



# Preparing to Share Our Faith: Answering Tough Questions

Did Jesus Claim to be God?

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## Objections

- Gnostic gospels were written first
- Our gospels came later and replaced other at Counsel of Nicea
- John is only gospel that declares Jesus as God
- Synoptic gospels written earlier don't include this claim. Therefore a changed story

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## Dating of the Gospels

- Matthew – before 70 AD. Probably 60's
- Mark – As early as 50's or 64 – 65 AD
- Luke – Probably 60-62 AD. Just before Acts
- John – 80 – 90 AD

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## Gospel of John

- John wrote gospel to counter growing gnostic ideas about Jesus' humanity and denying his divinity.

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## Jesus as God in John 1

- V1 Word = God
- V14 Word = Jesus
- Therefore Jesus = God
- V2 Jesus is eternal, therefore not created
- Jesus did the creating (compare John 1:3 w Gen 1:1)

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## Jesus' Statements Equating Himself w God

- About His place of Origin (John 8:23; John 18:36)
- About His Position (John 8:24; John 3:19; also Mat 13:41-43; Luke 12:8-9)
- Equating Himself with God (John 14:6-9; John 10:25-30)
- If we think He is being evasive, the Jews didn't (John 10:31-33)

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## Jesus' I AM Statements

- I AM the Bread of Life
- I AM the Light
- I AM the Sheepgate
- I AM the Resurrection and the Life
- I AM the Way the Truth and the Life
- I AM the True Vine
- Before Abraham was, I AM

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## Attributes of God in OT

- *Isa 41:4 NASB* "Who has performed and accomplished it, Calling forth the generations from the beginning? 'I, the LORD, am the first, and with the last. I am He.'"
- *Isa 48:12 ESV* "Listen to me, O Jacob, and Israel, whom I called! I am he; I am the first, and I am the last.
- *Isa 43:10 NASB* "You are My witnesses," declares the LORD, "And My servant whom I have chosen, So that you may know and believe Me And understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, And there will be none after Me.
- *Isa 43:13 NASB* "Even from eternity I am He, And there is none who can deliver out of My hand; I act and who can reverse it?"
- *Isa 43:25 NASB* "I, even I, am the one who wipes out your transgressions for My own sake, And I will not remember your sins.
- *Isa 46:4 ESV* even to your old age I am he, and to gray hairs I will carry you. I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and will save.

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## Compare to Jesus' Statements

- *Rev 1:17-18* When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed His right hand on me, saying, "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, (18) and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades.
- *Joh 10:28 NASB* and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.(not an I AM verse, but you get the similarity)
- *Joh 6:20 ESV* But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid."
- *Joh 6:20 MKJV* But He said to them, I AM! Do not be afraid.
- *Joh 8:24 NASB* "Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins."
- *Joh 8:28 NASB* So Jesus said, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me.
- *Joh 13:19 NASB* "From now on I am telling you before it comes to pass, so that when it does occur, you may believe that I am He.
- *Joh 18:5 NASB* They answered Him, "Jesus the Nazarene." He \*said to them, "I am He." And Judas also, who was betraying Him, was standing with them.

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## Jesus was Mad, Crazy (or Possessed), or He is God

*I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept his claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronising nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to. ... Now it seems to me obvious that He was neither a lunatic nor a fiend: and consequently, however strange or terrifying or unlikely it may seem, I have to accept the view that He was and is God. C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity*

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## Jesus Uses a Similar Argument

Joh 8:45-55 NASB "But because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me. (46) "Which one of you convicts Me of sin [evil]? If I speak truth, why do you not believe Me? (47) "He who is of God hears the words of God; for this reason you do not hear them, because you are not of God." (48) The Jews answered and said to Him, "Do we not say rightly that You are a Samaritan [evil] and have a demon [crazy]?" (49) Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon; but I honor My Father, and you dishonor Me. (50) "But I do not seek My glory; there is One who seeks and judges. (51) "Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he will never see death." (52) The Jews said to Him, "Now we know that You have a demon. Abraham died, and the prophets also; and You say, 'If anyone keeps My word, he will never taste of death.'" (53) "Surely You are not greater than our father Abraham, who died? The prophets died too; whom do You make Yourself out to be?" (54) Jesus answered, "If I glorify Myself, My glory is nothing; it is My Father who glorifies Me, of whom you say, 'He is our God'; (55) and you have not come to know Him, but I know Him; and if I say that I do not know Him, I will be a liar like you, but I do know Him and keep His word.

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## Savior of OT Must be God and Man

- **Eve's seed is a man (Gen 3:15)**
- **Abraham's Blood Path Covenant (Gen 15:8-21)**
- **Messiah Must be Both God & Man (Psa 110)**
- **Son of Man Must also be Divine (Dan 7)**
- **Isaiah's prophecies (Isa 7:14; Isa 43:10-11; Isa 53:12)**

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## Jesus as God in NT Epistles

**Col 2:8-10 NASB** See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ. (9) For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, (10) and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority;

**Heb 1:1-3 NASB** God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, (2) in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. (3) And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

**Col 1:15-17 NASB** He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. (16) 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 through Him and for Him. (17) He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

**Php 2:5-6 NASB** Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, (6) who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,

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## Declared God at His Birth

- Before His birth He was declared God (Luke 1:35, Luke 1:76)
- At His birth declared Savior, Christ, and Lord (Luke 2:10-11)
- Worshipped (Mat 2:11)

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## Declared God at His Baptism

- The Holy Spirit settles on Him (anointing Him)
- God pronounces His Beloved Son
- All three synoptic gospels record (Mat 3:16-17; Mar 1:10-11; Luke 3:21-22)

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## Jesus Spoke for God

- Jesus was called a prophet, but no prophet spoke as He spoke
- Prophets spoke, "Thus says the Lord..." (417 times in the OT)
- Prophets got their message from God (101 passages where "The word of the Lord came to ...")
- Jesus spoke for Himself (76 times "Truly I say ...")
- The people were "amazed at His teaching ..."

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## Jesus Quotes the OT About Himself

- Refers to Psa 110 And Dan 7 in Mar 14:61-62
- Refers to Psa 110 in Mat 22:41-46

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## Jesus is the Son of God

- Jesus praises Simon for his revelation (Mat 16:15-17)
- Jesus has authority over Kingdom of Heaven (Mat 16:19)
- Satan calls Him the Son of God (Mat 4:3, 6)
- Demons recognize Him (Mat 8:29; Mar 3:11, Luke 4:41)
- Angels declare Him (Luke 1:35)
- The High Priest Understands that Jesus is claiming to be the Son of God (Mat 26:63)

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## Jesus' Authority

- The Source and Nature of Jesus' Authority  
(Mat 21:23-46; Mar 11:27-12:12; Luk 20:1-18)
- Jesus Has Both Spiritual and Physical Authority  
(Mat 9:1-8; Mark 2:1-12; Luke 5:17-26)