

## The Supernaturalness of Jesus

- I. That Jesus was supernatural was taught by his followers and that he claimed to be supernatural was accepted by His enemies.
- A. His followers claimed that he was supernatural.
1. Hebrews 1:8-9
  2. Jn. 1:1-3 and 14-17
  3. Matthew 1:20-23
  4. 1 Timothy 3:14-16
  5. Philippians 2:5-8
  6. Where did their concept come from? How could otherwise honest men—men who acted honestly and urged other to do so also—invent such an idea? Furthermore, their invention of this idea is made impossible by the fact that even the enemies of Jesus believed (understood) that Jesus made this claim, though they did not accept the truthfulness of the claim.
- B. What his enemies considered his claims to be
1. John 10:33-37
  2. John 5:17-18
  3. Mark 2:5-7
- C. Conclusion: If Jesus had not claimed to be supernatural, his followers would not have been so firm in teaching it; and his enemies would not have been so persistent in denying it.
- it. Few things can be more certain than that Jesus claims to be more than a man.
- II. The supernaturalness of Jesus is the position of Old Testament history and prophecy.
- A. Genesis 1:26; 3:22-23 and Heb. 1:1-3
- B. Isaiah used the Hebrew term for Jehovah or a similar word in reference to Jesus:
1. Isa. 40-2-3 and Matt. 3:1-3
  2. Isa. 53:1 and John 12:20-41, especially verses 36-38
  3. Isa. 7:14 and Matt. 1:22-23
  4. Isa. 9:6-7
- III. Jesus' Claims concerning Himself
- A. John 20:26-29; Matt. 4:1-7, especially verse 7—to be God
- B. John 8:56-59; 17:4-5, 24—to be eternal
- C. Matt. 28:20—to be omnipresent
- D. Jn. 2:23-25; 6:64; 16:29-31; 21:15-17—to be omniscient
- E. Mat. 28:18; Heb. 1:3—to be omnipotent
- IV. The Possibilities
- A. Either the Christ or a pretender, for he claimed equality with God; He accepted worship from others (Mt. 8:2; 9:18; Jn. 9:35-38); so either the Christ or a blasphemer since he knew that only God could receive worship.
- B. His claim of sinlessness (Jn. 8:46) makes him a hypocrite if he is not the Christ, while his claims to be the light, the way, and the good shepherd (Jn. 8:12; 10:10, 11, 16; 14:6) would make him a liar and an imposter.
- C. His claim to to be the Christ and allowing the apostles to believe it would make him a deceiver; his claim that his blood would remit sins and his death for this purpose would make him a fanatic if what he claimed were not true. Which is it?

D. There is no evidence in the existing records that Jesus was either a fanatic or a deceiver, a liar, a hypocrite, an imposter, or a blasphemer. On the other hand, there is abundant evidence that Jesus' claims were all genuine and that his supreme claim to deity was valid. In the next lesson we shall examine the evidence for His resurrection.