WHO IS THIS JESUS? Lesson One - THE PRE-INCARNATE
(The WORD) - JESUS IS GOD! (DEITY) - John 1:1

Intro:
A. One of the most important aspects of His (Jesus’) identity is that He is God.
   1. Interestingly, it’s the most difficult to grasp and explain, since we’ve never possessed the
      attributes of deity.
   2. So what does this mean?
B. 2 Pet. 2:1; Jude 3-4 - If we are to accept Jude’s challenge to “contend earnestly for the faith,”
   we must vigorously oppose those who attempt to undermine the very cornerstone of the faith.
   1. 2 Peter 2:1 (NKJV) - 1 But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will
      be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the
      Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction.
   2. Jude 3-4 (NKJV) - 3 Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common
      salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith
      which was once for all delivered to the saints. 4 For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who
      long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God
      into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.
C. Jehovah’s Witnesses are busy at work in this community and throughout the world spreading their
   propaganda that eats like gangrene at the very heart of the religion of Christ.
   1. One such example is their flat denial of the Deity of Christ.
   2. Please notice the following from their own books:
      a. “At the time of his beginning of life he was created by the everlasting God, Jehovah, without
         the aid of instrumentality of any mother. In other words, he was the first and direct creation
         of Jehovah God.” (The Kingdom is at Hand, p. 46).
      b. “As chief of the angels and next to the Father, he (Christ) was known as the Archangel
         (highest angel or messenger), whose name, Michael, signifies, ‘Who as God’ or God’s
      c. “...The true Scriptures speak of God’s Son, the Word, as ‘a god’. He is a ‘mighty God’, but
         47).
      d. “...He was the first of Jehovah God’s creations.” (Let God Be True, p. 32).
D. With these bold assertions they deny the deity of Christ, demoting Him to an angel.
   1. In so doing, they manifest the Spirit of the anti-Christ and show themselves to be false-witnesses.
   2. What Peter and Jude said is true of them, “...Even denying the Lord who bought them.” (2 Peter
      2:1).
E. The inspired Word of God irrefutably affirms the deity of Jesus Christ—that He is co-existent, co-
   eternal, and of one nature with the Father.
   1. The Pre-Incarnate - John 1:1-5 cf Phil 2:6; Heb 1:3; 1 John 1:2
      a. John 1:1 (NKJV) - 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the
         Word was God.
      b. Hebrews 1:3 (NKJV) - 3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His
         person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged
         our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,
      c. 1 John 1:2 (NKJV) - 2 the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and
         declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us—

2. Took On a **BODY of FLESH** (known as Jesus) in Incarnation - John 1:14 - cf Phil 2:7; Heb 2:14, 17; 10:5
   a. **John 1:14** (NKJV) - 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.
   b. **Hebrews 2:14** (NKJV) - 14 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,
   c. **Hebrews 2:17** (NKJV) - 17 Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.
   d. **Hebrews 10:5** (NKJV) - 5 Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: “Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me.

3. And is LORD and CHRIST in His Exalted State
   F. **BASIC FACTS** - It must be noted that the Three Persons of the Godhead Are Distinct in FUNCTION:
   1. The **Father not subject to the Son** – 1 Cor. 15:27 (NKJV) ---- 27 For “He has put all things under His feet.” But when He says “all things are put under Him,” it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted.
   2. The **Son did not speak of Himself** – John 12:49 (NKJV) ---- 49 For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak.
   3. The **Son will send the Holy Spirit from the Father** John 15:26 (NKJV) - 26 “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.
   4. The **Holy Spirit would not speak of Himself**– John 16:13 (NKJV) - 13 However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.
      a. **John 14:26** (NKJV) - 26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.
      b. **John 16:13-15** (NKJV) - 13 However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. 14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. 15 All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.

   G. The fact that many deceivers have gone out into the World and led many astray is not new news or fake news - it is a fact. (See Bulletin this week) cf - 2 John 1:7 and this was the case in John’s writing of the Gospel and all 3 Epistles in AD 88.

