

Is Jesus God?

Someone made the comment that Jesus never said, "I am God." I agreed with him that Jesus never made that claim. However, I was quick to point out that Jesus did make that claim in a way that the Jews understood—for which they attempted to stone Him. Let us consider the Scriptures:

Jesus Conception

We can begin with Jesus' birth, unlike Adam who was formed from earth:

the LORD God formed the man from the **dust of the ground** and breathed into his nostrils the **breath of life**, and the man **became a living being.** (Ge.2:7)
God formed earth and breathed life into him, making Adam a living soul. Figuratively, since Adam was created by God, he was the son of God:

...the son of Enosh, the son of Seth, **the son of Adam, the son of God.** (Lk.3:38)
Christ is different than Adam which is evident when the angel spoke to Mary:

But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour with God. **You will be with child and give birth to a son**, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and **will be called the Son of the Most High.** The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; his kingdom will never end." (Lk.1:30-33)

Unlike Adam who was created, Jesus was conceived. This is important as it denotes relationship. Muslims even agree that Jesus was conceived apart from having a human father. This is true as Jesus was conceived by the power of God—a miraculous conception apart from sexual relations. Mary questions the impossibility of a virgin being pregnant :

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "**since I am a virgin?**" The angel answered, "**The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.** So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. (Lk.1:34-35; Isa.7:14)

God did not have sexual relations with Mary, otherwise she would not be a virgin giving birth to a son who was called Immanuel—God with us:

"Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because **what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.** 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." All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: "**The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son**, and they will call him Immanuel"—which means, "**God with us.**" (Mt.1:20-23)

God created life in Mary apart from man's seed. This made Jesus from a human point of view the first clone—taking out

the DNA from the egg and replacing it with the DNA of God. It was not the fertilizing of the egg but the imparting of life to the egg—to put it in human terms. For Christ was not the copulation of Mary's DNA with God's, but Jesus was the exact image of God:

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. **He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.** (Co 1:15-16; 2Co.4:4)

Christ is the image of God, but even more than that He existed before the foundation of the world and is the creator and sustainer of all things. When one of His disciples asked to see God the Father, Jesus responded:

Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. **Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.** (Jn.14:9-10)

If you were one of Jesus' disciples, then you would have seen the Father. For Christ was more than the image of God; He was the exact representation of God

...in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and **through whom he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being**, sustaining all things by his powerful word. (He.5:2-3)

Christ was not a creation; He was God born in human likeness. This meant that Christ's psychological make-up was also God, as He was holiness incarnate:

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: **Who, being in very nature God**, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, **being made in human likeness.** And **being found in appearance as a man**, he humbled himself and became obedient to death— even death on a cross! (Php.2:5-8)

Jesus was not merely a man but God, Who took on the appearance of a man. For unlike a clone, Jesus was not just a physical representation of God; but He was in very nature God. This is where the similarities between Jesus and cloning stop. Jesus was born of a woman, but He was the fullness of God:

For **in Christ all the fullness of the Deity** lives in bodily form, (Co.2:9)
Jesus is God in every way. In speaking of Israel, the Bible states:

Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them **is traced the human ancestry of Christ, who is God over all**, forever praised! Amen. (Ro.9:5)

The Bible states that Jesus was and is God. Therefore, Jesus was not the offspring of God in that He existed

before the foundation of the world. He was the exact representation of God as the Holy Spirit imparted God's presence in Mary so that a virgin could give birth to a Son.

The Meaning of "Son"

The Greek word for "son" is "Huios". One would assume that the title "son" assumes that he is the offspring of those who use the term. However the term "son" signifies relationship apart from being offspring—it does not assume that they are an offspring but rather implies that they are in a relationship of an offspring. When God calls Jesus His "Son" and Jesus refers to God as "Father", it does not mean Christ came into existence through copulation, but rather Christ lowered Himself from being equal to God and assumed the submissive position of a son.

I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. And now, **Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.** (Jn.17:4-5)

Since Christ pre-existed before creation and was the Creator, He was not born but rather sent to the world to be born of woman. Christ was sent, not created in the womb:

But when the time had fully come, **God sent his Son, born of a woman**, born under law, to redeem those under law, that **we might receive the full rights of sons.** (Ga.4:4-5)

The term "son" implies the intimate relationship of a Father to a son, for people can become sons of God through faith:

For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. (Ga.3:26)

The term "son" signifies the type of relationship but does not assume copulation. In the same way that we can become a son of God, Jesus was sent to be born of a virgin. He entered a relationship with of God similar to that of a father to a son:

Because **you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son** into our hearts, crying, "**Abba! Father!**" (Ga.4:6)

When a person accepts Christ into his life, he has placed himself under the authority of God the Father and has become a son—a relationship of submission to God.

...because those **who are led by the Spirit of God** are sons of God. (Ro.8:14)

We see this concept of son with Paul who calls Timothy a "true son" even though the Scripture is clear that he was not of Paul's flesh and blood. It was through mentorship that Timothy assumed the position of a son:

To **Timothy my true son** in the faith: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. (1Ti.1:2)

On the other hand, every one who is not a son of God is a son of the devil, due to their submissive relationship:

The field is the world, and the good seed stands for **the sons of the kingdom.** The weeds are **the sons of the evil one,** (Mt 13:38; 1Jn.3:10)

Satan did not produce offspring, yet Paul calls a man a "son of the devil" because of his submission to Satan:

You son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, full of all deceit and villainy, will you not stop making crooked the straight paths of the Lord? (Ac.13:10)
To the Jews the term "Son of God" was a claim to being God. Jesus referred to Himself as God's Son:

When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory **so that God's Son** may be glorified through it." (Jn.11:4)

When the disciples called Jesus the Son of God, He did not deny it nor did he rebuke them for doing it:

Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, **you are the Son of God**; you are the King of Israel." Jesus said, "You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig-tree. You shall see greater things than that." (Jn.1:49-50; Mt.14:32-33)

When Jesus asked His disciples who they thought He was, Peter responded:

"**You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.**" Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, **for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven.** (Mt.16:15-16)

Jesus responded that God revealed to Peter the truth that He was God. In fact, Satan tried to tempt Jesus to sin by challenging Him to prove His Godship:

The tempter came to him and said, "**If you are the Son of God**, tell these stones to become bread." (Mt.4:3)

Only the Creator can change one substance into another; hence, Satan tried to tempt Jesus to sin by proving that He was God. When Jesus cast out demons, they readily proclaimed Jesus to be the Son of God:

Whenever the evil spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, "**You are the Son of God.**" But **he gave them strict orders not to tell who he was.** (Mk.3:11-12)

The demons did not acknowledge Jesus' position as God in worship. They pointed it out so that Jesus would acknowledge that He was the Son of God, in the hope that He would be stoned by the people for blasphemy:

Why then do you accuse me of blasphemy because I said, 'I am God's Son'? Do not believe me unless I do what my Father does. But if I do it, even though you do not believe me, believe the miracles, that you may know and **understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father.**" Again they tried to seize him, but he escaped their grasp. (Jn.10:34-39)

Jesus Himself made the claim that He was the Son of God—joined to the Father. The Jews understood that the title of "Son of God" was a claim to be God:

But Jesus remained silent. The high priest said to him, "I charge you under oath by the living God: **Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.**" "**Yes, it is as you say,**" