Christ: The Eternal, Self-Existent, Co-Equal, Divine Saviour

A Bible Study on the Godhead of Christ

Compiled by Dan Augsburger

John 1:1 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

Exodus 6:2-3 "And God spake unto Moses, and said unto him, I am the LORD (YHWH): 3 And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, but by my name JEHOVAH (YHWH) was I not known to them."

"In Jesus is our life derived. In Him is life that is original, unborrowed, underived life. In us there is a streamlet from the fountain of life. In Him is the fountain of life. Our life is something that we receive, something that the Giver takes back again to Himself. If our life is hid with Christ in God, we shall, when Christ shall appear, also appear with Him in glory. And while in this world, we will give to God, in sanctified service, all the capabilities He has given us." Ellen White, Letter 309, 1905.7.

This is the second of a multi-part series of Bible studies on the Godhead.

Introduction

In this second section of the Bible study on the Godhead, we will consider the overwhelming evidence for the deity of Christ as an eternal, selfexistent, co-equal Person of the Eternal Godhead.

The lines of evidence will include

- · Christ being one of three Persons who make up the Godhead;
- Christ's appropriation of the title "I Am";
- Irrefutable evidence of Christ's deity during His earthly sojourn;
- Christ being clearly identified as God throughout the Scriptures;
- Christ's communicative role after the fall of man;
- Christ accepting the worship of many people in His day;
- The command to worship Christ, the Creator, in the last days.
- Christ being welcomed as God at the second coming;
- Christ being worshipped as God in Heaven;
- Christ being the object of many Bible prophecies;
- Christ performing many supernatural works;
- Christ making many claims that only Deity could make;
- Christ giving many assurances that only Deity could give;
- Scriptural and Spirit of Prophecy evidence for...
 - His being a distinct Person in the Godhead;
 - His pre-existence and everlasting life;
 - His self-existence and equality with God;
 - His attributes;
 - His human/divine life on earth;
 - His supernatural, transformative work in our days, including welcoming our prayers;
 - His soon return.

We will look at the evidence and consider what to do with it.

Unless indicated otherwise, quotations come from the writings of Ellen G. White.

Dan Augsburger

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+ No Man has seen the Father since the fall. 11

+ Christ was anticipated and written about in the Old Testament. 11

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+ Human and celestial beings, and Christ are referred to as "angel" messengers. 17

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• Christ is also referred to as Michael the archangel. 19

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• Christ allowed many individuals to worship Him in spite of clear prohibitions otherwise. 21

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+ Christ allowed individuals to worship Him in Old Testament times. 22

+ Christ allowed individuals to worship Him during His earthly sojourn. 23

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Supernatural Works 29

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• Christ is self-existent, with "original, unborrowed, underived" Life. 40

+ What did Ellen White mean when she spoke of original, unborrowed and underived? 40

• Christ is equal with God. 41

• Christ had previously shared the glory of the Father. 41

• Christ was in perfect unity with His Father. 41

• Christ was the Father's only begotten, "one-of-a-kind," Son. 42

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• Christ is unchanging (immutable). 43

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- Christ is all-powerful (omnipotent). 44
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- Judgment has been committed to Christ. 45
- Christ shares the glory of God. 45

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• Christ came to fulfill a plan ordained before the foundation of the world. 46

• Christ came to perfectly reveal the Father, offer a perfect sacrifice and provide a perfect example of victorious dependent living. 46

- Christ voluntarily humbled Himself in coming to earth. 46
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- Christ had two distinct natures while He was on earth. 47
- Christ's incarnation is a mystery. 48
- Christ fully entered into our experience. 49
- Christ constantly received the Holy Spirit during His time on earth.
 49
- Christ's life was accompanied by supernatural signs. 49
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The Bible Study

Christ: a Distinct Person of the Godhead

- 1 Christ is one of three Persons who make up the Godhead.
- 2 Matthew 28:19 "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them
- 3 in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."
- 4 Christ applied the title "I Am" to Himself.
- 5 Exodus 3:14 "And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he
- 6 said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me
- 7 unto you."1
- 8 *John 8:58 "Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you,
- 9 Before Abraham was, I am."2
- 10 Christ gave irrefutable evidence of four witnesses of His
- 11 deity to angry opposers in His day."
- 12 Responding to the angry religious leaders who reacted against His
- 13 many claims of deity (John 5:31-40), Christ pointed to four irrefutable
- 14 "witnesses" of his deity: the witness of John the Baptist, the witness of
- 15 the "works" His Father had given Him to do, the witnessing
- 16 assertions of His Father—at His baptism for example, and other
- 17 times3; and the witness of the Scriptures, particularly pointing to the

^{1. &}quot;I AM means an eternal presence; the past, present, and future are alike with God. He sees the most remote events of past history, and the far distant future with as clear a vision as we do those things which are transpiring daily." Letter 119, 1895.12.

^{2.} The following came from a section of a letter speaking of Christ: "The Lord must be believed and served as the great "I AM," and we must trust implicitly in Him. (Exodus 3:14.)" Letter 119, 1895.20. [Text and parentheses in the original document]

^{3.} See Luke 3:22; 9:35; John 12:28.

- 18 writings of Moses.
- 19 *John the Baptist: John 5:32-35 "There is another that beareth witness
- 20 of me; and I know that the witness which he witnesseth of me is true.
- 21 33 Ye sent unto John, and he bare witness unto the truth. 34 But I
- 22 receive not testimony from man: but these things I say, that ye might
- 23 be saved. 35 He was a burning and a shining light: and ye were willing
- 24 for a season to rejoice in his light."4
- 25 *His "Works": John 5:36 "But I have greater witness than that of
- 26 John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same
- 27 works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me."
- 28 *Father's Assertions: John 5:37 "And the Father himself, which hath
- 29 sent me, hath borne witness of me. Ye have neither heard his voice at
- 30 any time, nor seen his shape."5
- 31 *The Scriptures: John 5:39 "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think
- 32 ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. ... 45 Do
- 33 not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is one that accuseth
- 34 you, even Moses, in whom ye trust. 46 For had ye believed Moses, ye
- 35 would have believed me: for he wrote of me. 47 But if ye believe not
- 36 his writings, how shall ye believe my words?"
- 37 Christ is known and referred to as God in the Bible.
- ³⁸ *John 1:1,2 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with
- 39 God, and the Word was God. 2 The same was in the beginning with
- 40 God."6
- 41 *Isaiah 9:6 "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the
- 42 government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called
- 43 Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The
- 44 Prince of Peace."
- 45 Isaiah 44:6 "Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer
- 46 the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside
- 47 me there is no God."
- 48 Isaiah 48:12 "Hearken unto me, O Jacob and Israel, my called;
- 49 I am he; I am the first, I also am the last."

^{4.} See John 1:7,8,15-18,26,27,29-36.

^{5.} See Matthew 3:17; 17:5; John 12:28.

^{6.} Revelation 19:13 identifies "The Word" as Christ: "His name is called The Word of God."

- 50 *Matthew 1:23 "Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring
- 51 forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being
- 52 interpreted is, God with us."
- 53 Luke 8:39 "Return to thine own house, and shew how great things
- 54 God hath done unto thee. And he went his way, and published
- 55 throughout the whole city how great things Jesus had done unto him."
- 56 *John 1:14 "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us."
- ⁵⁷ *John 20:28-29 "And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord
- 58 and my God. 29 Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen
- 59 me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet
- 60 have believed."
- 61 *Romans 9:5 "Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the
- 62 flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen."
- 63 *Philippians 2:6 "Who, being in the form of God, thought it not
- 64 robbery to be equal with God."
- 65 *1 Timothy 3:16 "And without controversy great is the mystery of
- 66 godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of
- 67 angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received
- 68 up into glory."
- *Titus 2:13 "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearingof the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ."
- 71 *Hebrews 1:8 "But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for
- 72 ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy
- 73 kingdom."
- 1 John 1:1-2 "That which was from the beginning, which we have
- 75 heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon,
- 76 and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; 2 (For the life was
- 77 manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you
- 78 that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto
- 79 us;)."
- *Jude 1:24-25 "Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling,
- 81 and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with
- 82 exceeding joy, 25 To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and
- 83 majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen."
- 84 Revelation 1:17-18 "And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead.
- 85 And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the

- 86 first and the last: 18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I
- 87 am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death."
- 88 Revelation 4:11 "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and
- 89 honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy
- 90 pleasure they are and were created."

91 Revelation 19:13 "And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood:

- 92 and his name is called The Word of God."
- 93 Revelation 21:6-7 "And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and
- 94 Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst
- 95 of the fountain of the water of life freely. 7 He that overcometh shall
- 96 inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son."

97 Christ, Heaven's Chief Communicator

- 98 Christ took over all communication with humankind after
- 99 the fall and therefor appears many more times in the
- 100 Scriptures than might be expected.
- 101 As a result of the fall of man, and the Father no longer communicating
- 102 with humankind, Christ took over all communication with planet
- 103 earth. As a result, we find numerous instances in the Old Testament
- 104 Scriptures where Christ is revealed as God.
- 105 No Man has seen the Father since the fall.7
- 106 Exodus 33:20 "And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there
- 107 shall no man see me, and live."
- 108 *John 1:18 "No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten
- 109 Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him."
- 110 *1 Timothy 6:16 "Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light
- 111 which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can
- 112 see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen."
- 113 Christ was anticipated and written about in the Old Testament.
- 114 John 1:45 "Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have
- 115 found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write,

^{7. &}quot;After the transgression of Adam, the Lord spoke no longer directly with man; the human race was given into the hands of Christ, and all communication came through him to the world." *Review and Herald*, November 28, 1893, par. 4.