   H. Years ago I read an excellent article based on John 20:24-29 - in which the author used the outstretched hands of Jesus to Thomas as an Acrostic for the Evidence of Jesus’ Deity.
   1. **Honor:** Jesus shares the honors due to God, (Deity).
   2. **Attributes:** Jesus shares the attributes of God.
   3. **Names:** Jesus shares the names / descriptions of God.
   4. **Deeds:** Jesus shares in the deeds that God does.
   5. **Seat:** Jesus shares the right hand seat of God's throne.
   I. It is on this basis that I want to pursue our study on Getting to know Jesus in His **PRE-INCARNATE state** - as **DEITY**.
II. THE HONOR SHARED by JESUS with DEITY - cf Matthew 4:10 - “WORSHIP”

A. The Restrictions of the Law - Exodus 20:2-6 (NKJV) - 2 “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. 3 “You shall have no other gods before Me. 4 “You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; 5 you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, 6 but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

1. The Statement of Jesus - Matthew 4:10 (NKJV) - 10 Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.’”

2. The Reaction of Peter, Barnabas & Paul - Acts 10:25; 14:8-18
   a. Acts 10:25 (NKJV) - 25 As Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshiped him.
   b. Acts 14:8-18 (NKJV) - 8 And in Lystra a certain man without strength in his feet was sitting, a cripple from his mother’s womb, who had never walked. 9 This man heard Paul speaking. Paul, observing him intently and seeing that he had faith to be healed, 10 said with a loud voice, “Stand up straight on your feet!” And he leaped and walked. 11 Now when the people saw what Paul had done, they raised their voices, saying in the Lycaonian language, “The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!” 12 And Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. 13 Then the priest of Zeus, whose temple was in front of their city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates, intending to sacrifice with the multitudes. 14 But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard this, they tore their clothes and ran in among the multitude, crying out 15 and saying, “Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men with the same nature as you, and preach to you that you should turn from these useless things to the living God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all things that are in them, 16 who in bygone generations allowed all nations to walk in their own ways. 17 Nevertheless He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.” 18 And with these sayings they could scarcely restrain the multitudes from sacrificing to them.

3. Reaction of angel - Rev 22:8,9 (NKJV) - 8 Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things. 9 Then he said to me, “See that you do not do that. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God.”

B. The HONOR - I want to stress here is that GOD ALONE IS TO BE WORSHIPED.....

1. Matthew 8:2,3 (NKJV) - 2 And behold, a leper came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean." 3 Then Jesus put out His hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing; be cleansed." Immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

2. Matthew 9:18 (NKJV) - While He spoke these things to them, behold, a ruler came and worshiped Him, saying, "My daughter has just died, but come and lay Your hand on her and she will live."

3. John 9:35-38 (NKJV) - 35 Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, "Do you believe in the Son of God?" 36 He answered and said, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?" 37 And Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you." 38 Then he said, "Lord, I believe!" And he worshiped Him.

4. Matthew 14:32,33 (NKJV) - 32 And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. 33 Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God."

5. Matthew 28:9 (NKJV) - And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, "Rejoice!" So they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him.
6. **Matthew 28:16,17** (NKJV) - 16 Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. 17 When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted.

7. **Luke 24:51-52** (NKJV) - 51 Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven. 52 And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy.

8. **John 5:22-23** (NKJV) - 22 For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, 23 that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.

9. And therefore - when confronted with the evidence of the resurrection Thomas said - **John 20:28,29** (NKJV) 28 And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" 29 Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

10. **Hebrews 1:6** (NKJV) - But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: "Let all the angels of God worship Him."

11. **Revelation 1:13-18**
   a. Quoting From….. **Deut 32:43 LXX or Psalm 97:7** ---- Both are descriptions of YHWH
   C. Jesus no doubt accepted Worship during His public ministry and never condemned men for doing that.

   1. Either He is Deity (thus worthy of Worship and Adoration) or a Deluded Egotistic individual that enjoyed the spotlight and adoration of men over the praise of God.
   2. We have seen men in our lifetime claim deity and being Jesus - one such man sat in my office in Newton and claimed such.

III. **A SECOND OBSERVATION to CONSIDER ARE THE ATTRIBUTES SHARED with DEITY:**

A. **Phil 2:5-7** (NKJV) - 5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.

B. He was (is) omniscient (all-knowing) - **John 4:25, 26, 29; 6:64; 13:11; 19:28; 21:17**

1. **John 4:25** (NKJV) - 25 The woman said to Him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When He comes, He will tell us all things.” 26 Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am He.”

   a. **John 4:29** (NKJV) - 29 “Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?”

   b. **John 6:64** (NKJV) - 64 But there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him.

   c. **John 13:11** (NKJV) - 11 For He knew who would betray Him; therefore He said, “You are not all clean.”

   d. **John 19:28** (NKJV) - 28 After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, “I thirst!”
e. John 21:17 (NKJV) - 17 He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?” Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, “Do you love Me?” And he said to Him, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.” Jesus said to him, “Feed My sheep.

