

### WHAT DOES ALL THIS MEAN FOR ME?

Every man and woman is going to have to answer the question, "Who was Jesus, and what is the significance of him for me?" Either he is God or he is not. Either he is the savior who can forgive us of our sins or he is not.

The Bible, God's Word sent to man before Muhammad received the Qur'an, is very clear who Jesus is, and it says the following about him:

- Philippians 2:5-11 – Let this same attitude *and* purpose *and* [humble] mind be in you which was in Christ Jesus: [Let Him be your example in humility:] Who, although being essentially one with God *and* in the form of God [possessing the fullness of the attributes which make God God], did not think this equality with God was a thing to be eagerly grasped *or* retained, But stripped Himself [of all privileges and rightful dignity], so as to assume the guise of a servant (slave), in that He became like men *and* was born a human being. And after He had appeared in human form, He abased *and* humbled Himself [still further] and carried His obedience to the extreme of death, even the death of the cross! Therefore [because He stooped so low] God has highly exalted Him and has freely bestowed on Him the name that is above every name, That in (at) the name of Jesus every knee should (must) bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, And every tongue [frankly and openly] confess *and* acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

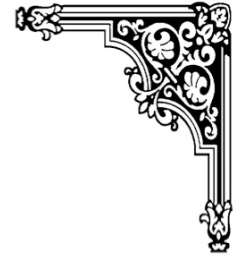
A truly just God demands justice for wrongdoing. Every person has become unholy in the sight of a perfectly holy and righteous God. No matter how hard we try, we cannot become pure enough to enter into God's presence. Yet that is His desire for us – to be in His presence forever. That is why God became a man – Jesus – who live without sin, so that He could be the perfect sacrifice for us. Jesus said that any who come to Him will not be cast away. Come to Jesus today, and experience complete forgiveness of sin.

### WHY WOULD GOD BECOME A MAN?

Imagine for a moment that you have a favorite lamb. You were present at the birth of this lamb. You watched it grow. You cared for it, gave it food when it was hungry, provided warmth when it was cold, protected it from predators that threatened its life. You came to be very close with this lamb. Even though you know it cannot understand what you say, you share your most personal thoughts with it. This lamb has become your best friend.

Now imagine that one day you learn this lamb has become gravely ill. It is close to death. You weep at the thought of losing your best friend. You want to do whatever you can to prevent this lamb from dying. You ask the veterinarian, "What can I do to help?" He tells you, "Your lamb needs a new liver; the one she has is not functioning properly, and she is being slowly poisoned by the toxins in her blood." To further complicate things, the veterinarian tells you that a suitable replacement liver cannot come from just any other lamb; it requires a very special liver – one that has never been polluted with any toxins of any kind. You soon discover the hopelessness of the situation. In desperation, you ask the doctor, "Where would we find such a liver?" The doctor tells you the only solution is for you yourself to become a lamb, to be born into this world perfectly pure, and then to sacrifice your liver for the lamb, in order to save its life.

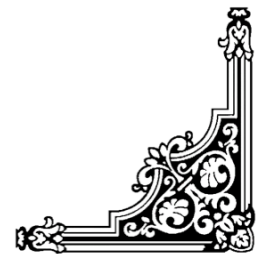
This was the choice God faced. Man has become wicked and polluted, unholy in the sight of God. Mankind is slowly dying of this pollution, and with no solution, we would die apart from God, eternally separated from Him. Yet, because He loves us so much, and because He desires an eternal relationship with us, He himself became a man, a pure man, Jesus Christ, to free us from the pollution of sin. The Bible says "He [God] made him who knew no sin [Jesus] to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him (2 Corinthians 5:21). God had to become a man in order to become the sacrifice of a just God who requires that all unrighteousness be punished. There was no other alternative; nobody else lived an unpolluted, righteous life except Jesus alone. For this reason He was able to take our punishment for our unrighteousness, and He did so willingly because He loves us.



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# Did God Become A Man?

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# God Became Man: Jesus Christ

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## CAN GOD BECOME A MAN?

God certainly can do anything He wants to do. God has no limitations on His abilities. The Qur'an even affirms this (Sura 2:106; 3:165; 57:2) God is all-powerful and there is nothing He is incapable of doing, as long as His character of perfect holiness and righteousness is not compromised. (For example, God cannot sin; that would be incompatible with His character)

- Mark 10:27 – with God all things are possible
- Mark 14:36 – Father, all things are possible for You.
- Romans 11:36 – For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things.

## JESUS PROPHESED IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

The Old Testament prophets spoke of the coming Messiah as God who would come down among His people.

- Isaiah 9:6 – For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a **Son** is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, **Mighty God**
- Isaiah 7:14 – Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a **Son**, and shall call His name Emmanuel (**God** is with us – Matthew 1:23).

Even in the fall in the garden, Jesus is prophesied as the seed of the woman who would bruise the head of the serpent (Satan):

- Genesis 3:15 – I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel.

King Solomon prophesied about God's son, Jesus:

- Proverbs 30:4 – Who has ascended into heaven, or descended  
Who has gathered the wind in His fist?  
Who has bound the waters in a garment?  
Who has established all the ends of the earth?  
What is His name, and what is His Son's name, if you know?

Prophet Isaiah spoke of one who would announce Jesus as God, fulfilled by John the Baptist:

- Isaiah 40:3 – The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

## JESUS: "SON OF" GOD

Christians are accused of believing that God had a physical relationship with Mary and thereby procreated a son in the literal sense. For example, the Qur'an asks how God can have a son when He has no wife (Sura 6:101; 72:3). The Bible does not teach Jesus as God's son in the literal sense, nor do Christians believe this. In assuming the title "Son Of God" Jesus was claiming to be 'of the same nature as' God in every way.

- Luke 10:22 – All things have been handed over to me by My Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son.
- John 10:30 – I and the Father are one.
- John 14:9-10 – He who has seen me has seen the Father. Do you not believe that I am in the Father and that the Father is in me?

Being of the same nature as God means that Jesus has and demonstrates the power and authority to:

- Be eternally preexistent – John 1:1-2; John 8:58; Hebrews 13:8
- Reign supreme over everything, including all creation – Colossians 1:15-20, John 1:3
- Be worshipped – Matthew 2:11; 14:33; 28:9; John 20:28; Hebrews 1:5-9
- Forgive sins – Matthew 9:2-6; Mark 2:5-12; Acts 26:15-18
- Give eternal life – John 3:16; 5:39-40; 10:27-28; 20:30-31

## WAS JESUS GOD?

He claimed for himself to be God

- John 8:58 – Before Abraham was, I AM. (the same name used by God to refer to Himself in Exodus 34:3)
- John 14:9 – He who has seen me has seen the Father.

- John 10:30 – I and my Father are one.

Others Called Him God

- John 20:28 – Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God"
- Titus 2:13 – looking for that blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ
- Luke 7:16 – "God has visited His people!"

God calls him God

- Hebrews 1:8 – But to the Son he says: "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever"

## JESUS DEMONSTRATED HE WAS GOD

He has power over **spiritual forces**

- Mark 1:23-27; Mark 5:1-13; Luke 9:37-42

He has power over **natural forces**

- Matthew 8:23-27; 14:22-33; Mark 4:35-41; Luke 8:22-25

He has power over **sickness and disease**

- Matthew 8:1-3; 9:27-31; 11:2-5; 15:30-31; John 9:1-11, 25

He has power over the **death of others**

- Matthew 9:23-25; 11:5; Luke 7:11-16; John 11:30-45

He has power over **His own death**

- Matthew 17:9; 28:7; John 2:18-22; 10:17-18

## OTHERS RECOGNIZED JESUS AS GOD

The **Disciples** said Jesus was God

- Matthew 16:16; Luke 9:20; John 1:1-2; 20:31

The **Pharisees** recognized Jesus as God

- Mark 2:7; Luke 5:21; John 5:18

**Common people** recognized Jesus as God

- Matthew 14:33; Luke 4:36; 9:43; Luke 17:15-18; John 3:2; 9:16-33; 11:27

**Roman authorities** recognized Jesus as God

- Matthew 27:54; Mark 15:39; Luke 23:47

**Demons** recognized Jesus as God

- Mark 5:27; Luke 4:34, 41