

That is why He stated so emphatically that blasphemy against Himself could be forgiven, but not the blasphemy of attributing His miracles — the works of the Holy Spirit — to satan.

♦ How was He “*made in all things like His brethren*”? He lived in this world in a human body, with the limitations of humans, dependent on God and the Holy Spirit to empower Him to do His work. He was tempted in all things as humans are tempted, yet without sin. He was resurrected as a human, and in His transformed human body, He ascended to Heaven. He is there now, as our Brother and our Mediator — the *Man*, Christ Jesus (1 Timothy 2:5).

♦ While on the earth, sometimes Jesus knew what people were thinking, and sometimes He asked for information. Was He not omniscient, as One of the Godhead? Foregoing use of the powers of omniscience was one of the limitations He accepted in order to exist in all things as His brethren. When He needed to know more than a human would have known, it was by the power of the Holy Spirit that He was shown that information. Otherwise, He *asked*, just as we do.

♦ Was the human fear of suffering and death what caused His agony in the Garden? Was He 100% God and 100% man? His agony was not the fear of the flesh, but the realization that

when He took our sins as His own, His relationship in the Godhead would be forever changed. Every description of Him after His crucifixion is as a brother to man, not as the Word, equal in the Godhead.

♦ What does it mean that after the judgment, He will turn the Kingdom over to God, and will Himself be subject to God? Evidently, just that. Revelation 3:21 promises that whatever Christ inherits for eternity, He will share with His brethren.

These are some of the questions dealt with more fully in the book, **Jesus Christ the Eternal Sacrifice**. You are invited to look into these questions, to focus for awhile on God *Himself*, rather than on “*myself* as I relate to God”. We will send the book to those who request it, anywhere in the world. Call 662-283-1192 or write Choate@WorldEvangelism.org.

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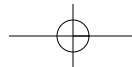
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## Jesus Christ the Eternal Sacrifice





## Jesus Christ the Eternal Sacrifice

Betty Burton Choate

Do you believe that Jesus Christ is the Savior? If you do, let me ask you another question: **What did your salvation cost the Godhead?**

Most people will readily answer, “The death of Christ on the cross.” And that statement is absolutely true. But was that the *entire cost*?

Most studies of Christ cover the prophecies of His coming, His birth, His parables, His miracles, His confrontations with the religious leaders of His day, and His death, burial and resurrection. I urge you, in this study, to ask yourself some questions and then consider vital truths given in Scripture in answer to those questions.

### In the Beginning

John 1:1-3 identifies One of the Godhead as “the Word”, saying that He was *with God* in the beginning and that He *was God*. Then verse 14 explains that He was made flesh — Jesus Christ.

Romans 8:17 declares that we are children of God through the Sonship of Jesus Christ, and that *we will be joint-heirs with Christ, eternally*.

**Have you thought about the extremes in these descriptions of the beginning of the eternal picture for the Word, and the picture**

**of His existence after the judgment, the view of the following part of eternity? At the beginning He was equal in the Godhead, and after the judgment He will be joint-heir with the saved of humanity!**

What monumental things happened between these two situations, to make such a change? What do these things mean, in relation to the existence of Christ? What did our salvation really cost the Godhead? Was it simply 33 years, for the Word, in a borrowed body, and then the release from that body in death and resurrection?

### Consider these Questions:

♦ Do we see the Word in the Old Testament period? Who was “The Angel of God”? He could not have been a created being because He invariably spoke with the authority of God, and is called “God” or “the Lord” in subsequent verses, after the initial introduction. He must have been One of the Godhead. Several Old Testament passages, coupled with their New Testament fulfillments, identify Him as the Word. Read Exodus 3 closely, as well as 14:19, 32:34; Judges 13:6; 2 Samuel 14:17,20; Judges 2:1; Isaiah 63:9; 1 Corinthians 10:1-4 and John 8:58.

♦ He is called “the Son of God”, yet it was through the overshadowing of the *Holy Spirit* that He was conceived. Why? How is this a parallel

between *His* physical birth and *the spiritual birth of humans into the Family of God*, the church? The Holy Spirit is the agency involved in the birth in both cases (1 Corinthians 12:13)!

♦ Philippians 2:5-8 says that *He emptied Himself* — of what? While in the flesh, did He cease to be Deity? No, He could not cease to be what He was, but He *laid aside* the use of His *inherent* rights and powers, to put Himself in a position of total dependence on God — as is the situation of utter dependence of all of His brothers and sisters in the Family. This was one of the ways in which He submitted to being made in all things like His brethren.

♦ He was given the Holy Spirit at the time of His baptism — “*God given to God?* — why would that be necessary?” Jesus declared throughout the book of John that everything He said and did was by the power and authority of the Father — He did nothing from His own inherent power in the Godhead. In response to the Word “emptying” Himself, God gave the Holy Spirit to enable Him to do whatever He needed to do in His earthly mission — just as He gives His Spirit to indwell us, enabling us to have whatever we need in order to do the work we have been left in the world to do.

♦ Through Whose power did He do His miracles? Through the power of the Holy Spirit.

