

Study for the Month of March, 2008

THE HUMANITY OF CHRIST

PART II

VI. History of the Controversy

The controversy over the humanity of Christ is not a recent theological problem; it dates back to the fourth century, and even much earlier. Christ declared Himself to be “one with the Father,” in effect, saying He was divine, even God himself. In contradistinction, the Jewish religious leaders of His time, who hated Him to death, taught that He was not just an ordinary man but an impostor in fact. And the Jewish people, as a whole, believed their religious leaders unconditionally in spite of the unnumbered miracles He performed publicly to prove His divinity.

The last miracle He performed for this reason was when He resurrected Lazarus back to life, already dead for four days, before their eyes. But even this ultimate miracle did not suffice to change their prejudiced national opinion towards Him. Instead, they plotted to kill Lazarus, the living witness that Christ had the power to resurrect the dead, a power they alone ascribed to God. They still had Him crucified shortly after, in spite of the fact that Pilate, representing the civil government under which they were subject to, declared Him innocent of the charges they laid against Him.

Miracles may amaze for a time, but they do not convert an obdurate heart. The greatest evidence that Christ was the Messiah, God in the flesh, was not the miracles He performed but the character He manifested in the flesh—the character of the Father.

“That which led the Jews to *reject* the Savior’s work was the highest evidence of His divine character. The greatest significance of His miracles is seen in the fact that they were for the blessing of humanity. The highest evidence that He came from God is that His life revealed the character of God. He did the works and spoke the words of God. Such a life is the greatest of miracles.

When the message of truth is presented in our day, there are many, who, like the Jews, cry, Show us a sign. Work us a miracle. Christ wrought no miracle at the demand of the Pharisees. He wrought nor miracle in the wilderness in answer to Satan’s insinuations. He does not impart to us power to vindicate ourselves or to satisfy the demands of unbelief and pride. But the gospel is not without a sign of its divine origin. Is it not a miracle that we can break from the bondage of Satan? Enmity against Satan is not natural to the human heart; it is implanted by the grace of God. When one who has been controlled by a stubborn, wayward will is set free, and yields himself wholeheartedly to the drawing of God’s heavenly agencies, a miracle is wrought; so also when a man who has been under strong delusion comes to understand moral truth. Every time a soul is converted, and learns to love God and keep His commandments, the promise of God is fulfilled, ‘A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you.’ Eze. 36:26. The change in human hearts, the transformation of human characters, is a miracle that reveals an ever-living Savior, working to rescue souls. A consistent life in Christ is a great miracle. In the preaching of the word of God, the sign that should be manifest now and always is the presence of the Holy Spirit, to make the word a regenerating power to those that hear. This is God’s witness before the world to the divine mission of His Son.” - *Desire of Ages*, pp. 406, 407.

Merely relying on the miraculous instead of the preponderance of evidence gathered from a diligent study of the Word of God is one of Satan's most effective methods in these last days to deceive the whole world. This has, is, and will be conducted through the agency of Spiritualism and its many undetected yet highly attractive forms and variations such as we are considering in this study.

“As spiritualism closely imitates the nominal Christianity of the day, it has great power to deceive and ensnare. Satan himself is converted, after the modern order of things. He will appear in the character of an angel of light. *Through the agency of spiritualism, miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and many undeniable wonders will be performed.* And as the spirits will profess faith in the Bible, and manifest respect for the institutions of the church, their work will be accepted as manifestation of divine power.

The line of distinction between professed Christians and the ungodly is now hardly distinguishable. Church members love what the world loves and are ready to join them, and Satan determines to unite them in one body and thus strengthen his cause by sweeping all into the ranks of *spiritualism*. Papists, who boast of miracles as a certain sign of the true church, will be readily deceived by this wonder-working power; and Protestants [today's Evangelical mainstream], having cast away the shield of truth, will also be deluded. Papists, Protestants, and worldlings will alike accept the form of godliness without the power, and they will see in this union a grand movement [ecumenical movement?] for the conversion of the world and the ushering in of the long-expected millennium.

Through spiritualism, Satan appears as a benefactor of the race, healing the diseases of the people, and *professing to present a new and more exalted system of religious faith*; but as the same time he works as a destroyer. His *temptations* are leading multitudes to ruin. Intemperance dethrones reason; sensual indulgence, strife, and bloodshed follow. Satan delights in war, for it excites the worst passions of the soul and sweeps into eternity its victims steeped in vice and blood. It is his object to incite the nations to war against one another, for he can thus divert the minds of the people from the work of preparation to stand in the day of God [investigative judgment].”- *The Great Controversy*, pp. 588, 589.

The fourth century debate over Christ's humanity caused a furor and major upheaval among the theologians and clergy of the state churches, and the rift led to the splitting up of the eastern and western Christian churches. This prompted the convening of two major church councils and the subsequent establishment of official creeds and doctrines by the churches.

By first considering the four major historical heresies regarding the nature of Christ---Docetism, Arianism, and Socinianism, Gnosticism,---it is easy to see where the current debate and controversy over the nature of Christ swirls around—a persistent error that will continue till the close of probation as “one of Satan's unnumbered schemes” to divert the minds of even sincere Christians from the real, testing truths for these last days.

Since the dogma of these four major doctrines were deemed to be serious errors, heresies, in fact, by the church councils, should serve notice to all involved in the current discussion of this subject to carefully consider their own interpretation, or any of its variations, and see if it will stand the closest scrutiny of the Scriptures.

Docetism

Docetism comes from the Greek *dokein*, “to seem,” and *dokeo*, “to esteem,” and is one of the earliest Christian sectarian doctrines asserting that Jesus Christ did not have a real or natural body during His life on earth but only an apparent or phantom-like one. *Doketics deny Christ's incarnation into the human flesh and blood nature.* One may not profess to be a Doketic, but if he cherishes this view he is one of them in essence.

The Christian Apologetics and Research Ministry, www.carm.org says that (emphasis supplied):

“Docetism was an error with several variations concerning the nature of Christ. Generally, it taught that Jesus *only appeared* to have a body, that He was *not really incarnate*. This error developed out of the *dualistic philosophy* which viewed matter as inherently evil, that God could not be associated with matter, and that God, being perfect and infinite, could not suffer.

“Therefore, the Doketics conclude that God as the Word, *could not become flesh* per John 1: 1, 14. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us...” This denial of true incarnation meant that Jesus *did not truly suffer* on the cross and that *He did not rise from the dead*.

“The basic principle of Docetism was refuted by the Apostle John in 1 John 4: 2-3. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; and every spirit that does not confess Jesus [came in the flesh] is not from God; and this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.” Also, 2 John 7, “For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist.”

Docetism is closely linked to the Gnostic ideas of the Middle East in its time.

Wikipedia says that (emphasis mine):

“Gnosticism refers to a diverse, syncretic religious movement consisting of various belief systems generally united in the teaching that *humans are divine souls trapped in a material world created by an imperfect spirit, [called] the demiurge*, who is frequently identified with the *Abrahamic God*. *The demiurge may be depicted as an embodiment of evil, or in other instances merely imperfect and as benevolent as its inadequacy permits*. This demiurge exists alongside *another remote and unknowable supreme being that embodies good*. In order to free oneself from the inferior material world, one needs *gnosis or esoteric spiritual knowledge* available to all through direct experience or knowledge (gnosis) of God. Jesus of Nazareth is identified by some Gnostic sects as an embodiment of the supreme being who became incarnate to bring gnosis to the Earth. In others He was thought to be a gnosis teacher, and yet others, nothing more than a man.

“Gnosticism was popular in the Mediterranean and Middle Eastern regions in the second and third centuries, though some scholars claim it was suppressed and was actually popular as early as the first century, *predating Christ*, as a dualistic heresy in areas controlled by the Roman Empire when *Christianity became its state religion* in the fourth century. Conversion to Islam greatly reduced the remaining number of Gnostics throughout the Middle Ages.”

A couple of important points need to be emphasized here.

1. The “demiurge,” which the Gnostics depict as “an embodiment of evil and an imperfect spirit,” they also identify as “Abraham’s God.” What blasphemy! The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, according to the Bible, is God Creator Himself! Matt. 22: 32. It is Satan who is the embodiment of evil, the author of sin, the murderer, and the father of lies from the beginning. John 8: 44. To call God evil or the devil himself, as the Jews accused Jesus of being “Beelzebub, the prince of devils,” is, according to the New Testament, one of the few ways to commit the unpardonable sin! See Matt. 12: 24-32.

2. That “this demiurge exists *alongside* another remote and unknowable supreme being that embodies good” is, in fact, an embodiment of the very first lie that Satan tempted Eve and Adam with in Garden of Eden: “You will be like gods, knowing *both* good and evil.” They both yielded to this most-deceiving temptation of mingling good and evil, of light and darkness, resulting in a gray area, a twilight zone that can accommodate practically any contradicting theories on the basis of compromise, and thus, denounces absolutism. That first temptation offered self-exaltation which leads to presumption, packaged with the two other great temptations, namely, appetite (lust/desire) , and love of the world and the things of this world. Gen. 3: 4-7; Matt. 4: 1-11; 1 John 2: 15-17; (See *Desire of Ages*, “The Temptation” chapter).

3. Some Christians have been led away from the straight and narrow path by delving into the mysteries offered by “esoteric spiritual knowledge” and before long have fallen into spiritualism, unawares.

I, for a time, under the official program of the telecommunications company I worked for in the Philippines many years ago, fell for one of these forms of spiritualism. Under the belief that Transcendental Meditation increases the efficiency and productivity of the management staff, the chairman of the board required all upper echelon managers and executives to be initiated into the program. He even set up a Foundation to propagate this program of Maharishi Mahayesh Yogi under the name of Philippine Science of Creative Intelligence.

Under company time we were allowed to meditate using our special mantras in our desks or in specially designated places, including the boardroom. I had left the Adventist faith back then and did not realize what I had involved myself in—not till a couple of years later. My “master” informed me that I was “extra sensitive” since I informed him that I had experienced *levitating* at least twice, while in a semi lotus position during meditation. I was alone during these times and did not have any witnesses to corroborate the experience—but I sure felt it. It was weird. He then recommended to his higher masters that I take advance courses in Switzerland.

To prepare me for these further studies, I was handed several books to read. This was when I woke up, or more accurately, by God’s mercy and love for me, His Holy Spirit opened my eyes and convicted me. The language used and the ideas conveyed in those books gave itself away. It was spiritualism, and I immediately stopped repeating my mantra although I continued practicing meditation for a few months after as a form of relaxation. I totally quit about 20 years ago.

Others caught up in so-called esoteric knowledge believe that there are literal places or specific locations on earth as well as certain individuals that have curses on them which they can remove by certain special ceremonies and prayers. What such men forget is that three divine curses came upon the earth as a result of the transgression. One of them is the curse that God pronounced on the ground of the earth—*for fallen man’s sake*. See Gen.3: 17-19. To remove this curse is not within any mortal’s power to do, and to remove it is to place fallen men at a further disadvantage in his struggle against sin, Satan, and temptation. “From the sweat of thy brow shall thou eat bread.” Idleness is a great curse; it is the devil’s workshop. That men might be employed in fruitful labor and promote his health by exercise, God made man to till the earth, not just to harvest its abundance without laboring for it. The only time this curse is forever removed is at the

end of when eternity shall begin in heaven and in the earth made new, where John says: “there was no more curse.” Rev. 22: 3.

Bible Questions Answered (see at www.gotquestions.org) adds the following clear Biblical insights on Gnosticism (emphasis mine):

“The Person of Jesus Christ is another area where Christianity and Gnosticism drastically differ. *The Gnostics believe that Jesus’ physical body was not real*, but only ‘seemed’ to be physical and that His spirit descended upon Him at baptism but left Him just before His crucifixion. *Such heretical views destroy not only the humanity of Jesus, but also the atonement, for Jesus must not only have been truly God, but also truly human (and physically real) man who actually suffered and died upon the cross in order to be the truly acceptable substitutionary sacrifice for sin (Heb. 2:14-17). The Biblical view affirms His complete humanity as well as His full deity.*” . . .

