



Who Is Jesus? – God or Man

Awake to Israel
10th June 2023

Introduction



Introduction

- **John 14:6**

- **Jesus said *I am the way, and the truth, and the life: no one comes unto the Father, but by me,***
- **The eternal destiny of every human being depends upon how they view Jesus**



The Humanity of Jesus



The Humanity of Jesus

a. His Ancestry

- Matthew 1:1 – *The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham*

b. His Human Birth

- Lk 2:7 – *Mary His mother gave birth to her firstborn son*
- Gal 4:4 – *Jesus was born of a woman*



The Humanity of Jesus

c. His Human Nature – Body, soul and spirit

Matthew 26:12	In pouring this ointment on my body
Luke 24:39	For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have
Matthew 26:38	My soul is very sorrowful
John 12:27	Now is my soul troubled
Mark 2:8	Jesus, perceiving in his spirit
John 11:33	he was deeply moved in his spirit



The Humanity of Jesus

d. His Human Experience

- He was hungry – He was thirsty – He grew weary – He experienced love
- He had compassion – He wept – He was tested – He agonized – He was troubled



The Humanity of Jesus

e. He Called Himself a Man

- Jn 8:40 – *you seek to kill me, a man*
- He developed : mentally, physically, spiritually, and socially

f. Others Saw Him as Man

- John 1:30 – *After me comes a man who ranks before me*
- John 10:33 – *because you, being a man,*



The Humanity of Jesus

f. Others Saw Him as Man cont.

- Peter in Acts 2:22 and Paul in Acts 13:38 called Him a man
- Romans 5:15 – *by the grace of that **one man Jesus Christ***
- I Tim 2:5 – *there is one mediator between God and men, **the man Christ Jesus***



The Humanity of Jesus

g. His Limited Knowledge

- Mark 13:32 – *But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son*
- Concerning the timing of the coming of the Son of Man, even Jesus the man did not know
- John 11:34 – *he said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.”*
- Jesus did not know where Lazarus was buried



The Humanity of Jesus

h. His Suffering and Death

- Jn. 19:30 – *When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit*
- Jesus died
- 34 – *one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there **came out blood and water***
- Evidence of His death
- Heb. 2:14 – *he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death*



The Pre-existence of Jesus



The Pre-existence of Jesus

- **What is so important about His pre-existence?**
- It is foundational to biblical faith
- If Christ was not pre-existent then He could not be God, because God is eternal
- If Christ had come into existence at the time of His birth, then His incarnation, His atoning work on the cross, His resurrection, and our hope of eternal life would now be in question



The Pre-existence of Jesus

A. Old Testament Statements

- Isaiah 9:6 – *For unto us **a child is born, unto us a son is given;** and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called **Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace***
- His humanity—a child is born, a son is given
- Wonderful Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Father of Eternity (Everlasting Father), the Prince of Peace – these are divine names – emphasise pre-existence



The Pre-existence of Jesus

- Micah 5:2: *But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, which are little to be among the thousands of Judah, **out of you shall one come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting***
- The first part of the verse talks about His birth in Bethlehem
- The verse goes on to say that His existence has been from of old, from everlasting – strongest O. T. terms for eternity past
- Jesus had a definite beginning in Bethlehem, yet He existed before His actual birth in Bethlehem



The Pre-existence of Jesus

B. New Testament Statements

- John 1:1-2 – In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 The same was in the beginning with God
- The Word, the Logos, was always with God – He was in the very beginning with God
- He existed before His physical birth of a virgin in Bethlehem



The Pre-existence of Jesus

- John 1:14-15 – *And **the Word became flesh**, and dwelt among us..... 15 John bears witness of him, and cries, saying, This was he of whom I said, **He that comes after me is become before me: for he was before me***
- 14 – The Word, who was in the beginning with God, at some point took on human form by becoming “flesh,” or a man
- 15 – The Word in His humanity was six months younger than John
- As to His deity, He was pre-existent, so He was also before John



The Pre-existence of Jesus

- Eph 1:4 – *even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blemish before him in love*
- We were chosen in Him—that is, in Jesus—before the foundation of the earth
- Phi 2:6-8 – *who, existing in the form of God, counted not the being on an equality with God a thing to be grasped..... He was made in the likeness of men and found in fashion as a man*
- Jesus existed in the form of God before He became man



The Pre-existence of Jesus

- Col 1:16-17 – *for in him were all things created, in the heavens and upon the earth, things visible and things invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers; all things have been created through him, and unto him; 17 and **he is before all things**, and in him all things consist*
- **he is before all things** – Jesus preceded everything



The Pre-existence of Jesus

C. Jesus's Declarations

- John 3:16-17 – *16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, 17 **For God sent** not the Son into the world to judge the world; but that the world should be saved through him*
- For Him to have been sent by God, He had to have already existed



The Pre-existence of Jesus

- John 6:33 – *For the bread of God is that which **comes down out of heaven**, and gives life unto the world*
- He existed in heaven before coming down to the earth
- John 6:38 – *For **I am come down from heaven**, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me*
- To come down from heaven means He must have existed in heaven



The Pre-existence of Jesus

- John 6:62 – *What then if you should behold the Son of man ascending where he was before?*
- He points out that when He ascends into heaven, He will be simply returning to the place where He was before
- John 7:29 – *I know him, for I come from him, and he sent me*
- He knows the Father because He came from the Father who had sent Him



The Pre-existence of Jesus

- In 8:23 – *You are from beneath; **I am from above**: you are of this world; I am not of this world*
- In 8:42 – *If God were your Father, you would love me: for **I came forth and am come from God**; for neither have I come of myself, but **he sent me***
- Jesus asserts that He came from God; He was with God and was sent by God



The Pre-existence of Jesus

- In 8:58 – *Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, **Before Abraham was born, I am***
- Jesus asserts that He existed even before the birth of Abraham
- His Jewish audience understood what He was saying, they try to stone Him for blasphemy



The Pre-existence of Jesus

- John 16:27-28: *for the Father himself loves you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that **I came forth from the Father**. 28 I came out from the Father, and am come into the world: again, **I leave the world, and go unto the Father***
- Jesus asserts His own pre-existence
- He came from the Father, and now He was going back to the Father



The Pre-existence of Jesus

- Jn 17:5 – *And now, Father, glorify you me with your own self with **the glory which I had with you before the world was***
- Jesus states He was with the Father not only before Abraham was, but even before the world was
- Jn 17:24 – *Father, I desire that they also whom you have given me be with me where I am, that they may behold my glory, which you have given me: **for you loved me before the foundation of the world***
- The Son, Jesus pre-existed the foundation of the world



The Deity of Jesus



The Deity of Jesus

A. The Divine Names

God	Jn. 1:1; 20:28; Heb. 1:8
The Son of God	Mt. 16:16
Lord	Mt. 22:43-45; Acts 9:17
The Alpha and the Omega	Rev. 1:8
The First and the Last	Rev 1:17
The Image – visible manifestation of the invisible God	Col 1:15
The Very Image – exact impress of the divine nature	Heb 1:3



The Deity of Jesus

B. The Works of God

1. Creation

- John 1:3 – ***All things were made through him; and without him was not anything made that has been made***
- John 1:10 – *He was in the world, and **the world was made through him**, and the world knew him not*
- I Cor 8:6 – *yet to us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we unto him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, **through whom are all things, and we through him***



The Deity of Jesus

2. Preservation

- Col 1:17 – *He is before all things, and **in him all things consist***
- Jesus is the One who is holding the universe together and preserving it
- Heb 1:3 – *.....**upholding all things by the word of his power**, when he had made purification of sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high*
- Jesus does the work of preservation, which means that He must be God



The Deity of Jesus

3. Forgiveness of Sin

- Only God can forgive sins in a salvation sense
- Jesus has the authority to forgive sins – emphasizes His deity
- Seen forgiving sins in Mat 9:2, 6, Luke 5:24, and 7:47-48



The Deity of Jesus

4. Sending of the Holy Spirit

- Only God can send forth the Holy Spirit
- John 15:26 – *But when the Comforter is come, **whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth***
- For someone to be able to send the Holy Spirit, He must either be an equal of or greater than the Spirit
- For Jesus to be able to send Him means that He must also be God



The Deity of Jesus

5. Resurrection

- John 6:40 – *For this is the will of my Father, that every one that beholds the Son, and believes on him, should have eternal life; and **I will raise him up at the last day***
- The resurrection of the dead is a work of God
- Jesus will be responsible for raising people from the dead
- This means that Jesus Himself must be God



The Deity of Jesus

6. Final Judgment

- The Old Testament teaches that someday God will render final judgment
- The work that was ascribed to God the Father in the Old Testament is ascribed to Jesus in the New Testament
- Matthew 25:31-46 deals with the judgment of the sheep and goat Gentiles – the Son is doing the judging
- Jn 5:22-27 – *For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son*
- Other passages – Acts 10:42, 17:31; 2 Cor 5:10; 2 Tim 4:1



The Deity of Jesus

C. Worship Accorded to Jesus

- Jesus received and welcomed worship showing that He claimed to be God and accepted worship as God
- Examples found in Matthew 14:33, John 9:38, and 20:28
- John 20:28, Thomas, the doubting disciple believed He was his Lord and his God
- Here Jesus accepted Thomas's worship of Him as God



The Deity of Jesus

- Jesus is worshipped as God in Philippians 2:10 – *so that **at the name of Jesus every knee should bow**, in heaven and on earth and under the earth*
- Hebrews 1:6 – *And when he again brings in the firstborn into the world he says, **And let all the angels of God worship him***
- Jesus is also worshipped by the angels



The Deity of Jesus

D. Association with the Trinity

- Jesus is associated with God the Father in the closest possible way
- John 10:30 Jesus says, ***I and the Father are one*** – Father and the Son are one in essence
- John 14:23 – *Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my word: and my Father will love him, and ***we will come unto him, and make our abode with him****
- Father and Son will indwell the believer at the same time



The Deity of Jesus

- Matthew 28:19 – one is baptised in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit
- II Cor 13:14 – *The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all*
- Messiah, Jesus is clearly associated with both the Father and the Holy Spirit



The Deity of Jesus

E. Divine Declarations

1. To Have the Closest Possible Relationship with God

- Jesus said that to know Him was to know God
- John 8:19 – *They said therefore unto him, Where is your Father? Jesus answered, You know neither me, nor my Father: if you knew me, you would know my Father also*



The Deity of Jesus

- John 14:7 – *If you had known me, you would have known my Father also: from henceforth you know him, and have seen him*
- John 12:45 – *And he that beholds me beholds him that sent me*
- Jesus also said that to see Him was to see God
- John 14:9b – *Have I been so long time with you, and do you not know me, Philip? he that has seen me has seen the Father; how say you, Show us the Father?*



The Deity of Jesus

- Jesus also declared He had the closest possible relationship with God by stating that to receive Him was to receive God
- Mark 9:37 – *whosoever receives me, receives not me, but him that sent me*
- The One who sent the Messiah was God – To receive the Messiah is to receive God
- John 5:23 – *that all may honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honours not the Son honours not the Father that sent him.*
- To honour the Son meant to honour the Father



The Incarnation of Jesus



The Incarnation of Jesus

- Incarnation literally means “embodied in flesh” or simply “in flesh”
- John wrote that the Word became flesh (John 1:14)
- He also wrote of Jesus coming in the flesh (1 John 4:2; 2 Jn 7)
- The eternal second person of the Trinity took on Himself humanity
- Now there were two natures in this one person



The Incarnation of Jesus

A. Doctrine of Incarnation

- John 1:1-14 clearly shows the incarnation
- 1 – *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God*
- As long as God has been, the Word has been
- If God is eternal, the Word is eternal
- The Word was God



The Incarnation of Jesus

- 14 – *And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us (and we beheld his glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father), full of grace and truth*
- The Word that was in the beginning with God, that was God, at a certain point in human history took on flesh, became man, and that is **the incarnation**



The Incarnation of Jesus

B. The Means of the Incarnation

- How did God become a man?
- Luke 1:35 – *And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Spirit shall come upon you, and the power of the Most High shall overshadow you: wherefore also the holy thing which is begotten shall be called the Son of God*
- First, the incarnation involved the Holy Spirit
- The Spirit worked to conceive, the humanity of the Messiah



The Incarnation of Jesus

- Deity partook of Mary's humanity but precluded Mary's sin-nature
- The Holy Spirit generated the conception
- The product was to be holy, and He was to be the Son of God, the God-Man



The Incarnation of Jesus

- Second, the incarnation involved the Virgin Mary
- It was necessary that there be a supernatural conception
- Messiah, Jesus did not have a natural father, and that is why the conception required the generating power of the Holy Spirit
- Third, the incarnation involved the virgin birth which produced the incarnate man
- Predicted in Genesis 3:15 and Isaiah 7:14 – finally came into fulfillment in Matthew 1:16



The Kenosis



The Kenosis

- **What is the Kenosis?**
- Kenosis comes from the Greek verb kenoo, which means “to empty,” “to make void,” or “to evacuate”
- When the Son, Jesus became incarnate, some kind of “emptying” took place
- The Son of God in some way, adjusted to humanity without giving up any of His deity



The Kenosis

- Philippians 2:5-11 covers this emptying
- 5 – *Have this mind in you, which was also in Christ Jesus*
- An exhortation to humility following the example of Christ
- 6a – *who, existing in the form of God*
- To exist in the form of God means to be God



The Kenosis

- **6b – *counted not the being on an equality with God a thing to be grasped***
- He existed in a form that naturally made Him an equal with God
- He did not count equality with God as something to be used selfishly for His own enrichment
- **7 – *emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men***
- Jesus did not empty Himself of the form of God



The Kenosis

- He took upon Himself the form of a servant and was made in the likeness of men
- The form of a servant was added to the form of God
- He took upon Himself the addition of humanity
- He emptied Himself of the right to have the independent use the divine attributes of God
- He would use them only in accordance with the will of God the Father



The Kenosis

- He took upon Himself the likeness of men, but specifically, He took upon Himself the form of a servant, the servant role
- He now became an earthly servant of God the Father
- He would use His divine attributes only in accordance with the will of God the Father
- Consequently, there were things Jesus did not know in His humanity



The Kenosis

- *8 – and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, becoming obedient even unto death, yea, the death of the cross*
- He was recognized by all to be a man – part of His humiliation – part of His obedience
- He did not use His omnipotence to keep people from putting Him to death
- He was willing to give up existing only in the form of God and took on the form of a man



The Kenosis

- The kenosis means that He laid aside the independent exercise of His divine attributes by which the form of God is seen
- He took on and assumed human form, flesh, and nature by means of the incarnation and the virgin birth
- Self-emptying brought about a change of status from the position of God to the position of a servant



The Kenosis

- In His human form, He retained all the attributes of His deity, but He never manifested His deity apart from the will of the Father
- Even in His earthly sojourn as a man, He was still God
 - **Yes, Jesus is both God and man**
 - **He is the God-man**