   a. Matthew 9:4 (NKJV) - 4 But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, “Why do you think evil in your hearts?
   b. Matthew 12:25 (NKJV) - 25 But Jesus knew their thoughts, and said to them: “Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand.
   c. Matthew 22:18 (NKJV) - 18 But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, “Why do you test Me, you hypocrites?
   d. Mark 2:8 (NKJV) - 8 But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, “Why do you reason about these things in your hearts?
   e. Mark 12:15 (NKJV) - 15 Shall we pay, or shall we not pay?” But He, knowing their hypocrisy, said to them, “Why do you test Me? Bring Me a denarius that I may see it.”
   f. Luke 5:22 (NKJV) - 22 But when Jesus perceived their thoughts, He answered and said to them, “Why are you reasoning in your hearts?
   g. Luke 6:8 (NKJV) - 8 But He knew their thoughts, and said to the man who had the withered hand, “Arise and stand here.” And he arose and stood.
   h. Luke 9:47 (NKJV) - 47 And Jesus, perceiving the thought of their heart, took a little child and set him by Him,
   i. Luke 11:17 (NKJV) - 17 But He, knowing their thoughts, said to them: “Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and a house divided against a house falls.
   j. John 2:24 (NKJV) - 24 But Jesus did not commit Himself to them, because He knew all men, 25 and had no need that anyone should testify of man, for He knew what was in man.
   k. John 5:42 (NKJV) - 42 But I know you, that you do not have the love of God in you.
   l. John 6:6 (NKJV) - 6 But this He said to test him, for He Himself knew what He would do.
   m. John 16:19 (NKJV) - 19 Now Jesus knew that they desired to ask Him, and He said to them, “Are you inquiring among yourselves about what I said, ‘A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me’?”
   n. John 16:30 (NKJV) - 30 Now we are sure that You know all things, and have no need that anyone should question You. By this we believe that You came forth from God.”
   o. Acts 1:24 (NKJV) - 24 And they prayed and said, “You, O Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which of these two You have chosen

3. He even foretold His own death by crucifixion. - Matthew 16:21; 17:22, 23; 20:18, 19; John 2:19, 21, 22; 12:23, 24, 32-33
   a. Matthew 16:21 (NKJV) - 21 From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.
   b. Matthew 17:22 (NKJV) - 22 Now while they were staying in Galilee, Jesus said to them, “The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men, 23 and they will kill Him, and the third day He will be raised up.” And they were exceedingly sorrowful.
   c. Matthew 20:18 (NKJV) - 18 “Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death, 19 and deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock and to scourge and to crucify. And the third
day He will rise again.”

d. **John 2:19 (NKJV)** - 19 Jesus answered and said to them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”

e. **John 2:21 (NKJV)** - 21 But He was speaking of the temple of His body. 22 Therefore, when He had risen from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this to them; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had said. 23 But Jesus answered them, saying, “The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. 24 Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.

f. **John 12:32-33 (NKJV)** - 32 And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself.” 33 This He said, signifying by what death He would die.

C. **He is omnipresent (everywhere).** - **Matthew 18:20; 28:20; Ephesians 1:23**

1. **Matthew 18:20 (NKJV)** - 20 For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”

2. **Matthew 28:20 (NKJV)** - 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

3. **Ephesians 1:23 (NKJV)** - 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

D. **He is omnipotent (all-powerful).** - **Daniel 7:13, 14; Matthew 28:18; John 3:31, 35; 17:2; 1 Peter 3:22**

1. **Daniel 7:13 (NKJV)** - 13 “I was watching in the night visions, And behold, One like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him. 14 Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom the one Which shall not be destroyed.

2. **Matthew 28:18 (NKJV)** - 18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

3. **John 3:31 (NKJV)** - 31 He who comes from above is above all; he who is of the earth is earthly and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all.

4. **John 3:35 (NKJV)** - 35 The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand.

5. **John 17:2 (NKJV)** - 2 as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him.

6. **1 Peter 3:22 (NKJV)** - 22 who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities having been made subject to Him.

