



## LESSON FOUR:

# ONE GOD, THREE PARTS: SON (PART 2)

### FACILITATOR NOTE

This is a foundational lesson, which continues our discussion of the Trinity (one God in three parts). In this lesson, we conclude our two-part discussion of God the Son, manifested in the person of Jesus Christ. These notes are a suggested guide to keep the discussion on course. Feel free to adapt either in advance or in class if you think that it would be fruitful to the discussion. Your feedback is welcomed.

### PRAYER

Spend time in prayer with the class. Allow for requests and center your prayer on this lesson.

### FOCUS

Most people will say they believe in God and most even believe that Jesus was a true historical figure, a good man who preached and practiced that we should love one another and live at peace with everyone. But accepting Jesus as God in the flesh is something that is too difficult for many to embrace. How could God become a man, and why would He do that? Yet, that Jesus is the Son of God in human form is a fundamental tenet upon which our faith/salvation is based, so it is important that we are able to clearly articulate this to others.

**Memory Verse:** For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>a</sup>that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)

- We believe in *God the Son*, Jesus Christ, who is God's Son and our Savior (John 1:14; 1 John 4:9; John 3:16; 2 Peter 3:18) and who:
  - Died, was buried, and rose from the grave on the third day following His death (Luke 23:44-24:8; John 20:24-29; 1 Corinthians 15:3-8)
  - Ascended into Heaven and now sits at the right hand of God the Father (Luke 22:69; Acts 1:1-9; Colossians 3:1)
  - Promised to return to earth to judge all people, both living and dead (Matthew 24:36-42; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:10-11; 10:39-42; 1 Peter 4:5)



## LESSON

### I. GOD THE SON DIED WAS BURIED AND ROSE FROM THE GRAVE ON THE THIRD DAY FOLLOWING HIS DEATH

#### A. The death, burial and resurrection of Jesus was the focus of the apostle's testimony to others

1. The apostle Paul says that these events were of first importance, i.e., above anything else  
*(1 Corinthians 15:3-4) For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup>that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures*
2. In the book of Acts, the apostles' chief message was clearly the death burial and resurrection of Jesus. This can be seen easily in the following passages:
  - a) Acts 2:22-36 – Peter's first sermon at Pentecost
  - b) Acts 3:12-26 – Peter's second address, to the Jews at Solomon's Portico
  - c) Acts 4:1-2; 8-22 – Peter and the apostles before the Council, defending their preaching of Jesus as the resurrected Messiah
  - d) Acts 5:27-32 – Peter and the apostles again before the Council, again defending their preaching of the Jesus as the resurrected Messiah, in spite of the Council's threats against them
  - e) Acts 10:34-48 – Peter preaching to Cornelius and his fellow Gentile guests
  - f) Acts 13:16-41 – Paul (with Barnabas) preaching to the Jews in Antioch
  - g) Acts 17:1-3 – Paul (with Silas) preaching in Thessalonica
  - h) Acts 17:22-33 – Paul addresses Athenians at the Areopagus
3. In particular, the resurrection, of Jesus is the linchpin of Christianity; if it did not happen, our faith is completely useless.  
*(1 Corinthians 15:12-19) But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? <sup>13</sup>If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. <sup>14</sup>And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. <sup>15</sup>More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. <sup>16</sup>For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. <sup>17</sup>And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup>Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. <sup>19</sup>If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.*

**Note:** the linchpin of Christianity is not some doctrine or principle, but rather, an actual historical event – the bodily resurrection of Jesus



**B. Jesus' death, burial and resurrection were events for which we have eyewitness accounts**

1. Luke 23:44-24:8 – Luke provides a detailed account of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus which includes the following:
  - a) Three hours prior to Jesus' last breath, from noon to 3pm, darkness had come over the entire land.
    - (1) This was some kind of supernatural event as Passover occurred during a full moon and solar eclipses occur only during a new moon – perhaps a sign of God's judgment/wrath.
    - (2) Per Josephus (Antiquities 14.65), the daily evening sacrifice that the Jews offered occurred at the ninth hour, the time when Jesus breathed his last. (From the sixth to the ninth hour is equivalent to the span, noon to 3pm.)
  - b) At the time of Jesus' death, the curtain of the temple, i.e., the curtain leading from the Holy Place into the Most Holy Place, was torn in two, signifying that forgiveness of sin and direct access to God was now procured/disclosed. (See Hebrews 9:1-28)
  - c) Many people were present at the cross to witness the event, including soldiers, many who were not his followers, and his disciples, many of whom were women (see vv35-36, vv47-49)
  - d) Joseph of Arimathea, a wealthy member of the Jewish Council and a follower of Jesus, asked Pilate for (and was granted) the body of Jesus so that he could take care of the burial (fulfilling Isaiah 53:9), with help of several women
  - e) Jesus body was laid in the expensive tomb that Joseph purchased
  - f) Early in the morning on the day after the Sabbath, women went to Jesus' tomb but found its large sealing stone rolled away
  - g) The women were greeted by two angelic beings (men with clothes that gleamed like lightning) who suddenly appeared beside them
  - h) The angels told the women that Jesus was not dead but alive, and reminded the women that Jesus himself had said he would be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified, and on the third day, be raised again.
2. John 20:24-29 – John describes the encounter that Thomas, Jesus' disciple has with the resurrected Jesus
  - a) Jesus, after his resurrection, had appeared already once to his disciples (see John 20:19-23), but Thomas wasn't present. When the disciples found Thomas and told him Jesus was raised, he refused to believe it.
  - b) A week later, Jesus again appeared miraculously before his disciples, though they were inside a house behind locked doors. Jesus was not a spirit/ghost; he allowed Thomas to touch him so that Thomas could feel



