

Jesus is Jehovah (Deity of Christ)

To fathom the Person and work of Jesus Christ is impossible. I could no sooner swallow the universe. Who He is delves deeper than any mind can plumb. In short, He is unfathomable. He is unfathomable because He is Divine. So, of course, a study of His Divine nature cannot be exhaustive. But that is not my intention here. My main intent is to show that the Bible clearly teaches that Jesus is Jehovah. Or, to put it another way, that the person of the Son of God, **Jesus of Nazareth, is the God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob**. Although I cannot be exhaustive in all that Scripture teaches of Jesus, I can bring to your attention the many times that Scripture teaches this principle.

While several cults (alarmingly several in our community!) teach against the deity of Christ, it is interesting to note that in those immediate years following Jesus' resurrection, people were more quick to doubt Jesus' humanity than to doubt His deity. John contradicts this false view of Jesus in scathing words. To deny Jesus' complete humanity is to deny Him.

“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the spirit of the antichrist (1 John 1:1-4).”

This is a very important topic that we must delve into and come to agree about in order to be **Christians**. There must be unity on our understanding of the Person of Jesus, both His humanity and deity. Please use the following references as a self-study or guide to build your faith in the power and person of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

- Jesus is declared to be God by direct statements of Scripture.

To begin with, consider the many clear statements of Scripture that state that Jesus is God. Below we will also see that there are actions that only God could perform which Jesus performs, and there are qualities that only God possesses that Jesus possesses. Each one of these is extremely weighty! But taken together, there is no way to accept any other conclusion than the orthodox Christian teaching of Christ's divine nature. **He is fully God and fully man.**

John 1:1 and 17-18 - *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”¹⁷ For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.¹⁸ No one has seen God at any time; **the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.***

John 8:57-59 - John also recounts in this Gospel that Jesus claimed to be I Am – (The translation of the name Yahweh). The Jewish leaders knew that He was claiming to be God because they picked up stones to throw at Him. *“So the Jews said to Him, ‘You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?’⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, **before Abraham was born, I am.**’⁵⁹ Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple.”*

John 10:30-31 *“I and the Father are one.” The Jews picked up stones again to stone Him.*

John 14:8 – *“He who has seen Me has seen the Father.”*

John 20:27-29 - John recounts as well without clarification or critique that one of the disciples, Thomas

professed that Jesus is God following Jesus' resurrection. Of course, John also warned not to worship idols. He knew that worship of Jesus is not idolatry because Jesus is God. *"Then He said to Thomas, 'Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing.'*"²⁸ *Thomas answered and said to Him, 'My Lord and my God!'*"²⁹ *Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed."*

1 John 5:20 - John continues to claim Jesus' deity throughout His book and His epistles. Let's consider another clear reference in John's letter. *"And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding so 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."*

Paul continues this teaching in several clear and direct statements in His letters to the churches. The deity of Christ was a common theme throughout the NT. Consider Paul's clear statements below.

Romans 9:4-5 *who are Israelites, to whom belongs the adoption as sons, and the glory and the covenants and the giving of the Law and the temple service and the promises,*⁵ *whose are the fathers, and from whom is the Christ according to the flesh, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.*

Titus 2:13 *"looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus."*

Hebrews 1:8 - The author of Hebrews leaves us no doubt as he shows throughout chapter 1 (the whole book is devoted to Jesus' superiority) how Jesus is superior to angels. Not only does he share how the angels worship Jesus, but he clearly states that Jesus is God. *"But of the Son He says, 'YOUR THRONE, O GOD, IS FOREVER AND EVER, AND THE RIGHTEOUS SCEPTER IS THE SCEPTER OF HIS KINGDOM.'"*

2 Peter 1.1 - Peter also gives the same conclusion as each of the other writers of the New Testament. These are not implied. These are direct statements of Scripture. *"Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ."*

Revelation 1:8 - The final book of the New Testament opens with a view of Jesus sharing some of His divine nature. See the description in all of chapter 1 of Revelation. Also, clearly stated in Revelation 1:8 *"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."*

Beyond the clear statements of Scripture that declare that Jesus is God, His deity is also evidenced in His actions, abilities and titles (See below). We don't have space to type out each one, but look through the following and consider how it would be possible that these divine attributes could be given to anyone other than God.