7. **Qualities limited during His earthly ministry** - **John 1:1-3; 14; Phil. 2:5-7; Heb 1:6-10; 2:9-18; 4:15**

   a. **John 1:1-3 (NKJV)** - 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

   b. **John 1:14 (NKJV)** - 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

   c. **Philippians 2:5-7 (NKJV)** - 5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.

   d. **Hebrews 1:6-10 (NKJV)** - 6 But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: “Let all the angels of God worship Him.” 7 And of the angels He says: “Who makes His angels spirits And His ministers a flame of fire.” 8 But to the Son He says: “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom. 9 You
have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions.” 10 And: “You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands.

e. **Hebrews 2:9-18** (NKJV) - 9 But we see Jesus, who was 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. 10 For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. 11 For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, 12 saying: “I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You.” 13 And again: “I will put My trust in Him.” And again: “Here am I and the children whom God has given Me.” 14 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, 15 and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. 16 For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham. 17 Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. 18 For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

f. **Hebrews 4:15** (NKJV) - 15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

E. **The WORD’s PRE-EXISTENCE is confirmed in Scripture beyond a shadow of a doubt - John 6:62** (NKJV) - 62 What then if you should see the Son of Man ascend where He was before?

1. **Genesis 1:26; 3:22; 11:7** ("... us ... our ... our ...")
2. **Micah 5:2** (NKJV) - 2 “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting.”
3. **Philippians 2:5,6** (NKJV) - 5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,

   a. **John 6:32-34** (NKJV) - 32 Then Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. 33 For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” 34 Then they said to Him, “Lord, give us this bread always.”
   b. **John 6:38** (NKJV) - 38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.
   c. **John 6:41** (NKJV) - 41 The Jews then complained about Him, because He said, “I am the bread which came down from heaven.”
   d. **John 6:58** (NKJV) - 58 This is the bread which came down from heaven—not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever.”
   e. **John 6:62** (NKJV) - 62 What then if you should see the Son of Man ascend where He was before?
   f. **John 16:28** (NKJV) - 28 I came forth from the Father and have come into the world. Again, I leave the world and go to the Father.”

5. **Hebrews 2:9,14-18; 10:5-7**
   a. **Hebrews 2:9** (NKJV) - 9 But we see Jesus, who was 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.
b. **Hebrews 2:14-18** (NKJV) - 14 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, 15 and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. 16 For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham. 17 Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. 18 For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

c. **Hebrews 10:5-7** (NKJV) - 5 Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: “Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me. 6 In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure. 7 Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come— In the volume of the book it is written of Me— To do Your will, O God.’ ”

   a. **Revelation 1:8** (NKJV) - 8 “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End,” says the Lord, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”
   b. **Revelation 1:11** (NKJV) - 11 saying, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last,” and, “What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea.”
   c. **Revelation 1:17** (NKJV) - 17 And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, “Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last.
   d. **Revelation 3:14** (NKJV) - 14 “And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, ‘These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God:
   e. **Revelation 22:13** (NKJV) - 13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.”
   f. **Revelation 22:16** (NKJV) - 16 “I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star.”

7. **Questions with regards to David** - **Matthew 22:41-46** (NKJV) - 41 While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, 42 saying, “What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?” They said to Him, “The Son of David.” 43 He said to them, “How then does David in the Spirit call Him ‘Lord,’ saying: 44 ‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool” ’? 45 If David then calls Him ‘Lord,’ how is He his Son?” 46 And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore.
   a. Cf **Rev 5:5** (NKJV) - 5 But one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.”
   b. Cf **Rev 22:16** (NKJV) - 16 “I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star.”

(1) Root - Strong's # <G4491> - Original Word: ῥίζα, rhiza - Usage Notes: is used (a) in the natural sense, Matt. 3:10; Matt. 13:6, 21; Mark 4:6, 17; Mark 11:20; Luke 3:9; Luke 8:13; (b) metaphorically (1) of "cause, origin, source," said of persons, ancestors, Rom. 11:16-18 (twice); of things, evils, 1 Tim. 6:10, RV, of the love of money as a "root" of all "kinds of evil" (marg., "evils;" AV, "evil"); bitterness, Heb. 12:15; (2) of that which springs from a "root," a shoot, said of offspring, Rom. 15:12; Rev. 5:5; Rev. 22:16. - Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old Testament and New Testament Words.

(2) “Son of David” was a title often used when He was ministering on earth (see Matt. 1).
But He is also the Root of David, which means He brought David (and David’s line) into existence. As far as His humanity is concerned, Jesus had His roots in David (Isa. 11:1, 10); but as far as His deity is concerned, Jesus is the Root of David. This speaks, of course, of our Lord’s eternality; He is indeed the “Ancient of Days.” How the Messiah could both be David’s Lord and David’s son was a problem Jesus presented to the Pharisees, and they could not (or would not) answer Him (Matt. 22:41–46). - Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). The Bible exposition commentary. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

8. John 8:56-59 (NKJV) 56 Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad." 57 Then the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?" 58 Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM."

9. John 17:5 (NKJV) And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

IV. In Conclusion:
A. In face of such evidence as we have examined from the inspired testimony, we must conclude that Jesus Christ is co-existent, co-eternal, and of the same nature as the Father.
   1. Jesus could truly say, “He who has seen Me has seen the Father.” John 14:9
   2. And, “I and the Father are one” (John 10:30), because “in Him dwells all the fulness of the Godhead bodily” (Col. 2:9) “who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person” (Heb. 1:3)
B. Shall we believe a lie and be damned, or shall we exclaim with Thomas, “My Lord and my God”?

Additional Information For Continued Study:

II. THE SCRIPTURES ASCRIBE TO JESUS THE PROPER NAMES OF DEITY.
A. “O God” is used in reference to Jesus by the Father Himself in Heb. 1:8
   1. The Father is addressed by the same identical term in Psalm 83:1
B. “Mighty God” is used in reference to Jesus in Messianic prophecy recorded in Isa. 9:6.
   1. This same term is used in reference to the Father in such passages as Jer. 32:18; Isa. 10:21; Gen. 49:24; Psalm 50:1.
C. “The Great God and Savior” is descriptive of Jesus Christ.
   1. According to Granville Sharp’s rule of Greek grammar: “When a Greek KAI (and) connects two nouns of the same case, if the article precedes the first noun and is not repeated before the second noun, the latter noun always refers to the same person that is expressed or described by the first noun.”
      a. For example, “and some pastors and teachers” refers to the same office.
      a. Since there is only one true God, Jesus is of the same nature with the Father. Isa. 43:10-11
D. “Jehovah” is used of Jesus.
   1. Jehovah is the name claimed by God and is not transferable. Psalm 83:17-18; Isa. 42:8.
   2. It is proof of the deity of Christ because He is often included in the name.
      a. Isa. 40:3 - quoted in Mark 1:2-3 and applied to John preparing the way for Jesus.
      b. Jer. 23:5-6 - In this Messianic prophecy it is foretold that the Christ’s name would be “Jehovah, our Righteousness.”
      c. Rev. 22:6 - In verse 6 the Lord God sent His angel. Verse 16 identifies Jesus as being the one who sent the angel. Therefore, Jesus is the Lord God.
(1) Jehovah’s Witnesses say they did the world a great service by restoring the word “Jehovah” in their New World Translation.
(2) They didn’t restore the word “Jehovah.” They only put it in where they wanted it. Please notice Phil. 2:9-10. It is obvious why didn’t they restore the word “Jehovah” in verse 11.

III. THE SCRIPTURES AFFIRM THE ETERNAL EXISTENCE OF CHRIST.

A. Micah 5:2
   1. The Jehovah’s Witnesses translate “everlasting” as “time indefinite.”
   2. However, the same Hebrew word (olam) is used to affirm the eternal existence of the Father in many passages. Gen. 21:33; Psalm 41:13; 90:2; 103:17; Isa. 40:28
   3. What this proves for the Father, also proves for the Son and what it fails to prove for the Son, also fails to prove for the Father.

B. John 8:58
   1. The language that Jesus uses in this passage is absolute nonsense unless it affirms His eternal existence.
      a. “I am” in the Greek is “ego eimi” and it cannot be correctly rendered as anything except “I am.”
   2. Jesus was not saying, “Before Abraham was, “I have been” as in the New World Translation.
      a. They translate “ego eimi” as “I am” in other verses in the same chapter as well as a host of other passages in the N.T. John 8:24,28
   3. Jesus used the same terminology that the Father used to describe Himself in Exodus 3:14 (Septuagint Version) - “ego eimi” - “I am.”
      a. The Jews understood His use of “ego eimi” to be the same as when used by the Father, as evidenced by the fact that they sought to kill him when He said it.

C. Rev. 1:17; 22:13
   1. The Father is described in the same terms in Isa. 41:4; 44:6; 48:12. Do they declare the Father’s eternal existence? If so, they do also of Jesus.

IV. THE SCRIPTURES AFFIRM THAT JESUS IS THE TRUE GOD.

A. John 1:1-3, 14
   1. No statement could more clearly affirm the deity of Jesus. The Word was God, was deity.
   2. Of the things made, nothing came into existence without Him. Did He create Himself?

