

B. Background Materials in the Life of the Doctrine

While we cannot elaborate on many of these things, the Christological doctrine must be seen (or studied) in the light of these complicated--or mystical items.

1. The Promised Seed

2. The Evidences of His Coming

3. Secular/religious doubts about the Messianic character as expressed in the Hebrew community.

4. The Gospel accounts and the resurrection.

5. The Great Question..asked anew with every generation and with non-diminishing force: Whom do ye say that I am?

C. The Early Discussions and Struggles

The emergence of Jesus into the religious world was not only unsettling for the Hebrew community but loaded with significance for the Gentilic community as well. As the simple truths about Him were believed, the community found it necessary to say these in some meaningful form...a fact that the on-boing church found troublesome. To believe is one thing...to describe is something else. More heretics arise in the descriptive category than we can imagine. And at times we become impatient with finding our way through the jungle of ideas. But it is important we try to do so. We are talking about the Son of God and about His life on the mission for which He came. This mission, we believe, is the message of life and peace without which we cannot live.