

THE BIBLICAL EVIDENCE OF THE DEITY OF JESUS CHRIST

By: Dr. Isaac K. Damoah

INSTITUTION: National Pastors Training College

Abstract

The study applied explanatory research design, qualitative research approach and cross sectional research strategy to write this paper. The method used for collecting data to write this paper was primary source and the thesis statement was "The Biblical evidence of the deity of Jesus Christ." The objective of the study was achieved through qualitative research. The sampling size was research into papers by published journals and the papers published at various websites. The population of the study was ten authors and the study investigated into theoretical review propagated in favor of the deity of Jesus Christ. The background of the study was brief history of the birth of Jesus Christ. The study discovered that Jesus Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit, possessed essential nature of God, the actions, utterances and works of Jesus Christ shew that He was God, demons confessed He was the son of God, empirical evidence which proved He was God

and the Trinity confirmed His deity. The study generalized that Jesus Christ was co-equal to God. Through the study, it was recommended that pastors of the various churches should preach and teach to their congregation to understand that Jesus was God.

Background of the study

Introduction

Jesus Christ is the Messiah (Christ), the son of the living God and the savior of the world. He died for the sins of man and rose from the dead after three days of His burial. He was born in 4B.C. but many Bible scholars debate about His date of birth. Some of the scholars believed that He was born between 7B.C. and 1B.C. He was nurtured in Nazareth, the names of His parents were the virgin Mary and Joseph and He was born at Bethlehem. He did supernatural miracles through touching people or speaking to them. However, scientists do not accept the supernatural miracles of Jesus Christ. According to the gospel of Mark when He was young He

worked as a carpenter. He began His earthly ministry at the age of thirty years and spent three years to finish His earthly ministry. He did much of His ministry in Galilee.

Objectives of the study

- To find out the mystery behind Jesus' birth
- To find out the essential nature of Jesus Christ
- To find out the empirical evidence of His deity
- To find out the demonic confession of His deity.
- To find out Jesus' claims, actions and works that proof His deity
- To find out the Trinity confirmation of the deity of Jesus

The birth of Jesus Christ

Before Joseph asked Mary in hand of marriage, she was conceived by the Holy Spirit. He never had sex with her. The gospel of Matthew, the gospel of Luke witness that it was the Holy Spirit that conceived her. Around 2nd century the apostolic creed and in 381A.D the Nicence creed stated that she was conceived by the Holy Spirit. The Orthodox, Catholic and the Protestants churches believe in the Jesus' virgin birth and have made it a doctrine., Because of

this, they accept that Jesus Christ had the nature of God and the nature of man. Joseph the husband of the virgin Mary descended from the line of king David. Concerning the virgin birth of Jesus Christ the gospel of Matthew made references from the book of Isaiah.

Thesis Statement: The study investigatd into the deity of Jesus Christ. The study found out the mystery behind Jesus' birth, the essential nature of Jesus, empirical evidence of Jesus'deity demonic confession of the deity of Jesus and the Trinity confirmation of the deity of Jesus

The essential nature of Jesus Christ

Eternal life

Eternal life is the life of Jesus Christ and He gives eternal life those who believe in Him (John 1:4; 14:6).

Self-existence

This implies that He was not created and was dwelling with God before the world began (John 5:26; Hebrews 7:16).

Immutability

Human beings change but Jesus does not and cannot change (Hebrews 13:8).

Truth

He cannot lie and does not possess falsehood (Revelation 3: 7).

Love

He is love and there is no hatred in Him (John 3:16).

Holiness

He does not possess the nature of sin and cannot commit sin (Luke 1:35; Hebrews 7:26).

Eternality

He has no beginning and no end (John 1:1).

Omnipresence

His movement is not restricted and He is everywhere at all times (Matthew 28:20; Ephesians 1:23).

Omniscience

He knows all things and there is nothing that we can hid it from Him (Matthew 9:4; John 2:24-25; Acts 1:24).

Omnipotence

He is powerful and all other powers are inferior to Him.

