

A Declaration of Those Things Which Are Most Surely Believed Among Us

An Expositional Study of **The Gospel According to Luke**

Chapter 20- Luke 20:41-44

310- Son of David; Son of God

April 17, 2016

Luke 20:41-44

41 Then He said to them, "**How is it that they say the Christ is David's son?**

42 **"For David himself says in the book of Psalms, 'THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND,**

43 **UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET."**

44 **"Therefore David calls Him 'Lord,' and how is He his son?"**

To the Glory of God

Now there are two seminal issues, two main *focuses* of the entire New Testament:

1. The Person of the Lord Jesus Christ
2. His Work

And the issue of the Person of Jesus Christ is divided into two main parts:

- ✓ His full Deity
- ✓ His full Humanity

... while the Work of Jesus Christ is divided into several parts:

- ✓ His Immaculate Conception
- ✓ His Virgin Birth
- ✓ His Sinless Life
- ✓ His Perfect Teaching

- ✓ Confirming Signs, Wonders, and Miracles
- ✓ His Humility
- ✓ His Vicarious (Substitutionary) Death
- ✓ His Bodily Resurrection
- ✓ His Post- Resurrection Ministry
- ✓ His Bodily Ascension
- ✓ His Ongoing Heavenly Ministry
- ✓ His Second Coming

Now what we have to understand is that the Christian Church has believed and confessed both the full Deity and fully Humanity of Jesus Christ for 2,000 consecutive years. It is a *central* theme of Biblical Christianity. From the testimony of the Apostles to the sermon preached last week, both the full Deity and full Humanity of Jesus Christ has been proclaimed and believed and discussed and taught and sung and celebrated by the Christian Church.

But what we also have to know is the Christian Church is the *only* religious body that believes and confesses this Truth. And genuinely born again believers are the *only* group of people on the face of the earth who confess and believe this Truth.

Now I have been faithful to teach you that Salvation itself hangs in the balance concerning the Person of Jesus Christ, and it is my intention to say that you are *not* saved and you have *not* been forgiven and you are *not* going to Heaven unless you believe and confess the Truth about Jesus Christ as the Apostle Paul taught in **Romans 10:9-10** when he said:

9 that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;

10 for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

So, it matters what you believe and what you confess about Jesus, and what He did and what He is doing now. Your eternal soul hangs in the balance.

Now even in the face of this, the list of groups who deny either Christ's full Deity or full Humanity is huge, and includes:

- ✓ Jews
- ✓ Muslims
- ✓ Buddhists
- ✓ Hindus
- ✓ Taoists
- ✓ Jehovah's Witnesses
- ✓ Mormons
- ✓ Christian Science Practitioners
- ✓ Atheists

Also included in this group of those who deny the full Deity of Jesus Christ are those who lay *claim* to being a Christian, but who do not accept the Holy Bible as being fully inspired.

Now it has always been fascinating to me to hear those who follow false religions and liberal theologians and even atheists try to walk the tight rope as it pertains to Jesus. On the one hand, many of these people will say that Jesus was "good" and that He was "noble". And they will acknowledge that Jesus was "honorable" and that He did great things. And they will applaud Him for many of the things He taught and the Love that He showed.

And yet, on the other hand, they will categorically reject His full Deity, and they will also condemn other things that Jesus said and did as well, such as when He made the claim that the way to God goes only through Himself as recorded in **John 14:6b** where Jesus said:

... I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

But these people can't have it both ways. Because there are really only three choices here:

1. Jesus was not God and He *knew* He was not God (Liar)
2. Jesus was not God but He *thought* He was (Lunatic)
3. Jesus was fully God and fully Man (Lord)

So, if Jesus was not God and He knew full well that He wasn't, but went around making the claim that He was, then that makes Jesus to be a fraud and a deceiver and a liar. But, that would eliminate Him

from being “good” and “noble”, and that would exclude Him from being somebody who we should respect and admire, and Jesus should be soundly rejected and condemned.

