

Jesus, The Son of God

John 1:1-2

John is answering this question, “Who is Jesus?” This is like a one question Final Exam that is either pass/fail. If you get this question wrong, you fail for eternity.

Remember Jesus asking His disciples, “Whom do men say that I am?” They answered, “Some say your Elijah, or John the Baptist or one of the prophets.” Jesus in essence said, “Wrong answer.” Jesus then asked, “Whom do you say that I am?” Peter nailed the answer, “You are the Christ the Son of the Living God.”

Mormons or the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints believe only “Jesus’ humanity is to be recognized as real an ordinary---whatever happened to Him may happen to any of us.”

Jehovah’s Witnesses believe Jesus is “a created individual who is the second greatest personage of the universe.”

Islam believes “Jesus was only a messenger of Allah.”

William Channing of the Unitarian church said, “Christ was sent to earth as a great moral teacher rather than as a mediator.”

Amazing! John wrote his Gospel to persuade the unsaved to believe that Jesus is God (his apologetic reason). John also wrote of the necessity to receive Him as Savior (his evangelistic reason) according to John 20:31.

1. John wrote his Gospel to win the unsaved Gentiles

John also used a Greek word that would have instantly caught the attention of his Gentile readers in 1:1. He used the word “logos” translated “Word” in our English Bible. The word “logos” meant creative energy in nature.

Heraclitus, a Greek philosopher who lived in Ephesus in the 6th century, equated fire, God and the word or logos with the controlling force of the universe. To the Greeks logos was like the impersonal force in Star Wars. John used that familiar word “logos” to grab their attention. John then gave a new meaning to the Word or Logos: The Word is a person not an impersonal force. The controlling agent of the universe is Jesus.

Justin Martyr (A.D. 100-165) became a believer after a long search for truth in pagan Greek philosophies when he saw that Christ was the logos.

Who is Jesus? Jesus is the Son of God who has universal power. Jesus is not a unimportant local. He is God.

2. John wrote his Gospel unsaved Jews

John quotes Genesis 1:1 “In the beginning” which was familiar with the Jews. Nine times in Genesis one says, “And God said.” Nine times God spoke His Word in Genesis one.

Who is Jesus? Jesus is God’s Final Word. Listen to Hebrews 1: 2, God “has in these last days spoken unto us by His Son.” If Jesus was just a great teacher as so many religions say, what did He teach? What did the living Word say? He taught that He is God’s Son: “The Father and I are one” (John 10:30). So according to the teaching of Jesus, He is God.

3. John wrote his Gospel to win the lost by proving that Jesus is God and you must receive Him as your Savior to be saved and possess eternal life.

John opens his Gospel with three simple but profound statements about the deity of Christ in 1:1.

1. The Word (Jesus) is Eternal: “In the beginning was the Word.” This phrase is used different times in Scripture in reference to Jesus.

A. Mark 1:1 uses “in the beginning of the gospel” to refer to the beginning of Jesus public ministry at His baptism.

B. Genesis 1:1 uses the phrase to refer to creation. “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

C. John takes us back to eternity when he writes, “In the beginning was the Word.” It is the little word “was” (perfect tense in Greek) which means “already was and still is.” When God was creating the universe Jesus already was because He is eternal.

John 17:5 is a follow-up to John 1:1. In John 17:5, Jesus prayed, “And now, O Father, glorify me with the glory which I had with you which I had with you before the world was.”

As a matter of fact, because Jesus existed before creation He could create and did create everything. John says this in 1:3, “All things were made by him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made.”

In John 15:5, Jesus alluded to the phrase “without Him” when Jesus said, “Without me you can do nothing.” But with me, because I am God and the Creator of everything, you can do all things that are my will. Jesus went on to say, “If you abide in me and my Words abide in you, you shall ask what you will and it shall be done unto you.”

I saw a license tag this week with word “Godable.” There were not two words God Able but one word, “Godable.” We are Godable with Jesus. Listen as Paul describes our

Godable Jesus, “Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us” (Ephesians 3:20).

Not only is Christ eternal but as the second Person of the Trinity, He is distinct from the Father.

2. The Word (Jesus) is Distinct From the Father: “and the Word was with God”

Jesus is distinct from God the Father in that He is a member of the Godhead. The Trinity is referred to in this second statement. In John 17, Jesus the Son of God on earth is praying to His Father in Heaven: “These words spoke Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come, glorify your Son that your Son also may glorify you.”

Jesus is not only distinct from the Father but also intimately related to God the Father. The word “with” pictures one person with another in close fellowship. This word is used by Paul in 2 Corinthians 5:8 to describe our relationship with the Lord when we go to heaven.

Jesus was not simply beside God the Father like two small children playing beside each other separately with their own toys. No Christ has been eternally “with” God the Father in eternal fellowship. Before the creation of time and space, all that existed was each Person of the Trinity. They were in perfect fellowship and each was all the other needed.

Is God enough for you? Can you and I say with Paul, “God is my sufficiency.” What if your mate leaves or dies? What if your family turns against you? What if your friends abandon you?

Jesus is eternal and distinct from God the Father because He is God.

3. The Word (Jesus) is God: “and the Word was God.”

The Jehovah’s Witness’ translation, the *New World Translation of the Christian Greek Scripture*, falsely translates this phrase: “and the word was a god” because there is no definite article “the” before “God.” Why is that translation wrong?

A. This false translation teaches polytheism or that there are many gods. The Word of God denies polytheism: “The Lord our God is ONE” (Dt. 6:4).

B. This false translation denies the context of chapter one, the entire Gospel, and the entire Scripture.

Jehovah’s Witnesses published this book, “*Should You Believe in the Trinity?*” in 1989 and sold 5,000,000 copies. This book states: “The testimony of the entire Bible is that

Jesus is not Almighty God.” The opposite is true. The testimony of the entire Bible is that Jesus is Almighty God.

1. Four times in 1:1-18 God the Father has no article “the” before “God.” Here are the references: 1:6; 12; 13, 18. The references to God the Father do not have “the” before them yet the Jehovah’s Witnesses do not deny the deity of God the Father or Jehovah. They believe in the deity of God the Father or Jehovah because they are Jehovah’s Witness. Yet they say because God in 1:1c has no article the Word is therefore not deity. This is totally inconsistent.

2. They not only ignore the context of chapter one but the entire Gospel of John. In John 20:28, Doubting Thomas one week before on the first resurrection evening denied the resurrection of Jesus. One week later, however, after Thomas saw the resurrected Christ and the nail prints in Jesus’ hand and His spear driven side proclaimed to Jesus, “My Lord and my God.”

3. Why did John leave the article “the” out? Had John put the article “the” before “God” he would have denied the Trinity or the deity of God the Father. John was not saying that Jesus only is God, because the Father is also God and so is the Holy Spirit God. John was saying that Jesus is God, “the Word is God” and has all the attributes of the Father and the Holy Spirit.

There are some powerful and practical applications to this truth.

1. Because Jesus is God we can know what God is like.

Christ shows us what God is like. But to know who Jesus is we must know God’s Word.

At the end of Jesus’ three years of earthly ministry of teaching His disciples, one of His disciples, Philip, said to Jesus, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied” (14:8). Jesus with some frustration in His voice replied, “Phillip, Have I been so long time with you and yet you still do not know me? He that has seen me has seen the Father.” We have an even greater privilege than Philip who was personally taught by Christ. We have the entire Word of God.

2. Because Jesus is the sinless Son of God His death was sufficient to provide salvation.

Paul makes this abundantly clear in 2 Corinthians 5:21 “For He, God the Father has made him, God the Son, sin, who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God.” No one else was qualified to die for our sins because we are all sinners.

What if in the trial of Stephen Hayes, the murderer of Dr. William Petit’s wife and two daughters when the judge read the guilty charge against Stephen Hayes, that his partner in crime, Joshua Komisarevsky sent word to the judge that he would volunteer to die in his place in the electric chair?

The judge would refuse of course, saying, “You can not take that murderer’s place because you are a murderer as well and also must die for your sins.

Because Jesus is the sinless, eternal Son of God, He alone could die so that God could be just and the justifier in giving eternal life to all who believe.

I hope you can now better answer life’s Final Exam Pass/Fail Question, “Who is Jesus?”

1. Jesus is Eternal “In the beginning was the Word”
2. Jesus is Distinct From the God the Father “And the Word was with God”
3. Jesus is God “and the Word is God.”