B. 1 John 5:20
   1. Whoever is the true God is also eternal life.
   2. Therefore, if we identify the one who is eternal life, we also identify the true God.
      a. Who, then, is eternal life? Let John answer. 1 John 1:1-2
   3. Matt. 1:23

V. JESUS ACCEPTED THE REFERENCE TO HIMSELF AS GOD.

A. John 20:27-29
   1. If Jesus is not God, Thomas erred in accepting Him as His Lord and God, for “thou shalt have no other gods before me.” Ex. 20:3
      a. Had he erred, Jesus would have been compelled to correct him.

VI. JESUS ACCEPTED THE WORSHIP DUE ONLY TO GOD.

A. God is the only proper object of worship. Matt. 4:10; Deut. 6:13-15
   1. Nevertheless, this honor is given to the Son as well as to the Father.

B. There are numerous examples of Jesus accepting worship from men. Matt. 8:2; 9:18; 28:9; John 9:34-38
   1. Certainly Jesus accepted the worship of men.
   2. The Father even commanded the angels to worship Him. Heb. 1:6

C. In Acts 10:25-26, we read of Cornelius falling down to worship Peter, but Peter would not accept it.
   1. Why the difference? “The Word was God,” but Peter was only a man.

D. If Jesus were Michael the Archangel, as Witnesses claim, it would be sinful to worship Him. Col.
VII. Jesus Is God (DEITY)

A. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (Jn. 1:1).
   1. In this passage, John isn't setting forth a polytheistic doctrine, that there are multiple Gods which we worship. Rather, he is stating that Jesus is divine, in perfect fellowship with Jehovah, though a separate person.
   2. This is made clear when we understand John's use of the definite lesson, which identifies Jehovah apart from the Word, in John 1:1. (The definite lesson isn't translated in this passage relating to the word "God").
      a. A more literal translation of John 1:1, translating the definite lesson with "God", would read, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with the God. . . ." (Jn. 1:1).
      b. In the latter part of this verse ("and the Word was God"), the absence of the definite lesson before "God", along with the preposition, expresses the deity of Jesus as the Word, though He's a separate person from Jehovah.

B. When we say "Jesus is God," we don't mean that He's the same person as the Father. Rather, we mean He's divine, possessing the same divine attributes of the Father, as one of the three persons of the Godhead.
   1. "For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form" (Col. 2:9, NASB).
   2. " For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily" (Col. 2:9, NKJV).

C. Jesus': Equality With God
   1. When writing to the Philippians, Paul addresses the divine qualities of Jesus, saying, "who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped" (Phil. 2:6).
      a. The word translated "equality" is isos, denoting equality in quantity and quality.
      b. Therefore, Paul tells us the qualities of Jesus were equal to God. In other words, as he stated early in the verse, Jesus was "in the form of God" before His incarnation, namely that He was divine, and a member of the Godhead.

D. Jesus’ Eternal Existence
   1. Isaiah, prophesying of the birth of Jesus lists a number of descriptive names, one of which is "Everlasting Father" (Is. 9:6).
   2. Then Jesus, after his birth, confessed His deity before the Jews with the phrase "I am" (Jn. 8:58), similar to the phrase used by Jehovah in Exodus 3:14, "I AM WHO I AM."
      a. Jesus used the phrase "I Am" to express His divine quality of eternal existence.
   3. In the context He said, "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad" (Jn. 8:56).
      a. The Jews responded and asked, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham" (Jn. 8:57)?
      b. Jesus replied, confessing His eternal nature as deity, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am" (Jn. 8:58).

E. Jesus’ Divine Power
   1. In Isaiah 9:6, not only does the prophet foretell of Jesus' eternal existence, he also tells about His divine power as God.
      a. "For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace" (Is. 9:6).
   2. In the New Testament, Paul says Jesus is "the power of God and the wisdom of God" (1 Cor. 1:24), as the One who has all authority in heaven and on earth (Matt. 28:18).
      a. As a result, "the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God" (1 Cor. 1:18).
VIII. In Conclusion:

A. Therefore, in Revelation Jesus refers to Himself as the Almighty. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, 'who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty" (Rev. 1:8).

B. Other Phrases Expressing Jesus’ Deity

1. Although this lesson isn't exhaustive regarding the divine terms identifying Jesus, three others are noteworthy:
   a. "Our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:13).
   b. "The image of God" (2 Cor. 4:4).