And if Jesus was *not* God but was either weak minded or self-deluded about Himself and thought He was God, then thoughtful and compassionate people would want to try to get Jesus some mental help and have Him put on some medication that would curb His hallucinations. But even at that, we would never encourage people to even admire, much less follow a mentally unstable soul, and we would be correct to doubt all of His teachings and all of His logic.

So, if we are to accept the assessment of these people and believe that Jesus was Good and Noble and Honorable, and that what He did and what He said while on earth was worthy of praise and emulation, the only way that that fits is if Jesus was telling the Truth about Himself, and that means that Jesus was God.

So we have to understand that, ultimately, all of those who reject Christ’s Deity also reject what Christ said and did, because they are all wrapped up together. There is no such thing as accepting Christ’s Goodness or His Nobility or Honor or admiring what He said and did and then rejecting Who Jesus is. It’s all part of the same package. And so you either receive *everything* Jesus is and *everything* He said and did, or else you have no basis to accept or admire or trust *any* of it.

And there is no aspect of Jesus Christ, in either His Person or His Work that we know that is true, apart from sacred Scripture. And so I am going to say something that is very important for you to know and understand:

We know and understand Jesus Christ- in His Person and in His Work-
through the Scriptures

Here is what the Prophet Samuel wrote as God the Holy Spirit moved him along to write these words in **1Samuel 3:21**:

And the Lord appeared again at Shiloh, because the Lord revealed Himself to Samuel at Shiloh by the word of the Lord.

Jesus Christ is “revealed” to our minds through the illumining

Power of the Holy Spirit as He takes the written Scriptures and makes them understood to our minds, and we believe and trust and have faith and confidence in what the Bible says. Our minds, in turn, inform our hearts, and that is what changes our behavior.

So, everything we know about Jesus that is true comes to us by way of Scripture. And aspects about Jesus that come to us from any other source are *not* reliable or trustworthy. So, we are *not* to “know” or “comprehend” Jesus through our dreams or through supposed direct revelation or through angels or through visions. A person is to read and listen to and learn and be taught about Jesus Christ from the pages of inspired Scripture, and we are to believe and trust and love that.

And because all of these false religions and man-made human philosophies either discount part or all of the Scriptures, or they completely reject or ignore them, nobody who is deceived by these false religions and human philosophies has a correct and Biblical understanding of Jesus. Therefore, the target of all false religion is *always* going to be the Person of Jesus Christ.

Now this Passage finds us in the middle of the last week of Jesus’ earthly Life. He has already entered into Jerusalem and has spent the entire day in and around the Temple area teaching the large crowds and being confronted by the religious leaders.

And these false religionists have done everything they can to publicly discredit Jesus. First the Pharisees made their effort, then the Herodians tried, and last week we saw the attempt by the Sadducees. Yet all of them were unsuccessful at trapping Jesus. All of them were completely pushed back and humiliated by the pristine Wisdom and Truth of Jesus’ Words. All of them were exposed as the frauds they were by the Clarity and the Power of our Lord’s Response.

And Dr. Luke says in verse 40,

Luke 20:40b

... they did not have courage to question Him any longer about anything.

So, now it’s Jesus’ turn to ask the questions. And in verse 41, Jesus begins to question those around Him:

41 ...How is it that they say the Christ is David's son?

42 "For David himself says in the book of Psalms, 'THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND,
43 UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET.'"
44 "Therefore David calls Him 'Lord,' and how is He his son?"

Now it is very important for us to understand that the Jewish religious leaders never acknowledged Jesus as God. When they had the opportunity to bow before Jesus as Nathaniel did and proclaim:

John 1:49b

Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel."

... instead, they called Jesus "satan". And this is the great division from that day to this between Jews and Christians. Jews lay claim to believing the Old Testament, when in reality that don't believe those inspired Books at all, because those Books proclaim Jesus Christ. And as I have told you many times before, a correct understanding of the Old Testament will, *always* and in *all cases*, bring the person to a correct understanding of Who Jesus is. Disbelieving or rejecting the Truth about Jesus is a result of not understanding correctly what the Old Testament declares about Him. And that's not something I just made up, either; please go forward and turn with me to **Luke 24:44-47**.

