

JESUS, THE ONLY GOD AND SAVIOR

July 11,2021

Isaiah 43 :10-11

I want you to think and pray... long and hard... about something today...What is the meaning & message of your life?

Today, I HAVE A MESSAGE ... MESSAGE NOT ONLY FOR THE CHURCH BUT FOR EVERYONE! FROM the professing Christian TO THE one who says there is no GOD

The message I have today, I can guarantee is TRUTH , IT IS ABSOLUTE TRUTH

With those questions in mind,.. I want us to look at a passage in the book of Isaiah.

In my first months of being saved, this particular passage which I am going to share with you today **was FOUNDATIONAL** to my faith and of **SUPREME RELEVANCE** to me by **showing me the connection of the new and old testaments.**

This part of the word is a declaration to the bedrock Absolute truth that is established in the writings of the New testament, That Jesus Christ is **INDEED GOD.**

HE is the 2nd person in the trinity, namely the Son of God, King of kings ,Lord of, great I am, Alpha and Omega and Only Savior

Let me read the passage: Isaiah 43:10-11

You are my witnesses, declares the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen, So that you may know and believe Me and understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, and there will be none after Me. I, even I, am the Lord, and there is no savior besides Me.

Wow, what a statement... There is only one God and only one Savior.

Today we will look at two main points from this part of God's Word.

1. Jehovah God of the Old Testament is the same God of the New Testament ...His name is Jesus.
2. Jesus is the only Savior ! (Then we will examine why only He alone is the Savior.)

Let me give you some additional Questions to consider as we prepare to begin:

1. Do you know for certain that Jesus is God?
2. Do you believe there are other ways to God other than Jesus?
3. Do you really know Him, miraculously?

4. Do you know how to show someone using the scriptures that Jesus is God, the Son of God and the only Savior?
5. If you profess to be a Christian... How is your witness to the lost? Do they see Jesus? What are you witnessing to ?

My prayer today is four-fold:

1. **If you do not have a saving** relationship with God, that today's message will draw you closer to Him.
2. **If you are uncertain** of these truths, that today the Holy Spirit will bring illumination.
3. **As believers**, I pray we will be better equipped to show others, by using scriptures, the deity of Jesus.
4. **After today, we all will have a greater appreciation** of the saving grace of God and thus a greater worship that strengthens our witness to the world, for this reason we have been chosen.

Title and Big Idea of today's sermon: Jesus, the Only God and Savior.

LET'S PRAY

CONTEXT

Isaiah was writing to the Jews of the time to remind them that they were the chosen people of God. They were by the adherence to God's laws, to testify to the world, the reality that God alone is both God and Savior. They would be a people set apart from the world by the way they lived; witnessing to the world the character of God. They were a chosen people whose father is Abraham, who believed in God and this was accounted to him as righteousness. God had rescued Abraham's family from the bondage of slavery: they witnessed His power in the parting of the Red Sea, He provided mana from heaven and water from a rock. He gave them the Law, tabernacle, the sacrificial system, priests to intercede, and God even defeated their enemy so they could enter the Promised Land. They were a distinct people chosen to reflect the attributes of God, His holiness; their Savior, who rescued them from slavery and their enemies.

Before we unpack this passage, I want to show you how this passage connects to us today, just as much as it did to the Jews in the Old Testament days.

Now, see how this passage applies to us today. We, the biblical believers, the true Christians, the living Church, are now God's chosen witnesses who are to testify of the salvation of the One and only God and Savior, Jesus the Christ. We have been empowered by the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8) to be His witnesses, proclaiming The Gospel and His saving grace to all people; locally, regionally and globally. We share the truth that Jesus is Lord! We share that Jesus is God and the only Savior. In John 17, Jesus prays to His Father that we, the true Christian Church, would be One so the world may believe that He was sent from heaven

See how both Testaments of the Bible are one revelation; that Jesus is Lord, that Jesus is God and that Jesus is the only Savior. This theme is from cover to cover.

John MacArthur said: The Old Testament tells of the anticipation of Christ, The Gospels are about the incarnation of Christ, Acts is the telling of Christ, the Epistles are the explanation of Christ and Revelation is the glorification of Christ.

T/S - Today, by using God's Word, we will see how the Old and New Testaments come together to reveal the two main points of today's sermon:

1. Jesus is God and
2. Jesus is the only Savior.

These two truths must be truly understood and defended by us, for they are the most sacred of all truths... and these two pillars of The Gospel are rejected by many religions and sects that acknowledge Jesus, but reject His deity.

T/S - So let us begin today by first looking to God's Word to see that Jesus is God.

JESUS IS GOD

Share an experience : As a young Christian, I had no doubt that Jesus was God, but what I lacked was knowledge of the Bible that supported that fact. One day while working in the prison, I was blindsided when a man said to me with anger, "Jesus is not God" (He is only a man.)

I did not have the biblical knowledge to refute him. I was caught off guard, upset and a bit frightened. In response, I went home and wrote helpful scriptures in the flap of my Bible.

It is so crucial we know this foundational truth of Christianity and be able to show others who do not believe that Jesus is God; that this truth is paramount to salvation and is unshakeable.

I want us first to go to the Epistles and look at Hebrews Chapter 1.

I want to start here because I believe chapter 1 gives the best description of the supremacy of Jesus **and verse 8 is probably the most declarative text in all the Bible that Jesus is God.**

Read Hebrews 1:1-3.

God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom He also made the world. And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

Right away we see attributes of Jesus; these can only be attributes of God Almighty, not of a mere man.

1. **Heir of all things:** King, ruler of all. He reigns over all principalities and dominions
2. **Creator God** (John 1:3) *All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.*
3. **Radiance of His glory** (John 17:5) *Now Father, glorify Me with Yourself, with the glory which I had with you before the world was.*
4. **Upholds all things by the word of His power:** Only God can do that
5. **Purifier of sins:** Only a holy God can forgive sins and wash us clean
6. **Sat down next to the Father in heaven:** Only divine royalty can sit equal and next to God the Father sharing the throne

Now going back to the 1st verse in Hebrews; that God “has spoken to us in His Son” we can go further back to **Isaiah 9:6** .For Isaiah prophesied of the hope that would come to Israel after the destruction of Israel brought on by God by the Assyrians for their disobedience.

*For a child shall be born to us, a son will be given to us,... and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, **Mighty God**, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.* See right away the deity of Jesus in BOTH.

Now let's go to the next 5 verses in Hebrews 1 and see even more proof positive, biblical support that is revealing the deity of Jesus.

Introduce 4 minute video (Pastor Jeff: Hebrews 1)

See again the unity of the Word of God... The Old Testament truths explain the New Testament and vice versa.

T/S Now let's go to the Old Testament as we continue to see from the Word of God that Jesus is God.

In Exodus 3:14, we are introduced to the name of God. This is where God spoke to Moses at the burning bush. There, God commanded Moses to go to Pharaoh and *“bring My people out of Egypt.”*

Moses then asks God what is the name I should tell the sons of Israel when they ask what is your name. God said **“I AM WHO I AM.. you tell them” I AM has sent me to you.**” I am who I am in Hebrew is YHWH and often translated as LORD, Yahweh or Jehovah. Thus, **I AM** in Judaism is unquestionably understood as the name of God.

John Piper did a good job in sharing the concept of the meaning I AM.

1. **God has no beginning.** Never came into being, always has been and will never go out of being
2. **God is absolute reality,** no reality outside of God.
3. **God is utterly independent,** nothing can change Him ... All other being is contingent on Him

4. **All that is not God, is dependent on Him** - the entire universe and all things were created by God and are sustained and held up by His power.
5. **All compared to God is nothing** Isaiah 40:17 - *All nations are as nothing to Him. They are regarded as meaningless.*
6. **He is constant, cannot be improved,** He is absolute and absolutely perfect.
7. **He is the Absolute standard of truth, goodness and beauty**
8. **He does whatever He pleases, He is always right.** No external constraints hinder His plans
9. **He is the One who is worthy of your highest admiration and worship.**

T/S - Let's now look at the gospels and see many of the "I am" statements that Jesus made. Whenever He made an "I am" statement He was claiming attributes of deity, He was identifying Himself as God.

Let's look first at the seven metaphorical statements found in the gospel of John.

1. ***I am the bread of life.*** John 6:35.. After the miracle of feeding the 5000. He gives life, He is the bread that came from heaven which anyone may eat and not die.
2. ***I am the light of the world.*** John 8: Before healing the blind man, giving sight. He proves it.
3. ***I am the door*** .John 10: No one can enter the kingdom except through Me, the door; any other way is a thief and robber
4. ***I am the good shepherd*** .John 10: Jesus is portraying His great love and care, protector. That He would lose not one sheep
5. ***I am the resurrection and the life.*** John 11: After raising Lazarus He proved life and the grave in His control and power. Shows how He can fulfill Yaweh's promise to ancient Israel, that the dead bodies shall rise (Isaiah 26:19)
6. ***I am the way, the truth and the life no one comes to the Father but through Me...***John 14:6; Jesus is the only way to God, He is the essence of truth confirming His identity with the Word of God, and He is the source of life.
7. ***I am the true vine,*** John 15. Emphasizes the sustaining power of Christ. As we abide in Him we receive power to produce fruit.

