you will certainly be in error on all other doctrines.
- We have discussed Christ's divinity.
- Then we touched on the Scriptural basis for His humanity.
- Then the occurrence of Christophanies was explained. Finally, we quickly looked at Christ in prophecy so that it would be clear that the person of Christ was the main anticipation of the Old Testament as such fulfillment was recorded in the new.
- In the next lesson, we will move on to much harder issues:
  - An explanation of the union between the two opposing natures of divinity and humanity.