

Is Jesus God? Is Jesus God?



'What think you of Christ?' is the most important question of life (cf. **Matt. 16:15; 22:42**). It is the question that strikes right at the heart of biblical Christianity. Your answer to this question has eternal consequences. Many of the religions of the world claim that Jesus Christ is not God. Anyone who makes such a remark has not read the Bible for themselves. Surely Jesus Christ is the greatest of all men, but He is infinitely more than mere man.

God is one God eternally existing in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ is one with the Father and the Holy Spirit in substance, yet each is a distinct person. This doctrine is crucial to the Christian faith. Jesus Christ, the second person of the Triune God, is equal to the Father in nature and attributes, yet the Father sent Him to die for the sins of the world, so that Christ is submissive to the Father in duty. Jesus Christ of the New Testament is Yahweh (Jehovah) God of the Old Testament, come in the flesh. The amount of material in the Bible supporting the teaching that Jesus Christ is Jehovah God is actually quite staggering. Here we summarize a few highlights.

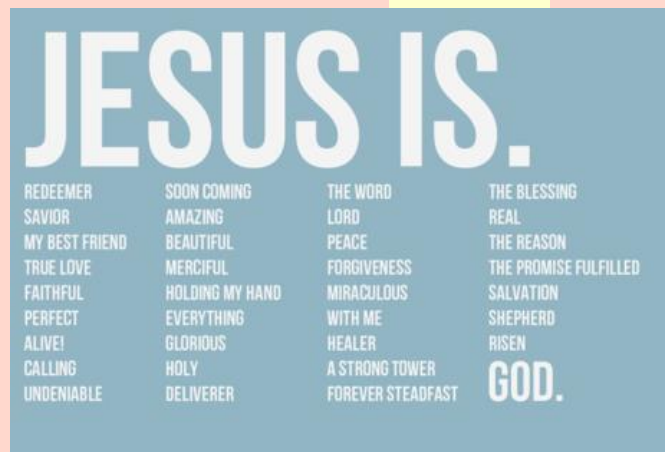
1. In the Greek translation of the Hebrew Old Testament, the Septuagint (LXX), the word *kurios* is the regular word used to translate the Hebrew name for God: Yahweh, Jehovah, or LORD. The word Lord (*kurios*) was the equivalent of the name of God. At least 150 times in the New Testament it is used of God. The Old and New Testaments alike constantly use *kurios* for God. This is why most of our English Bibles do not use the name Yahweh or Jehovah but have the LORD or Lord instead. The disciples and the early church knew that great name of God and therefore did not hesitate to declare that Jesus is Jehovah, Yahweh or Lord.
2. **Things that are in the Old Testament said of Jehovah are in the New Testament said of Christ.** He was the creator (**Ps. 102:24-27; Heb. 1:10-12**), was seen by Isaiah (**Isa. 6:1-4; John 12:41**), was to be preceded by a forerunner (**Isa. 40:3; Matt. 3:3**), disciplines his people (**Num. 21:6f.; 1 Cor. 10:9**), is to be regarded as holy (**Isa. 8:13; 1 Pet. 3:15**), is to lead captivity captive (**Ps. 68:18; Eph. 4:8**), and is to be the object of faith (**Joel 2:32; Rom. 10:9, 13**).
3. **There are certain attributes, names and activities that are ascribed to God that are also attributed to Jesus.** This is proof that Jesus and Jehovah are the same being. For example, Jesus is identified in the Bible as 'the Mighty God' (**Isa. 9:6; compare 10:21**), as 'God' (**John 1:1**), 'my God' (**John 20:28**), 'our great God and Saviour' (**Titus 2:13; 2 Peter 1:1**), and 'the true God and eternal life' (**1 John 5:20**). Moreover, the Bible in more than one place explicitly says, 'Jesus is Lord,' which is the clearest way the New Testament *could* affirm that Jesus is Jehovah (**Rom. 10:9; 1 Cor. 12:3; Phil. 2:11**).
4. **The true identity of Jesus is revealed in the titles given to him in the Bible.** Jesus is given many titles in the pages of the Bible, but there are at least nine which are only applied to God (yes, Jehovah!).