his pierced hands and side, and stop doubting that Jesus was indeed alive.

c) Thomas declares Jesus to be his Lord AND God.

3. 1 Corinthians 15:3-8 – Paul declares that the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus are the linchpin of our faith, as already discussed above. He also indicates that the resurrected Jesus appeared to many people, including more than 500 people/witnesses on a single occasion

*For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance<sup>[a]</sup>: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup> and that he appeared to Cephas,<sup>[b]</sup> and then to the Twelve. <sup>6</sup> After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup> Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, <sup>8</sup> and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.*

**C. Jesus' death, burial and resurrection were foretold hundred of years beforehand by the OT prophets**

1. Psalm 22 provides a description of the crucifixion. Note especially v1, vv6-8, vv12-18
2. Isaiah 52:13-15 foretells the graphic torture/suffering endured by the Messiah (discussed in the previous lesson, One God, Three Parts: Son – Part 1)
3. Isaiah 53 provides a description of events regarding the life and suffering of the Messiah, which were clearly fulfilled by Jesus. Note especially vv5-12 which are fulfilled in the last few days before his death and resurrection:

<sup>5</sup>*But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.*

<sup>6</sup>*We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

<sup>7</sup>*He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.*

<sup>8</sup>*By oppression and judgment he was taken away. Yet who of his generation protested? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was punished.*

<sup>9</sup>*He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.*

<sup>10</sup>*Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand.*

<sup>11</sup>*After he has suffered, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities.*



*<sup>12</sup>Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.*

4. Psalm 16:9-11 foretells the bodily resurrection of the Messiah (quoted by Peter in Acts 2:26-28)

*<sup>9</sup>Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;*

*my body also will rest secure,*

*<sup>10</sup>because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, nor will you let your faithful one see decay.*

*<sup>11</sup>You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.*

5. Resurrection on the third day is foreshadowed, in somewhat veiled format, by Jonah's three days and nights in the belly of the fish (see Jonah 1:7, Matthew 12:40)

## **II. GOD THE SON ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN AND NOW SITS AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD THE FATHER**

### **A. Jesus' Ascension**

1. Luke provides in his gospel, a short description of Jesus' ascension into Heaven, and some more details about the ascension in his follow-on work, the Book of Acts
- a) (Luke 24:50-53) *When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. <sup>51</sup>While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. <sup>52</sup>Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. <sup>53</sup>And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.*
- b) (Acts 1:6-9) *Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup>He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." <sup>9</sup>After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. <sup>10</sup>They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. <sup>11</sup>"Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."*



2. The Ascension is foretold in veiled form in these OT passages (per some, but not all, scholars):
  - a) Verse 11 of Psalm 16 (see 16:9-11 above). Being at the right-hand of God, in his presence, following the promise of not being abandoned to decay in the grave, implies an ascension
  - b) Psalm 68:18 – Paul quotes this in Ephesians 4:7-13, adapting it somewhat for his own purposes, and indicates that it speaks of Christ:  
*When you ascended on high, you took many captives; you received gifts from people, even from the rebellious – that you, LORD God, might dwell there.*

**B. Jesus' is now at the right hand of God**

1. Jesus, at his trial before the Jewish priests, answered in no uncertain terms that he is the Messiah of the well-known Psalm 110 (and the 'son of man' of Dan 7) – an answer for which he was charged with blasphemy:
  - a) (Matt 26:62-64) *Then the high priest stood up and said to Jesus, "Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?"<sup>63</sup>But Jesus remained silent. The high priest said to him, "I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God."<sup>64</sup>"You have said so," Jesus replied. "But I say to all of you: From now on you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."* (see also Luke 22:66-71)
  - b) (Psalm 110:1) *The LORD says to my lord: "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet."*
2. (Colossians 3:1) *Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.*
3. (Hebrews 1:3) *The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.*

