



Is Jesus God?

DISCOVERING GOD'S WORD BIBLE STUDY SERIES

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Is Jesus God? That is, does Jesus Christ possess all of the characteristics of Godhood (Deity)? There are some religious organizations that will claim Jesus is not God – claiming that He was one of God's creations. But, what do the Scriptures teach concerning this question? Let's investigate.

Jesus Possesses All The Characteristics Of Deity

The term "Deity" simply refers to the nature of being God. There are particular characteristics that only belong to God. They are what make God – God. All of these characteristics cannot be claimed by anyone other than God. They are: (1) An eternal nature, (2) Omnipotence, (3) Omniscience, and (4) Omnipresence. Now, let's consider whether Jesus possesses all of these characteristics so as to be God.

(1) Jesus' eternal nature. To be eternal is to have no beginning and to have no end. Therefore, if Jesus was created by God, He is not eternal – and cannot be God. However, the Scriptures clearly teach that Jesus is eternal. John 1:1 puts Jesus in the beginning: "In the beginning was the Word" (note that the "Word" is used throughout this chapter in reference to Jesus). Then, when Jesus spoke of Abraham, the Jews asked Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?" Jesus then said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM" (John 8:57-58). Notice that Jesus did not say that He *was*. He said, "I AM"! This implies His eternal nature – that, at every point, Jesus was/will be in existence.

(2) Jesus' Omnipotence. To be Omnipotent is to be all-powerful. This characteristic of Jesus is seen repeatedly throughout the Scriptures. First, this characteristic is seen in the fact that "All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made" (John 1:3). Second, His Omnipotence can be seen in all of the miracles He performed. Jesus was able to command a storm to stop (Matthew 8:23-27), was able to walk on the water (Matthew 14:25-32), was able to heal a paralyzed man and forgive his sins (Matthew 9:1-8), was able to raise the dead (Luke 11:38-44), and many other great miracles.

(3) Jesus' Omniscience. To be Omniscient is to be all-knowing. This characteristic of Jesus is also repeatedly seen throughout the pages of Scripture. Whenever Jesus encountered a Samaritan woman at Jacob's well in John 4, Jesus instructed the woman to call her husband and come (vs. 16). Whenever she said, "I have no husband" (vs. 17), Jesus responded, "You have well said, 'I have no husband,' for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly" (vs. 17-18). Later, this woman said that Jesus told her "all things" that she had ever done (vs. 29). Furthermore, Matthew 12:25 and Luke 6:8 indicates that Jesus knew the thoughts of others. And, in Revelation 2:23, Jesus claimed to be the one "who searches the minds and hearts."

(4) Jesus' Omnipresence. To be Omnipresent is to be ever-present. Matthew 18:20 is one passage in which Jesus can be seen as being ever-present. Jesus said, "For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them." Furthermore, the Scriptures are clear that Jesus Christ will be the Judge of the world (Acts 17:31; 2 Corinthians 5:10). Yet, to actually be a completely fair Judge, Jesus must have seen the things which were done by others – otherwise there would be a chance of getting a judgment wrong!

Jesus does possess all of the attributes of being God. This is demonstratively clear from the Scriptures. While there are some objections folks would raise to this conclusion, their objections do not change the teachings we have already seen – or the direct claims for Jesus to be God (that we are about to consider).

Jesus Is Called "God"

Not only can it be demonstrated that Jesus is God; but, the language of Scripture is such that Jesus is also repeatedly called "God." Therefore, even if we did not have all of the passages that demonstrate Jesus' Deity, we could know that He possesses all of these characteristics because He is identified as being God! Let's consider some passages in which Jesus is identified as "God."

(1) John 1:1: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

The context of this verse is unmistakable in identifying the "Word" as Jesus. Verse 14, for instance, says that "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us." Now, consider what is directly stated about Jesus in verse 1. (1) Jesus was in the very beginning. He was present during the creation of the world (consider this from the use of plural pronouns for God in Genesis 1:26-27). (2) The Word was with God. Again, Genesis 1:26-27 helps us to see this to be true. In fact, John 1:2-3 continues to help us understand that Jesus was "in the beginning with God" and "without Him nothing was made that was made." (3) The Word was God. While the Bible clearly indicates that Jesus and the Father are two separate Beings, this verse does identify that Jesus is God (that He possesses the characteristics of being Deity). The language cannot be any plainer – and it is consistently and universally translated in this way by all credible Bible translations.