- Jesus demonstrates that He is God because He does what only God can do (See John 5:17-18. He does the works that the Father does.)
 - He forgives sin (Mark 2:5-7).
 - He creates (John 1:1; Colossians 1:16-18).
 - He preserves everything (holds it together – Colossians 1:17; upholds it Hebrews 1:3).
 - He controls history in sovereignty (Revelation 5:5; 6:1).
 - He gives eternal life (Mark 2:5; Luke 7:38).
 - He answers prayer (John 14:14; Acts 7:59; 2 Corinthians 12:9).
 - He raises the dead (John 11:25; Also spiritual life – John 5:21: As the Father, so the Son).
 - He judges the world (Matthew 25:31-46; John 5:22 – All judgment has been given to the Son).

- He is worshiped.
 - By angels (Revelation 19:10; Hebrews 1:6)
 - By king-makers (Matthew 2:11)
 - By everything (Philippians 2:9-11)
 - By heaven (Revelation 5:12-14)
- God's angels are His angels and God's kingdom is His kingdom (Matthew 13:41; Luke 12:8-9; 15:10)
- Jesus demonstrates that He is God because He is what only God is.
 - He is omniscient – He knows everything (John 21:17; also – Mark 2:8; John 1:48, John 6:64).
 - He is omnipotent
 - Calms the stormy sea (Matthew 8:26-27).
 - Multiply loaves and fish (Matthew 14:19).
 - Changed water into wine (John 2:1-11).
 - He is infinite (Limitless – Ephesians 3:8; Colossians 2:3; 9-10; John 10:28).
 - He is glorious (John 17:5 – “Father glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.”)
 - He is eternal.
 - “Before Abraham was I am” (John 8:58).
 - Alpha and Omega (Revelation 22:13).
 - He is holy (Luke 1:35; Acts 3:14-15; 1 John 3:5).
 - He is omnipresent (in resurrected state).
 - “Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them” (Matthew 18:20; also Matthew 28:20).
- Jesus is declared to be God by the way the New Testament quotes of the Old Testament equate Him with God (Many more of these could be used).

Dese Old Testament Passage About the LORD.	New Testament Passage using the quote to refer to Jesus.
³ A voice is calling, "Clear the way for the LORD in the wilderness; Make smooth in the desert a highway for our God. (Isaiah 40:3)	<i>The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ² As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: "BEHOLD, I SEND MY MESSENGER AHEAD OF YOU, WHO WILL PREPARE YOUR WAY; ³ THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS, 'MAKE READY THE WAY OF THE LORD, MAKE HIS PATHS STRAIGHT.'" (Mark 1:1-3)</i>
⁴ 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.' (Isaiah 41:4)	¹⁷ 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, (Revelation 1:17)
²⁴ Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, and the one who formed you from the womb, 'I, the LORD, am the maker of all things, Stretching	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

<p><i>out the heavens by Myself And spreading out the earth all alone,' (Isaiah 44:24)</i></p>	<p><i>created through Him and for Him. (Colossians 1:16)</i></p>
<p><i>²³ I have sworn by Myself, The word has gone forth from My mouth in righteousness And will not turn back, That to Me every knee will bow, every tongue will swear allegiance. ²⁴ They will say of Me, 'Only in the LORD are righteousness and strength.' Men will come to Him, And all who were angry at Him will be put to shame. (Isaiah 45:23-24)</i></p>	<p><i>¹⁰ ...so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:10-11)</i></p>

- Jesus is declared to be God by the Divine titles that are ascribed to Him.
 - He is the Son of God (Mark 1:1 –As a human’s son, is a human, so God’s Son is God).
 - He is the Son of man (Daniel 7:13, 18; Matthew 16:13-16).
 - He is God (See above; 1 John 5:20)
 - He is Lord (Philippians 2:8-12 – The Lord, the name above every name).
 - He is the I Am (John 8:59)

There are many other passages that could be added to the list above. Also, these passages don’t include the clear Biblical references to a Christ in the Old Testament. Briefly: (1.) The LORD appears as Angel of the Lord - Genesis 16:13 Ex 3:2-6; 23:20-22; Numb 22:35, 38 Judges 2:1-2; Judges 6:11, 14 (2.) God appears in human form (Jesus) - Genesis 3:8 Genesis 18:1, 2, 22, 19:1 22, 26:2, 23; 28:10-13; 35:1, 9; 32:24-30; Exodus 24:9 (3.) The coming Messiah is God (Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 9:16)