



Who

Is

JESUS ?

By: District Elder John P. Bellamy

Who



Is

Jesus ?

D/ E John P. Bellamy

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☆ **DEDICATED TO** ☆

My Wife of Forty-Two Years

Viola Bellamy

AND
CHRIST TEMPLE CHURCH
- MAYWOOD, ILLINOIS -
MEMBERS WHO SINCERELY DESIRED
ME TO SHARE THIS TRUTH WITH OTHERS



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FOREWORD

THAT WE MAY BE ONE

Without any doubt, The Apostolic Church of today is a part of the original Church of God which began in AD 33. It was this Church which Jesus had in mind when he prayed to His Father in John 17:1-26. He not only prayed for his disciples and Apostles of that day, but also for us. "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word." (John 17:20) We never saw Jesus, neither did we have the opportunity to be persuaded by his sermons, teachings, healings or miracles in his day. We are, however, Apostolics because we believed through the words of those who were eye-witnesses.

Jesus prayed, "That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us..." (John 17:21) In order to be one with the Father and the Son, we must believe as they believe. Not only so, he also prayed that there would be unity among us.

There are great divisions among us because we will not allow ourselves to be lead by the Spirit of God, but have given heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. Only those "who are lead by the Spirit of God, they are the Sons of God." (Romans 8:14).

God has given some apostles, prophets, evangelist, pastors and teachers, to perfect the saints, for the upbuilding of the body of Christ, and to bring all into the unity of the faith and knowledge of the Son of God. We as a whole do not possess the knowledge of the Son of God. Neither can we grow to be a "perfect man" or measure to the "stature of the fulness of Christ," until we stop being tossed about with every devilish doctrine, and method that ungodly men and women devise.
(Read Eph. 4:11-14)

We must return to the old path: following the bible, being led by the spirit, laying aside doctrines, knowledge and worldly wisdom, acquiring truth, godly knowledge, godly wisdom so we can be one, even as they are one.

Now is the time, to search the scriptures, and to believe God's word as he has given it to us. We should approach the sacred word prayfully, sincerely, and openly. One cannot put water into a bucket which is already full. Therefore we must come to the written word of God empty, so we can be filled and enlightened by God.

If our belief is different from that of the Apostles, we cannot truthfully say that we are The Apostolic Church, nor can we say that we are steadfast in the Apostles Doctrine, as the early church was.
(Read Acts 2:37 - 43)

We are greatly in need of unity, so we need to believe the same, dress the same, act the same and teach the same. This will only occur when we submit ourselves and obey God's written word; Be lead by the spirit of God, and let God have his way in our lives, forsaking all theories and doctrines of men, cleaving to the writings of the Apostles.

The Lutherans in 1530 believed that God revealed himself to man as a Father, Creator of the Universe, as Jesus Christ, whose birth, death, and resurrection made eternal life possible for mankind, and as the Holy Spirit who calls men into fellowship with Christ. Evidently, this belief is the basis for the doctrine of the Trinity, of which, there is no mention in the Scriptures.

As you study this book, which I feel God has greatly inspired me to write, to remember these things. Matthew wrote primarily to the Jewish minds, to prove Jesus is the Christ. Mark and Luke wrote to show Jesus Christ as a man of power, superior to men and nature. The Letters (Epistles) were written to the Church to tell us how to live the Christian life. Revelation was written to encourage us to keep on living the Christian life, in order to receive eternal life.

The entire Apostolic Movement, all organizations and independents should contend for "Oneness". When I speak of "Oneness", I refer to all of us being led by the spirit of God, (not our own spirits), becoming One in godly knowledge, and godly wisdom, believing the testimonies of the Apostles of Jesus, and of God the Father concerning who Jesus is that we may be one.

WHO IS JESUS ?

Who is Jesus? There are millions of people who think they know who Jesus is, but they really don't know. DO YOU KNOW WHO JESUS IS? There is only one place that we can go to establish the true identity of Jesus Christ: the Word of God. When we accept theories promoted by men and women who haven't been inspired by God, we dethrone those who were inspired and had a perfect understanding. Therefore, we are not in need of theories, but facts. The only place where true, inspired facts can be found is in the holy scriptures.