Jehovah is God (Jer 32:18; Is 43:10; Is 45:22)	Jesus is God (Is 9:6; John 1:1; John 20:28; 2 Peter 1:1; Titus 2:13; Jer 23:6; Heb 1:8; 1 John 5:20)
Jehovah is God of gods and Lord of lords (Psalm 136:1-3; Deut 10:17)	Jesus is King of Kings and Lord of Lords (Rev 17:14, Rev 19:16)
Jehovah is creator (Gen 1:1; Is 40:28; Job 33:4)	Jesus is creator (John 1:3; Col 1:15-17; Heb 1:10)
Jehovah is light (Psalm 27:1; Isaiah 60:20; Micah 7:8)	Jesus is light (Luke 2:32; John 1:9; John 8:12)
Jehovah is Judge (Gen 18:25; 1 Chron 16:33; Job 21:22; Psalm 7:11; 9:8; 82:8; 50:6; Isaiah 33:22; Ezekiel 20:36; Joel 3:12; 1 Cor 5:13; Heb 10:30; 1	Jesus is Judge (John 5:22; 5:27; 8:16; Acts 10:42, 17:31; Romans 2:16; 2 Tim 4:1)

Peter 1:17)	
Jehovah is saviour (Psalm 106:21; Isaiah 45:21; 43:3; 43:11; Hosea 13:4)	Jesus is saviour (Luke 2:11; Acts 5:31)
Jehovah is 'I AM' (Exodus 3:14)	Jesus is 'I AM' (John 8:58; 18:5)
Jehovah is the rock (Gen 49:24, Deut 32:4; 1 Sam 2:2; 2 Sam 22:2, 32, 47; Psalm 18:2; 19:4; 28:1; 89:26; Isaiah 17:10)	Jesus is the rock (Rom 9:33; 1 Cor 10:4; 1 Peter 2:8)
Jehovah is the first and last (Isaiah 41:4; 44:6; 48:12)	Jesus is the first and last (Rev 1:17; 2:8; 22:13)

5. **The fact that worship was given to and accepted by Jesus Christ demonstrates His deity.**

- *Matthew 14:33*—"And those who were in the boat worshiped Him, saying, 'You are certainly God's Son!'"
 - *John 9:38*—"And [the man born blind] said, 'Lord, I believe.' And he worshiped Him."
 - *Matthew 28:9*—"And behold, Jesus met them and [greeted the women coming from His tomb]. And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshiped Him."
 - *Matthew 28:17-18*—"And when [the eleven disciples] saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some were doubtful. And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.'"
 - "Glory forever" is ascribed to Jesus (Rom 16:27; Eph 3:21; 2Tim 4:18; Heb 13:21; 1Pet 4:11; 2Pet 3:18; Jude 25; Rev 1:6; 5:13). But Jehovah said that He would not give His glory to another (Isa 42:8; 48:11).
 - Jesus is prayed to (Acts 1:24; 7:59-60) and answers prayer to Himself (Jn 14:14; 2Cor 12:8-9; 1Jn 5:13-15). A prayer of the early Church was to Jesus: "Our Lord, come!" (1Cor 16:22; Rev 22:20). Paul prayed to *both* "our God and Father ... and our Lord Jesus" (1Th 3:11). Jesus' name is to be called upon (Acts 2:21; Rom 10:12-13; 1Cor 1:2) as was Jehovah's name to be called upon in the Old Testament (Gen 4:26; 12:8; 26:25; 1Ch 16:8; Ps 99:6; 105:1; 116:4,13,17; Isa 12:4; 48:2; Lam 3:55; Joel 2:32; Zep 3:9).
6. **Jesus does works that God alone can do.** For example, **Christ created "all things."** John 1:3 says, "All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made." If that is true, then He himself could not be a created being.



Colossians 1:16 says the same thing in more detail, ruling out the possibility He could be any kind of archangel: "For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created by Him and for Him." Verse 17 takes it a step further and pictures Him not only as Creator but also as *Sustainer*: "And He is before all things, and **in Him all things hold together.**"

He forgives sin. This was a huge controversy in Jesus' earthly ministry. Matt 9:2-7 and Mark 2:5-10 give the accounts of how the Pharisees were offended that He forgave sins. In Mark 2:7 they ask, "Why does this man speak that way? He is blaspheming; who can forgive sins but God alone?" They understood clearly the implications of His authority.