It further says that, “Gnosticism is linked to much New Age heresy. It is based on a mystical, intuitive, subjective, inward, emotional approach to truth which isn’t new at all.” Some are under the wrong impression as well that the study of the humanity of Christ will lead into Gnosticism, or is Gnosticism itself! But no true Christian who is a diligent student of the Word will ever entertain such Gnostic ideas or sentiments. Their concern, perhaps, is not totally unfounded. There are those who, like those who attempt to blend evolution and creation, hold that one can be a “Christian Gnostic.” But Gnosticism holds that Jesus did not have a real, human body but merely a “make-believe” one. No Bible student believes this heresy. Notice what the above resource says about this (emphasis mine):

“There is no such thing as Christian Gnosticism because they are mutually exclusive systems of belief. A true Christian is not Gnostic and a Gnostic is most certainly not a true Christian. *Gnosticism was perhaps the most dangerous heresy that threatened the early church during the first three centuries.* Influenced by such philosophers as Plato, Gnosticism is based on two false premises. First it espouses **dualism** regarding spirit and matter. *Gnostics assert that matter is inherently evil, and spirit is good.* As a result of this presupposition, Gnostics believe that anything done in the body, even the grossest sin, has no meaning because real life exists in the spirit realm only. Second, **Gnostics claim to possess elevated knowledge, a ‘higher truth’ known only to a certain few. Gnosticism comes from the Greek gnosis which means ‘to know’ because Gnostics claim a higher knowledge, not from the Bible, but acquired from some mystical plain of existence. Gnostics see themselves as a privileged class elevated above everybody else by their higher, deeper knowledge of God.**” – *Bible Questions Answered*, www.gotquestions.org

Another vital correction must be made at this point. The “most dangerous heresy” that threatened the early church during the first three centuries was not “Gnosticism” but the prophesied *compromise* between heathenism and the Christian faith once delivered to the saints, beginning with the *earliest form* of Sunday veneration introduced by the shrewd emperor Constantine upon his nominal conversion to Christianity. Up to his death he considered himself the “Sol Invictus,” the Invincible Sun.

Christian Edwardson says:

“The Roman Empire had been ruled at times by two, four, or even six Caesars jointly, and in his ambition to become sole Emperor, Constantine, as a shrewd statesman,” soon saw that the Christian church had the vitality to become the strongest factor in the empire. The other Caesars were persecuting the Christians. If he could win them without

losing the goodwill of the pagans, he would win the game. He therefore set himself to the task of *blending* the two religions into one.” “So, when he and Licinius met at Milan in 313 A.D., they jointly prepared an edict, usually called ‘The Edict of Milano,’ which gave equal liberty to Christians and pagans.” - *Facts of Faith*, p. 109, Southern Publishing Asso., Nashville 8, TN, 1943.

Constantine then went to issue the first Sunday Law edict in 321 A.D. with a death decree attached to it on the third offense. So you know now where the idea of the “three strikes law” of California may have originated from—pagan Rome.

“The apostle Paul, in his second letter to the Thessalonians foretold the great apostasy which would result in the establishment of the papal power. He declared that the day of Christ should not come ‘except there come a falling away first, and the man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition, who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped, so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.’ And furthermore, the apostle warns his brethren that ‘the mystery of iniquity doth *already* work.’ 2 Thess. 2:3, 4, 7. **Even at that early date he saw creeping into the church, errors that would *prepare the way* for the development of the papacy.**

Little by little, at first in stealth and silence, and then more openly as it increased in strength and gained control of the minds of men, ‘the mystery of iniquity’ carried forward its deceptive and blasphemous work. **Almost imperceptibly the customs of heathenism found their way into the Christian church. The spirit of compromise and conformity** was restrained for a time by the fierce persecutions which the church endured under *paganism*. But as persecution ceased, and Christianity entered the courts and palaces of the kings, she [the church] laid aside the humble simplicity of Christ and His apostles for the pomp and pride of pagan priests and rulers; and in the place of the requirements of God, she substituted human theories and traditions. **The nominal conversion of Constantine, in the early part of the fourth century,** caused great rejoicing; and the world, cloaked with the form of righteousness, walked into the church. Now the work of corruption rapidly progressed. **Paganism**, while appearing to be vanquished, became the conqueror. Her spirit controlled the church. Her doctrines, ceremonies, and superstitions were incorporated into the faith and worship of the professed followers of Christ.

This compromise between paganism and Christianity resulted in the development of ‘the man of sin’ foretold in the prophecy as opposing and exalting himself above God. That gigantic system of false religion is a masterpiece of Satan’s power—a monument of his efforts to seat himself upon the throne to rule the earth according to his will.” - *Great Controversy*, pp. 49, 50.

This pagan or heathen stage of the Roman Empire, under the emperors and Caesars, that waged a terrible persecution against the early church is referred to by Daniel as “the daily *sacrifice*.” The word “sacrifice” (italicized in the Authorized Version), having been added by the translators, does not belong to the verse. See Dan. 8: 11-13; 12: 11. It was *paganism, entering the church through compromise*, that prepared for the development of the “abomination that maketh desolate” or the “abomination of desolation,” meaning, the papacy, also styled by Paul as “the man of sin,” and “the mystery of iniquity.”

- Another mistake that some make is branding those who believe that Jesus had both the Adamic (prelapsarian) and the fallen human nature (postlapsarian) as clinging to the error of “dualism.” That is a false accusation. First of all dualism is based on the belief that “*all matter is inherently evil, and spirit is good.*” Such gross error leads into the belief, as in Gnosticism, that anything done to the body, including the grossest sin, has no meaning or consequence at all since real life exists in the spiritual realm only! Now, that is spiritualism, satanic! I believe that those in the remnant church who believe that Jesus had both natures, will never

subscribe to such a doctrine of devils that “all matter is inherently evil, and spirit is good.”

Note: Ignatius of Antioch, Irenaeus, and Hippolytus, all wrote against the error in the early part of the second century. Docetism was condemned at the Council of Chalcedon in 451.

The only “good” thing about the Docetic view is that one may still draw the conclusion from their argument that Jesus is God, and that is true. What is patently false is the denial of the incarnation. It renders all that the Bible teaches regarding Christ as being the second Adam, who was truly tempted in all points like as we are, yet without sin, a lie. And since He never actually died, no perfect atoning sacrifice was ever made for penitent sinners by a qualified substitute and surety. Therefore, fallen, sinful humanity, having no Savior from sin, will either *continue* in sin and will die with no hope of a resurrection, or find some other way of inheriting eternal life other than that provided alone by the plan of salvation of the everlasting gospel. This view makes Christ’s declaration “I am the resurrection and the life” a lie, and totally rejects the plan of redemption so clearly taught by the system of sacrifices and the priesthood of the Mosaic economy and the Jewish dispensation.

