



REASONING FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Weekly Bible Study

I. Jesus' Claims about Himself Indicated He Was Either Insane or He Was God in the Flesh

What would people think if I told them that I existed before someone who lived thousands of years ago? They would conclude I was out of my mind. But if I did what no one before me could do, such as take five little loaves of bread and two fishes and miraculously multiply them (Jn 6:1-15), they would have second thoughts about the genuineness of my verbal claims.

The reason why the miracle of the feeding of the 5,000 is recorded by all four evangelists (Mt 14:13-21; Mk 6:30-44; Lk 9:10-17; Jn 6:1-15) was so that there would not be the slightest doubt about so many having their hunger satisfied. Jesus' miracles in the New Testament are called signs, *σημεία*. They showed who He was (See Jn 2:11,18,23; 3:2; 4:54; 6:2,14,26,30; 7:31; 9:16; 10:41; 11:47; 12:18,37; 20:30, etc.).

His miracles were visible and unmistakable. They were in the realm of the physical: calming storms, healing of real, physical diseases, feeding with material food which could satisfy thousands, raising of the dead, etc. The physical miracles of Jesus were meant to make believable His revelation about the immaterial spiritual realities not verifiable by human personalities in their present constitutional makeup.

II. Only Jesus Claimed Spiritual Eternal Deity. He was not this earth's product as is every other human being.

In the beginning was the Word (Jn 1:1). The word *lógos* in Greek is to be distinguished from material substances. It means intelligence from which our English word logic is derived. He was the immaterial intelligence which gave birth to everything there is (Jn 1:2,3).

Jesus defined God's essence as "spirit" (Jn 4:24). He is not material in His eternal substance. This eternal Word "became flesh" (Jn 1:14). He became flesh to show us through material demonstrations, signs, that

we should believe everything He said about the reality of the spiritual world.

Jesus' one absolute claim "*Before Abraham was, I am*" (Jn 8:58). He does not reveal what He is but simply that He is--He has always been--that He is not a creature of time in His flesh, God-Man, but He always was. He distinguished Himself as being from above whereas all of us are of this world. While He was on earth as the God-Man (Col 2:9), He was at the same time in Heaven as pure Spirit, God, the Creator and sustainer of all things (Jn 3:13; Col 1:17).

III. Jesus Claimed to Meet Our Every Need

"I am the bread of life" (Jn 6:35). This is first physical life. He gives it to all, believers and unbelievers. He also gives spiritual life. But this is not automatically given to all, only to those who seek it by faith (Jn 1:12; 3:36, 40). This spiritual life is designated as eternal life which means the life which characterizes God (Jn 3:15,16; 5:24; 6:40,47, etc.). He who does not eat of this Bread of Life is eternally lost (Jn 3:16,18). He who eats of this Bread has eternal life.

Flesh and blood designates Christ's work while He was the God-Man on earth. It was necessary for Him to come and die so we could live (Jn 6:54). The Greek verb for "eateth" is the present participle *trôgœn* which means continuously eating.

What else is Jesus to man?

1. The light of the world (Jn 8:12).
2. The door (Jn 10:7,9).
3. The good shepherd (Jn 10:11,14).
4. The resurrection and the life. This is our life in the resurrection body which will be different than our spiritual life in the flesh.
5. The way, the truth and the life (Jn 14:6).
6. The true vine--the connecting link between God the Father and us, even as the trunk connects the root and the branches (Jn 15:5)