NCCF Statement of Faith

Section 8: God has appointed a Redeemer

M. Tolbert

8. In love and mercy God has appointed a Redeemer for men from sin and its consequences, the Lord Jesus Christ. [a] He being the eternal Son of God, [b] became man through conception by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the virgin Mary, [c] and so was and continues to be both God and man, one person in two distinct and complete natures forever. [d] He alone is the only mediator between God and men and through Him alone can any man know and have fellowship with God.[e]

NCCF Statement of Faith, Section 8

8. In love and mercy God has appointed a Redeemer for men from sin and its consequences, the Lord Jesus Christ. [a] He being the eternal Son of God, [b] became man through conception by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the virgin Mary, [c] and so was and continues to be both God and man, one person in two distinct and complete natures forever. [d] He alone is the only mediator between God and men and through Him alone can any man know and have fellowship with God.[e]

NCCF Statement of Faith, Section 8a-Jesus is the appointed Redeemer

8. In love and mercy God has appointed a Redeemer for men from sin and its consequences, the Lord Jesus Christ. [a] *He being the eternal Son of God,* [b] *became man through conception by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the virgin Mary,* [c] *and so was and continues to be both God and man, one person in two distinct and complete natures forever.* [d] *He alone is the only mediator between God and men and through Him alone can any man know and have fellowship with God.*[e]

NCCF Statement of Faith, Section 8b-The Nature of Jesus the Redeemer

8. In love and mercy God has appointed a Redeemer for men from sin and its consequences, the Lord Jesus Christ. [a] He being the eternal Son of God, [b] became man through conception by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the virgin Mary, [c] and so was and continues to be both God and man, one person in two distinct and complete natures forever. [d] He alone is the only mediator between God and men and through Him alone can any man know and have fellowship with God.[e]

NCCF Statement of Faith, Section 8c- Jesus is the only Mediator

In love and mercy God has appointed a Redeemer for men from sin and its consequences, the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. John 1:29
2. Luke 4:16-21
3. Acts 4:12, 13:46-48
4. I John 2:2

NCCF Statement of Faith, Section 8,1-Jesus is the appointed Redeemer

What is Redemption?

A Growing Definition

1. Pay a price for something/an exchange/Ransom
2. Buying Back/Restoration
3. Deliverance/Salvation
4. *Atonement, Propitiation**

**Atonement & propitiation are not fully tied to Redemption until Christ comes.*

Redemption-Deliverance and Salvation

6 Say therefore to the people of Israel, ‘I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from slavery to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment. 7 I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God, and you shall know that I am the Lord your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.

Exodus 6:6-7

Redemption-Paying a price for something, an exchange, deliverance

13 *Every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, or if you will not redeem it you shall break its neck. Every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem.* 14 *And when in time to come your son asks you, 'What does this mean?' you shall say to him, 'By a strong hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery.* 15 *For when Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the Lord killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of animals. Therefore I sacrifice to the Lord all the males that first open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.'*

Exodus 13: 13-15

Redemption-Buying Back, Restoration

25 “If your brother becomes poor and sells part of his property, then his
nearest redeemer shall come and redeem what his brother has sold. 26 If a
man has no one to redeem it and then himself becomes prosperous and
finds sufficient means to redeem it, 27 let him calculate the years since he
sold it and pay back the balance to the man to whom he sold it, and then
return to his property. 28 But if he does not have sufficient means to recover
it, then what he sold shall remain in the hand of the buyer until the year of
jubilee. In the jubilee it shall be released, and he shall return to his
property.

Leviticus 25:25-28

The Year of Jubilee, Restoration

8 You shall count seven weeks[c] of years, seven times seven years, so that the time of the seven weeks of years shall give you forty-nine years. 9 Then you shall sound the loud trumpet on the tenth day of the seventh month. On the Day of Atonement you shall sound the trumpet throughout all your land. 10 And you shall consecrate the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you, when each of you shall return to his property and each of you shall return to his clan.