Literature Review

Many writers have written articles about Jesus Christ but the study is limited to the Biblical evidence of the deity of Jesus Christ. Because of this, the study investigated into what other authors had written concerning the deity of Jesus Christ. Moody Bible institute wrote an article titled "The deity of Jesus Christ" and stated the nature of Jesus Christ which proved His deity. Jesus ascribed the names of God to Himself such as "the Almighty God", the Everlasting Father", "Emmanuel," "the Lord" (Jehovah) and "the son of God". The Bible says He possess the essential nature of God: Eternal, Omnipresent, Omnipotent, Omniscient and Immutable. He received worship as God. During baptism and apostolic benediction He was regarded on the same level as God. He did things that only God could do them. He rose a dead person from the dead and judge people. He taught His disciples to pray in His name. He said those who had believed in Him had seen God. He created all things and said He and His Father were united. In December19, 2017 Dr. Mark Bird wrote an article titled "The divinity of Christ revealed in the New Testament". In his article he pointed out the Biblical Evidence that proved Jesus' divinity. He demonstrated wisdom and authority in Matthew Chapters

5,9,10,12,21,22. He talked about the beatitudes in Matthew 5 and said did not come to demolish the law but to fulfill it. He taught about other issues like murder, adultery and to love one's enemy. He said the law should be kept in the heart of man. He gave His disciples power over unclean Spirits and declared that He was Lord over the Sabbath day as the Lord God. He forgave the sins of men and the way He offered forgiveness of sin portrayed that He was God. With respect to what the authors had written, the study investigated into the mystery behind Jesus' birth, the essential nature of Jesus' deity, empirical evidence of His deity, demonic confession of His deity, His claims, actions utterances and works that show His deity and the Trinity confirmation of the deity of Jesus

Empirical evidence of the deity of Jesus

Christ

- ❖ According infancy gospel of Thomas Jesus did miracles during His childhood days. The miracles are as follows:
- ❖ Jesus rose a rich man from the dead.
- ❖ He controlled water and purified it.
- ❖ He used clay to create birds and made them living birds
- ❖ He rose a playmate Zeno from the dead.

- ❖ He healed a woodcutter suffering from his foot.
- ❖ From a single seed He harvested 100 basket
- ❖ He stretched a short board for a carpenter to use it
- ❖ He struck down a teacher and rose him.
- ❖ Viper bite James and He healed him
- ❖ He rose a child from the dead
- ❖ He rose a dead man from the dead.
- ❖ At the age of 5 years Jesus turned toy birds into living birds.
- ❖ When Jesus was a baby, He told His mother that He was the son of God and His Father had sent Him to save the world.
- ❖ The angels of God surrounded Jesus as a king's guard when His parents sent Him into the temple
- ❖ A priest of a city idol in Egypt confessed that Jesus was truly the son of God and He deserved to be worshipped.
- ❖ The son of a priest of idol in Egypt who possessed evil spirits touched the swaddling cloths of Jesus and he

received his healing. He praised and gave thanks to God

Theoretical review

The study investigated into theories concerning the deity of Jesus Christ. It was discovered that on 27th October, 1961 Wayne E. Ward wrote a theory about the person of Jesus Christ called "kenotic theory". The word "kenotic" is derived from Greek word called "kenoo" meaning "emptied". The term "kenoo" is used in Philippians 2:7 to show how Jesus made Himself servant when He was performing His earthly ministry. He willingly and temporarily put aside some of His Divine nature and become committed to His earthly ministry. The study found out the theory of Atonement which proved the deity of Jesus Christ. The theory of Atonement was propagated by Abelard (1079-1142) and it is categorized into three theories namely Moral exemplar theory, Ransom theory and Satisfaction theory. Moral exemplar theory says that the aim of the death of Jesus Christ was to give an example of perfect life which would reconcile man to God. Ransom theory states that Christ's death was ransom. That is, His crucifixion had delivered man from the bondage of sin. God saved us from the custody of Satan and eternal death. Satisfaction theory says that the sins of man led

to eternal death, man couldn't pay for the penalty of the sin and the crucifixion of Christ redeemed us from eternal death.

