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Did Those Individuals in the Gospel Accounts Look upon Jesus Christ as God?

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Did those individuals in the gospel accounts look upon Jesus Christ as God?

They did indeed, both friend and foe, both angelic and human.

- The testimony of angels: (Here we refer to Gabriel, the angel of the Lord.)

A. His testimony to Mary:

“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 the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God” (Luke 1:32, 35).

B. His testimony to Joseph:

“Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us” (Matt. 1:23).

- The testimony of Satan and fallen angels:

A. Satan (during Jesus’ temptations)

“And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread ... And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone” (Matt. 4:3, 6).

The Greek word, “if” as found in both these verses is in the first class condition in the Greek language and therefore should be translated, “since.” In other words, Satan had no doubt whatsoever in regards to the deity of Jesus!

B. Fallen angels (also known as demons)

There are at least four separate occasions when demons acknowledged the deity of Jesus! Note:

1. *“And when he was come to the other side into the country of the Gergesenes, there met him two possessed with devils, coming out of the tombs, exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by that way ... And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time?”* (Matt. 8:28, 29).
2. *“Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God”* (Mark 1:24).
3. *“And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out*

many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him” (Mark 1:34).

4. *“And unclean spirits, when they saw him, fell down before him, and cried, saying, Thou art the Son of God” (Mark 3:11).*

- The testimony of His friends:

- A. John the apostle

“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 any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not ... And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth” (John 1:1-5, 14).

“And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name” (John 20:30, 31).

- B. John the Baptist

“No man hath seen God at any time, the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him” (John 1:18).

“The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world ... And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God” (John 1:29, 34).

“For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God” (John 3:17, 18).

“For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him. The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand. He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him” (John 3:34-36).

- C. Elisabeth (upon meeting with Mary)

“And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me” (Luke 1:43).

- D. Mary (upon responding to Elisabeth’s greeting)

“And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord, And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour” (Luke 1:46, 47).

E. Zacharias (at the circumcision ceremony of his son, John the Baptist)

“And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost, and prophesied, saying, Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people ... And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways; To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins, Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us” (Luke 1:67, 68, 76-78).

F. Nathanael

“Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel” (John 1:49).

G. Simon Peter

1. In Capernaum

“From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him. Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God” (John 6:66-69).

2. At Caesarea Philippi

“When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Matt. 16:13-16).

H. The disciples (after stilling a storm on the Sea of Galilee)

“Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, of a truth thou art the Son of God” (Matt. 14:33).

I. A former blind man (after Jesus had healed him)

“Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God? He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him? And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee. And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him” (John 9:35-38).

J. Martha (at the funeral of her brother, Lazarus)

“She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of

God, which should come into the world” (John 11:27).

K. Thomas (after seeing the resurrected Christ)

- The testimony of His foes:

A. The testimony of the Jewish leaders

“And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God” (John 20:28).

1. They attempted to kill Jesus on several occasions because of His claims to be equal with God.

“But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work. Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God” (John 5:17, 18).

“Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him. Jesus answered them, many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me? The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God” (John 10:31-33).

2. They eventually voted to put Him to death for His claims of deity.

“But Jesus held his peace, And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God. Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven. Then the high priest rent his clothes, saying, He hath spoken blasphemy; what further need have we of witnesses? behold, now ye have heard his blasphemy. What think ye? They answered and said, He is guilty of death” (Matt. 26:63-66).

B. The testimony of the Roman centurion at Calvary

“Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many. Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God” (Matt. 27:50-54).