44 Now He said to them, "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."
45 Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures,
46 and He said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day,
47 and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

Now these two Jews were taught that Old Testament Scriptures every single day for their entire lives. We have to understand that the Jews of that day were familiar with the 39 Books of the Old Testament. Many of the Jews of the 1st Century had memorized entire Chapters, even entire Books of the Scriptures, and were all looking eagerly for the coming of the Messiah.

Yet, look what Dr. Luke wrote again here in verse 45:

Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures

Notice that Jesus didn't "open their hearts". He opened their "minds". And that is because illumination doesn't begin in the human heart; it begins in the human mind. God the Holy Spirit takes the intellect and the reasoning and cognitive capabilities of the human mind and He moves upon them to such a degree that the Divine Truth of Scripture is made known to that individual.

Now that is a miracle. It is a supernatural and miraculous and powerful Act of God to the individual that God has chosen to reveal Truth. And this is the only way that people understand Jesus correctly. And notice that God sovereignly uses two things to do this:

1. Scriptures
2. The Human Mind

Notice that God does *not* bypass the mind, and also notice that God does *not* bypass the Scriptures. Now it is true that God did not use the Scriptures *before* the Scriptures were written down. Back then God *did* move upon individuals directly. But once the Scriptures were divinely given and then given divine credibility, God ceased revealing Truth by or through any other means.

So, today, God opens our minds to Divine Truth using the already revealed Scriptures. And anytime we correctly understand Truth, it's because we labored in the Scriptures to understand them, and it is because God chose to graciously open our minds to them. Both of those are true.

So, if you come to me and tell me that you think God has shown you something in the Bible and what you say God has shown you is the result of your efforts at understanding the Scriptures in their proper context, then I'm all ears. But if you come to me and tell me that God has shown you something in the Bible and you have not labored in the Scriptures at all, or you are taking them out of context, and what God has supposedly shown you is the result of a dream or a vision or what an angel told you or your own imagination, then I'm not interested at all.

But this also means that until that moment, what these two men understood about the OT Scriptures was wrong. Until Jesus opened their minds right here, these men were confused and deceived about what they thought they knew about God's Word. They were blind to the Truth about Jesus. And so Jesus says here in verse 44 that the "Law", which is the first five Books of the Bible, and the "Psalms" and the other 33 Books which collectively were called "The Prophets", contain Divine Truth about Jesus Christ.

Well, how much Truth can we get from the inferior and partial Revelation of the Old Testament through its signs and symbols and portions? Look at all Jesus said:

**46 ..."Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day,
47 and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.**

So here is a list of what Jesus Himself said that the 39 Books of the Old Testament will correctly reveal about Him:

- ✓ That Christ would suffer
- ✓ That Christ would rise from the dead
- ✓ That Repentance and Forgiveness would be proclaimed in His Name (through His sinless Life)
- ✓ To all nations
- ✓ Beginning at Jerusalem

So, at a minimum, everybody who reads the Old Testament correctly should come away with this much information about Jesus, or else, their minds are closed and their eyes are blind and they are deceived.

So what constitutes a person to be "believing" or "unbelieving" is what they understand about Who Jesus is. What constitutes a person to be "spiritual" or "unspiritual" is what they believe to be true about Jesus. What constitutes a person to be "saved" or "lost" is what they believe to be true about Jesus.

Unbelievers and unspiritual people and lost people are those who do not believe right and correct things about Jesus. Believers and

spiritual people and saved people are those whom God has chosen to open their minds to the Scriptures and show them the Truth about Jesus Christ.

Now most of the Jews back then hung their hat on their knowledge of the Old Testament Scriptures. That was their main source of pride and accomplishment. They knew that out of all the people of the world, God had chosen to reveal Himself to them. Yet, most of them didn't know God incarnate when He stood before them. And this proves that they really didn't know the Scriptures very well at all.