Leviticus 25:8-10

Redemption-Paying a price for something, an exchange

15 Everything that opens the womb of all flesh, whether man or beast, which they offer to the Lord, shall be yours. Nevertheless, the firstborn of man you shall redeem, and the firstborn of unclean animals you shall redeem. 16 And their redemption price (at a month old you shall redeem them) you shall fix at five shekels[a] in silver, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, which is twenty gerahs.

Numbers 18:15-16

Redemption-deliverance, salvation

19 *He will deliver you from six troubles;*
in seven no evil shall touch you.
20
In famine he will redeem you from death,
and in war from the power of the sword.

Job 5:19-20

Redemption-deliverance, salvation, payment in exchange/ransom

I shall ransom them from the power of Sheol;
I shall redeem them from Death.
O Death, where are your plagues?
O Sheol, where is your sting?
Compassion is hidden from my eyes.

Hosea 13:14

Who is the Redeemer?

Old Testament Citations/New Testament Recognitions

1. Anyone can ‘redeem’ property and/or people (levitical law)
2. The Kinsman-Redeemer (Ruth and Boaz)
3. God is the redeemer (Job, Psalms, Isaiah)
4. Jesus is the appointed Redeemer

Anyone has an opportunity to Redeem property-buy it back

29 *“If a man sells a dwelling house in a walled city, he may redeem it within a year of its sale. For a full year he shall have the right of redemption.*

Leviticus 25:29

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Boaz becomes the Kinsman-Redeemer of Naomi and Ruth

5 Then Boaz said, “The day you buy the field from the hand of Naomi, you also acquire Ruth[b] the Moabite, the widow of the dead, in order to perpetuate the name of the dead in his inheritance.” 6 Then the redeemer said, “I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I impair my own inheritance. Take my right of redemption yourself, for I cannot redeem it.”

Ruth 4:5-6 (Read the full story of Ruth for more context)

Boaz and Ruth's child is called a 'restorer of life' (the grandfather of David)

13 So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife. And he went in to her, and the Lord gave her conception, and she bore a son. 14 Then the women said to Naomi, "Blessed be the Lord, who has not left you this day without a redeemer, and may his name be renowned in Israel! 15 He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age, for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has given birth to him."

Ruth 4:13-15 (Read the full story of Ruth for more context)

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God is the Redeemer of Job, the one who delivers and vindicates him

For I know that my Redeemer lives,
and at the last he will stand upon the earth.

Job 19:25

David's Redeemer is God (also remember his prayer in 2nd Samuel)

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight,
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

Psalm 19:14

Asaph recounts Israel's early history, and calls God their Redeemer

They remembered that God was their rock,
the Most High God their redeemer.

Psalm 78:35

Isaiah proclaiming the LORD is the Redeemer

14

Thus says the Lord,
your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel:
“For your sake I send to Babylon
and bring them all down as fugitives,
even the Chaldeans, in the ships in which they rejoice.
15

I am the Lord, your Holy One,
the Creator of Israel, your King.”

Isaiah 43:14-15

Isaiah proclaiming the LORD is the ONLY Redeemer and God

Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel
and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts:
"I am the first and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.

Isaiah 44:6

Isaiah proclaiming the LORD is the ONLY Redeemer and God

In overflowing anger for a moment
I hid my face from you,
but with everlasting love I will have compassion on you,”
says the Lord, your Redeemer.

