

Is the Lord Jesus Christ God?

John 10:30-42

A notable claim had come from the tongue of our Lord. "I and the Father are one." The Lord's claim to be one with the Father caused the Jews to decide to execute him for blasphemy.

In response the Lord reminded them that the word "elohim" or "gods" had been used in the Law of human judges. The point was that such judges had great power over the lives of the people. But the Lord used that truth to contrast his own status with that of those who were called "gods." He had called himself the "Son of God" or the "son of man." The title "son of man" was a reference to the Prophet Daniel's vision of such a person coming before the "ancient of days," and receiving an eternal and universal kingdom.

In an earlier confrontation the Lord had made the claim, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." His detractors now knew that he was claiming to be one with the great "I am." He was claiming to be one with Jehovah, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Jesus pointed them to his works. If he was doing the works of God, the works of the Father, then they were under an obligation to recognize that this was so. They were responsible to believe in him. They were responsible to accept him as the Messiah.

Did the Lord Jesus claim to be God? Again, he repeatedly identified himself with Jehovah, the great "I am" of Old Testament revelation. The prophet Isaiah had spoken of a day when Jehovah, the God of Israel, would come to earth himself to accomplish things that only he could do. "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

God, according to the prophet, would one day come to the earth to reveal his unique glory. The Lord Jesus Christ, according to the testimony of the apostles like John has done just that. "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." (1:14)

How was the glory of God revealed? The glory of God was not revealed in a way that would have been recognizable to the kings of the earth. They depended on regal vestments and crowns made of silver, gold, and precious stones to make themselves appear glorious.

But Christ lived a simple life of identification with sinners and died a death for sinners. It was that self-sacrificing love which sent him to the cross which fully revealed the glory of God. Our creator is a God of love. His love is very surprising. Our maker, the author and finisher of all things, has become the author and finisher of our faith by dying in our place on the cross. He has taken the guilt, the sins of his people and satisfied the justice which such rebellion demands by substituting himself for us.

Only God could have done this for us. And so John calls Jesus “God” from the very beginning of his gospel. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” (1:1)

When the apostle saw the Lord, now raised from the dead, Thomas who had been very skeptical, exclaimed, “my Lord and my God!” We are taught by the word of God that the day will come when both men and angels will worship. “Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” Philippians 2:9-11.

What is your understanding of who the Lord Jesus is? Do you believe the teaching of God’s word that he is God? Do understand that only God can save sinners? Do you see that only God could have died for his people as the perfectly obedient God-man? And, are you depending on Him to save you?