



World Christian Fellowship

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Jesus is God then why did He cry Eli Eli Lama Sabachthani?

Jesus is God – Prophecies

Divine Messiah predicted in the Old Testament

Isaiah 7:14, *“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.”*

“Immanuel” literally means: “God with us.”

Matthew 1:23, *Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.”*

This Messiah would be born a human son but have a higher nature.

Isaiah 9:6, *“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”*

This was a radical statement coming from a monotheistic Jewish prophet, especially calling a human being “Mighty God” but one that God fulfilled centuries later in Christ.

A couple hundred years later, but still more than half a millennium before Jesus walked the earth, more was predicted about the Messiah’s divine nature.

Daniel 7:13-14, *“I was watching in the night visions, And behold, One like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him. ¹⁴ Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom the one Which shall not be destroyed.*

“Son of Man” was the primary title Jesus used for Himself. This passage shows that this was a clear and strong claim of deity. Mark, the earliest of the four Gospels, He also included the unmistakable phrase, “coming on the clouds of heaven” and applied it to Himself.

Mark 14:62, *Jesus said, “I am. And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven.”*

Jesus is God – His Earthly Ministry

The baby Jesus worshiped by the Magi

Matthew 2:11, *“On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him.”*

Along with being led to the site where Jesus was born, these Magi were apparently informed by God about Jesus’ divine identity, and so they responded appropriately by worshiping Him.

Jesus accepted worship from His disciples

Matthew 14:32-33, *“And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, ‘Truly you are the Son of God.’”*

In a Jewish culture, only the one true God can be worshiped! Their actions show that they acknowledged Jesus as being divine.

Jesus didn’t correct them or say, “Don’t you realize that I’m just a mortal prophet? Stop worshiping me!” Rather, He accepted their worship, knowing He really was God in human flesh.

Jesus’ claim about Himself

John 5:18, *Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.*

John 8:58-59, *Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.”*⁵⁹ *Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.*

This is a powerful double claim from Jesus:

1. He pre-existed His human birth and was actually alive and present (as God) before Abraham.
2. His title was “I am”, which was the same title used for Jehovah God in Exodus 3:14.

His listeners again got the point and picked up stones to execute Him!

Mark 2:5-7, *When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven you.”*⁶ *And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts,*⁷ *“Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?”*

Another of Jesus’ claims of deity

John 10:30-33, *I and My Father are one.”*³¹ *Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him.*³² *Jesus answered them, “Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?”*³³ *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.”*

It couldn't be clearer than it is here: Jesus' highly educated listeners understood His claim of deity. They only had two possible responses: to humble themselves and bow before Him as the Magi and the disciples had done earlier or reject His claim and judge Him as a blasphemer.

Unfortunately, they chose the latter option. But notice that Jesus doesn't argue with their accusation, because it was accurate. He really was claiming to be God!

John 14:6, *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*

John 14:9-11, *Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. ¹¹Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.*

Thomas' response to the resurrected Jesus

John 20:27-29, *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." ²⁸And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"*

²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

This disciple realized, because of Jesus’ resurrection, who Jesus really was and humbly worshiped Him and declared His true identity! “My Lord and my God!” Jesus not only accepts this declaration but blesses all the disciples. All of us today who come to the same realization and place of humble worship.

Jesus is God – He is Worshipped

- **Jesus accepted worship prior to His ascension**
Matthew 28:16-17, *“Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. ¹⁷When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted.”*

Note that Jesus was worshiped at His birth, throughout His ministry, after His resurrection, and again here, right before His physical ascension into heaven. His divine nature, as a member of the Godhead (along with the Father and the Holy Spirit), was never questioned by Him or by those who really knew who He was and followed Him.

- **Paul’s understanding as an apostle and leader of the church**

Colossians 1:15-16, *“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 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.*

Colossians 2:9, *For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form.”*

Titus 2:13-14, *looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ,¹⁴ who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.*

Paul refers to him as “our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us.”

Paul’s letters were some of the earliest Christian writings, with most of them actually pre-dating the four Gospels -- yet they make some of the strongest statements concerning the first church’s clear understanding of Jesus as the Creator; God in human form.

- **Peter called Jesus as God.**

2 Peter 1:1, 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:

- **Jesus will be worshiped by every creature in heaven**

*Revelation 5:13-14, "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!"
¹⁴Then the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever."*

The last book in the Bible points prophetically to the time where every living creature will know and acknowledge that Jesus, the "Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29) is also the God.

Why did Jesus Call God on the Cross? Was He not God Himself?

Matthew 27:46-54, *Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land.* ⁴⁶*And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?” that is, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”* ⁴⁷*Some of those who stood there, when they heard that, said, “This Man is calling for Elijah!”* ⁴⁸*Immediately one of them ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine and put it on a reed, and offered it to Him to drink.* ⁴⁹*The rest said, “Let Him alone; let us see if Elijah will come to save Him.”* ⁵⁰*And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit.* ⁵¹*Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split,* ⁵²*and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised;* ⁵³*and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many.* ⁵⁴*So when the centurion and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, “Truly this was the Son of God!”*

V 46, “And about the ninth hour” – that’s 3:00 P.M. during this darkness.

“Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, ‘Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?’ that is, ‘My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?’”

Why?

If He is God, then why didn't He save Himself?

Why did Jesus call on God, if HE is God?

How can God and Christ be one and be forsaken?

How can they be one and be separated?

