

God Told Us Who Jesus Is — Repeatedly

In Luke 2:8-12, not only did the angel tell the shepherds who it was that had been born, but also how they could find and identify Him. I can imagine that Jesus might not have been the only baby born that night, but the angel was quite specific: “[Y]ou will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger” (v. 12). There would be no way the shepherds wouldn’t know whether or not they’d found the baby for whom they would be looking.

This was not nearly the only time God would identify His Son so people could be confident of who He was and is. Consider the following:

1. After Jesus was baptized by John, He “came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and settling on Him, and behold, a voice from the heavens said, “This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased” (Matt. 3:16-17).
2. In John 5:39-40, Jesus challenged the Jews who opposed Him, saying, “You examine the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is those very Scriptures that testify about Me; and yet you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life.” Also, in John 14:6 Jesus declared, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.” If Jesus was wrong, He either was lying or was mistaken, but He certainly wouldn’t have been a great teacher. If He was correct, then not only was He a great teacher but also God in the flesh and the only way to God. The point here is that with His own words, Jesus identified Himself as God.
3. When Jesus was transfigured in the presence of Peter, James, and John, He appeared “the appearance of His face became different, and His clothing became white and gleaming. And behold, two men were talking with Him; and they were Moses and Elijah” (Luke 9:29-30). The disciples were obviously overcome, and Peter suggested building “three tabernacles,” one apiece. Peter hadn’t known what to say, and the disciples grew afraid. At that point “a cloud formed, overshadowing them, and a voice came out of the cloud: “This is My beloved Son; listen to Him!” And suddenly they looked around and saw no one with them anymore, except Jesus alone” (Mark 9:7-8).
4. In His sermon at Pentecost, Peter declared, “Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified” (Acts 2:36).
5. After meeting Jesus on the road to Damascus and becoming His follower, Saul “immediately...began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, ‘He is the Son of God.’ All those hearing him continued to be amazed, and were saying, ‘Is this not the one who in Jerusalem destroyed those who called on this name, and had come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?’ But Saul kept increasing in strength and confounding Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that this Jesus is the Christ” (Acts 9:20-22).
6. The apostle John would identify Jesus clearly at the very beginning of his first epistle, in what we now know as 1 John 1. John wrote in part, “What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life— and the life was revealed, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was revealed to us— what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete.” (vv. 1-4).

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