Jesus' claims, actions and works

The actions, utterances and the ministry of Jesus Christ portrayed that He was God who appeared in the flesh.

Superior

The angels of God are inferior to Jesus and they served Him. They are His army and will come with Him during His second coming (Matthew 26:53, 4:11; Mark 1:13; Luke 4:13)

Divine actions

Jesus said that it was He who sent the prophets and the doctors of the Law (Luke 11:49)

He completed and changed some precepts of the law (Matthew 5:21)

Jesus said that He was Lord over the Sabbath (Matthew 12:28)

He made a Covenant with His disciples (Mark 14:24)

Divine demands

Due to lack of faith, Jesus rebuked some of His disciples (Matthew 8:10-12)

He rewarded those who exercised faith in Him (Luke 7:50; 17:19)

John's gospel declaration

He was full of the knowledge of God (John 7:29)

He will judge the world (John 5:22-27)

Jesus said He was the Light of the world (John 8:12)

Divine ministry

During Jesus' earthly ministry, He willingly subjected Himself to God. He declared that it was God who sent Him into the world to save man from the bondage of sin. His aim was to perform the will of God (John 6:38).

Atoning sacrifice

He was crucified by the Roman soldiers and His blood bought man from the custody of Satan. Through His crucifixion, man was set free from the bondage of sin.

His resurrection

He promised His disciples that He would die and rise from the dead on the third day of His burial. According to His promise He really resurrected on the third day. When He rose from the dead, He first revealed Himself to Mary Magdalene. His resurrection implies that He had triumphed over death, hell and Satan. All power had been given to Him both in Heaven and on earth.

His promise

Before He ascended into Heaven, He promised His disciples that He would come back again. This means Heaven is the original home of Jesus Christ and His followers are strangers on earth.

The temple

According to Matthew 12:6 Jesus says He is greater than the temple (John 2:19-21). In the ancient days the Jews believed that the temple was the dwelling place of God (1Kings 8:10; Exodus 40:35). In the first century it was only God who was greater than the temple.

Forgiveness of sin

During Jesus' earthly ministry, He forgave the sins of men. The way He offered forgiveness of sin shew that He was God (Mark 2:5-7).

"Just passing by"

Jesus was passing by His disciples when He walked on water (Mark 6:48-49). This refers to Old Testament incident where God passed by Moses and Elijah (Exodus 33:19-22, 34:6).

The name of Jesus

Jesus humbled Himself and suffered unto death but God had given Him a name that was above all names (Philippians 2:6-11; Isaiah 45:23).

Miracles of Jesus Christ

Turned water into wine

In a wedding ceremony Jesus turned water into wine. This happened at Cana in Galilee (John 2:1-11).

Nobleman's son

He went to Cana again and healed a nobleman's son who was sick of fever at Capernaum.

Cast out demon

There was a man in their synagogue possessed with unclean spirit. When this man met Jesus, he received deliverance (Mark 1:23-28)

Peter's mother-in-law

Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law who was sick of fever. He touched her while she was lying on bed.

Jesus healed a leper

A man who was ill with leprosy came to Jesus and pleaded to Him to heal him. He touched him and he was healed (Mark 1:40-45).

The ruler's daughter

The ruler of a synagogue approached Jesus and said to Him that her daughter was dead. He asked Him to come to house and heal her. He and His disciples went to his house and heal her (Matthew 2:18-26).

A woman

A woman who had an issue of blood for twelve years came and touched the harm of Jesus' garment and she received her healing instantly.

Demonic confession

According to the gospel of Mark demons confess that Jesus is the son of God. When the demons saw Him, they knew who He was and was afraid of Him. They were aware that He was superior to them and obeyed His order. He is powerful than Satan and his angels. Satan who is the head of the demons confessed that Jesus was the son of God. This occurred when Satan tempted Jesus. While He was praying and fasting for forty days and forty nights.

