

GOD, or Son of GOD, or Son of Man, - or What?

Jesus is Fully God!!!

Deuteronomy 6:4-7; Matthew 16:13-20

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When Jesus came into this world, He fulfilled over 100 prophecies which were made by the Old Testament prophets. In **Matthew 16:13-20**, we read that during His ministry, Jesus asked His followers, “*Who do you say that I am?*” Is Jesus God? Or, is Jesus the Son of God? Or, is Jesus the Son of man? Or, what?

When I was in grade school and junior high, in the 1950’s, my parents attended church on occasion (weddings and funerals), with my aunt and uncle at a Methodist church. Then, they changed to the Presbyterian Church. I never knew why. Still, later on in life, my aunt and uncle changed to a Baptist church. Again, I never asked why. What I was told in these early years was that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and somehow, also God, and that true Christianity is *not* a religion, and that a pastor, or church, can’t save me -- only Jesus can. Christianity is a relationship. A relationship with Jesus, who was God in the flesh, our Savior (**John 1:1-3, 14**). I listened to what was said, and didn’t really question any evidence they might have that Jesus was God. I heard about the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, and how He raised other people from death, but I never thought of these as evidence that Christians were different from other faiths. When I was young, I never really thought about other faiths.

Then, when I got into high school, I began dating a girl who was Catholic. Here, again, the Catholics believe that Jesus Christ is the “Son of God,” and that Mary was the mother of God, and that Jesus had passed on His powers and understanding to the apostles and the Pope, and that the only sure way to heaven was to worship Jesus Christ, and also be blessed and forgiven by the Catholic Church, and also that a believer must receive the sacraments of the Catholic Church, and submit to the Church’s teaching. The Catholic Church, I learned, is considered a “religion” (religion, meaning that people must do certain things to be saved, that *Christ’s sacrifice was not quite enough*), because it is through the church that a person is supposedly made acceptable to God. In the Catholic Church, Jesus saves...but people are told that God uses the Catholic Church to bring in righteousness. At this early point in my life, in high school, I didn’t really question if there was any evidence of the church being necessary for salvation, in addition to Jesus...or any other way to some kind of salvation.

Then, when I went to college (junior college for 2 years), I was taught that God is a myth. I was told this in several classes – anthropology, history, literature, sociology, and, of course, various science classes. They all taught the same basic theme -- that God is a myth. I was told that the cosmos, galaxies, sun, earth, and all our life forms, including humans, were all part of a natural processes of chemicals, and accidents. I supposedly came from stardust (which is technically true -- as we are all made up of chemicals which are found throughout the cosmos). And, according to my college education, we will all go back to dirt, and stardust, etc. Public schools taught that there is no such thing as a God, and that all “religions” were false -- simply a creation of ancient man to control man. Science was said to have some evidence to support this natural, chemical process theory, but I never actually researched what I was being taught (Later in life, I put together a book on this—*Science, Origins & Ancient Civilizations*—[Target Truth Ministries.com](http://TargetTruthMinistries.com)).

After this, I joined the military, and early on met a couple of guys who were from the Mormon religion. Again, the Mormons would be called a “religion” because there are certain things a person must do in order to be saved, and the church is part of that process. These two guys belonged to a faith that worshiped Jesus Christ as the “son of god” (small “s” – a physical creation of God, the Father). Also,

they found agreement, to some extent, with science (and “Macro” evolution), in that, god, to them, is a natural part of evolution (this god having been a human first). They believe a man (a human), somehow found a way to become a god, and this man-god had relations with Mary, and Jesus was born (a “son of god”), a physical product of Mary and this man who had become god. Satan, in the Mormon faith, is the brother of Jesus, another child of this man-god. According to these two guys from the Mormon faith, they each could also become gods one day by following practices of the Mormon religion. Again, I didn’t understand enough to question whether they had any evidence for these beliefs, but this view of God did raise some questions about what “Son of God,” and “Son of man” actually meant.

