

THE NATURE OF CHRIST

- on which foundation can we be saved?

THE NATURE OF CHRIST

- *Jesus as God*

From the Bible:

Isaiah 9:6. “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”

Colossians 2:9. “For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.”

Philippians 2:5-8. “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation*, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in the fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”

* gresk: ekenosen: He refrained from using His divine characteristics and powers

John 1:1-3. “*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The*

same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him, and without him was not any thing made that was made...And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.”

Notice: Kai theos en ho logos = the Word was God
The Word has the same nature as God, is identical with God, is God.

Also notice! When the beginning came about, the Word already existed, i.e. the Word was before the first beginning was put into existence. The Word, then, is eternal. The Word *was* with God in the beginning, and the Word was God.

John 18:4-8. “Jesus therefore, knowing all things that should come upon him, went forth, and said unto them, Whom seek ye? They answered him, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus saith unto them, I am *he**.”

* Greek: ego eimi, Gods name. (Exodus 3:14)

John 8:58. “Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am*.”

* Greek: *ego eimi*, Gods name: The LORD.

Christ Jesus is **Jahweh: “I am”**. (See Exodus 3:14).

Exodus 3:14. “And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you”

Micah 5:2. “But thou, Bethlehem Ephratha, 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.”

Revelation 1:7-8. “Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.»

Isaiah 43:11-12: “I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour. I have declared, and have saved, and I have shewed, when there was no strange god among

you: therefore ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, that I am God.”

Isaiah 44:6: “Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.”

Isaiah 48:12-13: “Harken unto me, O Jacob and Israel, my called; I am he; I am the first, I also am the last. Mine hand also hath laid the foundation of the earth, and my right hand hath spanned the heavens: when I call unto them, they stand up together.”

Isaiah 45:18: “For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else.”
(Also read verse 12).

From Ellen G. White:

“In Christ dwelt all the fullness of the Godhead. But the only way in which He could reach men was to veil His glory by a garb of humanity.”

- Ellen G. White, The Signs of the Times, January 20. 1898

“He who was Commander in the heavenly courts laid aside His royal robe and kingly crown, and clothing His divinity with humanity, came to this world to stand at the head of the human race as the pattern-man. He humbled Himself to suffer with the race, to be afflicted in all their affections. The whole world was His, but so completely did He empty Himself that during His ministry He declared, ”Foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.”

- Ellen G. White, Manuscript 76, 1903

“Christ was a real man, and He gave proof of His humanity in becoming a man. And He was God in the flesh.”

- Ellen G. White, Manuscript 67, 1898

“But although Christ”s divine glory was for a time veiled and eclipsed by His assuming humanity, yet He did not cease to be God when He became man. The human did not take the place of the divine, nor the divine of the human. This is the mystery of godliness. The two expressions «human» and «divine» were, in Christ, closely and inseparably one, and yet they had a distinct individuality. Though

Christ humbled Himself to become man, the Godhead was still His own. His deity could not be lost while He stood faithful and true to His loyalty.”

...”There were occasions when Jesus stood forth while in human flesh as the Son of God. Divinity flashed through humanity, and was seen by the scoffing priests and rulers.”

- Ellen G. White, The Signs of the Times, May 10, 1899.

“The man Christ Jesus was not the Lord God Almighty, yet Christ and the Father are one. The Deity did not sink under the agonizing torture of Calvary, yet it is nonetheless true that”God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

- Ellen G. White, letter 32, 1899.

Johannes 1,4 sier: - **“In Him was life; and the life was the light of men.”** It is not physical life that is here specified, but eternal life, the life which is exclusively the property of God. The word, who was with God, and who was God, had this life. Physical life is something which each individual received. It is not eternal or immortal; for God, the Lifegiver, takes it again. Man has

no control over his life. But the life of Christ was unborrowed. No one can take life from Him. "I lay it down of myself," He said. In Him was life, original, unborrowed, underived. This life is not inherent in man. He can possess it only through Christ. He cannot earn it; it is given him as a free gift if he will believe in Christ as his personal Saviour. "This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent." John 17:3. This is the open fountain of life for the world."

- Ellen G. White, Signs of the Times, February 13, 1912.

"Had Christ come in His divine form, humanity could not have endured the sight. The contrast would have been too painful, the glory too overwhelming. Humanity could not have endured the presence of one of the pure, bright angels from glory; therefore Christ took not on Him the nature of angels; He came in the likeness of men."

- Ellen G. White, Signs of the Times, February 15, 1899.

"...Jesus declared, "I am the resurrection, and the life." In Christ is life, original, unborrowed, underived. "He that hath the Son hath life." 1 John 5:12. The divinity

of Christ is the believer's assurance of eternal life. „He that believeth in Me," said Jesus, „though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die. Believest thou this?" Christ here looks forward to the time of His second coming. Then the righteous dead shall be raised incorruptible, and the living righteous shall be translated to heaven without seeing death."