Some believe that Jesus is the God of the Universe, who made the heavens and the earth. Some believe that he is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. There are thousands of individuals who can and will be converted to God's only plan of salvation when we put Jesus in his proper perspective. Some believe that when Mary and Elizabeth met, hearing the salutation of Mary (Lk 1:41), God leaped out of heaven into the womb of Mary. That, and many other beliefs are ridiculous, and absolutely absurd. At this time, let us go prayerfully into God's written word and get a perfect understanding of who Jesus is.

When the angel Gabriel made the annunciation of Jesus (Lk 1:26-32) he stated, "And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shall call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: and he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever: and of his kingdom there shall be no end." Please notice, the messenger of God (Gabriel) said he shall be called the Son of the Highest (that is the Son of God) and he shall sit upon his father David's throne. If Jesus is the Almighty God, would he sit on the throne of David, a natural man? Remember, God Almighty has his own throne, which no human has ever sat upon.

Luke said, "Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us, (the early church), even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning were eyewitnesses, and ministers of the word. It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first to write unto thee, most excellent Theophilus,

That thou mightest know the certainty of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed." (Lk 1:1 - 3). In Luke's salutation he makes known his perfect understanding of all things, and writes concerning the things which were believed among those who were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word. In fact, they were authorities on the subject of the identity of Jesus' birth, life, death, and resurrection. Certainly, we ought to be willing to accept facts confirmed by the fullest evidence of one who was not fishing in the dark, who had a perfect understanding and traveled extensively with the Apostle Paul.

LUKE'S TESTIMONY

According to the gospel of Luke, "When all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized and praying, the heavens was opened, and the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, "Thou art my beloved Son, in thee I am well pleased." (Lk.3:21 - 22) In this passage of scripture, we find Jesus being baptized by John the Baptist in Jordan River. Immediately following the water baptism the Holy Ghost, shaped like a dove, descends upon him. The voice of God speaks out of heaven, calling him His beloved Son and says, He is well pleased with him. This shows Jesus is a separate person from the Father and the Holy Spirit. It is utterly ridiculous to believe that the Almighty God was baptized by John the Baptist and at the same time spoke from heaven, telling himself that He is well pleased with himself. Luke also writes, "And it came to pass, as he was alone praying his disciples were with him: and he asked them, saying, Whom say the people that I am? They answering said, John the Baptist; but some Elias; and others say, that one of the old prophets is risen again. He said unto them, But who say ye that I am? Peter answering said The Christ of God. And he straitly charged them, and commanded them to tell no man that thing." (Lk.9:18-20) Compare Mt. 16:13-17, Mk. 8:27-30. When Peter said, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God," Jesus answered and said unto him, "Blessed art thou Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee but my Father which is in heaven. (Mt.16:16-17). Please note that Peter said he was the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus accepted his answer and said that flesh and blood has not revealed this answer to him, but that it was revealed by his Father who was in heaven. If your revelation differs from that which Peter gave, and Peter's came from the Almighty God, yours must have come from flesh and blood, or the devil.

Luke, the disciples, and the apostles, after the ascension of Christ, recognized him as the Son of God. To place him in any position other than those given him by God the Father, has the tendency to dethrone God Almighty and distort the true identity of Christ.

JOHN THE BAPTIST'S TESTIMONY

John the Baptist said, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me... I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptized with the Holy Ghost. And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God." (John 1:29-30, 32-34) John said after him comes a man, who was preferred before him. He saw the Spirit descend and abide on Jesus, for God had made known to him what to look for. John verified that he bare record, that this man is the Son of God. John the Baptist was the first human being to recognize that Jesus is the Son of God.

It was revealed unto him through the message which God the Father had conveyed unto him. Jesus was in the plan of God before the very foundation of the world and was preferred before John, for he was to be the Savior.

PAUL'S TESTIMONY

In searching the scriptures, it is easily seen that in the salutations of the various Epistles (letters), the writers recognize not only the Father, but also Jesus Christ. Paul wrote, "Paul and Timotheus the servants of Jesus Christ, to all saints in Christ Jesus which are at Phillippi, with the bishops and deacons: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ." (Phil. 1:1 - 2)

In his letter to the Romans he wrote, "Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God, Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures, concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; and declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection of the dead." (Rom. 1:1 - 4) To all that be at Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ." (Rom. 1:7) The apostle always keeps God the Father separated from the Lord Jesus Christ, and declares him to be the Son of God. In fact, if one will diligently search the scriptures he or she will find that in all fourteen of the letters written by Paul he never attempted at any time to make Jesus the Almighty God.