- 116 Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."
- 117 *John 5:39 "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal
- 118 life: and they are they which testify of me."
- 119 Luke 24:27 "And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he
- 120 expounded unto them [the disciples on the road to Emmaus] in all the
- 121 scriptures the things concerning himself."
- In Exod 6:3 Christ spoke of Himself as "Almighty God" andYHWH.
- 124 In Exodus 6:3 Christ spoke of appearing as "Almighty God" to
- 125 Abraham (Genesis 17:1), Isaac and Jacob (Genesis 35:11). In the
- 126 same passage—Exodus 6:3—Christ spoke of revealing Himself as
- 127 YHWH—the most holy name of God—to Moses. Christ continued to
- 128 communicate throughout the Old Testament period using a variety of
- 129 names including YHWH.8
- 130 *Here is Exodus 6:2-3 along with some of the verses referred to the*
- 131 passage.
- 132 *Exodus 6:2-3, 6 "And God spake unto Moses, and said unto him, I
- 133 am the LORD (YHWH): 3 And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac,
- 134 and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty (emphasis added), but
- 135 by my name JEHOVAH (emphasis added) (YHWH) was I not known
- 136 to them. ... 6 Wherefore say unto the children of Israel, I am the LORD
- 137 (emphasis added) (YHWH), and I will bring you out from under the
- 138 burdens of the Egyptians, and I will rid you out of their bondage, and I
- 139 will redeem you with a stretched out arm, and with great judgments."
- 140 Abraham: Genesis 17:1 "And when Abram was ninety years old and
- 141 nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, *I am the*
- 142 Almighty God (emphasis added); walk before me, and be thou
- 143 perfect."
- 144 Isaac: Genesis 28:3 "And God Almighty bless thee, and make thee
- 145 fruitful, and multiply thee, that thou mayest be a multitude of
- 146 people."9

^{8.} It is significant that Christ revealed Himself as YHWH on the occasion of Moses' calling to return and deliver His people from Egyptian oppression. The name YHWH was already familiar to Moses since he wrote the book of Genesis, which includes the name in several places. The contest with Pharaoh was entering a very serious phase, however, and the introduction of the name must have greatly encouraged Moses as he pursued the badly needed deliverance. Later, other highly relevant titles would be used for God.

^{9.} There is no record of God using the name "Almighty God" with Isaac, however Isaac

- 147 Jacob: Genesis 35:11 "And God said unto him, I am God Almighty
- 148 (emphasis added): be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of
- 149 nations shall be of thee, and kings shall come out of thy loins."
- 150 Other occasions when Christ was active as "YHWH."
- 151 When Adam and Eve were hiding in the garden.
- 152 *Genesis 3:8-9 "And they heard the voice of the LORD (YHWH) God
- 153 walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife
- 154 hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees
- 155 of the garden. 9 And the LORD (YHWH) God called unto Adam, and 156 said unto him. Where art thou?"
- 157 When Abraham was told to go to a land that God would show Him.
- 158 Genesis 12:1 "Now the LORD (YHWH) had said unto Abram, Get
- 159 thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's 160 house, unto a land that I will shew thee."
- 161 *Genesis 18:17 "And the LORD (YHWH) said, Shall I hide from 162 Abraham that thing which I do."
- 163 When Jacob was fleeing from his home.
- 164 Genesis 28:13-16 "And, behold, the LORD (YHWH) stood above it,
- and said, I am the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed; ... 15 And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, ... 16 And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the LORD (YHWH) is in this place; and I knew it not."
- 171 When Moses turned aside to see the burning bush and was called by
- 172 God to lead His people back to Canaan.
- 173 Exodus 3:4-5 "And when the LORD (YHWH) saw that he turned 174 aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and 175 said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I. 5 And he said, Draw not 176 nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon 177 thou standest is holy ground."10
- 178 Exodus 4:2 "And the LORD (YHWH) said unto him, What is that in
- 179 thine hand? And he said, A rod."

used it in a blessing which indicates his familiarity with the term.

^{10. &}quot;When Moses saw the burning bush in Mount Horeb, and turned aside to see why the bush was not consumed, Christ revealed Himself to Moses and told him what he must do to deliver the children of Israel from Egypt." Letter 38, 1907.15.

- 180 Christ is seen as YHWH, leading the people through the desert.
- 181 *Exodus 13:21 "And the LORD (YHWH) went before them by day in
- 182 a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of
- 183 fire, to give them light; to go by day and night."
- *1 Corinthians 10:4 "And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for
 they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock
 was Christ."
- 187 When God was calling Moses to receive the Ten Commandments.
- 188 Exodus 24:12 "And the LORD (YHWH) said unto Moses, Come up to
- 189 me into the mount, and be there: and I will give thee tables of stone,
- 190 and a law, and commandments which I have written; that thou mayest
- 191 teach them."
- 192 Following the worship of the golden calf.
- 193 Exodus 32:9 "And the LORD (YHWH) said unto Moses, I have seen 194 this people, and, behold, it is a stiffnecked people."
- 195 Exodus 32:33 "And the LORD (YHWH) said unto Moses, Whosoever196 hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book."
- 197 When Joshua received assurances on two occasions of God's 198 blessings.
- 199 *Joshua 3:7 "And the LORD (YHWH) said unto Joshua, This day will
- 200 I begin to magnify thee in the sight of all Israel, that they may know
- 201 that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee."11
- 202 Joshua 5:14 "And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the 203 LORD (YHWH) am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the 204 earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my lord unto his 205 servant?"
- 206 When the people were seeking direction for the conquest of Canaan.
- 207 Judges 1:1-2 "Now after the death of Joshua it came to pass, that the
- 208 children of Israel asked the LORD (YHWH), saying, Who shall go up
- 209 for us against the Canaanites first, to fight against them? 2 And the
- 210 LORD (YHWH) said, Judah shall go up: behold, I have delivered the

^{11.} Ellen White provides helpful direction in identifying an angel visitor as Christ. Referring to Joshua's experience, "The angel had veiled the divine glory of his presence, but it was no other than Christ, the Son of God. When a prophet or an angel delivered a divine message, his words were, "The Lord saith, *I will do* (emphasis added) this," but it is stated of the Person who talked with Gideon, "The Lord said unto him, I will be with thee." *Signs of the Times*, June 23, 1881, Art. A, par. 16.

- 211 land into his hand."
- 212 At the time of Gideon's calling.
- 213 Judges 6:14 "And the LORD (YHWH) looked upon him, and said, Go
- 214 in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midi-

215 anites: have not I sent thee?"

- 216 When David was seeking direction.
- 217 2 Samuel 2:1 "And it came to pass after this, that David enquired of
- 218 the LORD (YHWH), saying, Shall I go up into any of the cities of Ju-
- 219 dah? And the LORD (YHWH) said unto him, Go up. And David said,
- 220 Whither shall I go up? And he said, Unto Hebron."
- 221 2 Samuel 21:1 "Then there was a famine in the days of David three
- 222 years, year after year; and David enquired of the LORD (YHWH).
- 223 And the LORD (YHWH) answered, It is for Saul, and for his bloody
- 224 house, because he slew the Gibeonites."
- 225 Responding to Solomon's dedicatory prayer.
- 226 *2 Chronicles 7:12 "And the LORD (YHWH) appeared to Solomon
- 227 by night, and said unto him, I have heard thy prayer, and have chosen
- 228 this place to myself for an house of sacrifice."
- 229 In connection with the promise of the Messiah in Isaiah.
- 230 Isaiah 43:10-11 "Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD (YHWH), and
- 231 my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me,
- and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, nei-
- 233 ther shall there be after me. 11 I, even I, am the LORD (YHWH); and
- 234 beside me there is no saviour."
- 235 In the book of Malachi
- 236 Malachi 3:1 "Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare
- 237 the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come
- 238 to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight
- 239 in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD (YHWH) of hosts."
- Parallels of Old and New Testament references that point to Christ.
- 241 *Psalms 45:6-7 "Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: the sceptre
- 242 of thy kingdom is a right sceptre. 7 Thou lovest righteousness, and
- 243 hatest wickedness: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the
- 244 oil of gladness above thy fellows."
- 245 Compare
- 246 *Hebrews 1:8-9 "But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for

- 247 ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.
- 248 9 Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God,
- 249 even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy
- 250 fellows."
- 251 *Psalms 102:25-27 "Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth:
- and the heavens are the work of thy hands. 26 They shall perish, but
- 253 thou shalt endure: yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment; as a
- vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be changed: 27 But
- 255 thou art the same, and thy years shall have no end."
- 256 Compare
- 257 *Hebrews 1:10-12 "And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the
- 258 foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands:
- 259 11 They shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as
- 260 doth a garment; 12 And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they
- 261 shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail."
- 262 Sometimes the people involved recognized the presence 263 of God.
- 264 When Jacob was wrestling with an unknown assailant.
- Genesis 32:29-30 "And Jacob asked him, and said, Tell me, I pray thee, thy name. And he said, Wherefore is it that thou dost ask after my name? And he blessed him there. 30 And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: for I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved."
- 270 Delivering Israel from the Egyptians
- 271 Exodus 14:19 "And the angel of God, which went before the camp of
- 272 Israel, removed and went behind them; and the pillar of the cloud went
- 273 from before their face, and stood behind them."
- When Moses and a group of men went up on Mt. Sinai.
- 275 Exodus 24:9-10 "Then went up Moses, and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu,
- 276 and seventy of the elders of Israel: 10 And they saw the God of Israel:
- 277 and there was under his feet as it were a paved work of a sapphire
- 278 stone, and as it were the body of heaven in his clearness."

- 279 Christ is also referred to as the Angel of the Lord and 280 other similar names.
- 281 Christ, Heaven's primary communicator after man's fall, is sometimes
- 282 referred to as the angel of the Lord. Christ also gave ongoing
- 283 direction. Proof of Christ's presence is shown in a variety of ways, the
- 284 primary ones being (1) the messenger being seen could not have been
- 285 the Father, as noted in the texts that immediately follow; (2) the
- 286 supernatural assurances given; and (3) the worship accepted. There is
- 287 further confirmation in the writings of Ellen White.12 Within the
- 288 conversations that take place one can often tell that Christ is speaking
- 289 through the personal assurances given.
- 290 A reminder that no man has seen the Father!
- ²⁹¹ *John 1:18 "No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten
- 292 Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him."
- 293 John 6:46 "Not that any man hath seen the Father, save he which is of
- 294 God, he hath seen the Father."
- 295 Human and celestial beings, and Christ are referred to as "angel"
- 296 messengers.13
- 297 Human.
- 298 Galatians 4:14 "But received me [Paul] as an angel of God, even as299 Christ Jesus."
- 300 Angels.14
- 301 Daniel 8:16 "And I heard a man's voice between the banks of Ulai,
- 302 which called, and said, Gabriel, make this man to understand the
- 303 vision."

^{12.} For example, "It was Christ who spoke with Abraham under the oaks at Mamre; with Isaac as he went out to pray in the fields at the eventide; with Jacob on the hillside at Bethel; with Moses among the mountains of Midian; and with the boy David as he watched his flocks." *The Desire of Ages*, 290.3.

^{13.} Because there are sometimes efforts to use this particular subject to demote Christ, I have included a section showing that Christ is sometimes referred to as an angel, even though He was/is all the while a self-existent and eternal member of the Godhead.