They did not acknowledge Jesus as God the Son, the second Person of the Trinity. In fact, the Jews didn't believe that the Messiah would be God at all. They believed that the Messiah was to be merely a man. They thought that the Messiah would be a notable, powerful, influential man, a man who is all that a man could possibly be, a man endowed by God with everything that would be the epitome of humanity to accomplish by the Power of God greater things than any other man, but still a man, nonetheless.

Their concept of the Messiah was that he would be fully human, but not Deity at all. He was to be a human man, who came into the world to become the ruler of Israel, vanquish the Roman army, and reestablished the kingdom of Israel by subjected all of Israel's enemies, and rule the world of nations from Jerusalem, and bring to fulfillment all God's promises to Abraham and to David.

So they did not see the Messiah as God, Son of God, or the Savior of sinners. They saw Him only as a man. And this was obviously what the people believed because that's what the leaders taught them. So when Jesus claimed to be God, He immediately was seen as a blasphemer. By calling God His Father, Jesus committed the most heinous sin that they could conceive of in their religious system. To claim to be of the same substance as God was madness.

But, in addition to that, Jesus then began a fiery assault on their theology, on their power, on their influence, on their position, on their false righteousness, and even on their temple operation. He attacked them at the very point where they took the most pride, the Scriptures.

And that was at the very beginning of His ministry, and it occurred all through His ministry, and again at the end even in this last

week. So Jesus cleanses the Temple, confronts their corruption, exposes their hypocrisy, and escalates their feverish desire to get rid of Him. The true Messiah, they believed, would be a man, nothing more. And Jesus claiming to be God, coming in wielding this Authority, cleansing the Temple, condemning their theology, their self-righteousness, and their religion were crimes worthy of death.

So these men had been trying all week long to confront Him, so they could trap Him and discredit Him, but to no avail. And finally, as we read in verse 40, their mouths were shut.

And now it's His time. This is His last time to engage the religious leaders of Israel. This is Jesus' last public confrontation with these religious frauds before His death. And you would assume since this is His last shot at confronting these men that Jesus would address *the* single most important issue. And that's exactly what He did. So what was the single most important issue that Jesus chose to use to confront these religious hypocrites with for the last time?

Who is Jesus?

Now back in both Matthew and Mark's Record we have an account of this moment, and both Levi and John Mark included things in their account that Dr. Luke left out. And the first one that we need to look at is this: Why did Jesus even bring this up at this point? I mean isn't He aware by this time that these Jewish religious men have fully rejected Him? So what is the point of going back to clarify Who He is again? What is the point of that?

Both the Pharisees and now the Sadducees are resolute in their animosity and hatred and vitriol against Jesus. These men want Jesus dead, and every moment that goes by they want it more desperately. So why is Jesus bringing up this issue of His identity again here? And the answer comes from **Mark 12:34** that says:

When Jesus saw that he had answered intelligently, He said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that, no one would venture to ask Him any more questions.

So, even in this hostile crowd, there were some who were not far from the Kingdom of God. In other words, there were some Jews among

all the religious hypocrites who had heard what Jesus said, they had been given the capacity by the Holy Spirit to have their minds open to the Word of God, and they heard Jesus and they were being drawn to Jesus for Salvation. And we know at least one of them by name, Joseph of Arimathea, who would give Jesus his own tomb to be buried in and would later be saved.

So, the reason that Jesus is going through one last evangelistic effort to these religious frauds is because He knew that God had chosen some of them for Salvation. And so, one more time, He calls them to believe the Truth about Himself. And this, dear friends, is absolutely essential for Salvation. Because no one will go to Heaven who does not believe Jesus is God, no one. No one.

This is the clear, unmistakable, unapologetic testimony of Scripture. If you don't believe the Truth about Who Jesus is, then you do not have a relationship with God. The Apostle John put it this way:

1 John 2:22&23

22 Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son.

23 Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also.

... you have *no* relationship with God the Father and you are *not* indwelt by God the Spirit unless you confess the Truth about God the Son. Now to get a little more information about this, I want you to go with me to the Apostle Levi's Account of this, in **Matthew 22**:

Matthew 22:41-46

41 Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question:

42 "What do you think about the Christ, whose son is He?" They said to Him, "The son of David."

43 He said to them, "Then how does David in the Spirit call Him 'Lord,' saying,

44 'THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I PUT YOUR ENEMIES BENEATH YOUR FEET"'?

45 "If David then calls Him 'Lord,' how is He his son?"

46 No one was able to answer Him a word, nor did anyone dare from that day on to ask Him another question.

Now notice here that Levi records that these Jews answered Jesus' question with one word:

... of David

In other words, when Jesus asked the question, *"Whose son is the Christ?" or whose son is the Messiah?* - they answered, *"David's."* And that's *exactly* what Jesus expected them to say. Now keep in mind that in the Jewish mentality, what Jesus was asking them was:

What nature does the Messiah bear?

... because that is what the phrase **"son of"** meant to them. And they responded immediately with a conventional Jewish answer, *"David's."*

So when we go back to **Luke 20** and you read that Jesus said:

"How is it that they say the Christ is David's son?"

... we now see that Jesus was referring to what they had answered here in **Matthew 22**. And so Jesus was really asking them,

"How did you come to that conclusion- that the Messiah is David's son?"

So Jesus is challenging their common answer that the Messiah that they were looking forward to was merely a man. Now he may be the very *best* of men, the most *noble* of men, the most *gifted* and *blessed* of men, and he may even be a son of David- but he's just a man.

And I remind you again that the fundamental question of Christianity and of Salvation is *not* what we do for God, it is *not* how much you love God or how much you want to please God, but the fundamental question on which hangs our very Salvation is:

Who is Jesus?

So the issue of all issues is the Nature of Jesus Christ. Because if Jesus is nothing but a Man, no matter how good or noble He might be, if Jesus is simply a Man, then He is not God. And if Jesus is not God, then He wasn't sinless. And if Jesus was not sinless, then He could never earn the Righteousness that was required to enter into Heaven by keeping the Law perfectly in thought, word, and deed 24-hours every day and seven days every week. And if Jesus did not fulfill the Law by obeying it perfectly and continuously, then we have no hope and we are still in our sins and we are doomed.

So without Jesus being God Almighty in human flesh, you can forget Salvation. And these Jews were convinced that the Messiah would be only a man. So you have this very direct and very pertinent and very essential and important question placed before them. This is where the rubber meets the road. This is what distinguishes Biblical Christianity from everything else. This determines if you are truly saved or only deceived about your relationship with God.

And these Jews failed the test. Their answer was the wrong answer. And they cannot be saved if they get this wrong, and that is why Jesus is taking the time here to go over this one more time. There are some in this crowd who are chosen by God for Salvation and Jesus is going to open their minds to the Scriptures about Himself so they can believe rightly and so they can confess rightly and so they can be saved.

Now the problem here is that they were partially correct about the Messiah. Because the Old Testament teaches clearly and repeatedly that the Messiah would come forth from David's loins. **2Samuel 7, Psalm 89, Amos 9, Micah 5**- all of these Passages declare that the Messiah would come forth out of David.

The genealogies of both **Matthew 1** and **Luke 3** establishes that the Messiah is in the Davidic line. Both His father and mother were descendants of King David. And when Jesus went all over the country healing people and casting out demons, they called Him:

The Son of David

... because every Jew worth his salt knew that the Messiah would be of the lineage of King David.

Now even though the records were all destroyed when the Temple was thrown down and Jerusalem was sacked in 70 AD, this event

occurred *before* that destruction and the Jews kept very careful genealogical records back then. And so, if Jesus was not a Son of David, that would have been used to discredit Him.