In the fourth year of my military service, I got stationed in Thailand, and then, Vietnam. There, I was surrounded by three great religions – Buddhism, Islam, and Hinduism. These are called “religions” because people need to practice, and perform certain rituals to try to obtain salvation. There were also many Catholics in Vietnam. From Buddhism and Hinduism, I was told that we exist in cycles of life, called reincarnation. There is not a heaven, and hell, as we, in the west, view them. Jesus is seen as a great teacher, and only a man -- *not* God. Bliss (or nirvana), is the goal, where there is no more suffering, no more reincarnation. This suffering, or hell, is seen in the eastern countries as being reincarnated back into this earth for still more suffering and death, until we can work our way out of the cycle. Buddha is not a god, but a man who obtained nirvana (something like the Mormon religion -- where man became a god). Here, in America, reincarnation is seen as a good thing -- kind of the opposite of the eastern Buddhists, who are looking forward to stopping the cycle of reincarnation...go figure. Here is where I started to question, just what is religion? What is science? What is truth? And, why was I first taught that true Christianity is *not* a religion (there is nothing we can do to save ourselves)? Also, I questioned whether Jesus is God, or Son of God, or Son of man? In many religions, there seems to be *no evidence* of any power over death, only a methodology of life, a way to live, and a *philosophy* of existence after death.

While overseas, I also learned of Islam -- a religion where god is called “Allah.” Allah is translated “god” in English. Allah is called by Muslims the “god” of Abraham. This phrase, “god of Abraham,” can confuse us, because both Christian and Islam use this phrase. But, there is a slight difference. When Abraham was young, he helped his father make idols to various gods of the people of Ur, where they lived. So, when Abraham was young, the primary god of the city of Ur was his father’s god – called Allah (the moon god – the primary god of the city of Ur). But, Abraham was called out of this pagan life by the one true God – also called “The God of Abraham,” who is actually the God of all creation, not the moon God of his father (**Gen. 12**). Islam (a religion), requires its followers to subdue all peoples and nations...make them all worship Allah. In Islam, Jesus is seen as a great teacher, but not God, and not the Son of God. But, Mary is revered as holy, and seen by many Muslims as higher, and even more holy than Mohammed.

The followers of Allah are required to make people submit to Allah. People don’t have to become Muslim, just submit to Islamic control. But, if they don’t become Muslim, they cannot be part of the main society, and cannot go to Paradise. Non- Muslims are to be treated as property, like animals, and can be sold, traded, or killed, as needed. But, if one does convert, and follow the practices of the Islamic religion, then they might have a chance to reach heaven. No guarantees, but at least a chance, they are told. The only guarantee of heaven in Islam is to those who die in Jihad -- die while either subjecting people to Islam, or die while fighting against other bad Muslims who are trying to treat other faiths with respect. This is a religion which supports high ideals, and high moral concepts against infidelity, etc. -- some noble things, but I could not see any evidence of this religion’s power over death -- only a *philosophy*. Mohammed, after all, died--and didn’t come back to life. Jesus was unique—claiming to be

God (**John 10:30**), and rising from the dead. Buddha never claimed to be God. Moses never claimed to be Jehovah. Mohammed never claimed to be Allah. Yet, Jesus Christ claimed to be the true and living God (**John 10:30**). Buddha simply said, “*I am a teacher in search of the truth.*” Jesus said, “*I am the Truth*”—**John 14:6**. Confucius said, “*I never claimed to be holy.*” Jesus said, “*Who convicts me of sin?*” (**John 8:46**). Mohammed said, “*Unless God throws his cloak of mercy over me, I have no hope.*” Jesus said, “*Unless you believe in me, you will die in your sins*” (**Mark 16:16, John 14:6**).

By now, I’m really questioning what is true. Eventually, I began searching for what evidence that science, or Christianity (a relationship with Christ), or Catholicism (which trusts in Jesus, but requires the works of the church also), or Mormons, Jehovah’s Witness, Seventh Day Adventists, Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims (and, of course, many other “religions,” all had for their beliefs). Is Jesus God? Or, Son of God? Or, Son of man? Or, what? What evidence do any of these “religions,” or Christianity (which is not even supposed to be a religion), have of life after death? What evidence?