^{14.} When we come to angels, we must recall that each person has an angel assigned to them (Matt 18:10). They are working on our behalf. The Holy Spirit is also working. Knowing the difference between their work can be challenging, but doesn't negate the activity of either party. Note the following: "Brother Haskell, you need never feel that you are alone. Angels of God are your companions. The Holy Spirit is your Comforter." Letter 100, 1895.9.

- 304 Luke 1:26 "And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from
- 305 God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth."
- 306 Pre-incarnate Christ was sometimes referred to as the "angel of the307 Lord."
- 308 Genesis 16:10 "And the angel of the LORD (emphasis added) said
- 309 unto her, I will multiply(emphasis added) thy seed exceedingly, that it
- 310 shall not be numbered for multitude."
- 311 Here are examples of Pre-incarnate Christ communicating as the "an-
- 312 gel of God" or "angel of the Lord."
- 313 Recall that "I" statements indicate Christ communicating. I have itali-
- 314 cized short phrases of some of the Scriptures in this regard.
- 315 Hagar, when she was being encouraged.
- 316 *Genesis 21:17-18 "And God heard the voice of the lad; and *the angel*
- 317 of God (emphasis added) called to Hagar out of heaven, and said unto
- 318 her, What aileth thee, Hagar? fear not; for God hath heard the voice of
- 319 the lad where he is. 18 Arise, lift up the lad, and hold him in thine
- 320 hand; for I will make him (emphasis added) a great nation."
- 321 Abraham when he was stopped from sacrificing Isaac.
- 322 *Genesis 22:11-12,17-18 "And *the angel of the Lord* (emphasis added)
- 323 called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he
- 324 said, Here am I. 12 And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad,
- 325 neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest
- 326 God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me. ...
- 327 17 That in blessing I will bless thee (emphasis added), and in
- 328 multiplying *I will multiply thy seed* (emphasis added) as the stars of
- 329 the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed
- 330 shall possess the gate of his enemies; 18 And in thy seed shall all the
- anations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast *obeyed my voice*"
- 332 (emphasis added).
- 333 When Jacob was told to return home.
- 334 *Genesis 31:11-13 "The angel of God (emphasis added) spake unto
- 335 me in a dream, saying, Jacob: And I said, Here am I. 12 And he said,
- 336 Lift up now thine eyes, and see, all the rams which leap upon the cattle
- 337 are ringstraked, speckled, and grisled: for I have seen all that Laban
- 338 doeth unto thee. 13 I am the God of Bethel (emphasis added), where
- 339 thou anointedst the pillar, and where thou vowedst a vow unto me:
- 340 now arise, get thee out from this land, and return unto the land of thy

341 kindred."

342 - Moses at the burning bush.

- 343 Acts 7:30-33 "And when forty years were expired, there appeared to
- 344 him in the wilderness of mount Sinai an angel of the Lord (emphasis
- 345 added) in a flame of fire in a bush. 31 When Moses saw it, he
- 346 wondered at the sight: and as he drew near to behold it, the voice of
- 347 the Lord came unto him, 32 Saying, I am the God (emphasis added) of
- 348 thy fathers, the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of
- 349 Jacob. Then Moses trembled, and durst not behold. 33 Then said the
- 350 Lord to him, Put off thy shoes from thy feet: for the place where thou
- 351 standest is holy ground."
- 352 When the angel of God was guiding the Israelites through the desert.
- 353 Exodus 14:19 "And the angel of God (emphasis added), which went
- before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them; and the
- pillar of the cloud went from before their face, and stood behindthem."
- When Christ was communicating with the children of Israel duringtheir wilderness wanderings.
- 359 Judges 2:1-4 "And an angel of the LORD (emphasis added) came up
- 360 from Gilgal to Bochim, and said, *I made you to go up out of Egypt*
- 361 (emphasis added), and have brought you unto the land which *I sware*
- 362 unto your fathers (emphasis added); and I said, I will never break my
- 363 covenant (emphasis added) with you. ... 3 Wherefore I also said, I will
- 364 not drive them out from before you; but they shall be as thorns in your
- 365 sides, and their gods shall be a snare unto you. 4 And it came to pass,
- 366 when the angel of the LORD spake these words unto all the children
- 367 of Israel, that the people lifted up their voice, and wept."
- 368 Gideon, when he was being called to his mission.
- 369 *Judges 6:20-23 "And *the angel of God* (emphasis added) said unto
- 370 him, Take the flesh and the unleavened cakes, and lay them upon this
- 371 rock, and pour out the broth. And he did so. 21 Then the angel of the
- 372 LORD put forth the end of the staff that was in his hand, and touched
- 373 the flesh and the unleavened cakes; and there rose up fire out of the
- 374 rock, and consumed the flesh and the unleavened cakes.... 22 And
- 375 when Gideon perceived that he was an angel of the LORD, Gideon
- 376 said, Alas, O Lord GOD! for because I have seen an angel of the
- 377 LORD face to face. 23 And the LORD said unto him, Peace be unto

- 378 thee; fear not: thou shalt not die."
- 379 Manoah and her husband.
- 380 Judges 13:19-22 "So Manoah took a kid with a meat offering, and
- 381 offered it upon a rock unto the LORD: and the angel did wondrously;
- 382 and Manoah and his wife looked on. 20 For it came to pass, when the
- 383 flame went up toward heaven from off the altar, that *the angel of the*
- 384 LORD ascended (emphasis added) in the flame of the altar. And
- 385 Manoah and his wife looked on it, and fell on their faces to the
- 386 ground. 21 But the angel of the LORD did no more appear to Manoah
- 387 and to his wife. Then Manoah knew that he was an angel of the
- 388 LORD. 22 And Manoah said unto his wife, We shall surely die,
- 389 because we have seen God."
- 390 Christ is also referred to as Michael the archangel.
- 391 The archangel Michael.
- 392 A mention of Michael in Jude 1 parallels a mention in Zechariah 3.
- 393 Jude 1:9 "Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil
- 394 he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a
- 395 railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee."
- 396 Compare
- 397 Zechariah 3:1-2 "And he shewed me Joshua the high priest standing
- 398 before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to
- 399 resist him. 2 And the LORD said unto Satan, The LORD rebuke thee,
- 400 O Satan."
- 401 Other verses mentioning Michael the Archangel.
- 402 *Daniel 10:13 "But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me
- 403 one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one ('echâd) of the chief
- 404 princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of
- 405 Persia."15
- 406 Compare
- 407 Genesis 1:5 "And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called
- 408 Night. And the evening and the morning were the first ('echâd) day."
- 409 Genesis 8:13 "And it came to pass in the six hundredth and first year,

^{15.} The word "one" comes from the Hebrew word *'echâd* and can be translated in multiple ways including "first," as in Genesis 1:5 and Genesis 8:13.

- 410 in the first month, the first ('echâd) day of the month, the waters were
- 411 dried up from off the earth: and Noah removed the covering of the ark,
- 412 and looked, and, behold, the face of the ground was dry."
- 413 Daniel 10:21 "But I will shew thee that which is noted in the scripture
- 414 of truth: and there is none that holdeth with me in these things, but
- 415 Michael your prince."16
- 416 Compare
- 417 Daniel 9:25: "Know therefore and understand, that from the going
- 418 forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the
- 419 Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two
- 420 weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous
- 421 times."
- 422 *Daniel 12:1 "And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince
- 423 which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time
- 424 of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that
- 425 same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one
- 426 that shall be found written in the book."
- 427 Compare
- 428 Acts 5:30-31 "The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew
- 429 and hanged on a tree. 31 Him hath God exalted with his right hand to
- 430 be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and
- 431 forgiveness of sins."
- 432 Mention is made of Christ descending from heaven with a shout and
- 433 the voice of the archangel at the time of the second coming.
- 434 *1 Thessalonians 4:16 "For the Lord himself shall descend from
- 435 heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the
- 436 trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first."
- 437 Compare
- 438 John 5:28-29 "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which
- 439 all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, 29 And shall come forth;
- 440 they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that

^{16.} Other verses referring to Christ as "Prince": Isaiah 9:6 (Prince of Peace), Acts 3:14-15 (Prince of Life), Acts 5:30-31 (Prince and Saviour).

442 Christ Accepted the Worship Of Many People

443 Christ accepted Peter's confession and worship.

- *Matthew 16:15-17 "He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?
- 445 16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of
- 446 the living God. 17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art
- 447 thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto
- 448 thee, but my Father which is in heaven."17

449 Christ allowed many individuals to worship Him in spite450 of clear prohibitions otherwise.

- 451 It was/is unlawful to worship anyone but God.
- 452 *Exodus 20:3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me."
- 453 *Exodus 34:14 "For thou shalt worship no other god: for the Lord,
- 454 whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God."
- Isaiah 42:8 "I am the Lord: that is my name: and my glory will I notgive to another, neither my praise to graven images."
- 457 Luke 4:8 "And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me,
- 458 Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him 459 only shalt thou serve."
- 460 Acts 10:25-26 "And as Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him, and
- 460 Acts 10.23-26 And as reter was coming in, Contenus met him, and
 461 fell down at his feet, and worshipped him. 26 But Peter took him up,
 462 saying, Stand up; I myself also am a man."
- 463 Acts 14:13-15 "Then the priest of Jupiter, which was before their city,
- 464 brought oxen and garlands unto the gates, and would have done
- 465 sacrifice with the people. 14 Which when the apostles, Barnabas and
- 466 Paul, heard of, they rent their clothes, and ran in among the people,
- 467 crying out, 15 And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are
- 468 men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn

^{17. &}quot;Peter did not speak these words in an ordinary tone, but with inspired fervor, as if he indeed beheld the glory of Christ. … Peter felt the glory of God shining into his soul. His heart burned with him. He could not keep silent, and in language of adoration said, 'Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.' … He had commended Peter for his belief in his divinity, and had assured him that God had led him to make this acknowledgment. He had accepted the title of Son of God." Manuscript 202, 1899.3 and 11.