Arianism

Arianism is the doctrine that regards Christ as *more than human but less than divine*. *Webster’s Unified Dictionary & Encyclopedia, 1960 edition*, says (emphasis mine):

“Arianism was a name given to Christ’s doctrine by Arius, an Alexandrian priest who claimed that *Christ was not equal or identical with God the Father*. He was opposed to Athanasius, and therefore was exiled and excommunicated in 325 A.D. by the Nicene Council, which ordained that Arius had set up a *demigod* next to God. *This act resulted in the division of eastern and western Christian churches*. Arianism lasted a few centuries after, but caused the western Church, *basically the Roman Catholic Church*, to *strengthen its union and consolidate its claims to primacy*. . . .

“Athanasius was a Greek bishop and theologian (born 296 and died 373 A.D.) who became known as “the Father of Orthodoxy.” He was yet a deacon at the beginning of the Arian controversy. In 325 he was at the Council of Nicea, meeting to deal with the very questions raised by the teachings of Arius. Of great mental power, he was made Bishop of Alexandria after the Council. Contrary to higher orders of the Council, however, he refused to admit Arius to communion. He was banished several times, always returning, until 367 when he was permitted to remain till his death in 373. *By the year 381 the Council of Constantine had settled the dispute, favoring the Nicene Creed*.”

The Athanasian Creed, or *Quicumque Vult*, is “the statement on the Trinity and Incarnation, regarded as authoritative by the *Anglican and Roman Catholic Churches*. It was originally ascribed to Athanasius, but now is believed to have been formulated by a western author of the sixth century. . . .

The Nicene Creed is a statement of faith “formulated in 325 A.D. by the First Council of Nicæa. It is *one of the three creeds* in common use in the Christian Church. It is a summary of the Christian faith emphasizing the *consubstantiality of the Father and the Son*, and was drawn up by the first General Council, assembled in Nicæa, 325, and enlarged 56 years later by the Second Council of Constantinople in 381. *The Filioque*

Clause, asserting the procession of the Holy Ghost from the Son as well as from the Father, has given rise to much controversy.” -Ibid.

The Arian View of Christ’s Nature:

- The controversy over the nature of Christ, caused by the Arian heresy, and opposed by Church councils, worked in favor of the Roman Catholic Church. She, through successive church synods officially establishing religious creeds and interpretations of religious beliefs, was able to strengthen its union and consolidate the claims of the pope to primacy. And nothing has changed since then. From the Vatican Council II, the 21st Ecumenical Council of the Catholic Church, held from 1962 to 1965, in 4 Autumn Sessions, to the earlier movements, since 1888 to have Sunday legislated in the U.S. by the Lord’s Day Alliance, all merely will serve to once more strengthen and consolidate the worldwide power of the papacy, in fulfillment of end-time prophecy. And the agency by which this will take place is America, who by then would have become “the image of or to the beast.” See Revelation 13.
- The Arian View considers Christ as more than human, but less than divine—a sort of “in-between man.” Such a third nature of any other human being simply does not exist in the Sacred Scriptures. This view renders Jesus as less than a perfect example, and an incomplete Savior of man, and less than God Himself, the Creator of heaven and earth—a masterful blend of truth and error. Only Satan can be its mastermind and author.
- Heavenly angels are certainly more than human, as “man was created a little lower than angels,” but they are certainly not divine in that they are not part of the Godhead. Christ is certainly “more than human” in that He is both God and man, possessing both human and divine natures. But *His humanity* is the humanity that He lived on earth that was subject to temptation as all men are, and was subject to death as all mortals are, and what died at Calvary. He never ceased to be God, but that divine nature was *quiescent* during His life and mission on earth, until the resurrection morning. There, His divine nature resurrected His human nature, fulfilling His prophetic declaration, “I have the power to lay down My life and take it again.” John 10: 17, 18.
- Only those who reject the Bible teaching that the Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Godhead, a *Co-Equal* of the Father and the Son but divested of the personality of humanity will be ever caught up in controversy over this Biblical truth.

Important Note: While it is true that Arianism taught an errant view regarding the nature of Christ, it was nevertheless this *ism* that led its adherents, the three Arian nations—the Heruli, Vandals, and Ostrogoths, bitter enemies of the papacy and Catholics—to thwart, through bloody military campaigns, the earliest attempts of the Bishop of Rome to sit himself as God on earth. But as Daniel (7: 7, 8) prophesied, these three Arian nations would be eventually “uprooted” by the “little horn with a man’s face, speaking great words against the Most High.” The Heruli first disappeared after Odoacer, their leader was murdered in cold blood by his fellow Arian king, Theodoric, on the 10th of March, 493 A.D. It was the first of the “three horns of Daniel” that were “plucked up by the roots.” The Vandals of Africa were destroyed in 533 by the Byzantine

general, Belisarius, under Emperor Justinian who consolidated Catholicism “by recklessly killing all who dissented in the name of piety.” Theodoric, king of the Arian Ostrogothic nation of Italy, maintained complete religious liberty for all classes and creeds during his reign. This did not sit well the Catholic Bishops. By betrayal, Witigis, now king of the Ostrogoths, was slain in 538 A.D. by Justinian’s army. Since then, “occurred a single phenomenon,—the annihilation and disappearance of a great a powerful people from the world’s history.” (Edwardson, *Facts of Faith*). Thus Daniel’s prophecy was fulfilled when the “three horns were plucked up by the roots” by “other little horn who had eyes like a man, and a mouth speaking great things”—the papacy.

Socianism

On the other extreme end,

“Socianism regards Jesus Christ as *simply human*, and refers to the body of opinions based on the teachings of Laelius Socinus (1525-1562) and his nephew Faustus Socinus (1539-1604), two Italian theologians. Their doctrines resembled in many respects modern *Unitarianism* that exalts *reason*, not Scriptures neither the Holy Spirit, as the supreme judge of religious teaching. The Trinity and the divinity of Christ were denied by this sect. They flourished mainly in Poland and Holland. Their teaching is summarized in the *Rakow Cathecism*, 1605, named after the Polish town of Rakow, where their yearly Synod was conducted.” (emphasis supplied).