He has the power to raise the dead and judge final judgment. In John 5:22, Jesus said, "For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son." That is a very explicit claim of deity, and in verse 24, Jesus even makes the basis of judgment the issue of whether someone hears His word or not. Acts 10:42 says Christ

"has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead." Acts 17:31 says the same thing. 2 Timothy 4:1 says "Christ Jesus . . . is to judge the living and the dead."

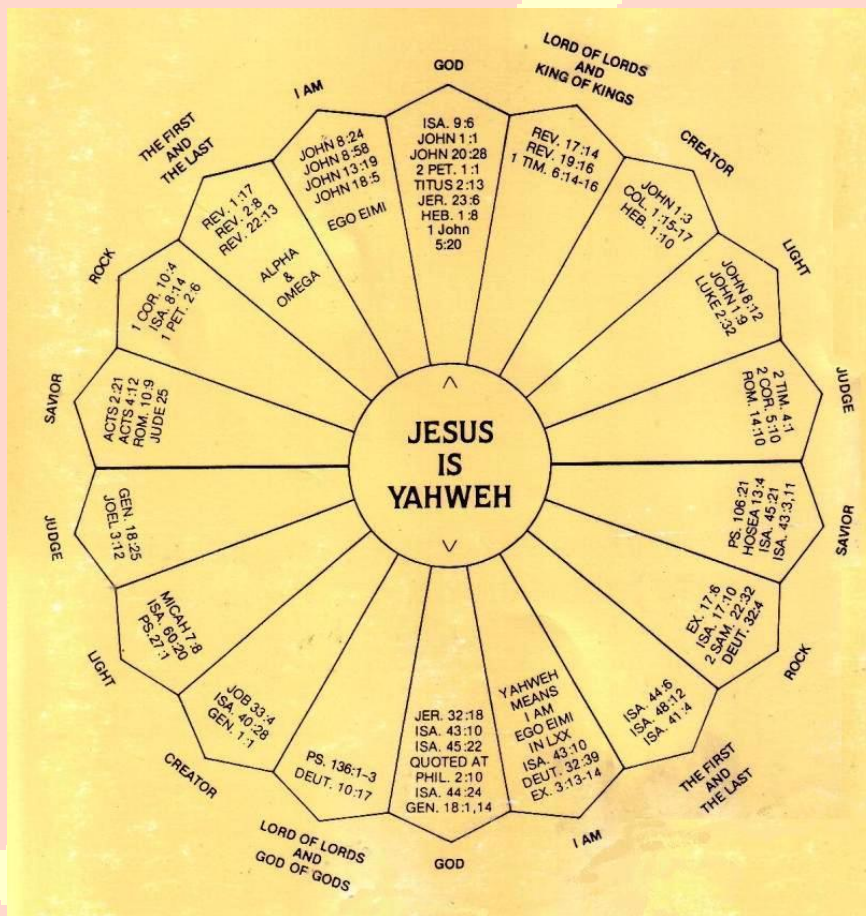
Finally, if Jesus is God, we might expect Him to say so. Have you ever wondered why He didn't simply state, "I am God?" and put an end to any possibility of confusion? Actually, He did. What He says in John 8:58 was to His Jewish audience a far more explicit statement than if He had merely said "I am God." It is important to see this passage in its context. In verse 53, we see that the Pharisees were becoming uncomfortable with Jesus' claims, beginning to suspect that He was putting Himself on a level of authority no mere man would have any right to. They said:

⁵³ Are you greater than our father Abraham? He died, and so did the prophets. Who do you think you are?"

⁵⁴ Jesus replied, "If I glorify myself, my glory means nothing. My Father, whom you claim as your God, is the one who glorifies me. ⁵⁵ Though you do not know him, I know him. If I said I did not, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and obey his word. ⁵⁶ Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad."

⁵⁷ "You are not yet fifty years old," they said to him, "and you have seen Abraham!"

⁵⁸ "Very truly I tell you," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!" ⁵⁹ At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds.



Notice that these men understood precisely what Jesus was saying. And because He obviously also understood what they were asking, His reply is all that much more significant. He was telling them He was God, using the name Jehovah Himself had revealed to Moses at the burning bush, "I AM." He could have made no stronger claim of deity. If that had not been His meaning, if he were claiming only to be the firstborn angel, He would have said, "before Abraham was born, I was."