- 469 from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and
- 470 earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein.
- 471 Revelation 19:9-10 "And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they
- 472 which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith
- 473 unto me, These are the true sayings of God. 10 And I fell at his feet to
- 474 worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy
- 475 fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus:
- 476 worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."
- 477 Revelation 22:8-9 "And I John saw these things, and heard them. And
- 478 when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of
- 479 the angel which shewed me these things. 9 Then saith he unto me, See
- 480 thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the
- 481 prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship
- 482 God."
- 483 Christ allowed individuals to worship Him in Old Testament times.
- 484 Genesis 17:3 "And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him."
- 485 Exodus 3:4-6 "And when the Lord saw that he turned aside to see,
- 486 God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses,
- 487 Moses. And he said, Here am I. 5 And he said, Draw not nigh hither:
- 488 put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest
- 489 is holy ground. 6 Moreover he said, I am the God of thy father, the
- 490 God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses
- 491 hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God."
- 492 *Exodus 34:8 "And Moses made haste, and bowed his head toward493 the earth, and worshipped."
- *Joshua 5:14-15 "And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the
 Lord am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did
 worship, and said unto him, What saith my lord unto his servant? 15
 And the captain of the Lord's host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe
- 498 from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And
- 499 Joshua did so."
- 500 Christ allowed individuals to worship Him during His earthly501 sojourn.
- 502 Matthew 2:10-11 "When they saw the star, they rejoiced with
- 503 exceeding great joy. 11 And when they were come into the house, they
- saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and
- 505 worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they

- 506 presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh."
- 507 *Matthew 8:2 "And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him,
- 508 saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean."
- 509 *Matthew 9:18 "While he spake these things unto them, behold, there
- 510 came a certain ruler, and worshipped him, saying, My daughter is even
- 511 now dead: but come and lay thy hand upon her, and she shall live."
- 512 *Matthew 14:30-33 "But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was
- 513 afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. 31 And
- 514 immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said
- 515 unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt? 32 And
- 516 when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased. 33 Then they that
- 517 were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art
- 518 the Son of God."
- 519 *Matthew 28:9 "And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus
- 520 met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet,
- 521 and worshipped him."
- 522 *Matthew 28:16-17 "Then the eleven disciples went away into
- 523 Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. 17 And
- 524 when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted."
- 525 Mark 5:5 "And always, night and day, he was in the mountains, and in
- 526 the tombs, crying, and cutting himself with stones. 6 But when he saw 527 Jesus afar off he ran and worshipped him "
- 527 Jesus afar off, he ran and worshipped him."
- ⁵²⁸ *Luke 24:51-52 "And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was
- 529 parted from them, and carried up into heaven. 52 And they worshipped 530 him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy."
- 531 *John 9:35-38 "Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he
- 532 had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of
- 533 God? 36 He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe
- 534 on him? 37 And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast both seen him, and it
- 535 is he that talketh with thee. 38 And he said, Lord, I believe. And he
- 536 worshipped him."
- 537 John 11:32 "Then when Mary was come where Jesus was, and saw
- 538 him, she fell down at his feet, saying unto him, Lord, if thou hadst
- 539 been here, my brother had not died."

- 540 Demons recognized the deity of Christ.
- 541 *Mark 3:11 "And unclean spirits, when they saw him, fell down
- 542 before him, and cried, saying, Thou art the Son of God. 12 And he
- 543 straitly charged them that they should not make him known."

544 *Luke 4:34 "Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou

545 Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou

- 546 art; the Holy One of God."
- 547 Luke 4:41 "And devils also came out of many, crying out, and saying,
- 548 Thou art Christ the Son of God. And he rebuking them suffered them
- 549 not to speak: for they knew that he was Christ."
- 550 We are called to worship Christ the creator as His second
- 551 coming approaches.
- 552 Revelation 14:7 "Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory
- 553 to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that
- 554 made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters."
- 555 Christ will be acknowledged and welcomed as God at the 556 second coming.
- 557 Christ being welcomed as God at the time of the second coming, is ad-
- 558 ditional strong proof that Christ is part of the Godhead.
- *Isaiah 25:9 "And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we
- 560 have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the Lord; we have
- 561 waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation."18
- 562 Titus 2:13 "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing
- 563 of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ."
- 564 Revelation 1:7-8 "Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall
- 565 see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth
- 566 shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen. 8 I am Alpha and Omega,
- 567 the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was,
- 568 and which is to come, the Almighty."

^{18. &}quot;Shall we not strive to be among that number who will welcome Christ with the words, "Lo, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us; this is the Lord; we have waited for Him, we will be glad and rejoice in His salvation." *Signs of the Times*, April 12, 1905, par. 18.

- 569 Christ will be worshipped in heaven.
- 570 *Philippians 2:10-11 "That at the name of Jesus every knee should
- 571 bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the
- 572 earth; 11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is
- 573 Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

574 Revelation 5:13 "And every creature which is in heaven, and on the

575 earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in

576 them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be

- 577 unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and
- 578 ever." 19

579 Christ in Bible Prophecy

- 580 Christ was the object of many prophecies.
- 581 Some of the strongest evidence of the deity of Christ is found in the
- 582 many prophecies pointing to Him, of which there are more than 200-
- 583 one well known writer of the past actually lists more than 400
- 584 prophecies pointing to Christ. This is but a small sampling of such
- 585 prophecies.20
- 586 Genesis 3:15 "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and
- 587 between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt 588 bruise his heel."
- 589 Genesis 22:18 "And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be
- 590 blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice."
- 591 Genesis 26:4 "And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of
- 592 heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed
- 593 shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; 5 Because that Abraham
- 594 obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my
- 595 statutes, and my laws."
- 596 Genesis 49:8-10 "Judah, thou art he whom thy brethren shall praise:

^{19. &}quot;As the saints in the kingdom of God are accepted in the beloved, they hear: "Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." [Matthew 25:34.] And then the golden harps are touched, and the music flows all through the heavenly host, and they fall down and worship the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit." Manuscript 139, 1906.32.

^{20. &}quot;The miracles of Jesus are a proof of His divinity; but the strongest proofs that He is the world's Redeemer are found in the prophecies of the Old Testament compared with the history of the New." *Signs of the Times*, October 6, 1909, par. 1.

597 thy hand shall be in the neck of thine enemies; thy father's children

- shall bow down before thee. 9 Judah is a lion's whelp: from the prey,
- 599 my son, thou art gone up: he stooped down, he couched as a lion, and
- 600 as an old lion; who shall rouse him up? 10 The sceptre shall not depart
- 601 from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come;
- 602 and unto him shall the gathering of the people be."
- 603 Jude 1:14 "And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of
- 604 these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his605 saints."
- *Numbers 24:17 "I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but
- 607 not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise
- 608 out of Israel, and all the children of Sheth."
- Job 19:25 "For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall standat the latter day upon the earth."
- 611 Psalms 16:10 "For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt612 thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption."
- 613 Psalms 22:1 "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? why art
- 614 thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring?"
- 615 Psalms 22:16 "Dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked
- 616 have inclosed me: they pierced my hands."
- *Psalms 22:18 "They part my garments among them, and cast lotsupon my vesture."
- *Psalms 34:20 "He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken.21 Evil shall slay the wicked."
- 621 Psalms 55:12-14 "For it was not an enemy that reproached me; then I
- 622 could have borne it: neither was it he that hated me that did magnify
- 623 himself against me; then I would have hid myself from him: 13 But it
- 624 was thou, a man mine equal, my guide, and mine acquaintance. 14 We
- 625 took sweet counsel together, and walked unto the house of God in
- 626 company."
- ⁶²⁷ *Isaiah 7:14 "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign;
- 628 Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name
- 629 Immanuel."
- 630 Isaiah 11:1-2 "And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of
- 631 Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: 2 And the spirit of the
- 632 Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the

633 spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of634 the Lord."

635 Isaiah 9:2 "The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light:

636 they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the

637 light shined."

638 Isaiah 42:2-3 "He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be

639 heard in the street. 3 A bruised reed shall he not break, and the

640 smoking flax shall he not quench: he shall bring forth judgment unto

641 truth."

642 *Isaiah 53:4 "Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows:

643 yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. 5 But he

644 was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities:

645 the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we

646 are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every

647 one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us 648 all."

649 Isaiah 53:9 "And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich

650 in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit

651 in his mouth."

⁶⁵² *Isaiah 61:1-3 "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the

653 Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath

654 sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the

- 655 captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; 2 To
- 656 proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of

657 our God; to comfort all that mourn;3 To appoint unto them that mourn

658 in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for

659 mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they

660 might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he

661 might be glorified."

662 Jeremiah 33:15-16 "In those days, and at that time, will I cause the

663 Branch of righteousness to grow up unto David; and he shall execute

664 judgment and righteousness in the land. 16 In those days shall Judah

665 be saved, and Jerusalem shall dwell safely: and this is the name

666 wherewith she shall be called, The LORD our righteousness."

*Daniel 9:24-27 "Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and

668 upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of

669 sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in

670 everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and

to anoint the most Holy. 25 Know therefore and understand, that from
the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem
unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and
two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in
troublous times. 26 And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah
be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall
come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall
be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are
determined. 27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one
week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the
oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall
make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined
shall be poured upon the desolate."

*Micah 5:2 "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little
among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto
me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of
old, from everlasting."

Haggai 2:7 "And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nationsshall come:' and I will fill this house with glory, saith the Lord ofhosts."

691 Zechariah 11:12-13 "And I said unto them, If ye think good, give me

692 my price; and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price thirty

693 pieces of silver. 13 And the Lord said unto me, Cast it unto the potter:

694 a goodly price that I was prised at of them. And I took the thirty pieces

695 of silver, and cast them to the potter in the house of the Lord."

696 Malachi 4:2 "But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of

- 697 righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth,
- 698 and grow up as calves of the stall."

Supernatural Works and Claims

- 700 Supernatural Works
- 701 Christ created/sustains.

⁷⁰² *John 1:3 "All things were made by him; and without him was not any

703 thing made that was made."

704 Colossians 1:16-17 "For by him were all things created, that are in 705 heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be

699

- 706 thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were cre-
- 707 ated by him, and for him: 17 And he is before all things, and by him
- 708 all things consist."
- 709 Hebrews 1:2 "Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son,
- 710 whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the 711 worlds."
- 712 Christ performed numerous miracles.
- 713 Around 40 specific miracles are recorded, but there were many more,
- 714 since scores of people came to be healed, whose stories were not given
- 715 individually. There were miracles having to do with nature as well.
- 716 Here is a sampling of these supernatural feats.
- Water being turned into wine: John 2:1-11.
- Healing of the official's son: John 4:46-54.
- Healing the demon-possessed man in Capernaum: Mark 1:21-28.
- Healing of Simon Peter's mother: Luke 4:38-39.
- Healing the great crowd of sick people: Luke 4:40.
- Healing a leper: Luke 5:12-15.
- Healing the centurion's servant: Luke 7:1-10.
- Healing a withered hand: Luke 6:6-20.
- Raising a widow's son back to life: Luke 7:11-17.
- 726 The healing of many women: Luke 8:2,3.
- Feeding thousands people: Matthew 14:15-21; 15:32-39; Mark
- 728 8:1-19, Luke 9:10-17.
- Scores of people were healed in the crowd of 5,000 men: Luke 9:11.
- Healing a woman of an 18 year illness: Luke 13:10-13.
- 731 Restoring Lazarus to life: John 11:1-44.
- Withering the fig tree that failed to yield fruit: Mark 11:12-14.
- Restoring the ear that was cut off: Luke 22:45-54..
- 734 Miracles were performed following Christ's ascension to
- 735 heaven.
- Peter healed the lame man: Acts 3:7-11.

