

APOSTLES' CREED - SECOND ARTICLE

LESSON 4

The Second Article deals with God the Son. The study will divide this article into ten phrases. Each phrase will be dealt with in a different section. Eight of these will be studied in this lesson.

APOSTLES' CREED, ARTICLE II - And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I Believe in "Jesus Christ, His only Son"

The first part of this statement (I believe in Jesus) by itself indicates that a person believes that Jesus actually lived on the earth about two thousand years ago. The highlights of this knowledge are contained in the answers to the questions below.

True or false: F Without the Bible there is no record of Jesus' existence.

Multiple choice:

Jesus was born in A. Jerusalem
 B. Bethlehem
 C. Nazareth

Jesus worked as a A. **Carpenter**
 B. Fisherman
 C. He did not have any job other than preaching

Jesus died in A. Samaria
 B. Jerusalem
 C. Nazarath

The addition of the word "Christ" brings deeper meaning. The term "Christ" indicates the "coming one" of whom the prophets foretold. The "coming one" was to be the Messiah who would save the people. The name "Jesus" means "Savior."

The prophets were from which group of people were looking for the Messiah?

A. Egyptians C. Assyrians
B. Hebrews D. All of the above

The identity of Jesus is given further meaning by the words "His only Son." Consider the following questions.

True or false: T Jesus had no earthly biological father.

Multiple choice:

- Joseph was
- A. Mary's cousin who looked after her
 - B. Jesus' father
 - C. ***Jesus' foster father***

The answers to these questions show that Jesus is God's Son. Jesus did not have an earthly father. There is more to consider, however, in the phrase "His only son." Here are some more questions on this subject.

Circle the letter of the correct statement.

- A. ***Jesus has been with God since the beginning (even before creation).***
- B. Jesus first came into existence about 2000 years ago.

True or false: F Christians are "Sons of God" in the same sense that Jesus is God's Son.

The phrase "His only son" indicates that Jesus is unique. No one else is the "Only Son of God." No one else is without an earthly father. The Bible indicates that Christians are sons of God, but that is not the same as the "only Son" of God.

As for how long Jesus has been in existence, look up John 1:1-3. What does this say?

 He was there in the beginning

Our Lord

The term "Lord" is indeed filled with meaning. The following Bible verses and questions should help to bring about an understanding of what this phrase means.

What does Jesus tell us in Matthew 7:21? *Saying the name Lord is not of itself enough to save us. It must be coupled with a willingness to do God's will.*

According to Luke 6:46, what will we do if Jesus is truly our Lord?

We will do what He asks of us.
Look up Romans 10:13 to find out what we must do to be saved.

Call on the name of the Lord.

Who must dwell in our hearts if we confess, "Jesus is Lord"? Look up 1 Corinthians 12:3.

The Holy Spirit

Can we, by ourselves, say and mean, "Jesus is Lord"? No

Look up Colossians 3:20. How can you personally please the Lord?

By obeying your parents for example

Read Philippians 2:6-11. Answer the following questions.

What did Jesus do according to verse 7? Made Himself nothing - became a human

What does verse 8 say happened to Jesus? He died

According to verse 9, what did God then do to Jesus? exalted Him

Whose name is above every name? Jesus'

According to verses 10 and 11, what two things will everyone do?

A. Confess that Jesus is Lord B. Bow their knees

Verses 10 and 11 are not an exaggeration. When Jesus comes and the dead are raised, everyone whether saved or not, whether willing or unwilling, will bow before Jesus and confess He is the Lord.

The discussion of Jesus as Lord would not be complete without looking at what this means in our lives.

The earliest Christian creed (statement of belief) was "Jesus is Lord." Lord means the same as Ruler. Knowing what Lord means, imagine what that creed meant to those early Christians who did not live in a democracy and whose "rights" were determined by one man. If the king (ruler) said no one could wear blue, no one wore blue. If the king said to give him all of your cows, you would have to give him all of your cows.

So when the early Christians acknowledged Jesus as their Lord (Ruler), they were prepared to do what He asked of them.

