

The Divinity of Jesus

1. God's Worship

To offer worship to any other being than the Lord God (Yahweh) was unthinkable and offensive to a Jew. It would be breaking the Old Testament Law.

- ✦ **Exodus 20:3-5:** *You shall have no other gods before Me. ⁴ "You shall not make for yourself a carved image — any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; ⁵ you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God.*
- ✦ **Deuteronomy 6:4-5:** *"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! ⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.*
- ✦ **Deuteronomy 6:13-15:** *You shall fear the LORD your God and serve Him, and shall take oaths in His name. ¹⁴ You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are all around you ¹⁵(for the LORD your God is a jealous God among you), lest the anger of the LORD your God be aroused against you and destroy you from the face of the earth.*

Yet the earliest disciples who were Jews directed their worship to Jesus.

- ✦ **Matthew 14:33:** *Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God."*
- ✦ **Matthew 28:17:** *When they saw Him, they worshiped Him.*
- ✦ **Luke 24:50-52:** *Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy,*
- ✦ **John 9:39:** *Then he said, "Lord, I believe!" And he worshiped Him.*

The angelic host in heaven worships Him, an unmistakable assertion of his divinity. **Revelation 5:11-12:** *Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, ¹² saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!"*

2. God's Creation

The Old Testament teaches us that YHWH created all things, preserves all things and sustains all things.

- ✦ **Genesis 1:1:** *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*
- ✦ **Psalms 33:6-9:** *By the word of the LORD were the heavens made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth. ⁷ He gathers the waters of the sea into jars; he puts the deep into storehouses. ⁸ Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the people of the world revere him. ⁹ For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.*

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- ✦ **Psalm 148:5:** *Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created.*
- ✦ **Isaiah 42:5:** *This is what God the LORD says — he who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and all that comes out of it, who gives breath to its people, and life to those who walk on it:*

Further Study

Isaiah 48:13

Isaiah 51:9-16

In the New Testament this divine function is applied to Jesus.

Through Jesus all things came to be:

- ✦ **John 1:3:** *Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.*
- ✦ **Colossians 1:16:** *For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.*

Jesus is the sustainer of all things.

- ✦ **Hebrews 1:3:** *The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.*
- ✦ **Colossians 1:17:** *He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.*

3. God's Salvation

YAHWEH is a savior God. In distinction to other pagan gods, He alone has the power to save. **Isaiah 43:11** I, *even I, am the LORD, and apart from me there is no saviour.* In the Old Testament it is clear that deliverance, forgiveness of sins, raising from death to eternal life were prerogatives of God alone.

The New Testament attributes all of these to Jesus:

- ✦ At Jesus Birth He is hailed as **Matthew 1:21** *She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.*
- ✦ Jesus claimed the power to grant forgiveness, **Mark 2:7-12** *Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone? ⁸ Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, "Why are you thinking these things?" ⁹ Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk?' ¹⁰ But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins...." He said to the paralytic, ¹¹ "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." ¹² He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"*

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- ✦ Jesus raised the dead, **Luke 7:11-17** *Soon afterwards, Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went along with him. ¹² As he approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out — the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the town was with her. ¹³ When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, "Don't cry." ¹⁴ Then he went up and touched the coffin, and those carrying it stood still. He said, "Young man, I say to you, get up!" ¹⁵ The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother. ¹⁶ They were all filled with awe and praised God. "A great prophet has appeared among us," they said. "God has come to help his people." ¹⁷ This news about Jesus spread throughout Judea and the surrounding country.*

Further Study

Mark 5:35-43

John Chapter 11

- ✦ Eternal life is given to all who believe in Jesus, **John 3:16** *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*
- ✦ Jesus is seen as the savior of sinners, **Acts 4:12** *Salvation is found in no-one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."*

4. God's Judgment

In the Old Testament YAHWEH alone is Judge, this is God's prerogative. **Ecclesiastes 12:14** *For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.*

Once again this uniquely Divine function are both claimed by Jesus and freely attributed to Him.

- ✦ **Matthew 25:31-46**, *When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. ³⁴ "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' ³⁷ "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' ⁴⁰ "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.' ⁴¹ "Then he*

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will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'⁴² For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink,⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'⁴⁴ "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?'⁴⁵ "He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'⁴⁶ "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

✚ **Acts 17:31** *For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead."*

Further Study

Romans 2:16

2 Corinthians 5:10

2 Thessalonians 1:7-10

5. God's Witness

In the Old Testament, God commissioned His people. **Isaiah 43:10** *You are my witnesses," declares the LORD, "and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he.*

Yet in **Acts 1:8** Jesus sends out His apostles with identical words, *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*

Summary

In the New Testament the writers clearly state that Jesus is God, doing only what God could do. They state that He has the attributes and function of God. This is the amazing truth, that Jesus who walked this earth and died on a cross, is identified as the YAHWEH, creator-redeemer God.