A rapidly-growing denomination that originated in the Philippines called the “Church of Christ” (“Iglesia Ni Kristo”), teaches this very view—that Jesus Christ was simply human, not God in the flesh---as one its fundamental doctrines. See discussion below.

VII. What Other Religions Think of Christ’s Nature

The **Jews**, as the New Testament attests, regarded Jesus even less than an ordinary man. They accused Him of being an impostor, worse, “Beelzebub himself, “the prince of devils.” Matt. 12: 24, 27 10: 25; Mark 3:22; Luke 11:15-19.

The **Moslems** consider Jesus Christ as simply *another* good prophet, but vastly inferior to Mohammed, and certainly not one with their “Allah.”

The Church of Christ (“Iglesia Ni Kristo” originating from the Philippines), teach that Jesus possessed attributes more than an ordinary man, *but was not God Creator*. In the 27 Bible lessons summarizing its Fundamental Beliefs written by its founder, Felix Y. Manalo, it clearly states what this church teaches regarding the nature of Christ; it is more Arianistic than Socian or Dokenistic. And in their rejection of the Godhead or Trinity, they stand on the same ground as the Jews. We cite the specific numbers of their Fundamental Beliefs, written by Erano Manalo, founder, that reveal their beliefs of who Jesus is. (emphasis mine):

“**2.** The true God. The Father who created all things is the only true God. *There are no three persons in one God; thus, reject the belief in the Trinity.*”

“**14.** The Lord Jesus Christ, Part I: Christ should be highly honored and worshipped by members of the Church of Christ because this is the will of God (Phil. 2: 9-11). Christ should be recognized as the Son of God (Matt. 3:7), Lord (Acts 2: 36), Savior (Acts 5:31), Mediator (2 Tim.

2:5), a holy man who did not commit sin (1 Pet 2: 21-22). *The attributes mentioned here give no indication to His nature which we believe is of a man (John 8:40); He is not the true God (Eze. 28:2). Man should also renounce the belief that Christ is true God and true man (Hos. 11:9).*

“**15.** The Lord Jesus Christ, Part II: The clear distinctions of Christ from God are proofs that the true God is not Christ. Our Lord Jesus possesses attributes surpassing the ordinary man but this does not mean that He is God. God has attributes which we do not find in Christ. If Christ can do wonders such as miracles, all these are done by God through Him as God’s instrument. On His own powers alone, Christ cannot do anything. Christ Himself states, ‘I can on my own do nothing.’”

“**16.** The Lord Jesus Christ, Part III: Teachers of the ‘Christ is God’ doctrine also use the Bible. But we should not allow ourselves to be deceived by them because we cannot read any text in the Bible where Christ says He is the true God. If that is the case, why do they have biblical texts to prove their contentions? *Those biblical texts have been given erroneous interpretations (John 1: 1, 14; Isa. 9:6) or wrong meanings (1 John 5:20) or even based on verses wrongly translated (Rom. 9:5).*”

In citing Ezekiel 28: 2 (No. 14) as proof that Christ is not God, the founder of “The Church of Christ” applies these verses (1-19) to *Jesus* which actually describes *Lucifer* before his fall and the reason how and why he fell, in the figure of “the king of Tyrus”! What darkness of ignorance! What blasphemy! Furthermore, they aver that John 1: 1, 14, Isa. 9:6, and 1 John 5: 20 which clearly and unequivocally say that Jesus is God, “has been given erroneous interpretations and wrong meanings” “based on verses wrongly translated”—without explaining how and why. They exemplify the false religions that claim the inerrancy of Scriptures—when it apparently supports their pet theories, but declare others that expose their errors as errant or wrongly interpreted!

It is indeed strange that they should even call themselves as “The Church of Christ” when they reject His divinity! If so, then their church, like the Roman Catholic Church, whose fundamental doctrine teaches that it is built on “Peter,” a dead apostle, is built on a “human being” and not upon God! All churches and denominations whose Foundation, Cornerstone, Builder and Maker is not Jesus Christ, *the Creator in human flesh*, will fall for “the gates will prevail against it.” Only those built on the human-divine nature of Christ will never fall, particularly the remnant church, who “have the testimony of Jesus, which is the Spirit of prophecy” in their midst. Rev. 19:10.

The Mormons, or the Church of the Latter-day Saints officially declare that God created the earth *through Jesus Christ*. They also confess that the Godhead is made up of Three Separate Beings. However, a further investigation of their Fundamental Beliefs will quickly reveal that they totally contradict this initial confession of faith with unbiblical assertions on the creation of man, matter, and the earth, making a mockery of creation and Christ’s power to create everything from nothing. They also teach spiritualistic doctrines such as that people existed *before* they were born on earth as mortals, and that there is a “Mother in Heaven,” etc. They assert that death is not the wages of sin, nor a curse, but an opportunity and an essential stage in progress toward obtaining exaltation! Worse, they make a blasphemous declaration “that God the Father was *once* a man like us!

Notice their following beliefs (emphasis mine):

“Creation Accounts.

Latter-day Saints understand that Jesus Christ, acting under the direction of the Father, created this and other worlds *to make possible the immortality and eternal life of human beings who already existed as spirit children of the Father.*" –*Encyclopedia of Mormonism.*

"Matter.

These are key statements: 'The elements are eternal.' (D & C 93:93). 'The spirit of man is not a created being; it existed from eternity. Anything created cannot be eternal; and earth, water, etc. had their existence in the elementary state, from eternity.'" – *Encyclopedia of Mormonism.*

"Mortality.

Mortality is *not* viewed as a curse by Latter-day Saints but as *an opportunity and an essential stage in progress toward obtaining exaltation.* The ultimate purpose of the period of mortality from birth to death is to prepare to meet God with the resurrected body (John 5: 25-29; Alma 2: 24)." – *Encyclopedia of Mormonism.*

"An Overview of Beliefs About God the Father

Latter-day Saints perceive the Father as *an exalted Man* in the most literal, anthropomorphic terms." – *Encyclopedia of Mormonism.*

"What Do the Latter-day Saints Mean that God was once a Man?

That He was *once a man like us; yea, that God Himself, the Father of us all, dwelt on an earth, the same as Jesus Christ did.*" – *Joseph Smith, Encyclopedia of Mormonism.*

"Teachings on Premortal Existence.