Ending of the darkness is also the ending of the life of Christ.

The fury of God is spent.

The judgment ends in death.

For six long hours He had been enduring immeasurable agony.

Not only in the physical dimension and it's hard to conceive the pain.

- nails hammered through your wrists,
- nails hammered through your feet,
- hanging in that position for six hours,
- suffocation of internal organs,
- thorns are crushed into your brow,
- blood runs down your face
- excruciating physical agony,
- hanging with nothing of the nakedness,
- the mockery,
- sarcasm,

- hatred, and
- venom being poured out upon Him.

But far more than that physical and emotional trauma was the spiritual pain of feeling God's furious anger over sin poured out totally on Him.

It was as if God accumulated all His anger against all of the sins of all of the ages and poured it all out on Christ.

When that sin-bearing judgment comes to a climax, He gathers His strength enough to cry out from His heart.

He cries out about a profound sense of alienation from God, of separation from God too deep for us to understand. "Eli, Eli," the Hebrew for "My God, My God." Mark says, "Eloi, Eloi," uses the Aramaic. Matthew preserves it as Jesus said it and then gives a translation so that we will understand it, "My God, My God,"

There we can see the intimacy, tenderness, and pathos in that, "My God, My God."

Jesus is saying, "You're Mine; where did You go?"

Then says it in "lama sabachthani," "Why have You left Me? Why have You departed from Me?"

Jesus is quoting **Psalms 22**.

Did Jesus cease to become God?

No.

Did Jesus get cut off from the nature of God?

No.

Did Jesus cease to have fellowship with God?

Yes.

Did He get cut off from the communion with God?

Yes.

Did He die physically?

Yes.

Did He die spiritually?

Yes.

He was separated from the fellowship of the Father, though not the nature of the Father. He was still God.

Jesus did not cease to be God, or He would have ceased to be anything or anyone.

Even in His incarnation there was a separation.

John 17:5, *“Father, return Me to the glory I had with you before the world began.”*

There was some kind of relationship that Jesus had with God before His incarnation that He wanted back.

So, in the incarnation, there was some degree of separation, and now in His sin-bearing death, there is another degree of separation.

Let us look at Psalms 22 for a moment.

V1, *“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?”*

V7, *“All who see Me mock Me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads”.*

V14, *“I am poured out like water and all My bones are out of joint”*

V15, *“My strength is dried up and My tongue sticks to the roof of My mouth”*

V16, *“A band of evil men has encircled Me. They have pierced My hands and My feet”*

V17-19, *“I can count all My bones; people stare and gloat over Me. They divide My garments among them and cast lots for My clothing. But You, O LORD, be not far off; O My Strength, come quickly to help Me”*

V23-24, *“You who fear the LORD, praise Him! For He has not despised or disdained the suffering of the afflicted one; He has not hidden his face from Him but has listened to his cry for help”*

V29-31, *“All those who go down to the dust shall bow before Him. Even he who cannot keep himself alive. A posterity shall serve Him...They will come and declare His righteousness to a people who will be born, that He has done it”*

The One forsaken in v 1 is the One who will rule forever in the last verses of the Psalm. Death would be followed by resurrection and ultimate victory.

Those words were written 950 years before Jesus was born!

What happened at the Cross?

It is the judgment of God.

God is judging sin. God prophesied about this in Isaiah.

Isaiah 43:25, *“I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; And I will not remember your sins.”*

Romans 4:25, *“Christ was delivered to death for our offenses.”*

1 Corinthians 15:3, *“Christ died for our sins.”*

1 Peter 2:24, *“Who in His own self bore our sins in His body on the tree.”*

1 Peter 3:18, *“Christ also has suffered for sins, the just for the unjust.”*

1 John 4:10, *“He sent His Son to be the atonement for our sin.”*

Galatians 3:13, *“He was made a curse for us.”*

Substitutionary atonement.

Sin must be paid for. When Jesus Christ died, he suffered as a substitute in the place of and on behalf of fallen humanity.

Christ's death made it possible for men and women to be declared righteous, based on their faith in Him. Christ's death was not merely a statement against evil or an expression of love, but a payment that satisfied God's demand. Christ's death was necessary for several reasons.

1. Sin alienates us from God. Those who are controlled by sin cannot please God. Jesus Christ's death made peace with God possible. Christ came, not just to provide us with a godly example, but to die on our behalf and to bear the cost for sin.
2. God is holy. God's holy character requires that sin be punished. Sin makes us the objects of God's wrath until the penalty of sin is paid. By laying down His own life, Jesus paid the price on our behalf, satisfying God's demand. This payment was made, not to Satan, but God.
3. The presence of sin renders us helpless. We cannot save ourselves. We do not have the will or the ability to offer anything acceptable to God on our own behalf. We not only suffer from the guilt and penalty of Adam's original sin, but also from the effects of our own sinful nature and actions.

God, who is rich in mercy, sent Jesus Christ to die in our place, so that He might be righteous in dealing with sin while at the same time providing His own righteousness to those who believe in Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:21, *For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

Conclusion

Because Jesus death on the cross we have been given access to God.

John 3:16, *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

John 20:17, *Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.'*"

You and me become the sons of God through the rejection of Jesus, the only begotten of the Father.

Scripture never calls Jesus as only Son after His death! It calls Him as the first fruit or first born!

Glorious Gospel! Let us rejoice!!