Isaiah 54:8

8. In love and mercy God has appointed a Redeemer for men from sin and its consequences, the Lord Jesus Christ. [a] He being the eternal Son of God, [b] became man through conception by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the virgin Mary, [c] and so was and continues to be both God and man, one person in two distinct and complete natures forever. [d] He alone is the only mediator between God and men and through Him alone can any man know and have fellowship with God.[e]

NCCF Statement of Faith, Section 8a-Jesus is the appointed Redeemer

Redemption Summary Review

Old Testament Citations/New Testament Recognitions

I. The definition of Redemption grows throughout the OT
   A. It includes deliverance, salvation, restoration, and a payment being made
   B. A Kinsman-Redeemer is given as a type (Boaz and Ruth)
   C. God *Is* the Redeemer
II. Jesus is the appointed Redeemer

Redemption-Buying Back, Restoration

25 “If your brother becomes poor and sells part of his property, then his
nearest redeemer shall come and redeem what his brother has sold. 26 If a
man has no one to redeem it and then himself becomes prosperous and
finds sufficient means to redeem it, 27 let him calculate the years since he
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Ruth 4:5-6 (Read the full story of Ruth for more context)

Isaiah proclaiming the LORD is the ONLY Redeemer and God

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Who is the Redeemer?

Old Testament Citations/New Testament Recognitions

1. Anyone can ‘redeem’ property, people, land (levitical law)
2. The Kinsman-Redeemer (Ruth and Boaz)
3. God is the redeemer (Job, Psalms, Isaiah)
4. Jesus is the appointed Redeemer

Jesus fulfilling the promise of Redemption

18

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives
and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
19

to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”
20 And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. 21 And he began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

Luke 4: 18-21 (read 16-21 for fuller context)

Why is Jesus the Redeemer?

New Testament Fulfillments

1. **Luke 4:18-21**
    A. Deliverance, Salvation, Restoration
        i. liberty to captives, liberty to the ‘oppressed’, the favorable year of the Lord (year of Jubilee)-restoration

Jesus is the Redeemer for all men

46 And Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, “It was necessary that the word of God be spoken first to you. Since you thrust it aside and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles. 47 For so the Lord has commanded us, saying,

“‘I have made you a light for the Gentiles,
that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.’”

48 And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.

Acts 13:46-48

Jesus is the Redeemer for all men

5 And now the Lord says,
he who formed me from the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him;
and that Israel might be gathered to him—
for I am honored in the eyes of the Lord,
and my God has become my strength—

6 he says:
“It is too light a thing that you should be my servant
to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to bring back the preserved of Israel;
I will make you as a light for the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

7 Thus says the Lord,
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nation,
the servant of rulers:

Isaiah 49: 5-7

Why is Jesus the Redeemer?

New Testament Fulfillments

1. **Luke 4:18-21**
    A. Deliverance, Salvation, Restoration to his people
        i. liberty to captives, liberty to the ‘oppressed’, the favorable year of the Lord (year of Jubilee)-restoration
2. **Acts 13:46-48** (*Isaiah 49:5-7*)
    A. Restoration (bringing back), salvation
        i. Redemption is NOT ONLY the restoration of Israel, but it is for the ‘nations’

Jesus is recognized as the lamb of God, the deliverer

29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said,
“Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

John 1:29

Redemption as Atonement, Propitiation

New Testament Fulfillments

1. **John 1:29**
    A. Jesus is identified by John the Baptist as the ‘lamb of God’-the one who ‘atones’-A sacrifice in the place of another
        i. The lamb sacrificed in the place of Isaac (Gen 22:7-8)
        ii. The blood of the lamb in Egypt (payment of blood instead of the death of the firstborn) (Exodus 12:3-5)
        iii. The lamb that ‘redeems’ the firstborn (Exodus 34:20)
        iv. Peace, sin, and guilt offerings (Exodus, Leviticus)
            i. The lamb paid to give peace, forgive sin, assuage guilt

Jesus' blood is payment for sins.

22 Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

Hebrews 9:22

Jesus' death is the redemptive atonement and propitiation

15 Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.