The term 'pre-existence,' or more accurately, 'premortal existence,' refers to a period of individual consciousness and accountable life *before* birth into mortality on this earth." – *Joseph Smith.*

"Mother in Heaven.

Latter-day Saints infer from authoritative sources of Scripture and modern day prophecy that there is a Heavenly Mother as well as a Heavenly Father." – *Encyclopedia of Mormonism.*

"Eve.

Eve, the first woman of creation, companion of Adam, mother and matriarch of the human race, is honored by Latter-day Saints as one of the most important, righteous, and heroic of all the human family. *Eve's supreme gift to mankind, the opportunity of life on this earth, resulted from her choice to become mortal.*" – *Encyclopedia of Mormonism.*

The Roman Catholic faith however, regards Christ's human nature as sinless and perfect. But not knowing what to do with the mystery of how the "overshadowing of the Holy Spirit" over Mary, a mortal and sinner yet a virgin, could actually result "in that holy thing" in her womb---the sinless Jesus Christ, God himself in human flesh---they invented an unbiblical doctrine called Immaculate Conception. This doctrine avers that "from the first instant of her existence" Mary "was preserved from all stain of original sin," placing Mary's human nature where Adam's was, before the fall---sinless. Having done this they were now able to explain by mere human wisdom that Christ's *sinless* human nature was on account of His human mother's "sinless nature from birth." She simply transmitted to Him her own sinless nature, thus establishing her *natural, maternal superiority* over Christ!

This is why Roman Catholics pray to Mary as their Mediatrix, and not to Christ, mankind's only Mediator and Advocate. The obvious deduction is that she is *the mother* of Christ, and Christ is *only* her son. As to Jesus Christ being the *only-begotten Son of God the Father, and not the "Mother,"* strangely escapes their theologians. Thus, in vain repetition they constantly pray, "Holy Mother of God, please pray for us. . . ."

All students of the Word know that Mary was last seen and heard of in the Bible as being part of the 120 disciples at *the upper room*, who, by preparing for it, as promised by Jesus Himself, received the first outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Pentecostal power 50 days after His resurrection. Acts 1: 12-15. This Holy Spirit-empowered, expanded group of disciples, *including Mary, the human mother of Jesus*, were those who fulfilled the first edition of Christ's prophecy that "ye shall be witnesses of Me both in Jerusalem and in Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8), after His ascension to become our high Priest and Mediator in the heavenly sanctuary.

For the same reason Roman Catholics, and now, many non-Catholics as well (as Revelation 13 prophesies), look up to the Pope as *their* high priest. The papacy declared itself in the fourth century to be the "vicegerent of Christ" and "verily God on earth," rather than Jesus, our High Priest, Advocate, and Mediator *in heaven*, and the Holy Spirit as Christ's appointed Vicegerent of Himself *on earth*, after His ascension.

Ecclesiastical history shows that this **dogma** of the *Immaculate Conception* caused a bitter dispute in the Roman Catholic Church which raged for nearly 700 years. About 1140 the Franciscan Order supported, and the Dominican Order opposed, the dogma. In 1384 the discussion was revived at Paris by John de Montesano, a Dominican, resulting in the exclusion of the Dominicans from the University in 1389. It also occasioned great discussion during the pontificates of Paul V (1605-21), Gregory XV (1621-3), and Alexander VII (1655-67). However, it was finally made an article of faith in the Roman Catholic Church by a Bull promulgated by Pius IX on December 8, 1854. Since then it is considered gospel truth by Roman Catholics and other non-Catholics as well.

On **creeds**, God's servant says: Christianity is not a creed (TM 421); religion does not consist in creeds (AA 451). Subscribing to creeds is not a substitute for true heart conversion (Ev. 291). The Jews clung to their creed when truth awaited their acceptance (DA 242). Creeds are built by men from speculations and pleasing fables (PP 124). The repugnant doctrine of eternal torment in an eternally-burning hell is found in many of Christendom's creeds (GC 535). Vigilant and individual effort accomplishes more for Christ than all the creeds (ChS 12). Many Protestants are bound by creeds (GC 596). Creeds of ecclesiastical councils are not evidence for or against any point of religious faith (GC 595). To God's people (the remnant church) the Bible alone is their creed (1SM 416). "The Bible and the Bible only is our creed."

The adoption of the principles of the Socianistic school of thought that denies the divinity of Christ was one that cost Jesus His life. The credulous Jewish people, influenced by their religious leaders, considered Jesus merely a man like them, the son of a lowly carpenter from Nazareth--a little mountain town proverbial for wickedness. Even the circumstances of His lowly birth became fodder to feed their darkened minds and prejudice.

But the die was cast when He publicly declared Himself to be one with God, or God Himself. He was guilty of "blasphemy," they declared, seething in self-righteous indignation, and got ready to stone Him to death. See Matt. 9: 1-3; John 10:31-39. "The Jews answered Him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not, but for blasphemy, because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God." This, by the way, is the clearest Biblical definition of what **blasphemy** is. When any mortal--and all man are mortal--claims to be God *or takes the place of God on earth*, he is committing blasphemy against

the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit is Christ's vice-gerent on earth, as Christ Himself declared before ascending to heaven. John 14: 26; 167-14.

The Paulinian Teachings

While some scholars do not believe that Paul wrote Hebrews, and some say because of its "style" it was very likely written by Luke under the direction of Paul, I share the view of many Bible scholars, including E.G. White, that Paul was indeed its author. There are three heavens referred to in the Bible. The first heaven is the atmospheric heaven or the "firmament." The second heaven is the starry heavens, or that space where the human eyes (now through ultra-powerful telescopes and unmanned space probes) see the sun, moon, stars, constellations, and galaxies. The "third heavens" is verily Heaven itself where the heavenly sanctuary and throne of the Father is.

Of all the apostles outside of John the Beloved, Paul, in vision, was the only one allowed to enter "the third heavens," "hearing language which is unlawful to speak on earth." 2 Cor. 12: 1-15. To keep him humble "lest he be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations," God gave him "a thorn in the flesh." 2 Cor. 12:1-15. He was allowed to see what is in heaven and hear *the language* spoken there. This rarest of privileges offered to mortals explains at least two things: (1) he was the one appointed to explain in detail the nature and work of Christ as our High Priest *in* the heavenly sanctuary, using Old Testament language and types (2) why some of his epistles "are hard to be understood" even by Peter's standards. 2 Pet. 3: 15, 16.

In the first chapter of Hebrews, the Father addresses His Son as *God*. He is, according to the writer of Hebrews as "*the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person.*" Heb. 1:3. "But to *the Son* He (the Father) says, 'Your throne, *O God*, is forever and ever. A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your Kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; therefore God, Your God has anointed You with the oil of gladness more than Your companions.'" Verses 8, 9, NKJV.

But in the second chapter of Hebrews, this "express image of His Person" is introduced to us now as being "*a man made a little lower than the angels* for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone." Heb. 2: 9, NKJV. Previous to this, Adam is introduced to us with the same nature, echoing Psalms 8: 4: "But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man that Thou art mindful of him? Or the son of man [Adam's posterity], that Thou visitest him? *Thou made him a little lower than the angels*; thou crownedst him with glory and honor, and didst set him over the works of Thy hands." Verses 6, 7.

It is further stated that "Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise *shared in the same*, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil." Verse 14. Furthermore we are told, "Therefore, in *all* things He had to be made *like* His brethren. . . . for that He Himself has suffered, *being tempted*, He is able to succor (aid) those who are tempted." Verses 17, 18.

Speaking of the preeminence of Christ, Paul identifies Him as "*the mystery of Christ*" (Eph. 3: 4, 9) "who is the [*visible*] image of the *invisible* God, the firstborn over all creation. For *by* Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created *through* Him and *for* Him. And He is *before* all things, and in Him all

things *consist*". . . . And it pleased the Father that in Him *all the fullness* should dwell." Col. 1: 15-17, 19.

VIII. The Unique Humanity of Christ Analyzed from Creation, Incarnation, and Procreation

- Adam was made from the *dust of the ground* by God Creator. Eve was made from a *rib* taken out of Adam. But Christ appeared on this earth from neither beginnings. True, we cannot fathom the mystery of His incarnation, but these important facts must never be forgotten when considering the *revealed* origin of the human nature of Christ. He was not created, nor procreated, but *incarnated* of the Holy Spirit, the only One to undergo such a beginning.

Referring to the incarnated nature of Christ, for it now involves His physical body of flesh and blood, Paul says, "For *in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.*" (Col. 2:9). Bodily here is the untranslated Greek *somatikos*, which means "corporeally or physically."

The fullness of the Godhead dwelt in His incarnated human flesh body. Christ's human *body* was *prepared* for Him by the determinate Council of heaven—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—*before* the foundation of the world. Prepared here is the untranslated Greek *katartizo* which means "to complete thoroughly; fit; frame, mend, make perfect; join together." That human body of Christ and its human nature, starting as a "seed" in the womb of Mary, was predetermined, predestinated, if you please. Paul wrote by inspiration: "Therefore, when He came into the world, He said, 'Sacrifice and offering You did not desire; but *a body You have prepared for Me.* . . . Then I said, 'Behold, I have come --in the volume of the book is written of Me—to do your will O God.'" Heb. 10: 5, 6, NKJV. This is but an echo of the exact same prophecy in Psalms 40:6-8.

- Adam's human body was *not* prepared in this manner; it was *manually* crafted or fashioned by the hands of the Creator *from the dust of the ground* on the sixth day of creation. This lifeless, perfect form *instantly* became a "living soul" when God breathed life into his nostrils. Gen. 2: 7; 1: 26, 27. He never experienced human birth by procreation. He instantly became a full-grown man. In this specific regard, Adam's humanity and that of Christ's find *no* common ground. Adam started life on earth as a physically full-grown adult man, Christ as a helpless Infant.
- Once more, Eve, the primordial symbol of the church, was not created or fashioned from the dust of the ground as Adam was, but from a much higher physical body location,—from a *rib* taken Adam's side, after he was already made "a living soul" and only after he was put in a deep sleep—the very first surgical procedure ever performed. It's interesting that Adam was not allowed to feel or witness how Eve was formed from one of his ribs—a bone, not one of the fleshy parts of his organs or skin. Nor does the sacred account give us an idea on how Eve was formed from this particular rib. The Creator surprised him with this "thing of surpassing beauty." This shows us that the thorny issue and acrimonious debate often sparked by the question: "Who is the True Church," cannot be intelligently and spiritually discussed and resolved unless the basic

origin of the woman is brought forth in the discussion. Christ is the Second Adam. Therefore, it is also from one of His “ribs” in His loving chest that the true church is spiritually “made from.” In fact, through Paul, Christ calls her His yet defective “bride,” who, according to the divine matrimonial covenant, is of “one bone and one flesh” with her husband. Gen. 2: 21-23. He is still “sanctifying and cleansing her by the washing of water by the Word” until “not one spot or wrinkle or any such thing” is found in her. Only then will He present her to His Father in heaven! Eph. 5: 26, 27. This helps to explain why “the remnant church will appear to fall but it will not.” She will be purified by the “shaking” and the final “sifting of fiery persecution.” Then the church triumphant will emerge at the end.

In stark contrast, Christ’s human body, “made for Him according to the volume of the book” (Ps. 40:6, 7; Heb.10: 5-7) began as a “seed” (Hebrew *zera*, “fruit; child,” Gen. 3:15; cf. Gal. 3:16), that very “holy thing” produced by the “overshadowing” of the Holy Spirit *in* or *upon* Mary, and developed in her womb nine months “according to the law,” that is, the law that governs human birth. Luke 1: 34, 35; Gal. 4:4.

But unlike Adam, who *bypassed* all the stages resulting from the human act of procreation—from impregnation, to birth, to child development and growth---Jesus was born as a full term Babe *nine months* later, after the *overshadowing* of the Holy Spirit in Mary, the virgin, --- as every normal baby with a healthy mother is born into this world. But He alone was “that holy thing” from the beginning, which no human being, not even Adam, was called.

What was said of Him was almost identical to that which was said of John the Baptist, His first cousin and precursor, that “the Child **grew** and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon Him.” “And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.” Luke 2: 40, 52; cf. 1: 36-41, 57-79, 80. No such similar record exists regarding the first Adam. The continuous growth that Adam and Eve were supposed to grow from, in their sinless state, was to become even more and more like their Creator, revealing through all creation throughout the sinless universe, His character, power, and attributes.