Ellen G. White - The Desire of Ages, p. 530

"Not one of the angels could have become surety for the human race: their life is God's; they could not surrender it. The angels all wear the yoke of obedience. They are the appointed messengers of Him who is the Commander of all heaven. But Christ is equal with God, infinite and omnipotent. He could pay the ransom for man's freedom. He is the eternal self-existing Son, on whom no yoke had come; and when God asked, "Whom shall I send?" He could reply, "Here am I; send Me." He could pledge Himself to become man's surety; for He could say that which the highest angel could not say, - I have power over My own life, "power to lay it down, and... power to take it again."

- Ellen G. White, Youth's Instructor, June 21, 1900.

“What a Saviour we have! It was he that revealed himself to John on the Isle of Patmos, and proclaimed, “I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.” None but just such an ever-living, mighty God, could pay the ransom to save sinners from going down into the pit of death.”

- Review and Herald, February 18, 1896.

“Then said the Jews unto Him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast Thou seen Abraham?” “Verily, verily, I say unto you,” Jesus answered, “Before Abraham was, I am. Then took they up stones to cast at Him; but Jesus hid Himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.” Their eyes were blinded that they might not see Him.

“Before Abraham was, I am.” Christ is the pre-existent, self-existent Son of God. The message He gave to Moses to give to the children of Israel was, „Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.“ The prophet Micah writes of Him, „But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, 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.“

Through Solomon Christ declared: „The Lord possessed Me in the beginning of His way, before His works of old. I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was. When there were no depths, I was brought forth; when there were no fountains abounding with water. Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I brought forth. . . . When He gave to the sea His decree, that the waters should not pass His commandment; when He appointed the foundations of the earth; then I was by Him, as one brought up with Him; and I was daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him.“

In speaking of His pre-existence, Christ carries the mind back through dateless ages. He assures us that there never was a time when He was not in close fellowship with the eternal God. He to whose voice the Jews were then listening had been with God as one brought up with Him. Christ’s words were spoken with a quiet dignity and with an assurance and power that sent conviction to the hearts of the scribes and Pharisees. They felt the power of the message sent from heaven. God was knocking at the door of their hearts, entreating entrance. But they refused to listen. By their persistent rejection of

warnings and invitations they caused Him to abandon them to their blindness and its results. Satan was working with all his power to secure them in his cause, and under his control they developed a stubbornness which brought upon them their ruin.”

- Ellen G. White, The Signs of the Times, August 29, 1900.

“By His humanity, Christ touched humanity; by His divinity, He lays hold upon the throne of God. As the Son of man, He gave us an example of obedience; as the Son of God, He gives us power to obey. It was Christ who from the bush on Mount Horeb spoke to Moses saying, „I AM THAT I AM. . . . Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.“ Ex. 3:14. This was the pledge of Israel’s deliverance. So when He came “in the likeness of men,“ He declared Himself the I AM. The Child of Bethlehem, the meek and lowly Saviour, is God „manifest in the flesh.“ 1 Tim. 3:16. And to us He says: „I AM the Good Shepherd.“ “I AM the living Bread.“ “I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life.“ “All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth.“ John 10:11; 6:51; 14:6; Matt. 28:18. I AM the assurance of every promise. I AM; be not afraid. “God with us“ is the surety of our deliverance from

sin, the assurance of our power to obey the law of heaven.”

- Ellen G. White, The Desire of Ages, p. 24 – 25.

”From all eternity Christ was united with the Father, and when He took upon Himself human nature, He was still one with God. He is the link that unites God with humanity.” - Ellen G. White: Signs of the Times, August 2, 1905).

“Was the human nature of the Son of Mary changed into the divine nature of the Son of God? No; the two natures were mysteriously blended in one person - the man Christ Jesus. In Him dwelt all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. When Christ was crucified, it was His human nature that died. Deity did not sink and die; that would have been impossible. Christ, the sinless One, will save every son and daughter of Adam who accepts the salvation proffered them, consenting to become the children of God. The Saviour has purchased the fallen race with His own blood. This is a great mystery, a mystery that will not be fully, completely understood in all its greatness until the translation of the redeemed shall take place. Then the power and greatness and efficacy of the gift of God to man will be understood. But the enemy is determined that this gift shall be so

mystified that it will become as nothingness.”

- Ellen G. White, Letter 280, 1904

“When the voice of the angel was heard saying, ”Thy Father calls thee,” He who had said,”I lay down my life, that I might take it again,” ”Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up,” came forth from the grave to life that was in Himself. Deity did not die. Humanity died, but Christ now proclaims over the rent sepulcher of Joseph, ”I am the resurrection, and the life.” In His divinity Christ possessed the power to break the bonds of death. He declared that He had life in Himself to quicken whom He will.”

- Ellen G. White, The Youth’s Instructor, August 4, 1898; Manuscript 131, 1897.

Jesus as a human being - from the Bible

Matthew 1:21. ”And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins”

John 1:14. ”And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory

as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”

Notice: Kai ho logos sarks egeneto =
The Word became flesh.

Romans 8:3. ”For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh.”

* Sarx = flesh = Mankind’s evil nature. Includes all of man in his fallen nature or condition.

1. intellectually
2. mentally
3. spiritually
4. physically

Romans 7:18; 8:3; Galatians. 5:13,19; Ephesians. 2:3.

Please notice!

Christ’s human, fallen nature means everything to us human beings, because in it He „condemned sin in the flesh“ (Romans 8:3), by demonstrating that it was possible to control it (Genesis 4:7). Christ lived like a lamb without spot or wrinkle (John 1:29 + I Peter 1:19 + 2:21-24).

Hebrews 2:14. ”Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same..”

Hebrews 2:17. "Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people."

Hebrews 4:15. "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin."

Matthew 3:17. "And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

Jesus as a human being - from Ellen G. White:

"Christ did not make-believe take human nature; He did verily take it. He did in reality possess human nature. 'As the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same.' He was the Son of Mary; He was the seed of David according to human descent. He is declared to be a man, even the man Christ Jesus "

- Ellen G. White, Review & Herald, April 5, 1906.

"He made Himself of no reputation, took upon Himself the

form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of sinful flesh."

- Ellen G. White, (Her last testimony on this topic) - The Signs of the Times, May 1, 1915.

"The enemy was overcome by Christ in His human nature. The power of the Saviour's Godhead was hidden. He overcame in human nature, relying upon God for power. This is the privilege of all. In proportion to our faith will be our victory."

- Ellen G. White, The Youth's Instructor, April 25, 1901.

"He took upon Himself our sinful nature."

- Ellen G. White, Review & Herald, December 15, 1896.

"He took upon Himself fallen, suffering human nature, degraded and defiled by sin."

- Ellen G. White, The Youth's Instructor, December 20, 1900.

"Christ took upon Him the infirmities of degenerate humanity. Only thus could He rescue man from the lowest depths of degeneration."

- Ellen G. White, The Signs of the Times, December 3, 1902.

"In taking upon Himself man's nature in its fallen condition, Christ

did not in the least participate in its condition.”

- Ellen G. White, Signs of the Times, June 9, 1898.

”Through His humiliation and poverty Christ would identify Himself with the weaknesses of the fallen race... The greatest work of redemption could be carried out only by the Redeemer taking the place of fallen Adam.. The King of glory proposed to humble Himself to fallen humanity... He would take man’s fallen nature.”

- Ellen G. White, Review & Herald, February 24, 1874.

”Christ was not in as favourable a position in the desolate wilderness to endure the temptations of Satan as was Adam when he was tempted in Eden. The Son of God humbled Himself and took man’s nature after the race had wandered four thousand years from Eden, and from their original state of purity and uprightness.”

- Ellen G. White, Review & Herald, Juli 28, 1874.

”Adam was tempted by the enemy and he fell. It was not indwelling sin that caused him to yield; for God made him pure and upright, in His own image. He was as faultless as the angels before the throne. There were in him no

corrupt principles, no tendencies to evil. But when Christ came to meet the temptations of Satan, He bore the likeness of sinful flesh.’”

- Ellen G. White, Signs of the Times, October 17, 1900.

”Christ”s overcoming and obedience is that of a true human being. In our conclusion, we make many mistakes because of our erroneous views of the human nature of our Lord. When we give His human nature a power that it is not possible for man to have in his conflicts with Satan, we destroy the completeness of His humanity. His imputed grace and power He gives to all who receive Him by faith.

The obedience of Christ to His Father was the same obedience that is required of man. Man cannot overcome Satan”s temptation without divine power to combine with his instrumentality. So with Jesus Christ; He could lay hold of divine power. He came not to our world to give obedience of a lesser God to a greater, but as a man to obey God”s holy law, and in this way He is our example. The Lord Jesus Christ came to our world, not to reveal what a God could do, but what a man could do, through faith in God”s power to help in every emergency. Man is, through faith,

to be a partaker in the divine nature, and to overcome every temptation wherewith he is beset.

The Lord now demand that every son and daughter of Adam, through faith in Jesus Christ, serve Him in human nature, which we now have. The Lord Jesus has bridged the gulf that sin has made. He has connected earth with heaven, and finite man with the infinite God. Jesus, the world's Redeemer, could only keep the commandments of God in the same way that humanity can keep them."

- Ellen G. White, Manuscript 1, 1892.

"We need not place the obedience of Christ by itself, as something for which He was particularly adapted, by His particular divine nature, for He stood before God as man's representative and was tempted as man's substitute and surety. If Christ had a special power which is not the privilege of man to have, Satan would have made capital of this matter. The work of Christ was to take from the claims of Satan his control of man, and He could do this only in the way that He came - a man, tempted as a man, rendering the obedience of a man.

- Ellen G. White, Manuscript 1, 1892.

Conclusion:

By the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives, we can win victory in the same way as Christ gained victory!

Philippians 2:13

"For it is God who work in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure."

1 John 2:29

"If you know that He is righteous, you know that every one who does righteousness is born of Him."

Acts 1:8

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witness to Me in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth."

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A gravel path leads through a lush green forest. The path is made of small, light-colored stones and is flanked by dense green foliage and tall trees. The trees have vibrant green leaves, and the overall atmosphere is peaceful and serene. The path leads into the distance, disappearing into the forest.

The road of hope...
...The road of salvation!