In fact, when the people called Jesus "Son of David", the leaders reacted negatively to that because they knew that they were not merely identifying His family origin, but were calling Him Son of David, as the Son of David who would be the Messiah. And that's what they resented. You have to understand that by the 1st Century- there were literally tens of thousands of people who could trace their genealogy back to King David. And nobody cared if Jesus was one of those. But the people were calling Jesus a "Son of David" because they were linking Him to the Messiah, and the Jewish leaders couldn't tolerate that.

So what did Jesus do here to verify that he indeed was God Almighty in human flesh? He used the Scriptures. Look again at **Luke 20:42-43**:

42 "For David himself says in the book of Psalms, 'THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND,
43 UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET.'"

Now here, Jesus is quoting from **Psalms 110:1** that says:

The Lord says to my Lord: "Sit at My right hand Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet."

Now the reason that some of the quotations that you have from the New Testament differs from the OT Scriptures themselves is because the Old Testament that you have in your Bibles today is an English translation from the original Hebrew. But what the Jews were using in the 1st Century came from a Greek translation of the Old Testament called the "Septuagint".

Now this particular quote is pretty accurate and at the time that Jesus was standing there talking to these people, everybody knew that **Psalms 110** was a Messianic Prophecy. The standard universal Jewish interpretation of **Psalms 110** was that it was speaking of the coming Messiah, who would sit at the right hand of God, or in other words, the

position of power and authority, and make all Israel's, and thus all of God's, enemies a footstool for His feet.

So the Jew saw the coming Messiah as a powerful, conquering hero. When the Messiah comes, He will be strong and powerful and probably command an army, and He will wield the "right hand of God" which symbolized the authority and power of God on the earth. And He will subdue all God's enemies, *militarily*, and put them under His feet. And being placed "under the feet" of a ruler in the Middle East was a symbol of execution. Listen to **Joshua 10:24-26**:

24 When they brought these kings out to Joshua, Joshua called for all the men of Israel, and said to the chiefs of the men of war who had gone with him, "Come near, put your feet on the necks of these kings." So they came near and put their feet on their necks.

25 Joshua then said to them, "Do not fear or be dismayed! Be strong and courageous, for thus the Lord will do to all your enemies with whom you fight."

26 So afterward Joshua struck them and put them to death, and he hanged them on five trees; and they hung on the trees until evening.

So the Jews understood what it meant to "make your enemies your footstool", it meant to put your feet on your enemies' neck. So the eschatology of the average Jew of the 1st Century was that the Messiah would come and would destroy the enemies of God, which was the same thing as the enemies of Israel, because that's what the Old Testament prophesied.

Now this is one of the main reasons why the average Jew rejected Jesus. The eschatology of the average Jew of the 1st Century, in other words, his understanding of what God was going to do in the future, told him that the Messiah would be a warrior/king and that He would utterly annihilate the pagans that had overrun Israel and deliver the Jews out from under the foot of the pagan Gentiles.

And so when Jesus stood before them and told them to love their enemies and turn the other cheek and to not return evil for evil, they were terribly disappointed. You see, the Jew had no concept of being lost and needing to be forgiven and saved; they knew that God had chosen them above all the people of the world. And so they understood "salvation" in natural terms, as God removing the non-Jews from the

land and retuning Israel to its former Glory that they enjoyed under King Solomon.

And so Jesus is telling them that their eschatology was wrong and that their wrong eschatology was negatively affecting their Salvation. Jesus is telling these Jews that Salvation was *not* nationalistic and that it *wasn't* pertaining primarily to this life, and that their own personal Salvation was tied in to what they believed and confessed about Him and *not* what some military warrior would do for the nation as a whole.

So Jesus is now operating as the Messiah by opening their minds to what the Old Testament Scriptures actually said about Himself. And so Jesus challenges the common eschatological view of the Messiah by asking a very simple but profound question:

Luke 20:44

Therefore David calls Him 'Lord,' and how is He his son?