### **III. GOD THE SON PROMISED TO RETURN TO EARTH TO JUDGE ALL PEOPLE BOTH LIVING AND DEAD**

**A. Jesus' Second Advent and the Judgment**

1. Jesus clearly taught that at some future date, at a time that no one would expect, he (as the Son of Man) would return suddenly to the earth.
  - a) (Matthew 24:36-42) *"But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father."<sup>37</sup> As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.<sup>38</sup> For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark;<sup>39</sup> and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.<sup>40</sup> Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left.<sup>41</sup> Two women will be grinding with*



a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left. <sup>42</sup> "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. <sup>43</sup> But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup> So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

- b) (Acts 1:10-11) They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. <sup>11</sup> "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."
- c) (Matthew 24:27) For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.
- d) (Luke 17:34-35) I tell you, on that night two people will be in one bed; one will be taken and the other left. <sup>35</sup> Two women will be grinding grain together; one will be taken and the other left."

(1) It's a worldwide event, nighttime in one place (two people are in bed), daytime in another (people/women grind grain during the day)

2. Jesus taught that upon his return, he (as the Son of Man) would effect judgment on all people, the living and the dead

- a) (Matthew 25:31-46) "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup> He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. <sup>34</sup> Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. <sup>35</sup> For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, <sup>36</sup> I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

<sup>37</sup> "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?' <sup>38</sup> When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? <sup>39</sup> When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' <sup>40</sup> "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'



*<sup>41</sup> "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. <sup>42</sup> For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, <sup>43</sup> I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'*

*<sup>41</sup> "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. <sup>42</sup> For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, <sup>43</sup> I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'*

*<sup>44</sup> "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?' <sup>45</sup> "He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.' <sup>46</sup> "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."*

b) (Acts 10:39-42) *"We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, <sup>40</sup> but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. <sup>41</sup> He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup> He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. [Peter's discussion with Cornelius and his friends.]*

3. Jesus was given the authority to judge all people by God the Father  
a) (John 5:21-27) *"For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it. <sup>22</sup> Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, <sup>23</sup> that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him. <sup>24</sup> "Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life. <sup>25</sup> Very truly I tell you, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live. <sup>26</sup> For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. <sup>27</sup> And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man.*

## **B. OT Prophecies concerning Messiah's Second Advent and Judgment**

1. There are prophecies in the OT that many (but not all) scholars believe apply to the Messiah's second Advent and the final Judgment on all mankind. Some of these passages are presented below.
2. (Zechariah 14:3-9) *Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations, as he fights on a day of battle. <sup>4</sup> On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east*



of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south. <sup>5</sup> You will flee by my mountain valley, for it will extend to Azel. You will flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the LORD my God will come, and all the holy ones with him.

<sup>6</sup> On that day there will be neither sunlight nor cold, frosty darkness. <sup>7</sup> It will be a unique day—a day known only to the LORD—with no distinction between day and night. When evening comes, there will be light.

<sup>8</sup> On that day living water will flow out from Jerusalem, half of it east to the Dead Sea and half of it west to the Mediterranean Sea, in summer and in winter. <sup>9</sup> The LORD will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one LORD, and his name the only name.

3. (Daniel 7:13-14) *"In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. <sup>14</sup> He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed. [This passage is thought by some to be a generic, symbolic reference to Jesus being given authority over all people, and not to the specific event known as the Second Coming.]*
4. (Daniel 12:1-4) *"At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people—everyone whose name is found written in the book—will be delivered. <sup>2</sup> Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. <sup>3</sup> Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever. <sup>4</sup> But you, Daniel, roll up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end. Many will go here and there to increase knowledge."*
  - a) Note that Dan 12:9 and 12:13 suggest that the span of time in view is all of history and that the resurrection in 12:2 is the final bodily resurrection at Judgment (when Daniel himself will also be raised).
5. (Ecclesiastes 3:17) *I said to myself, "God will bring into judgment both the righteous and the wicked, for there will be a time for every activity, a time to judge every deed."*
6. (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14) *Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind. <sup>14</sup> For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.*
7. (Isaiah 11:1-5) *A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him – the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and*



*fear of the LORD—<sup>3</sup> and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears;<sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.<sup>5</sup> Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist.*

## REFLECTION

- If I could prove to you that Jesus did not rise from the dead, would you change the way you live?
- Why has God the Father appointed Jesus (rather than himself) as the Judge of all mankind?
- What's our relationship with God the Son?
  - Christ the redeemer (Gal 4:4-6)
  - Christ the Lord (Philippians 2:9-1)
- Philippians 2:5-11 suggests that Jesus gave up some aspects of his deity for a time to become human. Following his resurrection and ascension, did he regain what he set aside or did he give up something permanently to save us? Consider 1 Corinthians 15:20-28.

## PRAYER

**NEXT WEEK: ONE GOD, THREE PARTS: God the Spirit (Part 1)**