Hebrews 9:15

Jesus is the Redeemer for all men

2 He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

I John 2:2

Redemption as Atonement, Propitiation

New Testament Fulfillments

1. **Hebrews 9:22**
   A. Payment of Blood is required for forgiveness of sins
2. **Hebrews 9:15**
   A. Jesus' death is the payment of blood given for redemption
3. **I John 2:2**
   1. Jesus' payment of blood in his death is the propitiation that satisfies the wrath and justice of God and thereby ***Redeems*** the people of God

The **Redeemed** are purchased, restored, delivered and saved

1 Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever!

2 Let the redeemed of the Lord say so,
whom he has redeemed from trouble

3 and gathered in from the lands,
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.

Psalm 107: 1-3

Jesus is the only Redeemer

12 And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men[a] by which we must be saved.”

Acts 4:12

Isaiah proclaiming the LORD is the ONLY Redeemer and God

Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel
and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts:
"I am the first and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.

Isaiah 44:6

Why is Jesus the Redeemer?

New Testament Fulfillments

1. **Who is Jesus?**
    A. Why is his **one** death ‘redemptive’?
        i. Why is *He* the redeemer?
            a. Isn’t GOD the redeemer?
        ii. Is Jesus GOD or a Man?
            i. Fully God?
            ii. Fully Man?

8. In love and mercy God has appointed a Redeemer for men from sin and its consequences, the Lord Jesus Christ. [a] *He being the eternal Son of God,* [b] *became man through conception by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the virgin Mary,* [c] *and so was and continues to be both God and man, one person in two distinct and complete natures forever.* [d] *He alone is the only mediator between God and men and through Him alone can any man know and have fellowship with God.*[e]

NCCF Statement of Faith, Section 8b, The Nature of the Redeemer

Redemption Revealed

The Concept of Redemption

I. The concept of **Redemption** is defined by historical events
   A. Deliverance, Salvation, and Restoration with a **payment**
      1. The Exodus event
      2. Levitical Redemption
      3. the year of Jubilee
      4. Kinsman-Redeemer (Boaz, Ruth, Naomi)
   B. GOD is called the **Redeemer**
      1. Job, Exodus, Psalms, Isaiah

Jesus the appointed Redeemer

Jesus comes to Redeem the same way God did

I. Jesus' mission is a ***Redemptive*** mission and he is fulfilling the ***Redemptive*** acts of GOD

   A. He comes to deliver, save, and restore his people (Luke 4:18-21)

      1. He is bringing liberty to the captives (*deliverance)*, the oppressed (healing the sick-*restoration*), and bringing the favorable year of the Lord (the year of Jubilee-*deliverance, restoration, buying back without cost*)

   2. He is bringing salvation and restoration to the nations (Acts 13:46-48, Isaiah 49: 5-7)

Redemption & Atonement

Behold, the Lamb of God, which takes away the sin of the world.

John 1:29b

I. Redemption & Atonement come together in Jesus

A. The sacrifice of the lamb is a **payment** that atones, propitiates, and redeems

1. The lamb sacrificed in the place of Isaac (Gen 22:7-8)
2. The blood of the lamb in Egypt (payment of blood instead of the death of the firstborn) (Exodus 12:3-5)
3. The lamb that '**redeems**' the firstborn (Exodus 34:20)
4. Peace, sin, and guilt offerings (Exodus, Leviticus)

B. Jesus is the **redeemer** (he does redemptive acts like GOD) and the **payment** (he himself is the sacrificial lamb)

The Nature of Jesus: Redeemer & Sacrifice

Jesus as God

I. The Redeemer is God

A. If God is the ‘one who redeems’, then Jesus must be God in order to Redeem (Acts 4:12, Isaiah 44:6, etc.)

B. Jesus identifies himself as God (John 8:58, Revelation 1:17-18, etc.)

The Redeemer is **ONLY** GOD, Jesus is the **ONLY** Redeemer

***12** And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men[a] by which we must be saved."*

Acts 4:12

Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel
and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts:
"I am the first and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.

Isaiah 44:6

Jesus identifies himself with GOD

Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.”

John 8:58

17 When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, “Fear not, I am the first and the last, 18 and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.

