

Is Jesus God?

In Acts 17:11 the Bereans were commended for testing everything the apostle Paul told them according to the scriptures. The Bereans didn't go to any organization or group. They relied completely on the scriptures and God. And in 1 Thessalonians 5:21 we are told to make sure of all things, holding on to that which is good.

This brings us to a statement made in the JW publication, *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived*. The statement reads, "Was Jesus, in fact, God? Many today say that he was. Yet his associates never believed that he was God?" The next paragraph in the book states, "Jesus never claimed to be God, but he acknowledged that he was the promised Messiah, or Christ."

It is vital for anyone professing to be a Christian to believe in the *real* Jesus. It is only the *real* Jesus that saves. In 2 Corinthians 11:3 we are told that some people will preach a false Jesus, and that some will follow that false Jesus. We are also that those people are deceived.

Since we as Christians are told to test everything according to God's word, the bible, let's see what the bible has to say about the true identity of Jesus and whether Jesus is, in fact, God.

- The most obvious statement about the deity of Jesus is found in **John 1:1**. The *New World Translation* renders this verse, In (the) beginning the Word was, and the Word was with God, and the Word was a God." First, this translation of John 1:1 contradicts all other standard bible translations of this verse (even old JW bibles). The correct translation of this verse states that "the Word was God." The Watchtower Society has their reasons for translating this verse like they did, but it is important to remember that *scripture interprets scripture*. Therefore, we can even test this translation against what the rest of scripture says about whether Jesus is God, or just "a god".

- The bible makes it clear that there is only one true God (**please read Deuteronomy 32:39; Isaiah 43:10, 44:6, 45:5, 21, 22**) and that there will *never* be another true God. Yes, many false gods do exist, but Jesus is not a false god. Therefore, according to the above scripture, it is impossible for the Father to be viewed as one Almighty (true) God and the Son to be a separate mighty (true) God. There can only be one true God. The existence of two true Gods, whether one is big and the other is small, is impossible according to scripture. So, If Jesus is "a god" in John 1:1, and he is not a false god, then he can only be the true God.

- In **John 8:58** Jesus said, "I'll tell you the truth, before Abraham was born, *I am*." His statement was clearly connected with God's name in **Exodus 3:14**, where we read, "God said to Moses, I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: I AM has sent me to you." The reason the Jews wanted to stone Jesus was because they knew what Jesus was saying by making such a statement He was making an undeniable claim to be God. In the *New World Translation* the words "I am" in John 8:58 are replaced with "I have been". But even the *JW Kingdom Interlinear* and older bibles (before 1951) agree with the translation of "I am".

- Please read **Revelation 1:7, 8**. In verse 7 it says someone "is coming". Who is coming? Verse 7 says it is someone who was "pierced". We know that Jesus was pierced when he was crucified. But verse 8 says that it is the Alpha and Omega who "is coming". Are there two individuals who are coming? Verse 8 says there is "One who is and one who was and who is coming, the Almighty". Now note what the bible says at **Revelation 22:12, 13**, "Look! I am coming quickly...I am I Alpha and Omega, to first and the last". So, according to scripture, the Alpha and Omega is coming quickly. But in **Revelation 22:20** we see again the identity of the One who is coming, "Yes, I am coming soon. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus". So according to the bible, Jesus is the Alpha and Omega. He is also Almighty God. Therefore, Jesus must be Jehovah God.

- Another verse that indicates Jesus is God is **Zachariah 12:1,10** - Jehovah is speaking in verse 1, and says in verse 10 "they will look upon me, the one whom they have pierced". While this was prophecy about what would later happen to Jesus, Jehovah is saying that he would be the one who is pierced. (This translation has been eliminated from newer JW bibles.) Also see **Zachariah 11:12, 13**, where Jehovah is valued at 30 pieces of silver. Who was valued at 30 pieces of silver? Jesus.

- In **Isaiah 44:24** Jehovah says that he alone created everything, and that he stretched out the heavens and the earth by himself. **Colossians 1:16** says that all things we created by Jesus, "both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities - all things were created by Him and for Him". Again, in **Genesis 1:1** the bible says in the beginning God created the heavens and to earth. If God created the earth, and He did it alone, and Jesus created all things, who does that make Jesus?

- In **Exodus 34:14** and **Matthew 4:10** it is clear that we are to worship God alone. But in **Matthew 8:2, 9:1& 14:33, 15:25 and 28:9, 17**, we are given clear examples of many different people that worshiped Jesus. The Greek

word used in these verses is “proskuneo”. It means “to worship”. The very same word is translated correctly as “worship” in the *New World Translation* when used with regard to the Jehovah. But when “proskuneo” is used with regard to Jesus, it is always translated as “obedience” or “reverence”. When translated in original form, however, it is clear that Jesus is worshipped as God in the New Testament. This is evident in **Revelation 5:13, 14** where we see Jehovah and Jesus receiving the same worship. But remember, according to Exodus 34:14 and Matthew 4:10 only God is to be worshipped.

- **Isaiah 43:3** and **45:21** compared with **Luke 2:11** - In Isaiah 43:3 and 45:21 Jehovah declares that he alone is our Savior. Luke 2:11 tells us that Jesus is our Savior. This is confirmed by the apostle Paul throughout the book of Titus, where he states that Jesus is our God and Savior, and that God is our Savior.

- **Revelation 17:14** compared with **1 Timothy 6:15** - Both the Father and Jesus are identified as King of a kings and Lord of lords. However, there can only be one King of kings and one Lord of lords.

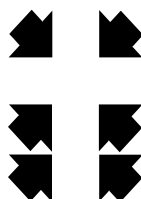
- The glory of Jehovah in **Isaiah 6:1-5** is said to be the glory of Jesus in **John 12:41**.

- The reference to Jehovah in **Isaiah 40:3** is fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ in **Mark 1:2-4**. In Mark 1:2-4, John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus.

The above verses are just a few that indicate Jesus is, in fact, Jehovah God. He is not the Father, but he does possess the exact same nature as the Father. Scriptures clearly indicate that Jesus is as much God as the Father is God. This is one of the reasons we are told to honor the Son just as we honor the Father. **John 5:23**

Jehovah’s Witnesses contend that Jesus cannot be Almighty God because he is subject to the Father. But that is Jesus’ function within the Godhead. Submission to the Father does not indicate inferiority to the Father, it only indicates his position, and it does not make Him any less God. (For example, a wife is not inferior to her husband, or inferior as a human being, even though she is subject to her husband.) If the bible says Jesus is Almighty God, we must believe the bible. It can be difficult to understand, but we cannot understand everything about God or His ways – **Isaiah 55:8, 9; Romans 11:33** and **1 Corinthians 13:12**. Even the Watchtower publication, *Reasoning from the Scriptures*, (p. 148), states that man cannot understand everything about God. We read about God’s eternal nature, “Our minds cannot fully comprehend it. But that is not a sound reasoning for rejecting it”.

Also, we should not reject the idea that Jesus is God – as much as the Father – just because we can’t fully comprehend it. Finite man cannot be expected to understand everything about an infinite Creator. If the bible states that Jesus is God, we must believe it. We must also remember that according to scripture there can only be one true God.



NEW LIGHT MINISTRIES

*P.O. Box 670751
Marietta, GA 30066
<http://www.newlightministries.com>*