If you say, "Jesus is Lord" and mean it, then which of the following are true?

T 1. Jesus saved me from eternal death and punishment.

T 2. Jesus died for my sins.

T 3. Jesus loves me.

T 4. I will try to do what the Bible says.

T 5. I will trust Jesus with my life, day by day, each day.

T 6. I will serve Jesus no matter what He wants to do with me.

Who Was Conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary

The next words indicate that along with being "True God," Jesus was also "True man." Check items from the following list which Jesus experienced while on earth.

T 1. Hunger

T 2. Need for sleep

T 3. Sorrow

T 4. Joy

T 5. Temptation

Clearly, as "true man" Jesus had the same needs as we have and experienced the same joys and sorrows that we experience. As this aspect of Jesus' being is explored, focus must not be lost of the fact that Jesus is also "true God." This makes Jesus like us, but also very different from us.

The term "true man" can have even deeper meaning.

Which other man was created without sin? Adam

What happened to him? He sinned - disobeyed God

Jesus and Adam both came into the world without sin. Only Jesus left the world that way. "True man" is also an indication of the way we were intended to be, that is,

sinless. In this sense Jesus was "true man" in a way we are not.

Suffered Under Pontius Pilate

- First, who was this man Pontius Pilate?
- A. *The Roman governor of Judea*
 - B. The Jewish High Priest
 - C. The King of Judea

This title gave Pontius Pilate the authority to do as he pleased with Jesus. What did happen to Jesus was that he was allowed to be mocked, flogged, spit on, beaten, and finally crucified.

True or false: F Pontius Pilate believed Jesus was a dangerous criminal.

This is the pitiful part about Pontius Pilate. Look up John 19:4.

What does this verse say? *Pilate found no basis for a charge against Jesus.*

Was Crucified, Dead, and Buried

Consider the following statements about the death of Jesus.

True or false:

 T Jesus willingly died on the cross.

 T Jesus was not guilty of any crime against man or God.

 T When God the Father looked down at Jesus on the cross, he saw the most guilty man that ever existed.

The reason Jesus came into this world was to die on that cross. This does not mean He looked forward to His agonizing death, but He did willingly give up His life as a ransom for us. Jesus was totally sinless. He assumed our sins while He was on the cross. When God the Father saw Jesus on the cross, He saw every sin committed by every person who ever existed or will exist. Jesus took them all upon Himself so that we may stand perfect before the Father in heaven. This is truly a wonderful and amazing event which should elicit praise and thanks to God from the depths of our hearts.

He Descended into Hell

There is but one Bible passage about this event. It is 1 Peter 3:19. As amazing as what

Jesus did on the cross is the fact of His going to hell. What Peter says is that He went there victorious over all evil. But the life of our Lord does not end on the cross or in the depths of hell.

The Third Day He Rose Again from the Dead

The resurrection of the Lord is the proof of His victory over Satan.

Multiple choice:

About how many people saw Jesus after He was raised from the dead?

- A. 12
- B. 50
- C. 500**

Jesus stayed on earth for about how many weeks after His resurrection?

- A. Six week**
- B. Four weeks
- C. Two weeks

1 Corinthians 15:6 indicates that over five hundred persons saw Jesus in His resurrected form. What did Jesus do during these six weeks that He was on earth? We know that He spent part of the time teaching His disciples. Peter is reinstated during this time. The Holy Spirit is promised during this time.

He Ascended into Heaven

Answer the following questions.

Multiple choice:

In what fashion did Jesus ascend into heaven?

- A. He simply disappeared and His disciples assumed he went to heaven.
- B. He was carried up into heaven on a cloud while he was blessing His disciples.**
- C. He climbed Jacob's ladder.

True or false: T Right now Jesus is with God the Father.

 T Right now Jesus is with His disciples on earth.

There are many Bible verses to remind us that even though Jesus is no longer with us in a

visible form, He is still with us. Some of these verses are Matthew 28:20, Matthew 18:20, and Revelation 3:20.