Revelation 1: 17-18

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I. The Redeemer is God

A. If God is the ‘one who redeems’, then Jesus must be God in order to Redeem (Acts 4:12, Isaiah 44:6, etc.)

B. Jesus identifies himself as God (John 8:58, Revelation 1:17-18, etc.)

II. The Redemption Price (the sacrifice) must be eternal

A. **One eternal sacrifice** secures **eternal redemption** (Hebrews 9:12)

B. If the sacrifice is **not eternal**, then it must be offered continuously and can never ‘take away’ sin (Hebrews 9:25-26, 10:1-4)

Jesus' **eternal sacrifice** secures **eternal redemption**

…he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an ***eternal redemption.***

Hebrews 9:12

25 Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, 26 for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to ***put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.***

Hebrews 9:25-26

Temporary sacrifices cannot take away sins

For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near. 2 Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have any consciousness of sins? 3 But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. 4 For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

Hebrews 10:1-4

The Nature of Jesus: Redeemer & Sacrifice

Jesus as Man

I. Jesus must be a man in order to suffer and die

A. Only a true flesh and blood man can suffer and die (Hebrews 2:9-10, 14-15, etc.)

Jesus became a man so that he could suffer and die

9 But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

10 For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering.

Hebrews 2: 9-10

Jesus became a man so that he could suffer and die

14 Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.

Hebrews 2: 14-15

The Nature of Jesus: Redeemer & Sacrifice

Jesus as Man

I. Jesus must be a man in order to suffer and die

A. Only a true flesh and blood man can suffer and die (Hebrews 2:9-10, 14-15, etc.)

II. Jesus mediates for us, and sympathizes with us as a man

A. Jesus is the high priest that mediates between us and God (Hebrews 2: 17-18)

B. Jesus knows our weakness because he is a man (Hebrews 4: 15)

Jesus became a man so that he could intercede for us

17 Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. 18 For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Hebrews 2: 17-18

Jesus became a man so that he could sympathize with us

15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Hebrews 4:15

He being the eternal Son of God, became man through conception by the Holy Spirit in the womb of virgin Mary, and so was and continues to be both God and man, one person in two distinct and complete natures forever.

1. *Eternal son of God* - Jo 17:5, Heb 1:1-3, 1 Jo 1:1-3
2. *Conception* - Isa 7:14, Mat 1:18-25, Luk 1:30-35
3. *The God/Man* - 1 Tim 2:5, 3:16, I Jo 1:1-3, 4:1-6

NCCF Statement of Faith, Section 8b-The Nature of Jesus the Redeemer

Jesus is the eternal son

And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

John 17:5

Jesus is the eternal son, the agent of creation

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2 *but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.* 3 *He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,*

Hebrews 1:1-3

Jesus is the *eternal* son, who was with the Father

1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— 2 the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— 3 that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.

I John 1: 1-3

Jesus physical birth was prophesied

14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Isaiah 7:14

Jesus physical birth is from the Holy Spirit, through Mary

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ[a] took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed[b] to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19 And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. 20 But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

23

"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel"
(which means, God with us). 24 When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, 25 but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Matthew 1: 18-25

Jesus physical birth is from the Holy Spirit, in the womb of Mary

30 And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

34 And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”[a]

35 And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born[b] will be called holy—the Son of God.

Luke 1: 30-35

Jesus is a man

5 For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man [a] Christ Jesus…

1 Timothy 2:5

Jesus came in the flesh

Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness:

He was manifested in the flesh,
vindicated by the Spirit,
seen by angels,
proclaimed among the nations,
believed on in the world,
taken up in glory.

1 Timothy 3:16

Jesus was a real man and the Apostle's testify to it

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— 2 the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us — 3 that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.

1 John 1: 1-3

Jesus coming in the flesh is a testimony from God

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 3 and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. 4 Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. 5 They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. 6 We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

1 John 4: 1-6