There are a few more *I am* statements that Jesus made that were not metaphors but declarations.

In John 8, the Pharisees became angry.... Jesus was saying to the Pharisees that their Father was the devil, and they responded that they were children of Abraham ... Jesus said to them ***"Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day, and he saw it and was glad"***... Jews said to Him, ***"You are not yet fifty years old and have you seen Abraham."*** Jesus said ***"truly, truly I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am"***. **To the Jews, this was blasphemy of the highest degree. They knew how sacred the name of God was, and Jesus saying before Abraham was *I am* was the ultimate assertion to the Jews of His deity.** He was making it clear to them of His identity. They picked up stones to kill him.

Let's not forget when the cohort of Roman soldiers and priests that came to arrest Jesus and He asked them, "**Whom do you seek?**" They said "**Jesus the Nazarene.**" Jesus responded, "**I AM (He),**" and the whole arresting party was knocked backwards to the ground. What a display of divine power in just the mention of His name.

Other claims Jesus made that revealed His Oneness with the Father

1. **John 14:7-9** Jesus responds to Philip with a rebuke when he asks Jesus to show us the Father. He responds: "**He who has seen Me has seen the Father**"
2. **John 10:24**, the Jews were saying to Jesus, "**How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly**" Jesus responded, "**I and the Father are One.**"
3. Thomas replies to Jesus, "**My Lord and My God.**"

John 5 gives us the best illustration of Jesus' equality with God.

Working on the Sabbath by healing a paralytic. The Jews were persecuting Him for this. Jesus answered them and said "**My Father is working until now, and I myself am working.**" Because of this "**the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him.**" Not only was He breaking the Sabbath by working but was also "**calling God His own Father and making Himself equal with God.**"

Now in John 5, let us also look at the authority and power God shares with His Son.

20 For the Father loves the Son and shows Him all things that He Himself is doing; and the Father will show Him greater works than these, so that you will be amazed. **21** For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, **so the Son also gives life to whom He wishes.** **22** For not even the Father judges anyone, but **He has given all judgment to the Son,** **23** so that all will honor the Son just as they honor the Father. **The one who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.** **24** "Truly, truly, I say to you, **the one who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.**

Here we see Jesus' equality with God the Father. Jesus **gives life**, passes judgement, receives honor and grants eternal life. Only God can do this. There are many more attributes of Jesus in the Gospels that reveal His deity; authority to **forgive sins**, to **read minds** and know the **hearts of man**, tell the future, calm the waters, walk on water, **cast our demons**, turn water to wine, **feed thousands** with a few loaves of bread, cleanse the **lepers spots**, command **fish to swim in nets**....goes on.

Lastly, as we have seen how the scriptures reveal that Jesus is God and before we move on to examine that Jesus is the only savior, I want to share how Jesus refers to Himself in the same way God is described in the Old Testament.

1. **The "I am"....** Isaiah 48:12 / John 8:58
2. **The Shepherd...** Psalm 23:1 / John 10:11

3. **The Rock...**Psalm 18:2 / Matthew 7:24
4. **Ruler of all...** Isaiah 9:6 / Matthew 28:18
5. **Judge of all nations...** Joel 3:12 / John 5:22
6. **God's Word never passes away...** Isaiah 40:8/ Mark 13:31
7. **The Bridegroom...** Isaiah 62:5/ Matthew 25:1
8. **I am the first and last** Revelation 1:17 Jesus calls Himself the first and the last just as **God is described in Isaiah 41:4. *I, the LORD, am the first and with the last, I am He.***

These mirror statements therefore support Isaiah 43:10 which states “*Before me, there was no God formed and there will be none after Me.*” The LORD and Jesus are the first and the last; **they are One and the same and there is no other God.**

JESUS IS THE ONLY SAVIOR

T/S - Now that we have seen from the Word of God that Jesus is God, let's go to the second main point of this passage that is stated in Isaiah 43:11, and again from the Word of God, we will see that Jesus is the only Savior and hopefully understand why.