- Capable of increasing continually in knowledge, joy, and love, PP 51.
- Created to reach highest possible development, SC 44
- Created to inhabit earth, ML 305
- Created to *repopulate* heaven, 1 BC 1082.

But all this was temporarily aborted by the terrible experiment with sin. The plan of salvation in the everlasting gospel contemplates and guarantees the complete restoration of all that was lost through sin!

To ignore these Biblical facts of Christ’s human birth by *incarnation*, to become “the second Adam” (1 Cor. 15:45-48), in contrast to the first Adam’s *creation*, is to unwittingly set oneself up of making Jesus *altogether* like us. The Biblical account of Christ’s whole life on earth is extremely brief, or so it seems, when seen in its literal sense. Except for passages in Luke 2:1-51, and His recorded acts and teachings in the four gospels, not much is written in the Bible about the years between His birth and baptism, thirty years later, prompting theologians to call these “the silent years of Christ.”

Outside of the Bible but certainly not outside the teachings and principles of Biblical truth is the inspired book called “The Desire of Ages,” which is a must-read for every one,

particularly parents and their children who sincerely want to know more about the growing up years of Christ, and His works and teachings. They were certainly not “silent years” for every moment of His life from birth was fulfilling every specification of the plan of salvation contemplated and perfected in the councils of heaven “before the foundation of the world.”

NOTE: In addition to the *Desire of Ages*, the following books are indispensable sources for every family at every stage of their Christian growth as a family and as individuals: “*Adventist Home*,” *Child Guidance*,” and “*Messages to Young People*.”

The “holy men of God” who wrote under inspiration and direction of the Holy Spirit (2 Pet. 1: 19-21) specified the circumstances and details of His birth as a major prophecy of the Old Testament. In types and symbols, His nature, life, work, and offices were clearly foreshadowed in the Jewish Economy. Its fulfillments were faithfully recorded by the apostles in the New Testament. These Biblical facts cannot be ignored in our attempts to study the human nature of Christ.

The case may be argued that Christ did not become the second Adam merely by virtue of His human birth, (though Adam never experienced human birth), but because He prevailed on the same grounds where Adam failed. But that’s precisely the point where their human natures are concerned. Jesus became the second Adam not merely because He prevailed where Adam failed but because He did so in *the same human nature* where Adam failed, and of course, also in the same nature that every son and daughter of Adam is tempted on. This further underwrites the conflicting opinions about His incarnated human nature that include denying the testimony of Scripture that says, He was, in fact, “made *like* unto His brethren” and “was tempted in *all* points like we are, yet without sin.” Now the opposite of “like” is “unlike.” Jesus was made *like* unto us, that is, is our human nature, and was tempted in all points *like* we are tempted. He shared the lot of fallen humanity.

Yet one cannot separate His divinity from His humanity *in His Person*, and still consider Him verily Jesus Christ the *Son of man*, and, “Emmanuel, being interpreted is, *God with us*” as well (Matt. 1:23). He *veiled* or *clothed* His divinity with real humanity, and lived the *human life*, a Man dwelling among men, the only *perfect Humanity* that walked on earth. But He never ceased to be God Creator.

In his letter to Titus, Paul addresses Him as “the great God and Jesus Christ” in one breath. Without hesitation he wrote, “Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of *the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ*; who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.” Titus 2: 13, 14. There will not be two Persons who will be appearing in the clouds of Christ’s glorious second coming; there will be only One—“the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ. This was the assurance of the angels who told the sorrowing disciples watching Jesus ascending to heaven from Mount Olives: “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This *same Jesus*, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come *in like manner* as you saw Him go into heaven.” Acts 1: 10, 11, N.K.J.V.

With these verses of Scripture (Col. 1: 17, 17,19; 2:9) and others like it that directly or indirectly reveal that whatever was *in* the incarnated Christ *bodily*, which cannot be dissociated from His human nature, “*dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily*.” This is indeed is “a mystery,” as Paul says we all must agree with, if we are to agree with rest

of his epistles and the rest of the Scriptures revealing Christ. We cannot choose one and reject others and still remain in favor with God, the Author of the sacred Scriptures.

There is certainly much more to His incarnated human nature than the human mind can ever comprehend. And when the Word of God says any thing is a *mystery* in the Bible we can stretch our human mind till it breaks down and it will still remain a mystery. But to those who earnestly, patiently, and humbly seek to know "the deep things of God" in the Bible and the Bible only, much more will be revealed by the Holy Spirit but not enough to make it cease to be a mystery of the divine order. 1 Cor. 2: 10-14; Deut. 29:29.

The inspired writer says that "the incarnation of Christ is a *deep problem to study*." "It is a mystery that has been and ever will remain unexplained to mortals." There we have it: first, it is a deep, not a simple problem. Hurried reading and surface study will never suffice. Second, only when approached with the humility of learner will its study become a fruitful field that will richly repay the searcher who digs deep for hidden truth.

Thus far in this investigation, I have come to the conclusion that the safest general statement and definition of what the human nature of Christ is, as I currently understand it, is this:

THE HUMAN NATURE OF CHRIST

The Creator permanently incarnated into the human nature with a body that was made for Him that was subject to the great law of heredity, with all its good qualities as well as its liabilities, weaknesses, afflictions, and passions, but not its pollutions. Thus, He was truly tempted in all points as all human beings are, yet without sin--without ever ceasing to be God Creator. It is called *the humanity of Christ the Messiah, the promised Seed, and the only-begotten Son of God*, and therefore cannot be altogether the exact same humanity of any created or procreated human being, even if He is also addressed as "the Son of man," and "the Son of David." *The humanity of humanity, whether Adamic or fallen*, cannot bear the guilt and sins of the whole world nor satisfy the demands of the plan of redemption and the immutable law that was transgressed, no, not even that of the chief of angels, though he would have gladly volunteered to do so. Therefore, the human nature of Christ could not be altogether like ours, but, in fact, had to be that *one-of-a kind humanity with the capacity to bear all the sins and guilt of all mankind, and thus become truly the prophesied Savior of the whole world*. He became "the second Adam" because He begun on the same grounds where the first Adam fell, and perfectly overcame all the temptations by which all mankind has been tempted with, since then, by His human nature totally relying on the Father, in the divinity that was in Him, teaching us by example, that when fallen humanity is truly and fully united with divinity it becomes all-powerful. It becomes "bone of His bone and flesh of His flesh."

To be continued next month.