(2) Colossians 2:9: "For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily."

This text is plainly speaking about Jesus Christ. And, the text says that it is in Jesus Christ that “all the fullness of the Godhead” dwells bodily. The word translated “Godhead” in the *New King James Version* simply means Deity (the nature of being God). Now, not only does Jesus Christ generally possess the nature of being God; but, He also possessed this nature when He lived on this earth and had a physical form.

(3) Philippians 2:6: “who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God.”

This verse comes in the context of talking about the humility and obedience of Jesus Christ. It is demonstrating how that Jesus (even though He was in the form of God) did not cling to that – to the point of refusing to come to the earth and give His life as the sacrifice for sin. However, do notice that in making this point, the passage clearly identifies that Jesus was “in the form of God.” Now, how could anyone make that great claim unless Jesus truly is God?

(4) Matthew 1:23: “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated, ‘God with us.’”

This verse comes in the context of the announcement of Jesus’ birth. In verse 21, an angel of the Lord had appeared to Joseph, telling him that Mary would “bring forth a Son” and that he should “call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” Verse 22 indicates that all of this was done in order to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet. Then, verse 23 records this prophecy that had been given in Isaiah 7:14. Particularly, notice that this one who was about to be born would be called “Jesus” – and He would be called “Immanuel.” The significance in this is seen in the fact that the name “Immanuel” had the meaning, “God with us.” Jesus Christ would be God living as man during the time He was on the earth! As we have already seen demonstrated, Jesus would be in full possession of the characteristics of Deity while He lived on the earth.

(5) John 20:28: “And Thomas answered and said to Him, ‘My Lord and my God!’”

This verse comes in the context of Jesus showing Thomas His hands, His feet, and His side after His resurrection from the dead to demonstrate that He truly was Jesus and that He truly had risen from the dead. Particularly, this verse records Thomas’ response after he examined the evidence. He was clearly convinced and proclaimed Jesus as His Lord and His God! Then, I want you to take note of how Jesus responded to Thomas in verse 29: “Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” Notice that Jesus did not rebuke Thomas in any way for identifying Him as “God.” Certainly, Jesus would not have accepted that praise if it was not true!

(6) Romans 9:5: “of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God. Amen.”

This passage comes in a section of Scripture in which Paul is expressing his sorrow for the Israelites (who had generally rejected Jesus). He says that it is from the physical lineage of the nation of Israel all of the fathers came – and from whom Jesus came. Then, as He is speaking about Jesus, He

says, “who is over all, the eternally blessed God. Amen.” So, as Paul is writing by inspiration of God (by the Holy Spirit), He states that Jesus is God.

(7) 1 John 5:20: “And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.”

Notice that throughout this verse, the subject is Jesus Christ (the Son of God). In fact, the text says that we are “in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ.” Then, John clearly says that this (Jesus Christ) “is the true God and eternal life.” Again, John could not be more clear than this.

(8) Titus 2:13: “looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.”

Paul states that we should be looking for the appearing of Jesus Christ. This is in complete harmony with other Scriptures which demonstrate that Jesus Christ will be the one who will return when it is time for this world to end. However, pay special attention to the fact that the one who will appear is identified as the “great God and Savior Jesus Christ.”

(9) Hebrews 1:8: “But to the Son He says: ‘Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom.’”

This passage comes in the context of the Hebrew writer demonstrating how much greater Jesus is than any of the angels. Now, we have already seen other people identify Jesus as God (Thomas, Paul, John) and they have all been conclusive in demonstrating the fact (and are also part of God’s inspired revelation to mankind). However, if there was any doubt remaining, notice that this passage shows the Father calling the Son (Jesus Christ) “God.”

Conclusion

Jesus is God. The Scriptures not only plainly demonstrate this fact to be true; but, they also plainly state this to be true.

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