Isaiah 43:11 *I even am the LORD and there is no savior besides Me*

When we talk about the need for a savior, there are three questions:

1. Why do we need a savior?
2. Why is Jesus the only savior?
3. How has Jesus saved us?

WHY WE NEED A SAVIOR - 2 main reasons

1. We are sinners and God is holy.
2. God is just and His wrath must be executed.

1. WE ARE SINNERS AND GOD IS HOLY

Let's look at what Jesus said:

John 8:24 - *Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe I am He, you will die in your sin.* **CRUCIAL I AM STATEMENT**

- > **Jesus says it right there**, with boldness and clarity: **The problem is SIN.**
- > **We need a savior because** we all by nature are sinners. (Garden).
- > **Romans 3:23** - *All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*
- > **Sin is anything** that falls short of God's perfection and holiness.
- > **Sin is error, iniquity, transgression, trespass, lawlessness, unrighteousness, and evil.**
- > **Sin is always directed against God** (David: against thee only have I sinned).
- > **Because God is holy, and we are not**, we cannot be in His presence. (Garden)
- Hebrews 12:14** - *Without holiness, no one will see God.*

2. GOD IS JUST AND JUSTICE DEMANDS A PENALTY FOR SINNERS

God's foundations of righteousness and perfect justice demands a penalty.

Psalm 89:14 - *Righteousness and justice are the foundations of your throne*

Romans 6:23 - *For the wages of sin is death.*

> **Sin will bring God's wrath to all the unrepentant** because it is the contradiction of what He is. For God to be complacent toward sin is an impossibility. He cannot deny Himself (The New Bible Dictionary). Therefore He must punish evil, a debt must be paid. His holy justice demands a righteous and just penalty.

Exodus 34:7 - though God forgives sin: *yet by NO MEANS leave the guilt unpunished.*

Man's sin and depravity is so egregious to a holy God that the only penalty in which God's wrath is fitting and just is for the sinner to be cast into hell for all of eternity.

For that reason, we need a Savior to save us from the penalty of sin, forgive our sins, cleanse us and bestow upon us a righteousness that allows us to be in fellowship with a holy God.

The only One this can be is Jesus, the Son of God

- > **For only Jesus** is pure and perfect without spot or blemish. **For He alone is holy**
- > **Only He is One** who has never sinned and can stand in for the guilty
- > **Only He can be the Substitute** that can cleanse us with His precious blood
- > **Only He has the infinite power and is the only infinite Being** who can satisfy the wrath of His Father for our sins and absorb the depths of God's just punishment
- > **Only He has the love to glorify His Father and drink the cup of His wrath in loving obedience to the Father's will.**

This is precisely why Jesus is the only Savior: Only a Holy God can make a sinner holy.

HIS NAME IS JESUS

> **For the angel said to Joseph in a dream** telling him that Mary will have a son, *and you shall call Him Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.* **Matthew 1:21**

> **John the Baptist:** *Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.*
John 1:29

> **The Apostle Peter said,** *"And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men which we must be saved."*
Acts 4:12

3. HOW HAS JESUS SAVED US

> **He became sin for us**, a curse, and suffered a tortuous death on the cross.

He made Him who knew no sin to to be sin on our behalf became sin, who knew no sin on our behalf, so we might become the righteousness of God in Him (2 Cor. 5:21)

And He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed. (1 Peter 2:24)

But God demonstrates his own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more than, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. 10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved [f]by His life. (Romans 5:8-10)

OH the depth of His suffering on the cross:

Spiritually: He faced the wrath of His Father who was for all eternity before was in perfect fellowship.

>He became sin, who never sinned. He must have recoiled at this curse.

>He was forsaken by His Father. **“My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?”**

Soul: He was in anguish, man of sorrows and grief; Humiliated, mocked and spat upon

Physically: His flesh was shredded, **Isaiah 52:14** His appearance was marred more than any man

Why so much suffering? it reveals the devastation and ugliness of sin and the reality of God's wrath. It also shows Satan's hatred toward God.

Why the innocent for the guilty? Since Adam, this was the way to cover sin. The innocent animal was slain to make a covering for the wicked.

Why so much blood shed: For the blood contains life, and Hebrews 9:22, *without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin.*

This all comes together and is vividly seen in Isaiah 53 as the prophet foretold that the Savior would first come as the suffering Servant. He would be the Sacrificial Lamb whose blood would be shed for the forgiveness of sins. The innocent would die as the Substitute for the guilty; His precious, spotless blood poured out for the forgiveness of sins.

