

JESUS CHRIST, GOD AND SAVIOUR.

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Brothers and sisters, before we begin our sharing, please allow me to draw our attention to the fact that this subject is ESSENTIALLY SPIRITUAL. God is Spirit, and any approach tending to seek His face should be done on the basis of Truth and humility. The Truth is the Word of God (John 17:17). It shines upon us to enlighten us and make us partakers of the revelation of Jesus Christ.

In this study, we do not have the intention of teaching the depth of God - which is certainly the full knowledge of the Holy Spirit but we will, in all humility, meditate on the Holy Scriptures, which are our baseline to teach us and bring us progressively to knowledge.

We shall introduce our meditation with a question that, at first sight, may seem brutal and shock some of us. But this is not our aim; the purpose of this question is rather to awaken our attention to the fundamentals of the Christian faith:

How can we see JESUS CHRIST AS GOD, whereas He was born of Mary, raised by Joseph the carpenter, ate, drank, and wept with compassion for Lazarus...?

Remember that this issue was even used as a pretext to kill Jesus Christ. However, asked in all humility, this question leads us rather to simply approach the Truth, which "establishes the Christian Faith ", by scrutinizing the Holy Scriptures, in order to have knowledge."

The Scriptures, which form the basis of our meditation today, deal, on the one hand, with the revelation to God's people about the Messiah, Jesus Christ, and on the other hand, with the announcement of the Immaculate

Conception, performed by the angel to Mary.

In Isaiah 7:14, the Prophet announces the coming of Jesus Christ in clearer and more unambiguous terms: "So, the Lord Himself shall give you a sign. Behold, the virgin will conceive and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel." (MKJV).

And in chapter 9, verse 6, he continues: "For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be on His shoulder; and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. (MKJV)."

Also, in the New Covenant, this revelation is confirmed in Matthew 1:22-23: "Now all this happened so that might be fulfilled that which was spoken of the LORD by the prophet, saying, 'Behold, the virgin shall conceive in her womb, and will bear a son. And they will call His name Emmanuel,' which being interpreted is, God with us." The term EMMANUEL, according to the Scriptures means God has come among us.

In Isaiah 9:6, the Prophet speaks of Jesus Christ as already 'born', yet this revelation announced the 'future birth' of Jesus Christ into the world. When the Prophet said "To us a Child is born, to us a Son is given", Jesus had not yet come into the world in the flesh. The prophet's writing style features the announcement of the future birth of Jesus using the PRESENT TENSE.

It is very critical to point out the relevance of the occurrence of a future event, announced by the Prophet Isaiah in the present tense, as having already taken place. This present tense contains a prophetic revelation, namely the INTEMPORALITY of Jesus Christ, which translates to His

Eternity.

Indeed, who can be INTEMPORAL if not THE ETERNAL? And who can be Eternal if not God?

The mention of the INTEMPORALITY of Christ teaches that He WAS, IS, and WILL forever BE, for being in God the Father and the Father being in Him eternally. The fact of wording CHRIST, simultaneously, "in the past, present and future" explains that He is Eternal, as revealed in Isaiah 9:6. Eternity is the exclusive characteristic of God. We can thus affirm with the Apostle Paul that Jesus Christ is God, when he teaches in Colossians 1:16: "For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers. ALL THINGS WERE CREATED THROUGH HIM AND FOR HIM.

Considering the Truth of Christ's divinity, revealed through the above-mentioned Holy Scriptures, we can now share the following relevant concerns:

1. WAS IT NECESSARY FOR JESUS CHRIST TO TAKE ON FLESH?

Since the fall of Adam and Eve, the world has been plunged into sin. But in His love, God sent His servants to reveal Himself to man in order to save him. Various Prophets, from Abraham onwards, have worked on God's behalf to bring His people back to Him and prepare them to receive Jesus Christ, who is the fulfilment of God's promises, throughout generations.