Paul clearly states He is the Son of God, of the seed of David, (through Mary, who was a descendent of David), manifested by a display of the power of the Holy Spirit, who raised him from the dead to prove to all that he was the Messiah, and true Savior of all men.

Paul further writes, "But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God." (1 Cor. 11:3) In this verse, clearly seen is the authority of God in salvation: Christ is the head of the man, man is the head of the woman, and God is the head of Christ. Many of us know that most women rebel at the very thought that their husband is the head. Likewise, those who are misinformed, rebel against God being the head of Christ, for they believe that God Almighty and Jesus Christ are the same. This is the moral divine order of the universe, regardless of who accepts or rejects it. God's word is already settled in heaven, and no one can change it. God is the Father, and God is the head. Jesus is the Son of God, therefore, he is subordinate to God. In fact, he had to depend on God for his birth, strength for his death, and for his resurrection from death.

In his letter to Timothy, Paul wrote, "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." (1 Tim. 2:5) Jesus intercedes between God and mankind. He doesn't occupy the position of Creator, but makes intercession between the Creator and men.

"To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation." (2 Cor. 5:19) When Jesus was baptized, he received the Holy Spirit, which is the Spirit of God, and it abode in him.

Likewise, when we receive the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God is in us. This by no means make us God. The fact that God was in Jesus merely implies that Jesus had the Spirit of God in him. It doesn't mean that God had taken on a body of flesh. Since the Spirit of God was in Jesus, the spirit of God was in Christ, reconciling mankind unto God Almighty.

PETER'S TESTIMONY

Peter's salutations read, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." (1 Pet. 1:3) "Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Savior Jesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and Jesus our Lord." (2 Pet. 1:2) Once again we see the separation of the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Peter, who was an eyewitness of the transfiguration of Jesus, shows his belief of this in these salutations, and the following scriptures. "For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we make known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased. And the voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount." (2 Pet. 1:16-18) Peter declares, this is no cleverly devised story for we were with Christ. We heard the voice as it came from heaven. God the Father gave Jesus honour and glory. God the Father said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." Certainly, Jesus was not a ventriloquist, carrying on a pretended conversation, to deceive Peter, James, and John. Also causing false images of Moses and Elijah to appear as optical illusions. I am certain you don't believe that the transfiguration was deceptive, and therefore should agree that God spoke from heaven while Jesus, Peter, James, and John were on the holy mount.

Peter not only said that God is the God and Father of Jesus Christ, but also says that He (God) raised Jesus from the dead.

"Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him." (1 Pet. 3:22) At the present time Jesus is seated on the right hand of God. Once again showing two separate persons.

JAMES' TESTIMONY

James salutation states, "James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting." Once again, we find another apostle separating God the Father and Jesus Christ. In fact, he shows himself to be a servant of both the Father and the Son. Remember, James was the half brother of Jesus.

JUDE'S TESTIMONY

Jude, the brother of James and half brother of Jesus Christ wrote, "Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called: Mercy unto you, and peace, and love, be multiplied. (Jude 1:1 - 2) Jude states that we are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Christ Jesus. He also recognized both the Father and Jesus as two different individuals.

JOHN'S TESTIMONY

The gospel according to John, is used more often than any other gospel to persuade people that Jesus is the God of creation.

The Apostle John not only was a constant companion of Jesus, along with Peter and James, but he was second only to Paul in number of books written by him in the New Testament.

He was the one selected by God the Father to receive a special revelation to deliver to the early Church.

When we consider the salutations of John, we find: "That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father and his Son Jesus Christ." (1 John 1:1 - 3) John's desire is that the saints will have fellowship with them, and clearly states their fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. Once again we note the clear separation of the Father and the Son.

"Grace be with you, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father in truth and love." (2 John 1:3) Again we see the deliberate separation of the Father and the Son. John declares Jesus is the Son of the Father in truth and love.

"He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. (1 John 5:10) Notice, any person who will not accept (believe) the record that God has given of his Son, makes God a liar. God's record is that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

Some of the chief scriptures used to make Jesus the Creator are found in St. John Chapter 1. Let us now consider these scriptures, so that we may get the correct understanding. To correctly interpret scripture, one must know who is speaking, to whom he's speaking, the time or dispensation he's speaking in, and the purpose for which he is speaking. One must also know what proceeds and follows the scripture being interpreted.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made." (John 1:1 - 3)