- God used an earthquake to free Peter from prison: Acts 4:31.
- Signs and wonders were done by the apostles: Acts 5:12-16.
- Stephen was greatly used of God: Acts 6:8.
- Philip performed miracles: Acts 8:6,7.
- Elymas was made blind by Paul: Acts 13:11-12.
- In Lystra Paul healed a crippled man: Acts 14:8-18.
- Paul healed a demon-possessed woman: Acts 16:18.
- Paul raised Eutychus from the dead: Acts 20:8-12.
- Many were healed on the island of Malta: Acts 28:8,9.
- 746 Christ was able to grant supernatural power to others.
- *Matthew 10:1 "And when he had called unto him his twelve

748 disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out,

- 749 and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease."
- 750 Matthew 14:28-29 "Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.And Peter
- answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on
- 752 the water. 29 And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out
- 753 of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus."
- 754 Luke 9:1,6 "Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave
- 755 them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases. ... 6
- 756 "So they departed and went through the towns, preaching the gospel
- 757 and healing everywhere."
- *Ephesians 1:19 "And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to
- 759 us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power."
- 760 Colossians 1:11 "Strengthened with all might, according to his
- 761 glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness."
- 762 2 Peter 1:3 "According as his divine power hath given unto us all
- 763 things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of
- 764 him that hath called us to glory and virtue."
- 765 Christ commanded demons to depart from people.
- *Luke 4:35 "And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and
- 767 come out of him. And when the devil had thrown him in the midst, he
- 768 came out of him, and hurt him not."

- 769 Christ raised the dead.
- 770 John 11:43-44 "And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud
- 771 voice, Lazarus, come forth. 44 And he that was dead came forth,
- 772 bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about
- 773 with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go."21

774 Nature obeyed Him.

- *Mark 4:41 "And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another,
- 776 What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey
- 777 him?"
- 778 Matthew 17:27 "Notwithstanding, lest we should offend them, go thou
- to the sea, and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up;
- and when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find a piece of
- 781 money: that take, and give unto them for me and thee."
- 782 John 21:6 "And he said unto them, Cast the net on the right side of the
- 783 ship, and ye shall find. They cast therefore, and now they were not
- able to draw it for the multitude of fishes."

785 Supernatural Claims and Assurances

- 786 Claims of Deity
- 787 *Christ claimed many things that only Deity could claim.*
- 788 Christ claimed to have seen the Father.
- 789 John 5:19 "Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I
- 790 say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth
- 791 the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the
- 792 Son likewise."
- 793 Christ claimed to know the Father.
- John 1:18 "No man hath seen God at any time, the only begotten Son,
- 795 which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him."
- 796 John 10:15 "As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father:
- 797 and I lay down my life for the sheep."
- 798 Christ claimed to share the Father's glory.
- 799 Matthew 16:27 "27 For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His

^{21.} Find stories of Christ raising the dead in Luke 7:12-17 and Luke 8:50-56.

- 800 Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his
- 801 works."
- 802 Luke 9:26 "For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words,
- 803 of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his
- 804 own glory, and in his Father's, and of the holy angels."
- 805 Christ claimed to have angels.
- 806 Matthew 13:41 "The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they
- 807 shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which
- 808 do iniquity."
- 809 Christ claimed to have all power.
- 810 Matthew 28:18 "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All
- 811 power is given unto me in heaven and in earth."
- 812 Christ claimed to be Lord of the Sabbath.
- 813 Luke 6:5 "And he said unto them, That the Son of man is Lord also of
- 814 the sabbath."
- 815 Christ claimed the role of judge.
- 816 John 5:22 "For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all
- 817 judgment unto the Son."
- 818 Christ claimed the right to be lifted up—idolatry if He had not been 819 God.
- S20 John 12:32 "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men
- 821 unto me."
- 822 Christ claimed the right to call people to come to Him.
- 823 John 5:39-40 "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have
- 824 eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. 40 And ye will not
- 825 come to me, that ye might have life."
- 826 Christ claimed the right to forgive sins.
- 827 Mark 2:5 "When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the
- 828 palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee."
- 829 Christ claimed to be the "bread of life."
- 830 John 6:48 "I am that bread of life."
- 831 Christ claimed to be the "light of the world."
- 832 John 9:5 "As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."
- 833 Christ claimed to be "the good shepherd."

- ⁸³⁴ John 10:14 "I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am
- 835 known of mine."
- 836 Christ claimed to have perfect comprehension of the Father's will.
- 837 John 5:21 "For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them;
- 838 even so the Son quickeneth whom he will."
- 839 Christ claimed to have power to raise the dead.
- *John 5:21 "For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth
- 841 them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will."
- 842 John 5:25 "Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now
- 843 is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that
- 844 hear shall live."
- John 11:43 "And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud
- 846 voice, Lazarus, come forth."
- 847 Rejecting Christ's teachings brought the loss of salvation.
- 848 John 15:24 " If I had not done among them the works which none
- 849 other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and
- 850 hated both me and my Father."
- 851 Christ claimed that those who did not honor Him, did not honor the852 Father.
- 853 John 5:23 "That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour
- 854 the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father
- 855 which hath sent him."
- 856 Assurances of Deity
- 857 Christ gave many assurances that only Deity could make.
- 858 Christ promised rest.
- 859 Matthew 11:28-30 "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy
- 860 laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn
- 861 of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto
- 862 your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."
- 863 Christ promised keeping.
- 864 John 10:28 "And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never
- 865 perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand."
- 866 Christ gave assurances of salvation.
- *Luke 23:42-43 "And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when

- 868 thou comest into thy kingdom. 43 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I
- 869 say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise."
- 870 Acts 10:43 "To him give all the prophets witness, that through his
- 871 name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins."
- 872 Christ promised life that resided in Himself.
- 873 John 6:47 "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath
- 874 everlasting life."
- 875 John 14:6 "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life."
- 876 Christ promised to save to the uttermost.
- 877 John 10:28 "And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never
- 878 perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand."
- 879 Christ promised to answer prayer.
- 880 John 16:23-24 "And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily,
- 881 I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will
- 882 give it you. 24 Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and
- 883 ye shall receive, that your joy may be full."
- 884 Christ promised to prepare a heavenly home, to which He would bring 885 His followers one day.
- 886 John 14:1-3 "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God,
- 887 believe also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it
- 888 were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3
- 889 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive
- 890 you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

891 Christ: a Distinct, Eternal Deity, Equal With God

- 892 Christ is a person.
- 893 Hebrews 1:2-3 "Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son,
- 894 whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the
- 895 worlds; 3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image
- 896 of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when
- 897 he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the
- 898 Majesty on high."

899 Christ is clearly distinct from His Father.22

900 Some Old Testament Scriptures of Christ's distinctness coupled with

- 901 their New Testament parallels.
- 902 Psalms 45:6-7 "Thy throne, O God ('*ĕlōhîm*), is for ever and ever: the

903 sceptre of thy kingdom is a right sceptre. 7 Thou lovest righteousness,

- 904 and hatest wickedness: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee
- 905 with the oil of gladness above thy fellows."23

906 Compare

- 907 *Hebrews 1:8-9 "But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for
- 908 ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.
- 909 9 Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God,
- 910 even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy
- 911 fellows."
- 912 Psalms 110:1 "The LORD (YHWH) said to my Lord ('ādôn), "Sit at
- 913 My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool."
- 914 Compare
- 915 Matthew 22:41-45 "While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus
- 916 asked them, 42 Saying, What think ye of Christ? whose son is he?
- 917 They say unto him, The Son of David. 43 He saith unto them, How
- 918 then doth David in spirit call him Lord, saying, 44 The LORD said
- 919 unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy
- 920 footstool? 45 If David then call him Lord, how is he his son?"
- 921 Isaiah 61:1-2 "The Spirit of the Lord GOD (YHWH) is upon me;
- 922 because the LORD (YHWH) hath anointed me to preach good tidings
- 923 unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to
- 924 proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them
- 925 that are bound; 2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD
- 926 (YHWH), and the day of vengeance of our God ('*ĕlōhîm*); to comfort
- 927 all that mourn."

^{22. &}quot;The Lord Jesus Christ, the divine Son of God, existed from eternity, a distinct person, yet one with the Father." *Review and Herald*, April 5, 1906, par. 7. "These words [John 17:18-23] show that God and Christ are two personalities, distinct and separate." Letter 52, 1906.23.

^{23.} Two persons share the name of God in Psalms 45:6-7.

- 928 Compare
- 929 Luke 4:18-19 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath
- 930 anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal
- 931 the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and
- 932 recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,
- 933 19 To preach the acceptable year of the Lord."
- 934 Scriptures in the Gospels where the distinctness is seen.
- 935 *Matthew 3:17 "And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my
- 936 beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."
- 937 Matthew 17:5 "While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud
- 938 overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said,
- 939 This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him."
- ⁹⁴⁰ *John 6:38-39 "For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own
- 941 will, but the will of him that sent me. 39 And this is the Father's will
- 942 which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose
- 943 nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day."
- 944 John 8:17-18 "It is also written in your law, that the testimony of two
- 945 men is true. 18 I am one that bear witness of myself, and the Father
- 946 that sent me beareth witness of me."
- 947 *John 17:1 "These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to
- 948 heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy
- 949 Son also may glorify thee."
- 950 Scriptures in Revelation where the distinctness is seen.24
- 951 *Revelation 1;1 "The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave
- 952 unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to
- 953 pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John."
- 954 Revelation 1:2 "Who bare record of the word of God, and of the 955 testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw."
- 956 Revelation 3:12 "Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the
- 957 temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon
- 958 him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which
- 959 is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God:

^{24.} See Edwin Reynolds, "The Trinity in the Book of Revelation," *Journal of the Adventist Theological Society*, 17/1 (Spring 2006):1-3. There are about 80 references to Christ in Revelation, using a variety of names, according to a study by Edwin Reynolds of Southern Adventist University. These are only a sampling of references in Revelation where the distinctness between Christ and the Father is seen.

- 960 and I will write upon him my new name."
- 961 *Revelation 3:21 "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me
- 962 in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my
- 963 Father in his throne."