But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities, the chastening of our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed. (v. 5)

***But the Lord desired to crush Him, causing Him grief;
If He renders Himself as a guilt offering, He will see His [i]offspring,
He will prolong His days, And the [j]good pleasure of the Lord will prosper in His
hand.***

***As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see it and be satisfied;
By His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many,
For He will bear their wrongdoings. Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the
great,
And He will divide the plunder with the strong, Because He poured out His life
unto death, And, was counted with wrongdoers;
Yet He Himself bore the sin of many, And, interceded for the wrongdoers.***

God's just wrath was placed on His Son. A suffering that was unfathomable. If you reject this incredible offer of His substitutional death, then you will indeed, as you pay your own penalty, be sentenced to a real hell that is just and will be a forever torment that is unfathomable. (Behold The Savior)

If you do not believe in Him or as John 3:36 wells states, if you do not obey Him, then the wrath of God rests on you.

God's plan of redemption is for the display of His glory. His miraculous grace and mercy to save sinners are the chief thrusts of our worship to Him. He has created us for this purpose, to bring Him glory...

Because Jesus is God, then only He has the righteousness to be our Savior.

He died in our place and gave us His righteousness so we could be with God, Holy and cleansed.

1 Peter 3:18 - For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit.

KNOW AND BELIEVE

T/S now after examining the Word of God , we have seen that Jesus is indeed God and we see that He is also the Only Savior, now lastly I want us to look at the first sentence of this passage... our calling to know and believe Him and be His witnesses.

Isaiah 43:10. "You are My witnesses," declares the Lord, "And My servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe Me."

> People... What is the message and meaning of your life?

> Brother and sister, professing Christians, how is your witness? Can the world around you see the sweetness of Jesus?

> **Does your life testify to the transforming work of the Spirit and power of God?**
Is He your greatest desire and treasure? For He has chosen us for this reason, to bring Him glory... to show the world His love and grace... to save such sinners from the pit of hell.

> **Do you know and believe in Him, INTIMATELY? Miraculously?**

Transformatively??? Not a superficial belief but a supernatural knowing.

> **Many say they believe**, but Jesus knows our hearts (John 2:24, Matt. 7:21-23)

1....Soils, 2. John 6:66, 3...Palm Sunday saints

> **True knowing comes from God.** It is a miracle, it is all of His grace.. It's a miracle that brings us into the family of God... **It is relational**, He is now our Father and Lord, we are His children and loved.

>**It is experiential:** We Have been born again; We have become new creatures. We now have a new heart that longs for God and fellowship. He becomes our absolute treasure. His commandments are no longer burdensome, but are now our food and delight.

> **It is passionate and affectionate**, produces fruit and is obedient to God's commands
We have now been filled with the Holy Spirit and therefore have the fruit of the Spirit, which is supernatural love, joy, peace.

It is intimate: like a husband knows his wife,

Knowing is defined as eternal life: John 17:3.. This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

> **John 6:69.** Peter: **We believe and have come to know** that you are the Holy One of God.

> **I John 4:15** - We have come to **know and believe** the love God has for us.

> **John 4:42** - *"It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves and **know** that this One truly is the Savior of the world."*
(Experience).

EXAMINE YOURSELF (2 Cor. 13:5). (scuba diver)

Wherever you find yourself, the Answer is always the same, Jesus.

Jesus is trustworthy: All His "I am" claims are true.... He proved it. He told the disciples before the time came that He would go to Jerusalem, be crucified, and on the 3rd day rise from the dead. **HE IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD...LIKE HE SAID.**

> **In fact, He said** *"From now on I am telling you before it comes to pass so that when it occurs, you may believe I AM HE."* (John 13:19).

> Jesus also said He will return to gather His saints and judge the living and the dead. And at this time every knee will bow and confess that Jesus is Lord

Are you ready to meet Him ?

I pray that we will all see Christ biblically... Seeing Christ biblically is what it is to be in the body of Christ..then we can understand the Biblical Gospel, the Biblical Christian and the Biblical church...

We have been so blessed here at The BRIDGE as we have seen the hand of God on us in so many ways....as we do our best by the Spirit of God and the blueprint of His Word to obey His Will and His Ways...The making of disciples, gospel planting now reaching soon to be Seattle, Uganda, areas of India where they are unreached, the raising up of leaders and preachers, the generosity of the church to meet the needs of others who are without and the God glorifying koinonia...

Sadly and conversely, an unbiblical view of the church will be a church that has an unbiblical view of Christ.... They cannot be separated.

I pray as you pray and think hard, that you will find your message and meaning is Christ, Christ crucified and risen.

And that today you may see clearer the Absolute Truth that Jesus is God and the Only Savior and come to know Him and live passionately as His witness to the world, testifying of His saving grace, for this is why we have been chosen.

Let's Pray

L