It turns out that the *only* faith which has any evidence of life after death, is the faith which worships Jesus as the uncreated, eternal God. Jesus proved through eyewitness evidence His power over death. None of these “religions” have any evidence of any other way, or power, over death. These religions have *nice* philosophies, *nice* people, *good* intentions, but *no evidence*. Jesus raised people from death. Jesus, *before* He died, told people that He would need to suffer and die, but that He would rise from death three days later. Then, Jesus died. Then, Jesus rose from death...after three days. And, Jesus, knowing that we are doubters, hung around this planet for weeks, visiting with hundreds of people, on several occasions, to give us the *eyewitness* evidence we need of His power over death. God gave us the proof (**1 Corin. 15:1-8; Acts 1:1-8**). Then, there is the *material* evidence of the empty tomb (which no one has ever refuted), and the *circumstantial* evidence of the followers of Jesus changing from being afraid to die, to being willing to die after they met the resurrected Jesus. Any one of these evidences are enough in a court of law to prove Jesus has power over death. But, Jesus took time to give us all the evidence we need. The Bible is the record of these eyewitnesses.

Since these early years, I have met many people from many religions. In each case, these would be termed a “religion,” because they either deny Jesus is the uncreated, eternal God, or, in their particular faith (even if they do worship Jesus as the uncreated, eternal God), they also believe their church must be involved in the saving process somehow (through sacraments, or works). True Christianity recognizes that only Jesus can save anyone. We can do nothing (**Eph. 2:8-9**). Jesus, and Jesus alone, saves a person from hell. It is the personal relationship with Christ which brings peace of mind in this world we live in, and eternal life in His kingdom to come.

Is Jesus the “Son of God?” The term “Son of God,” which is used frequently in the Hebrew Old Testament, does not refer to a physical birth from parents, as many sometimes think. Because we are all sons and daughters, related to our fathers and mothers, many tend to think the term “Son of God,” is a physical, generational reference. However, in the Bible, the term “Son of God” is a “title” which was given to a king, or given to a high priest, or a great prophet, because they are considered the “anointed ones” of God. These were *unique, special* people. There is only one person who will ever be called “*The Son of God,*” and be *everything* -- King of Kings, our High Priest forever, and, the greatest of Prophets. Jesus is the *unique*, the one and only, true “Son of God,” being King, and Priest, and Prophet. So, yes, Jesus is The Son of God, but not because of any physical process--it is a *title*.

The term “Son of God” is also used to convey “position.” The Father / Son relationship is a description used by Jesus to describe the dominant “position” of God in heaven (like the dominate position of a

Father). When God revealed Himself in a flesh body here on earth (as Jesus), He thus limited Himself (similar to a son being under a father), in order to provide for our salvation (**Philip. 2:5-11; John 1:1-18**). In **Philippians 2:6**, God tells us that when He took on a physical body, that He did not think it important to retain equality with His position of all power and glory as a Spirit being (God is Spirit - **John 4:24**). John used the word “Logos” (Greek for “word”), to describe to the ancient world exactly who Jesus was (**John 1:1-18**). “Logos” meant to the Hebrew people that the Son of God was the promised Messiah in the flesh (**Dan. 7:13**). To the pagans, “Logos” was the term used to describe the Creator—God. John used the term “Logos” to inform the ancient world (both Israel and the other nations), that it was this Jesus who was the Logos—the Creator God, in the flesh (**John 1:1-18**—the Logos became flesh—Jesus—see Message on “Logos” – [Target Truth Ministries.com](http://TargetTruthMinistries.com)).

How can God be present everywhere (omnipresent), and dwell in a body at the same time? Think of God as the ocean – a vast ocean of water present all over the world (like the vast Spirit of God present all over). When you fill a bottle with ocean water, the bottle contains 100 % ocean water (the body of Jesus is indwelt 100 % by the Spirit of God). Yet, the ocean of Spirit is still all over the world. Jesus is **fully God** (the bottle is fully filled with ocean water), but Jesus is **not God fully** (just as the bottle does not contain all of the ocean). God is one vast Spirit (the Spirit of God, indwelling a body, and, *at the same time* -- all over the universe). One God -- one Spirit. The mind (brain) of Jesus, being human and limited, could not know everything, and be everywhere (**Matt 24:36**). However, the Spirit of God within Jesus does know everything, but deliberately withheld certain information from the physical mind of Jesus.