But man remained condemned to sin and unworthy to enter the presence of God; even the Law could not save him. Now, in His great love, God came to take on flesh and blood, becoming Man, taking on human conditions, except for sin, to free Man from the grip of the flesh and the bondage of sin, so that he might attain salvation. It is written in John 1:1 and 14: "In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God, and the word was God... And the word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; and we beheld His glory, a glory like the glory of the only Son from the Father." The Word referred to here is Jesus Christ, EMMANUEL. When God took the human body to save the world, He was 100% God and 100% Man.

As a Man, in the flesh, Jesus Christ must have been hungry, tired, and experienced the difficulties of human nature, except for sin, He was the son of Mary, raised by Joseph, the brother of James, the teacher of His disciples... He felt compassion and love for Lazarus, and He wept... He was tempted as we are in all things, yet without sin (Hebrews 4:15).

In Philippians 2:5-8, the Apostle Paul also confirms that Jesus Christ, although existing in the form of God, became FLESH and SERVANT to the point of dying on the cross.

To save man is to erase his sins, by justifying him with blood. The atoning sacrifice means to shed the blood of one who takes upon himself the sin of another or to shed the blood of the animal that will be sacrificed to atone for the sin of a man or men.

The sin that exists in the world must be wiped out by blood: this is the law of the Creator God. But this time it must be the one and only perpetual sacrifice. Thus, Christ must take on a human body through Mary in order to shed the blood and atone for the sin of the world.

The blood of Jesus Christ is sufficient to save everyone

The blood of Jesus Christ is sufficient to save everyone who believes, so that no other blood, neither of a Man nor of an animal, is needed to save. Any other blood (human or animal) that is shed under the pretext of saving will be useless unless it is shed to blaspheme. Only the shed blood of Christ saves.

However, a certain doctrine intentionally tries, out of fanatical interest, to confine Christ to the exclusively bodily dimension and to the mission of a prophet, and yet, the Holy Scriptures reveal that God became flesh, to reach Man in his human dimension, in his weaknesses and sin, in order to deliver him, by blood, and that he may reach Salvation.

In this way we draw attention to the fact that those who consider Christ to be a prophet accuse Christians of saying that Christ is God, claiming that Christ Himself never said that He was God. There is no need to point out that this tendency teaches false doctrine, for in John 10:30; 14:19 Jesus Christ says of Himself: "I and the Father are ONE"; "... He who has seen Me has seen the Father. And how do you say, Show us the Father?" We can say that it is to obscure the revelation of God to His people through His servants and witnesses of the Gospel of Salvation that this false doctrine is widely published and spread.

We, the followers of Christ, must always, in support of the teachings of the PROPHETS, CHRIST, and the APOSTLES, testify that Jesus Christ is God. The divinity of Christ is not a doctrine dreamed up by "Christians", nor is it a theory that needs to be proven; rather it is The

dating back to the time before Jesus was born in his physical human body: The prophet Isaiah announced that Jesus will be called "Mighty God".

The angels announced to Mary and Joseph that the child Mary would bear was from the Holy Spirit, and therefore from God. To seal this Truth, Christ Himself announced His divinity when He said: "...he who has seen me has seen the Father ... I and my father are one...» The Apostles taught, and the Church continues to teach, that Jesus Christ is God and took on flesh to save humanity.

2. DID JESUS CHRIST COME ONLY FOR THE LOST SHEEP OF THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL OR FOR ALL NATIONS?

Let us remember that Jesus Christ, BEFORE His death and resurrection, while He was preaching the Kingdom of Heaven to the people of Israel, to reconcile them to their God, gave the following command to the twelve: " Do not go into the way of the nations, and do not enter into any city of the Samaritans. (Matthew 10:6) Indeed, this command was given, and to understand its context, let us edify ourselves by reading Matthew 9:35-38 and 10:1-8.

However, AFTER His death and resurrection, and before He was taken up, Jesus gave His Disciples a wider and universal mission stated in Matthew 28:18-20: "Jesus came and spoke to them, saying All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go and make disciples of ALL nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." The order of the Great Commission is confirmed in Mark 16: 14-16: "And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying,

Therefore go and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things, whatever I commanded you. And, behold, I am with you all the days until the end of the world."

Also, Acts 1:8 says, "And you shall be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and SAMARIA, and TO ENDS OF THE EARTH."