964 Revelation 5:13 "Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto 965 him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever."

- 966 Revelation 6:16 "And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and
- 967 hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the968 wrath of the Lamb."
- 969 Revelation 7:10 "And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our
- 970 God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb."
- 971 Revelation 20:6 "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first
- 972 resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be
- 973 priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand
- 974 years."
- 975 Revelation 21:22 "And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God
- 976 Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it."
- 977 Christ was pre-existent.
- 978 Revelation 19:13 "And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood:
- 979 and his name is called The Word of God."
- 980 *John 1:1-2 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with
- God, and the Word was God. 2 The same was in the beginning withGod."25
- 983 John 1:29-31 "The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and
- 984 saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the
- 985 world. 30 This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is
- 986 preferred before me: for he was before me. 31 And I knew him not:
- 987 but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come
- 988 baptizing with water."

^{25.} Regarding John 1:1's "In the beginning," "The Greek phrase lacks the definite article, but is nevertheless definite in meaning. If the definite article were used in the Greek it would tend to imply some particular point of time, or "beginning." Without the definite article, and in the context of vs. 1–3, the phrase denotes the most remote time conceivable, before the creation of "all things" (v. 3), before any and every other "beginning," that is, eternity past." See *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary* on John 1:1.

- 989 *John 8:58 "Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you,
- 990 Before Abraham was, I am."26
- 991 *John 17:5 "And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self
- 992 with the glory which I had with thee before the world was."
- 993 John 17:24 "Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be
- 994 with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast
- 995 given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world."
- 996 *Colossians 1:17 "And he is before all things...."
- 997 Revelation 13:8 "And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him,
- 998 whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from
- 999 the foundation of the world."
- 1000 Christ is eternal.27
- 1001 *Psalms 90:1-2 "Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all
- 1002 generations. 2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou
- 1003 hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to
- 1004 everlasting, thou art God."
- 1005 Isaiah 9:6 "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the
- 1006 government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called
- 1007 Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The
- 1008 Prince of Peace."
- 1009 *Micah 5:2 "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little
- 1010 among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto
- 1011 me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of

^{26.} When Christ made the claim of equality to the Jews in John 5:17-18 they became exceedingly angry at his assertion. When Christ made the "I am" claim in John 8:58, they responded by taking up rocks to stone Him. Either Christ was saying the truth both times or He was lying. If it is true than we must take His equality and Eternal existence as true. If it is not true, we must entirely reject Christ.

^{27.} Ellen White used phrases like "from all eternity," "from eternity," existed from eternity," "from eternal ages," "from the beginning," "never was a time," "everliving," "Eternal Presence," "Eternal Word," "Everlasting Father," "Eternal Son of God," "Eternal Godhead," "Eternal Wisdom," "eternal throne," "everlasting throne," "from everlasting," "from everlasting to everlasting," "set up from everlasting," "A life unreckoned by human computation or measured by figures," "never a time when He was not in close fellowship with the eternal God," "in the presence of the Father from the beginning," "who from the beginning was equal with the Father," "Never-ending life that existed before the worlds were made," "familiarity and ease of eternal habitude," "One of the eternal dignitaries" and "uncreated Lord" to establish the "everlasting to everlasting" limitless nature of His existence.

- 1012 old, from everlasting."
- 1013 *John 8:58 "Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you,
- 1014 Before Abraham was, I am."
- 1015 *Hebrews 1:8 "But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for
- 1016 ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy
- 1017 kingdom."
- 1018 *Hebrews 7:1-3 "For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the
- 1019 most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the
- 1020 kings, and blessed him; 2 To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of
- 1021 all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that
- 1022 also King of Salem, which is, King of peace; 3 Without father, without 1023 mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of
- 1024 life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually."
- 1025 *Hebrews 7:15-16 "And it is yet far more evident: for that after the
- 1026 similitude of Melchisedec there ariseth another priest, 16 Who is
- 1020 similate of Melchisedec there arise an another priest, 10 who is
- 1027 made, not after the law of a carnal commandment, but after the power
- 1028 of an endless life."
- 1029 *1 John 1:2 "For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and
- 1030 bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the
- 1031 Father, and was manifested unto us."
- 1032 *Revelation 1:10-11 "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard
- 1033 behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, 11 Saying, I am Alpha and
- 1034 Omega, the first and the last."
- 1035 Christ is the Alpha and the Omega.
- 1036 Isaiah 44:6 "Thus saith the Lord the King of Israel, and his redeemer
- 1037 the Lord of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there 1038 is no God."
- 1039 *Isaiah 48:12 "Hearken unto me, O Jacob and Israel, my called; I am1040 he; I am the first, I also am the last."
- 1041 Revelation 22:13 "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end,
- 1042 the first and the last."
- 1043 Christ is self-existent, with "original, unborrowed,
- 1044 underived" Life.
- 1045 *John 1:4 "In him was life."
- 1046 John 2:19 "Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple,

- 1047 and in three days I will raise it up."
- 1048 John 5:21, 26 "For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth
- 1049 them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will. ... 26 For as the Fa-
- 1050 ther hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in
- 1051 himself."28
- 1052 *John 8:58 "Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Be-1053 fore Abraham was, I am."
- 1054 *John 10:17-18 "Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay
- 1055 down my life, that I might take it again. 18 No man taketh it from me,
- 1056 I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power
- 1057 to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father."

1058 • What did Ellen White mean when she spoke of life that was original,1059 unborrowed and underived?

- 1060 *One of the best known statements on the self-existence of Christ by
- 1061 Ellen White is found in the The Desire of Ages, page 530.1, where she
- 1062 speaks of Christ's life being "original, unborrowed and underived."
- 1063 The statement, which was repeated in other writings of hers, was con-
- 1064 sidered astonishing and revolutionary, so much so, that one of the
- 1065 leading theologians of the church at the time, M. L. Andreason, trav-
- 1066 eled to Elmshaven to see for himself if she had really written the
- 1067 words. Examining the documents, finding her handwritten notes, he
- 1068 realized she had indeed written the statement. Ellen White did not re-
- 1069 fute what he was saying, and in fact had already used the phraseology
- 1070 in other writings (1896 and 1897), and would continue to do so: twice
- 1071 in 1898, a letter in 1905, and in 1912 and 1914. Accordingly, we have
- 1072 strong evidence that Ellen White believed in the self-existence of

1073 Christ. Recounting his experience, Andreason stated:

• "I remember how astonished we were when Desire of Ages was first 1074 1075 published, for it contained some things that we considered unbeliev-1076 able, among others the doctrine of the trinity which was not then generally accepted by the Adventists. . . . I was particularly interest-1077 ed in [the] statement in *Desire of Ages* (page 530) which at one time 1078 1079 caused great concern to the denomination theologically: 'In Christ is life, original, unborrowed, underived.' That statement may not 1080 seem very revolutionary to you, but to us it was. We could hardly 1081 believe it, but of course we could not preach contrary to it. I was 1082

^{28.} The Father "giving" to the Son to have life in Himself is by way of permission, since Christ had so fully humbled and submitted Himself before the Father, that He would only use the self-existent power resident within Himself with the permission of His Father.

1083 sure Sister White had never written, 'In Christ is life, original, un-

1084 borrowed, underived.' But now I found it in her own handwriting,

- 1085 just as it had been published." Andreason would later publish a mar-
- 1086 velous collection of quotes on Christ as a member of the Godhead
- 1087 in his book on Hebrews. M. L. Andreasen, "The Spirit of Prophe-
- 1088 cy," Chapel Talk, Loma Linda, California, November 30, 1948.
- 1089 Christ is equal with God.29

1090 *John 5:18 "The Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only

1091 had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making

- 1092 himself equal with God."
- *Philippians 2:6 "Who, being in the form of God, thought it notrobbery to be equal with God."
- 1095 Christ had previously shared the glory of the Father.
- 1096 John 17:5 "And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self
- 1097 with the glory which I had with thee before the world was."
- 1098 Christ was in perfect unity with His Father.30
- 1099 *Deuteronomy 6:4 (NKJV) "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the

1100 Lord is one!"

- 1101 *John 10:30 "I and my Father are one."
- 1102 John 17:21-23 "That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me,
- 1103 and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may
- 1104 believe that thou hast sent me. 22 And the glory which thou gavest me
- 1105 I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: 23 I in
- 1106 them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that
- 1107 the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as

1108 thou hast loved me."

^{29. &}quot;Christ did not seek to be thought great, and yet He was the Majesty of heaven, equal in dignity and glory with the infinite God. He was God manifested in the flesh." White, Letter 8a-1890.9 "Only One equal with the Father could make the sacrifice for the lost race. Divinity alone could exalt the sinner to sonship with God and make him a partaker of the divine nature." Manuscript 139, 1907.4.

^{30. &}quot;Believers are to [have] a confirmed, settled faith in a personal God and a personal Christ. The Father and the Son are perfect in their individual identity, and at the same time, they are perfect in their oneness." Letter 343, 1905.15.

- 1109 Christ was the Father's only begotten, "one-of-a-kind,"
- 1110 Son.
- 1111 *John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only
- 1112 begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but
- 1113 have everlasting life."
- 1114 *1 John 4:9 "In this was manifested the love of God toward us,
- 1115 because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we
- 1116 might live through him."
- 1117 Hebrews 11:17 "By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up
- 1118 Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only
- 1119 begotten son."31
- 1120 Thoughts on "begotten" from the SDA Bible Commentary.1121 "The only begotten. Gr. monogenēs, from two words meaning "only"
- 1122 and "kind," and thus properly translated "unique," "only," "only one
- 1123 of a kind." As with the title Logos (see on v. 1), only John uses the
- 1124 word monogenes of Christ (see John 1:18; 3:16, 18; 1 John 4:9).
- 1125 Absence of the definite article in the Greek either makes monogenes
- 1126 indefinite, "an only one," or makes it an expression of quality, in
- 1127 which case John would be saying, "glory as of an only one [who had
- 1128 come] from beside the Father." This seems evidently the sense here.
- 1129 See on Luke 7:12; 8:42, where monogenes is translated "only." In
- 1130 Heb. 11:17 monogenēs is used of Isaac, who was by no means
- 1131 Abraham's "only begotten," or even his first-born. But he was the son
- 1132 of the promise, and as such, the one destined to succeed his father as
- 1133 heir to the birthright (Gen. 25:1-6; Gal. 4:22, 23). "Similarly in
- 1134 respect to the five texts in John's writings of Christ, the translation
- 1135 should be one of the following: 'unique,' 'precious,' 'only,' 'sole,' 'the
- 1136 only one of his kind,' but not 'only begotten'" (Problems in Bible
- 1137 Translation, p. 198). The translation "only begotten," here and
- 1138 elsewhere, apparently originated with the early Fathers of the Catholic
- 1139 Church, and entered early English translations of the Bible under the
- 1140 influence of the Latin Vulgate, the official Bible of the Catholic
- 1141 Church. Accurately reflecting the Greek, various Old Latin
- 1142 manuscripts which antedate the Vulgate read "only" rather than "only
- 1143 begotten." ... The idea that Christ was "begotten" by the Father at
- 1144 some time in eternity past is altogether foreign to the Scriptures....

