

Loved and Loving Johns Epistles Lesson 9 3Q 2009

Believing in the Son of God

SABBATH

Thoughts about the lesson title? Would you have liked the title better if it would have read “Believing in God the Son”? Would it make a difference?

Read first two paragraphs – thoughts?

What are your thoughts about Jesus?

- Who is Jesus?
- Is Jesus fully God or a lesser God or not God at all?
- Did Jesus derive His life from His Father or does Jesus have life original, unborrowed underived?
 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning.³ 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... No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known. John 1:1-3, 10, 18
 - “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from (the days of eternity) ancient times.” Micah 5:2
 - For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. Col 1:16,17
- Is Jesus God?

- “Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world. John 17:24
- “I tell you the truth,” Jesus answered, “before Abraham was born, I am!” John 8:58
- I and the Father are one.” John 10:30
- Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!” John 20:28
- We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true—even in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. 1John 5:20
- What form did Jesus take before incarnation? An angel? What Biblical evidence for this?
 - There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up.³ So Moses thought, “I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up.”⁴ When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, “Moses! Moses!” And Moses said, “Here I am.”⁵ “Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.”⁶ Then he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.” At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God. Exodus 3:2-5 (also see Acts 7)
 - But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, “Abraham! Abraham!” “Here I am,” he replied.¹² “Do not lay a hand on the boy,” he said. “Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.”¹³ Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a

burnt offering instead of his son.¹⁴ So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, “On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided.”¹⁵ The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time¹⁶ and said, “I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son,¹⁷ I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies,¹⁸ and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.” Genesis 22:11-18

- The angel of the LORD went up from Gilgal to Bokim and said, “I brought you up out of Egypt and led you into the land that I swore to give to your forefathers. I said, ‘I will never break my covenant with you.’ Judges 2:1
- All through the book of Judges but here is one more example:
- Then Manoah inquired of the angel of the LORD, “What is your name, so that we may honor you when your word comes true?”¹⁸ He replied, “Why do you ask my name? It is beyond understanding.^a”¹⁹ Then Manoah took a young goat, together with the grain offering, and sacrificed it on a rock to the LORD. And the LORD did an amazing thing while Manoah and his wife watched:²⁰ As the flame blazed up from the altar toward heaven, the angel of the LORD ascended in the flame. Seeing this, Manoah and his wife fell with their faces to the ground.²¹ When the angel of the LORD did not show himself again to Manoah and his wife, Manoah realized that it was the angel of the LORD.²² “We are doomed to die!” he said to his wife. “We have seen God!” Judges 13:17-22

^a Or is wonderful

- What does your Bible say the answer the angel of the Lord gave when Monoah asked his name? Check your footnote – it means “wonderful” – does that remind you of anything?
- 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 9:6
- And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. ⁸ But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. Revelation 12:7,8
- But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not dare to bring a slanderous accusation against him, but said, “The Lord rebuke you!” Jude 9
- “At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people—everyone whose name is found written in the book—will be delivered. ² Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. Daniel 12:1,2

Who is Michael? What does the name Michael mean? “who is like God” So when Satan started his war in heaven and the angel’s said here comes Michael they were saying, “Here comes “who is like God” or if they were looking for Michael they would ask, “Have you seen the One who is like God?”

Michael is the One who is like God because Michael is the pre-existent, fully Divine Creator, Sovereign Ruler of the universe we today know as Jesus!

- Why? What difference did it make? Why is it important to realize Jesus was not a created being?
- What difference does it make to recognize Jesus preincarnate appeared in the form of an angel?
 - And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.
2Pet 1:19
 - Who is the morning star or day star? Jesus, what is the Greek translated day star? “phosphoros” which when translated into Latin, translate as – Lucifer – the bright and morning star! Light bearer, the source of light!
 - Who shared this name? Who was the other light bearer? Lucifer the created angel who became Satan
 - Does it make any difference to understand this? What?
- How did Jesus' humanity come about?
- What kind of humanity did Jesus have?
- What difference does it make?

SUNDAY

Read memory text – thoughts? What does it mean? Can someone believe Jesus is the Christ and not be born of God? Does Satan believe Jesus is the Christ? Is something more meant by the text than belief in the factual reality that Jesus is the Son of God our Messiah?

What about believing what Jesus said He came to accomplish, that as our Messiah He came to reveal the Father and we believe also the Father is just like Jesus, and are thereby won to trust in Him?

Satan attacked the divine/human nature of Christ to introduce distortions – what other distortions has Satan

introduced about Christ? Any distortions about Jesus' mission?

MONDAY

Read 1John 5:6-8:

This is the one who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.⁷ For there are three that testify:⁸ the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement.

What do you think this means? Read third paragraph “The phrase...” – thoughts?

