

# The Bible Teaches that Jesus is God

Damian Kyle, senior pastor of CC Modesto, CA



***But to the Son He says: “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness more than Your companions.” And: “You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands.”*** HEBREWS 1:8-10

In Hebrews 1:1-14, the author is addressing discouraged Hebrew disciples who, under tremendous persecution, are tempted to return to their works-centered religious heritage. His main point is that Jesus is better than anything we’ve left to follow Him. He’s the Son of God, appointed heir of all things, creator of worlds (verse 2), upholds everything by His power, sits at God’s right hand (verse 3). It’s almost like the author is saying, “And you want to leave Jesus for *what?*”

## Superior to Angels

Having already explained Jesus’ superiority to the prophets, he now addresses Jesus’ superiority to angels. Why did the Holy Spirit feel this was necessary? At the time, the Jews had a long history of fascination with angels, which in some sects became an unhealthy obsession. Today, this passage is crucial in identifying pseudo-Christian cults and explaining to their members why we’ve trusted Christ for salvation. Both Mormons and Jehovah’s Witnesses deny that Jesus is God. Mormons have historically taught that Jesus is the literal brother of Lucifer, or Satan, a fallen angel, while Jehovah’s Witnesses claim Jesus existed as Michael the archangel apart from His time on earth.

This passage exposes false teachings, past and present, by demonstrating Christ’s superiority. First, Jesus possesses a more excellent name—the Son of God. Now, the Bible occasionally refers to angels as “sons of God”—but only in the collective plural. Jesus alone is singularly, uniquely the Son of God. Second, Jesus’ superiority is

demonstrated in verse 6 in that the Messiah is worshiped by angels. If Jesus was an angel and not in fact God’s Son, He would be on par with angels and not worthy to receive their worship. Third, in verses 8-12, as opposed to the angels, Jesus is twice declared to be God by God Himself.

## Combating False Doctrine

When Jehovah’s Witnesses or Mormons come to my doorstep, I look at it as an opportunity to share the Gospel. My heart breaks for them because they need to be saved out of a very strong religious indoctrination and background. I tell them, “I’m a born-again Christian. I know we have many doctrinal differences, so let’s focus on the single most important one—what the Bible has to say about Jesus. I believe the Bible teaches He is God the Son; I know you don’t believe He’s divine.” They admit they do not. Then I ask, “If I can show you in the Bible where God the Father declares the Son to be God, would you believe Jesus is God?” There’s always hesitation on their part; but eventually they say, “If the Bible said that I would have to believe it, but it doesn’t.” So because I love them, I turn to Hebrews 1:8b and show them where the Father says to the Son, “***Your throne, O God, is forever and ever.***” You can hear a pin drop on that doorstep. With one verse, I have shaken the deepest foundation of their life, which they believed unshakable. I have great compassion for them at that point.

About half of them will say, “But didn’t God call men ‘gods’ in the Old Testament? He’s doing the same thing here.” In the Old Testament, God sometimes called Jewish elders charged with interpreting His Word “*elohim*,” or “gods,” in that they represented Him, but God was never calling human beings “God.” At this point, my doorstep visitors think they’ve got me stumped. But they don’t because God truly loves people caught in these traps, so He makes it unmistakably clear. I take them to verse 10a, where God goes even further: “***You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth.***” LORD is in all caps because it signifies the highest name used of God in

the Old Testament, YHWH. There’s no higher authority on the subject of God than God Himself, and here He ascribes deity to Jesus unmistakably, undeniably. I have never had anyone have an answer for what the Spirit has done here, testifying to the fact that Jesus is God. It’s indisputable, powerful evidence for Christ’s deity. I then take them to Revelation 1:8, where Jesus identifies Himself as Alpha and Omega, another Old Testament name of God. Next, I turn to John 1:1b, which says “***the Word was God,***” and then verse 14, which reveals Jesus is the Word. I say, “I’ve shown

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you three Bible passages that show Jesus is divine, and you are telling me He isn’t—whom should I believe?” Finally, I show them John 8:24b and 58, where Jesus told the religious leaders of His day who refused to believe His claims to be God, that if they did not believe Him to be I AM—YHWH—“***you will die in your sins.***”

Why is Christ’s deity so significant? Because if He is not divine, He is not sinless and cannot provide salvation because He’d need a Savior Himself. This is not a religious tit-for-tat; the stakes here are my visitors’ salvation and mine, on the basis of who is right about Jesus. When they leave, hopefully that’s been established, and I go into my house to pray for their souls because it’ll take a miracle of God to pull them out of what they’re in the middle of, just as it took a miracle to rescue us.

The main thing to realize, though, is that this teaching is as needed today as ever it was, and may the Lord use it to protect us from worshiping anything or anyone less than Jesus Christ. Let’s keep our focus completely on Him. 🍀