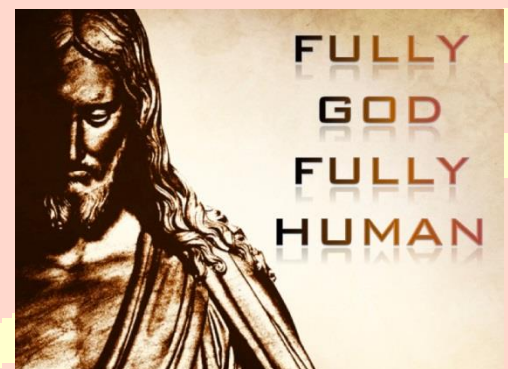
Remember that the Lord Jesus was crucified because of His claim that we was God.

However, despite these clear references people still use Bible verses to say that Jesus is not God. A favourite proof text is [John 14:28](#) where Jesus says, "The Father is greater than I". Another is [1 Corinthians 11:3](#) where we read "the head of Christ is God" and [1 Corinthians 15:28](#) in which Jesus is said to be "subject" to the Father.

In each of these cases, however, it is not the nature of Jesus which is under consideration but his function at that time. In his deity Jesus is fully God, but in his humanity he was humbled by taking on an earthly life with all the limitations such a life brings.

We could say it was the 'role' of Jesus to live on earth (all the while being limited to a very human existence), and to free creation from bondage to sin through obedience to the cross.

God the Father did not die on the cross, nor did God the Holy Spirit. It was the unique role of God the Son and while he's in the process of living this earthly life, he appears humbled and weak. That is the way it was planned from eternity, it is not proof Jesus is not God.



Conclusion

The Biblical evidence is *overwhelming* that Jesus of the New Testament is

Jehovah of the Old Testament, come in the flesh. And that *all* the objections that Jesus is not Jehovah, fail. So much evidence cannot be swept aside or ignored. You either believe it, or you condemn yourself to an unthinkable eternity. In fact, Jesus said, "Unless you believe that I am, you shall die in your sins" (Jn. 8:24).

Jesus is Jehovah. Thomas confessed to the resurrected Christ, "My Lord and my God" (John 20:28). Jesus accepted that confession of faith in Him. "No one can say, 'Jesus is Lord,' except by the Holy Spirit" (1 Cor. 12:3). Indeed, no one can become a Christian unless he confesses "with his mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believes in his heart that God raised Him from the dead" (Rom. 10:9).

Is Jesus Christ your Lord?

All we have to do is believe in the Lord Jesus Christ to be forgiven of all our wrongs and to spend eternity with God. Believing means trust and commitment - acknowledging our sinfulness, trusting Christ's forgiveness and letting Him control our life. Eternal, abundant life is a gift for us to receive. Jesus offers the greatest gift anyone could ever ask for. All you need to do is humbly accept it.

- For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal *life*. (**John 3:16**)
- If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. (**Romans 10:9-10**)
- Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved., you and your household" (**Acts 16:31**)
- "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes Him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life." (**John 5:24**)

The above verse has one promise with three parts. The person who believes:

1. Has Eternal life
2. Does not come into judgment
3. Has passed from death into life.

Here's how to claim that promise - What to pray?

Dear Lord Jesus, I believe that you are the Son of God and God. You came into the world to die for me so that I can live forever with you. I know that there is nothing good in me. I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I want to turn away from my old life and live for you. I now invite you to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow You as the Lord and Saviour of my life. In Your name. Amen.



God's assurance of eternal life

If you've prayed this prayer and are trusting Christ, then the Bible says that you can be sure you have eternal life.

- ...for, everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved (**Romans 10:13**).
- He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life (**1 John 5:12-13**).

Receiving Christ, we are born into God's family through the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit who indwells every believer. This is called *regeneration* or the "*new birth*."

What next?

This is just the beginning of a wonderful new life in Christ. To deepen this relationship you should:

1. Read your bible every day to get to know the Lord Jesus Christ better.
2. Talk to God in prayer every day.
3. Be baptised, worship, fellowship and serve with other Christians in a church where the Lord Jesus Christ is preached and the Bible is the final authority.
4. As Christ's representative in a needy world, demonstrate your new life by your love and concern for others.

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