^{31.} Note that Isaac was conferred "only begotten" status even though Abraham had another son.

- 1145 Properly understood of Christ's unique status as the Son of God, the
- 1146 word monogenes distinguishes between Him and all others who,
- 1147 through faith in Him, are given "power to become the sons of God" (v.
- 1148 12), and who are specifically declared to be "born ... of God" (v. 13).
- 1149 Christ is, and always has been, very "God" (see on v. 1), and by virtue
- 1150 of this fact we "become the sons of God" when we receive Christ and
- 1151 believe on His name."32

1152 The Attributes of Christ

- 1153 In Christ dwelt all the fullness of the Godhead.33
- 1154 *Colossians 2:9 "For in him dwelleth all the ful[l]ness of the Godhead
- 1155 bodily."
- 1156 Christ is unchanging (immutable).
- 1157 Hebrews 13:8 "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for
- 1158 ever."
- 1159 Christ is all-knowing (omniscient).
- 1160 Matthew 11:27 "All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no
- 1161 man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the
- 1162 Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him."
- 1163 *John 21:17 "He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas,
- 1164 lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third
- 1165 time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all
- 1166 things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my
- 1167 sheep."
- 1168 Colossians 2:3 "In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and
- 1169 knowledge."
- 1170 Christ is all-powerful (omnipotent).
- 1171 Hebrews 1:3 "Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express
- 1172 image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his
- 1173 power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right

^{32.} Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, Vol. 5, p. 902.

^{33. &}quot;Christ had not ceased to be God when He became man. Though He had humbled Himself to humanity, the Godhead was still His own." *The Desire of Ages*, 663.5. "Christ was seeking to lead them from their low condition of faith to the experience they might receive if they truly realized what He was,—God in human flesh." *The Desire of Ages*, 664.2.

1174 hand of the Majesty on high."

- 1175 Christ is infinitely good.
- 1176 Acts 3:14 "But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a
- 1177 murderer to be granted unto you."
- 1178 Christ searches hearts and minds.
- 1179 1 Kings 8:39 "Then hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place, and
- 1180 forgive, and do, and give to every man according to his ways, whose
- 1181 heart thou knowest; (for thou, even thou only, knowest the hearts of all
- 1182 the children of men;)."
- 1183 Revelation 2:23 "And I will kill her children with death; and all the
- 1184 churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts:
- 1185 and I will give unto every one of you according to your works."
- 1186 Judgment has been committed to Christ.
- 1187 *John 5:22 "For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all
- 1188 judgment unto the Son."
- 1189 John 5:26 "For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to
- 1190 the Son to have life in himself; 27 And hath given him authority to
- 1191 execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man."
- 1192 John 8:7-11 "So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself,
- 1193 and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast
- 1194 a stone at her. 8 And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground.
- 1195 9 And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience,
- 1196 went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and 1197 Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. 10 When
- 1197 Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the must. 10 when 1198 Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto
- 1198 Jesus had filled up fillisen, and saw hole but the wollian, he said unto 1199 her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned
- 1200 thee? 11 She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I
- 1201 condemn thee: go, and sin no more."
- 1202 Christ shares the glory of God.
- 1203 *John 17:5 "And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self
- 1204 with the glory which I had with thee before the world was."
- 1205 *Matthew 16:27 "For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his
- 1206 Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according
- 1207 to his works."
- 1208 Compare
- 1209 Isaiah 42:8 "I am the Lord: that is my name: and my glory will I not

- 1210 give to another, neither my praise to graven images."
- 1211 Isaiah 48:11 "For mine own sake, even for mine own sake, will I do it:
- 1212 for how should my name be polluted? and I will not give my glory
- 1213 unto another."

Christ's Human Life

- 1215 Christ came to fulfill a plan ordained before the foundation of the 1216 world.
- 1217 1 Peter 1:19-20 "But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb
- 1218 without blemish and without spot: 20 Who verily was foreordained be-
- 1219 fore the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times
- 1220 for you."

1214

- 1221 Christ came to perfectly reveal the Father, offer a perfect sacrifice and 1222 provide a perfect example of victorious dependent living.
- 1223 John 1:18 "No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son,
- 1224 which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him."
- 1225 Hebrews 1:2 "Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son,
- 1226 whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the 1227 worlds."
- 1228 Hebrews 10:14 "For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them 1229 that are sanctified."
- 1230 1 Peter 2:21 "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also 1231 suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his 1232 steps."
- 1233 Christ voluntarily humbled Himself in coming to earth.34
- *Isaiah 53:2-3 "For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. 3 He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised,
- 1239 and we esteemed him not."
- 1240 *John 1:14 "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and

^{34. &}quot;After Christ had condescended to leave His high command, step down from an infinite height and assume humanity, He could have taken upon Him any condition of humanity He might choose. But greatness and rank were nothing to Him, and He selected the lowest and most humble walk of life." White, Manuscript 9, 1896.12.

- 1241 we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,)
- 1242 full of grace and truth."
- 1243 Romans 1:3 "Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was
- 1244 made of the seed of David according to the flesh."
- 1245 Romans 8:3 "For what the law could not do, in that it was weak
- 1246 through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful
- 1247 flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh."
- 1248 *Philippians 2:6-8 "Who, being in the form of God, thought it not
- 1249 robbery to be equal with God: 7 But made himself of no reputation,
- 1250 and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness
- 1251 of men: 8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself,
- 1252 and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."
- 1253 Hebrews 2:14 "Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh
- 1254 and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through
- 1255 death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the
- 1256 devil."
- 1257 Hebrews 2:16-17 "For verily he took not on him the nature of angels;
- 1258 but he took on him the seed of Abraham. 17 Wherefore in all things it
- 1259 behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a
- 1260 merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make
- 1261 reconciliation for the sins of the people."
- 1262 Christ took upon Himself our infirmities.35
- 1263 *Matthew 8:17 "That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias
- 1264 the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our
- 1265 sicknesses."
- 1266 Hebrews 2:17 "Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like
- 1267 unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest
- 1268 in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the
- 1269 people."
- 1270 Christ had two distinct natures while He was on earth.
- 1271 This was one of the most encouraging aspects discovered in studying
- 1272 about the Godhead!

^{35. &}quot;For four thousand years the race had been decreasing in physical strength, in mental power, in moral worth; and Christ took upon Him the infirmities of degenerate humanity. Only thus could He rescue man from the lowest depths of degradation." Manuscript 113, 1902.8.

1273 *Romans 1:20 (NASB95) "For since the creation of the world His

1274 invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been

1275 clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that

1276 they are without excuse."36

1277 *2 Peter 1:4 "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious

1278 promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature,

1279 having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."37

1280 Christ's incarnation is a mystery.38

1281 Luke 1:31-35 "And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and

1282 bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. 32 He shall be great,

1283 and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give

1284 unto him the throne of his father David: 33 And he shall reign over the

1285 house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. 34

1286 Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a

1287 man? 35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost

1288 shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow

1289 thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be

1290 called the Son of God."

1291 *John 1:14 "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and

1292 we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,)

1293 full of grace and truth."

1294 1 John 1:1-2 "That which was from the beginning, which we have
1295 heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon,
1296 and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; 2 (For the life was

^{36. &}quot;Christ had two natures, the nature of a man and the nature of God. In Him divinity and humanity were combined. ... He exhibited a perfect humanity, combined with Deity; and by preserving each nature distinct He has given to the world a representation of the character of God and the character of a perfect man. He shows us what God is and what man may become—Godlike in character." Manuscript 94, 1899.47. "Our Lord was tempted as man is tempted. He was capable of yielding to temptations, as are human beings. His finite nature was pure and spotless, but the divine nature that led Him to say to Philip, "He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father" also [John 14:9], was not humanized; neither was humanity deified by the blending or union of the two natures; each retained its essential character and properties." Manuscript 57, 1890.

^{37. &}quot;He came to this earth to work in behalf of men, that they might no longer be under the control of Satanic agencies. But while bearing human nature, he was dependent upon the Omnipotent for his life. In his humanity, he laid hold of the divinity of God; and this every member of the human family has the privilege of doing. Christ did nothing that human nature may not do if it partakes of the divine nature." *Signs of the Times*, June 17, 1897, par. 8.

^{38. &}quot;The incarnation of Christ is the mystery of all mysteries." Letter 216, 1906.21.

1297 manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you

1298 that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto 1299 us;)."

- 1300 Colossians 1:15 "Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn 1301 of every creature."
- 1302 *1 Timothy 3:16 "And without controversy great is the mystery of
- 1303 godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of
- 1304 angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received
- 1305 up into glory."
- 1306 Christ fully entered into our experience.
- 1307 Matthew 4:1-3 "Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness
- 1308 to be tempted of the devil. 2 And when he had fasted forty days and
- 1309 forty nights, he was afterward an hungred. 3 And when the tempter
- 1310 came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these
- 1311 stones be made bread."
- 1312 *Hebrews 4:15 "For we have not an high priest which cannot be
- 1313 touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points
- 1314 tempted like as we are, yet without sin."
- 1315 Christ constantly received the Holy Spirit during His time on earth.³⁹
- 1316 *Luke 4:1 "And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jor-
- 1317 dan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness."
- 1318 Luke 4:14 "And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee:
- 1319 and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about."
- 1320 Christ's life was accompanied by supernatural signs.
- 1321 Galatians 4:4 "But when the ful[l]ness of the time was come, God sent
- 1322 forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law."
- 1323 *Luke 2:8-15 "And there were in the same country shepherds abiding
- 1324 in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And, lo, the
- 1325 angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone
- 1326 round about them: and they were sore afraid. 10 And the angel said
- 1327 unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy,
- 1328 which shall be to all people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the

^{39. &}quot;The same Holy Spirit that abode in Christ was, by divine promise, to be imparted constantly to every disciple of His. Even Christ, during His ministry, was in His divine-human nature constantly receiving the Holy Spirit and imparting blessings as He went about doing His appointed work." Letter 218, 1906.