Because in **Psalm 110:1**, King David was moved along by God the Holy Spirit to say:

The Lord says to my Lord: "Sit at My right hand Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet."

... so David says the Messiah is "my Lord". So how can the Messiah be David's Son and David's Lord at the same time? Only one way. He has to be the eternal God Who takes on flesh and becomes Man. He has to be the everlasting God Who inserts Himself into His Own Creation and becomes a part of that Creation.

Now this is absolutely stunning to these people. In fact, this is so stunning an argument that the Jews scrambled for centuries after this, because of this very incident. It wasn't long after the completion of the New Testament Canon and the availability of this interchange right here in Luke's Gospel Record that the Jews changed their viewpoint of **Psalm 110** and began to teach that it referred to Abraham. Other rabbis of the 1st and second Centuries said it referred to Melchizedek. And still others said that **Psalm 110:1** was a reference to Judas Maccabeus, who was a ruler in Israel from 143 to 135 B.C. And those who came up with the Judas Maccabeus concept took the Hebrew and altered it to

create an acrostic that represented the name of Judas Maccabees. So they were the original inventors of the "Bible codes".

Now keep in mind that they did all this because of their abject hatred of Jesus. So this was *not* an honest and sincere effort at understanding the Word of God where they just got it wrong. No, this was a manifestation of the wickedness of their hearts toward the one true living God and His Son, Jesus Christ.

The Jews did anything and everything they could do to manipulate the text of **Psalm 110** for several centuries after the Resurrection of Jesus to make it non-Messianic, even though for 1,000 years after David wrote this they all agreed that it was Messianic, because if it is the Messiah to whom the Lord is speaking here, and the Messiah surely is David's Son, then obviously He is also "David's Lord."

So I want to say this again. The effort by the Jewish leaders both then and now to change their own understanding of the meaning of **Psalm 110:1** is *not* an honest and sincere effort to comprehend the true meaning of the Word of God. It is an effort based on nothing more than their hatred of Jesus Christ to *ignore* the plain meaning of the text and to hide it from others so they can continue to deny the Deity of Jesus and deceive as many people as possible. And that is the truth. And that is evil.

This Old Testament Passage shows us that the true Messiah will be both Man and God. He is the eternal Son of God, as well as Man; "Son of David" as well as "David's Lord". And if Jesus, or the Messiah, was simply an ancestor of David that was born centuries later, then how could David refer to Him as "my Lord" in the present tense?

And this proves how important correct exegesis is. This example shows us that we need to take our exegesis of the Scriptures all the way down to the personal pronouns. Because it is vital that we get all the words and all the phrases, and even all the prepositions and pronouns correct.

Now some intellectual unbelievers would say that David was simply using hyperbole here. But listen to how the Apostle Levi records Jesus' Words from **Matthew 22:43b**:

Then how does David in the Spirit call Him 'Lord...

The phrase "in the Spirit" here means: *inspired by God the Holy Spirit*. So that means that what David wrote in **Psalm 110:1** was infallible and without error. John Mark said it even more directly in **Mark 12:36** when he quoted Jesus as saying:

David himself said in the Holy Spirit, 'THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I PUT YOUR ENEMIES BENEATH YOUR FEET."

... so when Levi said that David said this "**in the Spirit**", he meant "**in the Holy Spirit**", meaning that God the Holy Spirit moved upon David to write down words that are inerrant and true and reliable.

And later on, Dr. Luke quoted the Apostle Peter as agreeing with both Levi and John Mark that what David wrote in the **Psalms** was fully inspired by God the Holy Spirit when he quoted from **Psalm 2:1&2** when he wrote this in **The Acts 4:25&26**:

25 who by the Holy Spirit, *through* the mouth of our father David Your servant, said, 'WHY DID THE GENTILES RAGE, AND THE PEOPLES DEVISE FUTILE THINGS?

26 'THE KINGS OF THE EARTH TOOK THEIR STAND, AND THE RULERS WERE GATHERED TOGETHER AGAINST THE LORD AND AGAINST HIS CHRIST.'