Jesus limited Himself in glory, but did not limit His godly attributes. His sacrifice (as a flesh being on the cross), was because He loves us. God requires a blood (life), sacrifice to pay for our sins (**Lev. 17:11**). So, God indwelt a flesh body to save us (Jesus--a uniquely created body indwelt with uncreated, eternal, sinless spirit of God to pay for our sins against an uncreated, eternal, sinless God. The Son of God is both a “title,” as well as a reference to Jesus’ “position” (bodily—not spiritually—*limited* in function (**Matt 24:36**), when compared to God as pure Spirit (called the Father).

Is Jesus the Son of Man? The “son of man” is a term used by the prophet Daniel (**Dan. 7:13-14** – one “like” a human, but referring to the Messiah--the Christ). Jesus took this title to introduce Himself to the world as the fulfillment of this vision of Daniel’s – God in a human form.

Is Jesus actually the one true, and only God? We read in **John 10:30**, that Jesus said He was God. Also, in **Matthew 26:63-64, 28:18-20; John 1:1-5 & 14, 8:19, 24, 58; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:15-23, 2:9-10; Hebrews 1:1-10**. Jesus said in **John 14:6**, that He is the way, the truth, and the life, and that *no one* will get into the kingdom of God except through trusting in Him. This means that no religion can save me. The only thing which can save anyone is *a relationship* with the one who has the power to save, Jesus. The Bible states there is only one Savior...God (**Isa. 43:3, 11**). Jesus is declared to be that Savior (**1 John 4:14**).

Here is what Christians understand about God. The Bible, which Jesus Himself quoted, and never disagreed with (which contains the prophecies of the Messiah--Jesus--which were *all* fulfilled exactly), is the source of information from *before* Jesus’ time. The Bible’s New Testament is the source of information, which came directly from Jesus (which was given to hundreds of disciples, and which is authoritative, because Jesus is the only being ever to overcome death).

- God, the Father is Spirit (**John 4:24; Luke 24:39**), and exists everywhere.
- God, the Holy Spirit, is Spirit, and exists within each believer to enlighten us (**perhaps a drop**).

- God, the Son, is also this same Spirit, but 2000 years ago God voluntarily took on a flesh body which was uniquely created (for God the Spirit to dwell in – **Matt. 24:36; John 3:16-18; Luke 1:35**), in order to provide for our salvation (for those who love and trust in Him). The price to pay for our sin against a perfect, sinless, eternal, uncreated God, requires a sinless, perfect, eternal uncreated being to die in our place. God cannot die, but the flesh body does. God, the Spirit, is uncreated, eternal, sinless, and perfect. Jesus is that Spirit indwelling a uniquely created body. Jesus is declared to be God in Christ (**Eph. 4:32**).
- God is one. God claims that He alone is God, and there is *none* before Him, and *none* after Him (**Deut. 6:4; Isa. 44:6-8, 45:21-22, 47:9-10; Mark 12:28-30; 1 Corin. 8:4**). God is one being (uncreated, eternal, perfect, and sinless), who reveals Himself to us in three roles, or persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). One God -- *none* before -- *none* after. The Hebrew word “one” is “*echad*” and it actually means one “united”, or one “alike” or one “together” or one “altogether.” This word “*echad*” for one is also used in **Ex. 24:3** when the people all answered in “one voice,” and also in **Numb. 12:23**, when they cut down a branch with “one cluster” of grapes.
- Also, God describes Himself as the One and only *Savior* (**Isa. 43:3, 11, 45:15, 21, 49:26, 60:16; Hos. 13:4**). (also see **Messages “Dogs Don’t Bark at Parked Cars” and “Is Jesus God?”** to explain how Jesus *is fully God*, but *not God fully* – [Target Truth Ministries.com](http://TargetTruthMinistries.com)).

