Is JESUS in the Godhead or Is the Godhead in **JESUS?** BY GORDON MAGEE

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by Gordon Magee

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The author of this booklet was used of God to pioneer the Oneness revelation in the British Isles. His ministry was particularly fruitful in Ireland, and upon his departure from that land the ministers presented him with the following beautiful address of appreciation:



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Foreword

"Whom do men say that I am?"

From the lips of our Lord Jesus came this pertinent query. The question was important then; it is important today!

This treatment of the identity of the Christ is brief but informative; it is scriptural and clear; it is theological, yet beautiful in simplicity; it digs into the numerous perplexities of trinitarian interpretations; and it burns with the revelation of the oneness of God.

The author, Gordon Magee, has armed the Apostolic Oneness movement with a treatise that answers questions of tritheistic opposition, secures the believer with a rock-like foundation, and makes Jesus Christ wholly, solely, truly, fully, altogether and exclusively God.

This book belongs in every Bible believer's library, and its contents should be etched indelibly in every Christian's heart. I thrill to its blessed truth every time I read the grand message it reveals.

Nathaniel A. Urshan

1

The Dual Nature of Jesus Christ

Let us read I Timothy 3:16 carefully:

And without controversy great is the mystery of the Holy Trinity. God was manifested in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

One would almost think that it reads that way, to hear some folks talk. This is how it actually reads:

And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh.

The Bible, in its entire sixty-six books, knows nothing at all about a mysterious three-person Godhead. The great mystery of godliness is the Incarnation—God manifest in the flesh.

The Humanity of Jesus

The Scriptures provide multiple proofs of the genuine humanity of our Lord Jesus Christ. Let us examine a few of them, and in doing so we will find that this composite word portrays the Lord Jesus as having a genuine human nature. "He was . . . an hungred" (Matthew 4:2). The Lord experienced the same genuine pangs of physical hunger which grip our bodies when we have been without food. He was human enough to be hungry.

"But he was asleep" (Matthew 8:24). The same sensation of oblivion that comes to our eyelids, which we call sleep, was experienced by the Lord Jesus Christ—another proof of His genuine humanity.

"Jesus therefore, being wearied with his journey, sat thus on the well" (John 4:6). If He overexerted Himself, so actual was His humanity that the same weariness which enters our limbs when we have overexerted ourselves came also to Him. He was genuinely human in every aspect and in every detail.

"Jesus wept" (John 11:35). He was human enough to weep in a tempestuous emotional moment.

"And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly" (Luke 22:44). Jesus knew what it was to have degrees of earnestness. There was never a time in Christ's experience when He was not earnest. He was ever and always earnest—but the Bible teaches us that He knew degrees of earnestness just as we do. Sometimes we pray and we are intensely earnest. Other times we pray and we are earnest, but not so much as before. That is because we are human. It is quite impossible for us to live in the same elevated emotional plane all the time. We experience fluctuating degrees of earnestness. Jesus was the same—He was human.

Perhaps the greatest proof of His humanity is found in Luke 2:52: "And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature." "Jesus increased in . . . stature" means that He was subject to the same physical laws of growth and development as we are. "Jesus increased in wisdom" means that He was learning, acquiring knowledge and wisdom. He was not only subject to the same laws of physical growth and development as we are but also to the same laws of mental development as all human beings are. Jesus was absolutely and genuinely human. I Corinthians 15:3 says, "Christ died." Need we say more to prove His true human nature?

Jesus Was a Man

When the apostles preached about Jesus they proclaimed that He was a man. "Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles" (Acts 2:22). When Jesus spoke of Himself He declared that He was a man. To the Jews who had murder in their hearts Jesus said, "But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth" (John 8:40). Now when we hear it from Christ's own lips, we must believe it. There can be no doubt at all about the humanity of the Lord Jesus Christ, for the Bible teaches it too plainly.

This Man Was Also God

But it is not enough to say that Jesus was a man. There is no lie as dangerous as a half-truth, and it is only a half-truth about Jesus to maintain that He was a man. If someone says that He was a man and that is all he has to say about Him, then he has told a lie about Him. Here is the profound yet simple truth: This man was also God, and He was as genuinely God as He was genuinely man.

This truth is illustrated by the occasion when His parents lost Him. After visiting Jerusalem, on their way back home they discovered that Jesus was not with them. They doubled back and went to the temple, seeking the missing twelve-year-old Jesus. Luke 2:46 describes it thus: "And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions."

If we had been alive at the time when Luke had written his gospel story, and if we had gone to Luke and said, "Tell us, please, Dr. Luke, whom did Joseph and Mary find that day in the temple?" then he would have said, "Why, they found the twelve-year-old boy Jesus."

But another voice has also spoken—the Old Testament prophet Malachi—and he has told us who was found in the temple that day: "Behold, I will send my messenger [John the Baptist], and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord,