

LESSON 06

Foundations Curriculum

Jesus Is God

By Vanjo Souza

Introduction

Jesus Is God

In this sixth lesson of the Foundations Curriculum, we will address the deity of Jesus as a matter of the utmost importance. How can the Mighty God not be God? Or the Everlasting Father not be God? The incarnation of Jesus, His death, resurrection, and exaltation — this is the essence of the Gospel; the recovery of God's eternal purpose depends on it. That is what this lesson will address.

Read carefully the verse below.

*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,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

Isaiah 9:6 (NKJV)

1) The Deity of Jesus

How can the Mighty God not be God? How can the Everlasting Father not be God?

The deity of Jesus is an immensely important subject! The deity and incarnation of Jesus are the essence of the Gospel, and the recovery of God's eternal purpose — and our own salvation — depend on it!

For this reason, throughout history, Satan has always tried to confuse men's understanding of the person of Jesus. At times by claiming He did not come in the flesh; at other times by claiming He is not divine but merely a creation of God — a being superior to angels and men, yet still only a creature and not the Creator Himself!

These lies aim to rob the greatness and glory of the God who became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth (John 1:14), and in doing so to diminish the power of God and the unchangeableness of His eternal purpose. They also aim to deny and minimize His incomprehensible love for us — a love so great that He became man as we are, to rescue us from our sins and fulfill His eternal thoughts!

2) How to Identify in the Holy Scriptures That Jesus Christ Is God Himself

The text of John is the first indicator:

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.*

John 1:1 (NKJV)

Was Jesus WITH God, or was He God? What does this mean? Is the affirmation of John 1:1 a gross contradiction between BEING and BEING WITH, or is it glorious evidence that the Father and the Son are one?

*All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made
that was made.*

John 1:3 (NKJV)

A question that may be asked: Is HE the Creator, or was HE an instrument of God in creation? Let us look at what the Scriptures tell us in Genesis (in the beginning).

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness."

Genesis 1:26 (NKJV)

To whom is God referring when He uses the first person plural "Let US make"? A helper, a cooperater in His creation? Or is He referring to a being just as divine as Himself?

And why did God say in "OUR" image, and not in "MY" image?

3) Biblical Evidence Confirming the Deity of Jesus

How can we identify the biblical evidence that the Lord Jesus Christ is God Himself?

✓ First evidence: Jesus spoke of Himself as being God

Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM."

Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple.

John 8:58–59 (NKJV)

When Jesus used the reference I AM, He was not merely making a chronological statement. He was not simply saying that He existed before Abraham — which would already have been outrageous enough, that a human creature had existed for so long (roughly 2,000 years before).

If Jesus had been making a chronological reference, He would have said: "Before Abraham was, I WAS."

God made this kind of reference once: in Isaiah 43:13, He said, "Before the day was, I am."

But Jesus used the same expression God used in Exodus when He identified Himself to Moses.

And Moses said to God, "Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them,

'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What is His name?' what shall I say to them?" And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: I AM has sent me to you."

Exodus 3:13–14 (NKJV)

The Jews took up stones to stone Him because they recognized that Jesus was making reference to the person of God. He was saying that He was "the great I AM." He was identifying Himself as God, and the Jews considered this blasphemy.

Also in John 8:28: "Then Jesus said to them, 'When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I AM He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things.'"

And also in John 13:19: "Now I tell you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe that I AM He."

Observe that in these passages Jesus uses the same expression: I AM.

For this reason, in John 8:58–59, the Jews took up stones to throw at Jesus. And once more, the Jews again took up stones to stone Jesus when He said in John 10:30–33 that He and the Father are ONE.

"I and My Father are one." Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him. Jesus answered them, "Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?" The Jews answered Him, saying, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God."

John 10:30–33 (NKJV)

✓ Second evidence: The apostolic teaching

The apostles understood that Jesus Christ is the great mystery of God!

For I want you to know what a great conflict I have for you and those in Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh, that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ.

Colossians 2:1–2 (NKJV)

...for in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.

Colossians 2:9 (NKJV)

Beyond understanding that Jesus is the great mystery of God, the apostles explicitly affirmed that Jesus is God, as we can see in Acts 20:28.

"Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood."

Acts 20:28 (NKJV)

One may ask: can God bleed, being Spirit? Does He have blood?

In John 4:24, Jesus affirms that “God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

Jesus, speaking with His disciples after the resurrection in Luke 24:39, showing them He had risen in the flesh, says: “Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have.”

How then did God shed His blood, as we see in Acts 20:28, to redeem His church? We can only conclude that God, in Christ Jesus, became flesh and dwelt among us. Hallelujah!

In Romans 9:5, Paul makes an affirmation. Note also what is found in 2 Peter 1:1–2:

...of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God. Amen.

Romans 9:5 (NKJV)

And in Titus 2:13, Paul also says: “...looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.”

Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

2 Peter 1:1–2 (NKJV)

In the text above, Peter shows that the apostles recognized that Jesus and the Father are ONE, and that there is no contradiction in referring to Them together or separately.

Note that in verse 1 of 2 Peter, he says “...by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ” — as though speaking of a single person. Yet in verse 2, the apostle says “in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,” adding the expression “and of,” as though referring to two persons.

This manner of referring to God the Father and God the Son shows that the apostles accepted this “mystery” without requiring a “logical” explanation to satisfy a mind devoid of faith. In this apostolic citation, the persons of the Father and the Son are each identified as GOD and presented separately. Blessed and adorable Triune God!

And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

1 John 5:20 (NKJV)

✓ **Third evidence: Some designations and titles attributed to God the Father are also attributed to Jesus**

In Revelation 21:5–7, God the Father presents Himself as the First and the Last, the Alpha and the Omega.

And He who sat on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.” And He said to me, “Write, for these words are true and faithful.” And He said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life

freely to him who thirsts. He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.”

Revelation 21:5–7 (NKJV)

And in Revelation 1:17–18, Jesus presents Himself in the same way: “And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, ‘Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.’”

And also in Revelation 22:12–16, Jesus is presented as the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last.

“And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last. Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie. I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star.”

Revelation 22:12–16 (NKJV)

See also Revelation 21:1–3, 22–23:

Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.” ... But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light.

Revelation 21:1–3, 22–23 (NKJV)

✓ Fourth and greatest evidence: Jesus accepts being worshiped

Jesus was worshiped by men before and after the resurrection, while He was here on earth. Let us consider some references:

In Matthew 8:1–3: “When He had come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed Him. And behold, a leper came and worshiped Him, saying, ‘Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean.’ Then Jesus put out His hand and touched him, saying, ‘I am willing; be cleansed.’ Immediately his leprosy was cleansed.”

In Matthew 15:25: “Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, ‘Lord, help me!’”

In Matthew 20:20: “Then the mother of Zebedee’s sons came to Him with her sons, kneeling down and asking something from Him.” An important note: the wife of Zebedee, mother of James and

John, was not just anyone — she was the mother of two apostles and knew Jesus well, recognizing His lordship.

In John 9:35–38: “Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, ‘Do you believe in the Son of God?’ He answered and said, ‘Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?’ And Jesus said to him, ‘You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you.’ Then he said, ‘Lord, I believe!’ And he worshiped Him.”

In John 20:26–29: “And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, ‘Peace to you!’ Then He said to Thomas, ‘Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing.’ And Thomas answered and said to Him, ‘My Lord and my God!’ Jesus said to him, ‘Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.’”

Thomas called Jesus God, and He accepted it. Thomas prostrated himself to worship Jesus, and He accepted it.

Already exalted in the heavens, He is worshiped by every creature in heaven and on earth, under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them. In Revelation 5:1–7, 8–13, 14, all of heaven bows before the Lord and worships Him.

We too must bow the knee and worship Him. Hallelujah!

Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:9–11 (NKJV)

It is very important to note that Jesus had declared in Matthew 4:9–10, when Satan incited Him to worship him: “All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.’ Then Jesus said to him, ‘Away with you, Satan! For it is written, “You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.”’” Jesus here cited the text of Exodus 20:4–5.

When we read Revelation 19:10 and 22:8–9, when John attempts to worship the angel that appears to him, the angel says: “See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God.”

Jesus said to Satan: you shall worship God only. The angels said to John: worship God.

4) How Did Jesus Accept Being Worshiped?

We either reject Jesus as an impostor or we reverence Him as God.

No person or creature who accepts being worshiped as though he were God deserves any credibility. Those who say that Jesus is not God, but merely a special being worthy of our honor and respect — someone we should listen to and obey, a mediator between God and men —

should, in fact, despise Him as an impostor who attempted to usurp the place of God by accepting worship. That is what Satan did.

Only two options remain: we either reject Jesus as an impostor who sought to be worshiped and who wanted to usurp the position of God, or we reverence Him as God and worship Him as the blessed God He is.

Comparing the text of John with that of Philippians, we have clear evidence that He WAS and He IS GOD!

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:1 (NKJV)

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God.

Philippians 2:5–6 (NKJV)

This is the position of Jesus before the incarnation, after His incarnation, and after His resurrection. Our God loved us, identified with us, became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.

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!” And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: “Blessing and honor and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!” Then the four living creatures said, “Amen!” And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.

Revelation 5:12–14 (NKJV)

Let us worship Him — Jesus, our blessed God!

CONCLUSION

In this sixth lesson, we presented from the Holy Scriptures incontestable proof of the deity of Jesus and the details of His incarnation as man — which did not strip Him of His status as God on earth (and of being worthy of worship).

This lesson makes clear that throughout history Satan has always tried to confuse men’s understanding of the person of Jesus. But the fact is that there is evidence that Jesus presented Himself as God and was received and worshiped as God: the apostles recognized Him as God, some of the designations attributed to God the Father were also attributed to Jesus, and Jesus Himself accepted being worshiped. Conclusion: Jesus is God.

CONSIDER CAREFULLY

- 01** Could you demonstrate from the Scriptures that Jesus is God?
- 02** Do you receive the Lord Jesus as God and render Him worship and adoration daily?

03 Having Jesus as your God and Lord, do you obey Him in all things?

*having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets,
Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone.*

Ephesians 2:20 (NKJV)

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contato@fundamentos.me | fundamentos.me