As the Nicene Creed basically states (the agreed upon understanding of the Christian churches), There is one God, revealed to us in three roles, or persons – *fully God* (**Col. 1:19**), and fully human. Three hundred and three bishops voted on this understanding, and only three disagreed – believing that Jesus is a different person -- a created god (a different god from God the Father—which is a belief held by Mormons, and Jehovah’s Witnesses). Christians understand that Jesus is *fully God*, eternal, uncreated, sinless, and perfect. Mormons, Jehovah’s Witness, Islam, and a few others, believe that Jesus is not the fully uncreated eternal God -- rather, that Jesus was “born,” or created as a being with God-like divine abilities (a super angel – a created being – a super man).

The problem for people understanding just who Jesus is, is that if Jesus is not the fully eternal *uncreated* God, but only a created divine being (a super angel, or super man), then Jesus cannot fulfill the requirement to pay for our sins by His death. The *only* acceptable payment to cover our sins against our eternal *uncreated* perfect sinless God, must come from a perfect sinless eternal *uncreated* God. Christians recognize Jesus as *fully God*, the perfect sinless uncreated eternal God, not just a created super person, or angel. Jesus is the Spirit of God dwelling in a specially created body, for the purpose of providing a path to salvation through the shedding of His blood. Jesus, therefore, is *fully God* (Spirit), uncreated (Spirit), eternal (Spirit), sinless and perfect.

We, as created beings, receive our spirit (our eternal nature), from God when we are “born again” (**John 3:1-7** – trust in Jesus). Our spirit is not uncreated, but created. We were created in the “image,” or “likeness” of God (**Gen. 1:26-28**). Being “born again” means developing a personal relationship with God. A relationship requires spending time with God. If you love someone, you’ll *want* to spend time with them. If we love Jesus, we’ll *want* to spend time with Him.

Bottom line – regardless of your “religion,” you will be in God’s kingdom if you put your *trust* in Jesus, the Christ -- the uncreated, eternal, sinless, perfect sacrifice for our sins. Hundreds of years before Jesus was born, the prophecies were of a Messiah to be known as Emmanuel, which means, “God with us.” God was to be with us, and Jesus, God the Son, came in the flesh – **1 Peter 1:20**.

Let's now look at the story of the Messiah, the Christ, the Branch foretold before the foundation of the world. Here's the story of the arrival of Jesus:

Isaiah 7:14 – A virgin will give birth and He will be known as “Emmanuel,” which means – “*God with us.*”

Isaiah 9:6-7 – A Son is given – “*Mighty God*” – to reign forever on David's throne.

Micah 5:2 – A Ruler “whose origins are from old” will be born in Bethlehem.

John 1:1-9 – The Creator God will come into the world.

John 3:16-18 – “only begotten” – a “unique” creation of flesh for the Spirit of God to indwell.

Luke 1:35 – The Holy Spirit creates a “unique” flesh body for the Spirit of God to indwell.

Matthew 1:18-25 – Mary and Joseph to welcome Jesus into the world. “Jesus” means “*Salvation!*”

Luke 2:1-7 – The birth of Jesus described.

Luke 2:8-20 – The shepherds visit Jesus the Christ, the Messiah.

Matthew 2:1-11 – Magi from the east come to worship the Christ.

John 1:10-14 – God became flesh, but many did not recognize Him. This is still true today!

Praise God for the life (which **those who trust in Jesus**), will enjoy in His kingdom. Christians enjoy peace of mind in this fallen world right now -- and, soon, a new life one day, in His heavenly kingdom to come, at the time of the resurrection (**Rev. 20:4-6**)! This is a free gift (**Eph. 2:1-9**). Please open the gift!

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This image is for use with printed “Virtual Chapel” version of this message to depict the oneness of God in three roles. A Heart drawing surrounds the bold GOD image below, and these words are attached to the THE's...

The uncreated eternal Spirit (John 4:24) - God - given the title of the Father--sustainer of the kingdom of heaven.

The uncreated eternal Spirit of God given the title of the Son--a uniquely created body joined with Spirit to pay for our sins, and reconcile us to God.

The uncreated eternal Spirit of God given the title of the Holy Spirit--indwelling each individual who trusts in God to guide them (each individual person also is united with their own *created* eternal spirit when they are “born again,” John 3:6)

The uncreated eternal Spirit of God--Creator of Heavens and earth--revealed in three roles--co-equal--existing simultaneously as **one Spirit**.

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