The Trinity confirming the divinity of Jesus

Before Jesus began His earthly ministry, He travelled from Galilee to Al-Maghtas in Jordan. John the Baptist was there preaching and baptizing people. This happened in the first century. Jesus consulted John the Baptist and told John to baptize Him. He refused to baptize Him because he thought it was Jesus who should have baptized him. Jesus explained to him that he ought to baptize Him in order to fulfill righteousness (Matthew 3:44-46). During Jesus' baptism, the Trinity manifested themselves and confirmed the divinity of Jesus Christ. Jesus is the second person of the Trinity and went to John the Baptist to baptize Him. Through this, He was telling the world that He

was the Lamb of God who had come to deliver man from the bondage of sin. The Holy Spirit came upon Jesus in a form of a dove. The action of the Holy Spirit shews that Heaven was the original hometown of Jesus. The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity. When John the Baptist was baptizing Jesus, the first person of the Trinity spoke to confirm that Jesus was His son.

Methodology

Introduction

This chapter deals with research design, research strategy, research approach, the population of the study the source and acquisition of data.

The research design that was used to write this paper was explanatory research design. Through this, the study examined and explained the means of achieving the objectives of the study. the research strategy used was cross sectional survey where a number of published articles were chosen as a case study. the research approach adopted was qualitative research approach because the study investigated into things that made Jesus to be God.

Sampling design

Articles published at various websites and articles published by journals were considered in this study.

Population

The population of the study was ten authors.

Method of data collection

The method used for collecting data to write this paper was primary source.

Summary of findings, Conclusion and Recommendations

Summary of findings

The study found out that Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit, possessed the essential nature of God, did miracles that only God could do, empirical evidence which demonstrated that Jesus was God, demons confessed that He was God, Jesus Himself said He was God, God and the Holy Spirit confirmed that Jesus was God.

Conclusion

The study discovered that Jesus Christ had the same essential nature as God, His utterances, works and actions portrayed that He was co-equal to God, demons confessed that He was the son of God, God and the Holy Spirit confirmed His deity when the Baptist was baptizing Jesus

Christ. Due to the above mentioned proof, the study concluded that Jesus Christ was God.

Recommendations

Teachings

Pastors of the various churches should take time and teach their congregation to know and understand that Jesus is co-equal to God in terms of nature and ministry. The teachings should not topical teachings but they should adopt expository method of teaching. Through expository, they will be able to explain the Biblical terms in the passage under study. This will broaden the knowledge of the members of the congregation to understand who Jesus is and to value Him as God.

Preaching

Pastors of the various churches must preach about the deity of Jesus Christ to their congregation to know and understand that He is co-equal to God.

Books

The authors of the Christian literature books ought to write books about the deity of Jesus Christ to educate the Christian community to know and understand that Jesus Christ is co-equal to God.

Acknowledgement

I thank the Almighty God for giving me revelation to write this paper. Thanks are due to the authors of the various papers that I consulted and the scholars who encouraged me

REFERENCE

Virgin birth of Jesus, (n.d),
<https://en.m.wikipedia.org>

Chilton, B. (2017, December 5) "Ten divine attributes of the Messiah",
bellatorchrist.com

Miracles of Jesus,(n.d),
<https://en.m.wikipedia>

The first gospel of infancy of Jesus,
(n.d),www.pseudeprapragha.com



Author's profile

Dr. Isaac K. Damoah is a Theologian and co-author to International Journal Of

to write this paper. To you all, I say God should prolong your days on the earth.

Charles, M.(2018, March 14),"Four proofs advanced by Jesus to show His deity",www.blog.adv.org

Benson,E.T.(1979, December 9),"gospel classics", <https://www.churchofjesuschrist>

What miracles did Jesus perform?(n.d),
<https://www.christianity.com>

Olsen, G.(n.d)",The baptism of Jesus Christ",
<https://www.churchofjesuschrist>

Swafford, A (2019,January 12),"The divinity of Jesus explained"
<https://media.ascensionpress.com>

Scientific Research and Engineering Development. He holds Ph.D in Christian Education, Masters in Divinity, Bachelor Of Arts Degree in Theology and Diploma in Biblical Studies.