- 1329 city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. 12 And this shall be
- 1330 a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes,
- 1331 lying in a manger. 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a
- 1332 multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, 14 Glory to
- 1333 God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. 15 And
- 1334 it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven,
- 1335 the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto
- 1336 Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord
- 1337 hath made known unto us."
- 1338 *Matthew 2:11 "And when they were come into the house, they saw
- 1339 the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped
- 1340 him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto
- 1341 him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh."
- 1342 John 1:29 "The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith,1343 Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."
- 1344 *Luke 3:22 "And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a
- 1345 dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art
- 1346 my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased."
- 1347 John 7:46 "The officers answered, Never man spake like this man."
- 1348 *Matthew 17:5-7 "While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud
- 1349 overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said,
- 1350 This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him. 6
- 1351 And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their face, and were sore
- 1352 afraid. 7 And Jesus came and touched them, and said, Arise, and be
- 1353 not afraid."
- 1354 John 12:27-29 "Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father,
- 1355 save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour. 28
- 1356 Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven,
- 1357 saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again. 29 The people
- 1358 therefore, that stood by, and heard it, said that it thundered: others
- 1359 said, An angel spake to him."
- 1360 *Matthew 27:50-54 "Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice,
- 1361 yielded up the ghost. 51 And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in
- 1362 twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the
- 1363 rocks rent; 52 And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the
- 1364 saints which slept arose, 53 And came out of the graves after his
- 1365 resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many. 54
- 1366 Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus,

- 1367 saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared
- 1368 greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God."
- 1369 Matthew 28:2-4 "And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the
- 1370 angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back
- 1371 the stone from the door, and sat upon it. 3 His countenance was like
- 1372 lightning, and his raiment white as snow: 4 And for fear of him the
- 1373 keepers did shake, and became as dead men."
- 1374 *Acts 1:9-11 "And when he had spoken these things, while they
- 1375 beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.
- 1376 10 And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up,
- 1377 behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; 11 Which also said,
- 1378 Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same
- 1379 Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like
- 1380 manner as ye have seen him go into heaven."
- 1381 Christ Suffered.
- 1382 Isaiah 50:6 "I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that
- 1383 plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting."
- 1384 *Isaiah 53:7 "He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened
- 1385 not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep
- 1386 before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth."
- 1387 *1 Peter 2:22-23 "Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his
- 1388 mouth: 23 Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he
- 1389 suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth
- 1390 righteously."
- 1391 Hebrews 5:8 "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the
- 1392 things which he suffered."
- 1393 Christ Died.
- 1394 *John 19:30 "When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said,
- 1395 It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost."40
- 1396 1 John 3:16 "Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid
- 1397 down his life for us."

^{40.} He died, not through being compelled to die, but by his own free will. This was humility." *Review and Herald*, July 5, 1887, par. 5.

Christ in Our Day

1399 Christ is still forgiving sin.

- 1400 *Luke 5:20-26 "And when he saw their faith, he said unto him, Man,
- 1401 thy sins are forgiven thee. 21 And the scribes and the Pharisees began
- 1402 to reason, saying, Who is this which speaketh blasphemies? Who can
- 1403 forgive sins, but God alone? 22 But when Jesus perceived their
- 1404 thoughts, he answering said unto them, What reason ye in your hearts?
- 1405 23 Whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Rise
- 1406 up and walk? 24 But that ye may know that the Son of man hath
- 1407 power upon earth to forgive sins, (he said unto the sick of the palsy,) I
- 1408 say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy couch, and go into thine house.
- 1409 25 And immediately he rose up before them, and took up that whereon
- 1410 he lay, and departed to his own house, glorifying God. 26 And they
- 1411 were all amazed, and they glorified God, and were filled with fear,
- 1412 saying, We have seen strange things to day."
- 1413 *Luke 7:47 "Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are
- 1414 forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same
- 1415 loveth little. 48 And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven."
- 1416 1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us
- 1417 our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
- 1418 Christ is still bringing transformations.
- 1419 2 Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new
- 1420 creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become
- 1421 new."41
- 1422 Galatians 2:20 "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not
- 1423 I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I
- 1424 live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself
- 1425 for me."

^{41. &}quot;The Lord Jesus is making experiments on human hearts through the exhibition of His mercy and abundant grace. He is effecting transformations so amazing that Satan with all his triumphant boasting, with all his confederacy of evil united against God and the laws of His government, stands viewing them as a fortress impregnable to his sophistries and his delusions. They are to an incomprehensible mystery. The angels of God, seraphim and cherubim, the powers commissioned to co-operate with human agencies, look on with astonishment and joy that fallen men, once children of wrath, are through the training of Christ developing characters after the divine similitude, to be sons and daughters of God, to act an important part in the occupations and pleasures of heaven." Letter 2d, 1892.10 and 21.

- 1426 Christ is still calling us to take up our cross and follow.
- 1427 Luke 9:23 "And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let
- 1428 him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me."
- 1429 Christ's death is still bringing salvation.
- 1430 *Isaiah 53:5 "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was
- 1431 bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon
- 1432 him; and with his stripes we are healed."
- 1433 *John 3:16-18 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only
- 1434 begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but
- 1435 have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to
- 1436 condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. 18
- 1437 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is
- 1438 condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the
- 1439 only begotten Son of God."
- 1440 *John 11:25-26 "Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the
- 1441 life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: 26
- 1442 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest
- 1443 thou this?"
- 1444 Romans 5:8-9 "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that,
- 1445 while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then,
- 1446 being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath
- 1447 through him."
- 1448 *Romans 5:19 "For as by one man's disobedience many were made
- 1449 sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous."
- 1450 *2 Corinthians 5:21 "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew
- 1451 no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."
- 1452 Christ welcomes our prayers.
- 1453 Jesus loves to have us pray to Him. Children are also encouraged to 1454 pray to Him.42
- 1455 *Acts 1:24 "And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest
- 1456 the hearts of all men, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen."
- 1457 *Acts 7:59-60 "And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and

^{42. &}quot;If we believe in Jesus, we will love to think of him, love to talk of him, love to pray to him." *Review and Herald*, May 30, 1882, par. 10. "The Lord loves to have children pray to Him, and the dear Saviour will hear that prayer that is offered in sincerity." Letter 22a, 1879.15.

1458 saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. 60 And he kneeled down, and

1459 cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And

- 1460 when he had said this, he fell asleep."
- 1461 2 Corinthians 12:8-9 "For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it
- 1462 might depart from me. 9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient
- 1463 for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly
- 1464 therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ
- 1465 may rest upon me."

1466 Christ is now interceding for us in the Heavenly

1467 Sanctuary.

1468 *1 John 2:1 "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye 1469 sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Je-1470 sus Christ the righteous."43

- 1470 sus Christ the righteous. 43
- 1471 Romans 8:34 "Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea 1472 rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who
- 1473 also maketh intercession for us."
- 1474 *Hebrews 7:25 "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the utter-
- 1475 most that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make inter-1476 cession for them."

1477 Christ is Returning Soon

- 1478 Christ is King of Kings.
- 1479 Revelation 17:14 "These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb
- 1480 shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and
- 1481 they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful."
- 1482 Revelation 19:16 "And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name
- 1483 written, King of Kings, and Lord of Lords."
- 1484 Compare
- 1485 Deuteronomy 10:17 "For the Lord your God is God of gods, and Lord
- 1486 of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, which regardeth not
- 1487 persons, nor taketh reward.
- 1488 1 Timothy 6:15 "Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed

^{43. &}quot;When Christ ascended into the heavens, He ascended as our Advocate, and we have a friend at court. He has sent His representative, the Holy Spirit, and will give divine anointing to all who believe in Jesus Christ." Manuscript 50, 1895.3.

1489 and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords."

1490 In Revelation 14:4 firstfruits are offered to God and the

- 1491 Lamb.
- 1492 *Revelation 14:4 "These are they which were not defiled with women;
- 1493 for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb
- 1494 whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being
- 1495 the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb."
- 1496 Those saved will be priests of God and Christ.
- 1497 *Revelation 20:6 "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first
- 1498 resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be
- 1499 priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand
- 1500 years."
- 1501 Christ will retain His humanity in heaven.44
- 1502 *Hebrews 2:17 "Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made
- 1503 like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high
- 1504 priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins

1505 of the people."

1506 Denying the Godhead of Christ

- 1507 Denying Christ's Godhead also denies the Father's
- 1508 Godhead.
- 1509 *1 John 2:22-23 "Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the
- 1510 Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son. 23
- 1511 Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: (but) he that
- 1512 acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also."
- 1513 Those who do not honor the Son, do not honor the Father.
- 1514 *John 5:23 "That all should honor the Son just as they honor the
- 1515 Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who
- 1516 sent Him."

^{44. &}quot;Christ ascended to heaven, bearing a sanctified, holy humanity. He took this humanity with him into the heavenly courts, and through the eternal ages he will bear it, as the One who has redeemed every human being in the city of God the One who has pleaded before the Father, "I have graven them upon the palms of my hands." *Review and Herald*, March 9, 1905, par. 6.

Some Final Thoughts

- 1518 Look forward to worshiping the Eternal Three.
- 1519 Matthew 25:34 "Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand,
- 1520 Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you
- 1521 from the foundation of the world."

"As the saints in the kingdom of God are accepted in the beloved, they hear: "Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." [Matthew 25:34.] And then the golden harps are touched, and the music flows all through the heavenly host, and they fall down and worship the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. And then what? What next did I see? One meets another; and they say, as they fall right upon their necks with their faces shining with the glory of God, "It was you, it was you that brought the truth to me, and I would not hear it at first, but, O I am so glad." Now that will be acted all through the heavenly courts, thanksgiving and praise to God for those that have been the means of winning others to the truth, that they should come and have an interest for them, and then they are united among the saved. O what a meeting! what a meeting!" Manuscript 139, 1906.32.

1536 Hasten His coming.

1537 2 Peter 3:8-12 "But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that 1538 one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as 1539 one day. 9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men 1540 count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any 1541 should perish, but that all should come to repentance. 10 But the day 1542 of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens 1543 shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with 1544 fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be 1545 burned up. 11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what 1546 manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godli-1547 ness, 12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, 1548 wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements 1549 shall melt with fervent heat?"

1550 How will you respond?

- 1551 *John 6:68-69 "Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall
- 1552 we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. 69 And we believe and are
- 1553 sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God."

1554 Will you follow Paul's Example?

*Acts 9:3-6 "And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? 5 And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. 6 And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do."

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