So, David said that the Messiah, Who had not even come at the time that David wrote this Psalm, was at that very moment when David wrote it, 1,000 years before Jesus was born, He was David's Lord.

So one day in the future, the Messiah will return to reign and to place His heel on the neck of His enemies in that great eschatological event of His glorious Return, and Judgment, and Kingdom establishment. But until then, His Heel falls on the neck of His enemies every second of every day.

The judgment of Christ on sinners and rejecters does not await for the final Judgment. It goes on every single day. Christ's enemies are always His footstool, even when it seems that they are prospering for a while.

So when Jesus asks the question in verse 44:

How is the Messiah only David's son?

He created an *impossible* dilemma for these men. The Jews were completely silenced by this. And, in fact, that's what **Matthew 22** says. So what Dr. Luke says *before* this incident, Matthew says it *after*, in verse 46.

No one was able to answer Him a word, nor did anyone dare from that day on to ask Him another question.

So after this discussion with the Sadducees, Dr. Luke says it was over. The Pharisees circled back after their little meeting. And they've got one more issue and Jesus confronts them with that issue. And after that, they were done for sure. Luke says they had nothing left to say. So Jesus asked the question and they couldn't answer it.

And there's nowhere to go if you reject Jesus Christ. If you do not believe and accept all that the Bible says about Jesus, don't try to appease your own conscience about the fact that you think Jesus is a good person and the Bible is a wonderful book. The Bible unapologetically says Jesus is God. He is David's Son, and at the same time He is David's Lord. So Jesus is the God/Man. And the only way you give due acknowledgment to the Bible is if you believe that. And if you don't believe that Jesus is both God and Man, you deny Scripture.

And make no mistake about it, the Jews denied the Scriptures. No matter what Jesus did, no matter what He said, no matter what miracles He performed, the hatred that they had for Jesus prevented them from loving and serving Him. And this is what is called "Moral Inability". Moral Inability says that people *cannot* love and serve God, they cannot delight themselves in the Lord, because they don't *want* to. The hatred that they have for Jesus makes them *unable* to love and serve Him. And that means that they are fully culpable for their own rejection of Jesus.

But the only reason we believe is because God the Holy Spirit has moved powerfully upon us to overcome our natural and normal resistance to believe and love God, and He has sovereignly *caused* us to believe and love Him, because we didn't initially want to believe any more than the others did. And *initially* we hated God as much as they did. And therefore, God gets all the Glory for our belief and our love

and our devotion to God, because without Him moving sovereignly upon us to open our hearts and cause us to believe, we wouldn't believe or love God any more than they do.

Now one of the mysteries of all this is that the Pharisees never denied the miracles of Jesus. They never denied the Wisdom of Jesus. They never refuted His exposition of Scripture. And they never discredited any of the answers that He gave. But they couldn't believe because they didn't want to. And that's the sad error of people throughout history and even today. Their own natural-born enmity against God will not allow them to believe or to love God. And unless God moves sovereignly upon them to overcome that hatred, nobody would ever believe.

So what about you? Are you with these hard-hearted, stone-cold leaders who see it all and yet don't see at all? Are you with the ones who never deny any of it, yet refuse to believe? Or maybe you're with that crowd that is terminally indecisive and who can be led around by the nose, who one day can cry out "*Hosanna!*" but who just a few days later cry out "*Crucify Him!*" Are you morally unable to love and serve the God/Man? Or has God empowered you to overcome your normal and natural resistance to Jesus and you delight yourself in Him?

What is your response to the question, "*Who is Jesus?*" Do you eagerly acknowledge that He is both David's Son and David's Lord? So will you be among those who will confess with their mouths that Jesus is God, and who will believe in their hearts that God raised Jesus from the dead, or will you be among those who refuse to believe and will be ashamed of Jesus?

May God grace us to know and speak the Truth about Jesus.

Amen. Let's pray.

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.