Read last paragraph, “In these verses...” thoughts? John was dealing with various heresies about the nature of Christ. One of those heresies was that Jesus was just a man and at the baptism the Messiah entered His body and did the 3.5 year ministry and exited just before the crucifixion. But John says, no, the Jesus the Messiah was both baptized and crucified.

There is another possibility as well. One of the other heresies John was dealing with is the heresy of Jesus “appearing” in the form of a man, like He had done to Abraham in the Old Testament, but without actually being a man. Therefore, another possibility to combat this heresy is that Jesus came of water birth, amniotic fluid, really born into the world and of blood, His final victory at the cross. This would be along the lines of John 3 when Jesus told Nicodemus

- In reply Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again (born from above).” “How can a man be born when he is old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb to be born!” Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no one can enter the

kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. John 3:3-5

Does it make a difference what one believes about the sin problem and what was needed to achieve atonement? What difference does it make?

It makes a difference if the belief incites fear and undermines trust in God or whether our belief enhances trust and opens the heart for God's love!

TUESDAY

Read third paragraph, "For John,..." thoughts? What is the point? Is our belief in Jesus without evidence or based on evidence? What evidence do we have for a belief in Jesus as the Son of God our Savior?

- The testimony of all those who saw and heard
- The evidence of life experience
- Jesus own testimony about Himself
- The evidence of His life lived out
- The empty tomb

What would you say to someone as to why you believe Jesus is God the Son, incarnate and our Savior?

WEDNESDAY

What Biblical evidence is there for the Trinity?

- We must remember all the text we already read regarding the angel of the Lord being God. Then add to it:
 - 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.² They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea.³ They all ate the same spiritual food⁴ and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank

from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. 1Cor 10:1-3

- So we learn that Christ is God and the member of the Godhead who interacted with Israel in OT times.
- Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God *is* one LORD: DT 6:4
The literal, speaking with the Hebrew names for God would read: “Hear, O Isreal: *Yahweh* our *Elohim*, *Yahweh* is One.” Or, “The One is more than one yet is One”
 - In Hebrew there are two words for one, *Yacheed* and *Echad*. The first indicates singular unity as in one and only, the second indicates compound unity, as the oneness of two or more. In this text *Echad* is used along with the plural name of God *Elohim* indicating the oneness of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- And now the Sovereign LORD has sent me, with his Spirit. This is what the LORD says— your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: Isaiah 48:16,17
- “Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him and he will bring justice to the nations. Isaiah 42:1
- “If you love me, you will obey what I command.¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. John 14:15-17
- But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. John 14:26

- “When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me. John 15:26
- Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man *that is* my fellow, saith the LORD of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered. Zech 13:7
KJV
 - The Man who is my friend NCV
 - The Man who is close to me NIV
- Then I was the craftsman at his side. I was filled with delight day after day, rejoicing always in his presence, rejoicing in his whole world and delighting in mankind. Proverbs 8:30 NIV
 - I was beside him like an architect, I was his daily source of joy, always happy in his presence- Proverbs 8:30 GNT
 - Then I was beside Him, as a master workman; And I was daily His delight, Rejoicing always before Him, NASB95
- In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. Genesis 1:1 God is *Elohim*, and in Hebrew this is in plural form.

What qualities does God possess?

- Omnipotence
- Omnipresence
- Omniscience
- Unrestrained by time
- Inability to sin or be tempted
- God is love

What roles does each of the Godhead take?

The Father acts as the source of all, the Son as the mediator, conduit, medium through which God and His purposes flow and the Spirit as the actualizer or applier of all that the Father and Son accomplish.

The Father gave His Son, Jesus gave Himself, the Spirit gave Jesus birth.

God spoke at the baptism, Jesus went under the water and the Holy Spirit anointed Him.

The Father was in the Son reconciling the world to Himself, Jesus was the vehicle, conduit, mediator who carried our the Father's purpose on earth and the Holy Spirit takes all the Father and Son achieved and makes it effectual in our lives.

What is the best argument for the Trinity – God is love – love cannot exist in isolation. Love by definition is other centered. God cannot be love as a singularity, it is in the plurality of God that we find His true nature. God is love!

THURSDAY

Read first paragraph – thoughts? Do you agree? What does it mean that eternal life is found in Jesus Christ only? Does it mean those who have never had the opportunity to hear about Jesus Christ, as revealed in Scripture, are doomed to eternal loss, have no opportunity for salvation?

- All who sin apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who sin under the law will be judged by the law.¹³ For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous.¹⁴ (Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law,¹⁵ since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their

consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them.)¹⁶ This will take place on the day when God will judge men's secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares. Romans 2:12-16

Thoughts?

FRIDAY

Questions 3-5 read and discuss