
Lesson 4: A Study of Jesus

The belief in only one God is called monotheism, which comes from two Greek words: monos, meaning alone, single, one; and theos, meaning God.

The Bible is clear that there is only one God.

- Deuteronomy 6:4-5 - Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.
- Mark 12:28-29 - And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that He had answered them well, asked Him, "Which is the first commandment of all?" And Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is, 'Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord.'"
- Isaiah 45:5 - I am the Lord, and there is none else, there is no God beside me...
- Ephesians 4:5-6 - One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.
- I Timothy 2:5 - For there is one God, and one Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus...
- James 2:19 - Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.
- Revelation 4:2 - And immediately I was in the spirit: and behold, a throne was set in heaven, and One sat on the throne.
- Deuteronomy 4:35 - ...that thou mightest know that the Lord He is God; there is none else beside Him.

In the book of Exodus chapter 3, we find Moses out in the desert watching over a flock of sheep. This dry, hot, dusty place is far different from the extravagance of the Egyptian palace where he was raised. He is still hoping and praying God will one day deliver the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. On that day, the monotony of being a shepherd was interrupted. Something caught his eye. A bush suddenly is engulfed in flames, yet it is not consumed. Then the Lord speaks through this bush.

- Exodus 3:4-7 - When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!" And Moses said, "Here I am." "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." Then He said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God. The Lord said, "I have indeed seen the misery of My people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering."

Moses was filled with excitement, confusion, fear...A ton of emotions flood his mind. Moses started to ask the Lord questions because he was not entirely sure that he was the right man for the job.

- Exodus 3:13 - But Moses protested, "If I go to the people of Israel and tell them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' they won't believe me. They will ask, 'Which god are you talking about? What is his name?'" Then what should I tell them?"

Moses heard the voice; he heard the instructions, but a question nagged Moses: Who was sending me? The Lord had already told him that He was the God of his ancestors, but Moses wanted a more comprehensive name than that. He wanted to know something of the nature of the One who was sending him to oppose the mightiest dynasty in the world. He wanted a name to take back to the Israelites, so they would know that Moses had this encounter with the Almighty. The Lord gave Moses an answer.

- Exodus 3:14 - And God said unto Moses, 'I AM THAT I AM' and He said, "Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, 'I AM hath sent me unto you.'"

I AM THAT I AM – A phrase that expresses God as an absolute, unchanging and eternal Being. It literally translates: "I Will Be What I Will Be." God is saying, "I am self-sufficient; I do not rely on anything to exist."

So, Moses went to Egypt and repeated that Name again and again to the Israelites. It became more than just a name, but it was the sacred Name of God. When they were delivered from bondage, they remembered that I AM brought them out! The Israelites knew that:

- I AM appointed and sent Moses.
- I AM split open the Red Sea.
- I AM led them by a pillar of fire and cloud.
- I AM provided manna from heaven.
- I AM gave them water from a rock.
- I AM dried up the flooded Jordan River.
- I AM made the walls of Jericho fall.

The Israelites knew that it was the great and powerful I AM that delivered them and gave them the promised land. That Name was passed from generation to generation. It was the sacred Name of God.

Fast-forward to the New Testament, during Jesus Christ's earthly ministry. Jesus performed many amazing miracles starting with turning water into wine. Paralyzed people walked, blind people saw, deaf people heard, possessed people were delivered, lepers were cleansed, and withered hands straightened. Jesus walked on water, He calmed the raging sea, He raised the dead back to life, He fed the thousands with one meal, and the list goes on and on.

People loved Jesus. The Bible says multitudes flocked to Him and listened to His words and watched His deeds. They loved Him so much, they could even tolerate His rejection of their religious system when He would denounce their traditions and hypocrisy of self-righteousness.

Even Jesus' harshest critics could not touch Him. They were handcuffed by the love the people had for Him. Everywhere He travelled, large crowds followed. It did not matter if it was in a house, on the seashore, or a mountain side, there was always a crowd.

It seemed Jesus could do no wrong, but one day all that changed. Those who loved Him ended up despising Him. Those who worshipped Him ended up mocking Him on the cross. Those who were devoted to Him ended up turning their back on Him. How did it happen? How do you go from being beloved to being despised? How do you go from being worshipped to being cursed?

John 8 is where we see the loyalty of those devoted followers beginning to fade. Jesus was at the Temple. Outside in the court, a crowd had gathered, and He entered a spirited debate with the Pharisees. Jesus told the crowd, "I am the Light of the World." The Pharisees argued that He was making false claims about Himself, but Jesus continued. He talked about Himself, about who He is, and His purpose. The Pharisees argued every point.

- John 8:24 - That is why I said that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am who I claim to be, you will die in your sins.
- John 8:25 – "Tell us who You are," they demanded. Jesus replied, "I am the one I have always claimed to be."

Jesus then turned His attention to the crowd, those faithful believers that had trusted His words and been in awe of His miracles.

- John 8:33 – Jesus said to the people who believed in him, "You are truly my disciples if you keep obeying my teachings. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." "But we are descendants of Abraham," they said. "We have never been slaves to anyone on earth. What do you mean, set free?"

Basically, they were saying, "Jesus, do you know who we are? We are not Gentiles; we are the descendants of the one and only Abraham!"

- John 8:51-53 – “I assure you, anyone who obeys My teaching will never die!” The people said, “Now we know You are possessed by a demon. Even Abraham and the prophets died, but You say that those who obey Your teaching will never die! Are You greater than our father Abraham, who died? Are You greater than the prophets, who died? Who do You think you are?”

The crowd had grown tired of the vague comments, the parables, and the illustrations. They were weary of the mystery and asked Him point blank, “Who do You think you are?”

- John 8:56-57 – “Your ancestor Abraham rejoiced as he looked forward to My coming. He saw it and was glad.” The people said, “You aren’t even fifty years old. How can You say You have seen Abraham?”

They feel confident that He is a liar at best or that He is demon possessed at worst. How can He explain seeing Abraham? They were not ready for Jesus’ answer. Jesus makes an amazing statement; one no one would ever dare make. A statement that is worthy of death.

- John 8:58 Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, before Abraham was even born, I Am!”

No doubt the crowd was in shock. All these good Jews knew I AM. They knew the I AM as The Deliverer, The Provider, The Promise Keeper, The Great God of their forefathers. How could this Jesus claim to be I AM, the absolute and eternal God of Heaven?

- John 8:59 – At that point, they picked up stones to kill Him. But Jesus hid himself from them and left the Temple.

The people who loved Him now wanted Him dead. The people who followed Him were now willing to stone Him, all because He claimed to be I Am. They knew exactly what He meant.

- Jesus is either God or a fraud.
- Jesus is either Deity or a deceiver.
- Jesus is either The Lord Almighty or a liar.
- Jesus is either God manifest in the flesh or the biggest con man ever!

Let’s look at something else Jesus said. Jesus was talking to His disciples and said, “I am The Way, The Truth, and The Life. No one can come to the Father except through Me. If you had really known Me, you would know who My Father is. From now on, you do know Him and have seen Him!”

- John 14:8-9 – Philip saith unto him, “Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us.” Jesus saith unto him, “Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, ‘Shew us the Father?’”

Let’s look at some other scriptures that declare the deity of Jesus Christ.

- Colossians 2:9 – For in Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily
- Revelation 22:13 – I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.

Jesus plainly said, “I am The First and The Last” which is the same thing we hear in the Old Testament.

- Isaiah 44:6 – Thus saith the Lord the King of Israel, and his redeemer the Lord of hosts; “I am The First, and I am The Last; and beside Me there is no God.”

God also spoke through the prophet Isaiah and said:

- Isaiah 43:11 – “I, even I, am the Lord; and beside Me there is no savior.”

There is only one savior. The God of the Old Testament said, “There is no other savior but Me!” Yet the angel of the Lord declared:

- Luke 2:10-11 – And the angel said unto them, “Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.”

The only way that scripture can have harmony is that the God of the Old Testament was also that baby in the manger. In fact, look what Isaiah prophesied about that baby in a manger:

- 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, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

That baby is the mighty God, the everlasting Father!

- James 2:19 – Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

The fact that you believe in One God is great, but the demons also believe in One God, and it causes them to tremble.

- Matthew 1:23 – Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, “God with us.”

The very meaning of His name is God with us.

- John 1:1 – In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

The Word was God.

- John 1:14 – And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

The Word, which is God, was made flesh and dwelt among us.

QUESTION: If Jesus is God, why did He Pray? Did He pray to Himself?

To answer this question, you have to understand the dual nature of Jesus Christ; that He was fully man and fully God.

- As a man, He hungered / As God, He fed 5,000 families with 5 loaves and 2 fish.
- As a man, He slept / As God, He awoke and calmed the sea and winds.
- As a man, He didn't want to go to the cross / As God, He forgave sins.

When Jesus prayed, it was the humanity of Jesus praying to the Deity. Jesus Himself declared that He possesses all power in heaven and earth.

The Apostle Paul wrote a letter to Timothy. One of the verses sums up this idea of the deity of Jesus Christ.

- I Timothy 3:16 – And without controversy, great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

The phrase “without controversy” means without question or beyond all question. Paul wanted Timothy to know, this truth is unquestioned.

QUESTIONS?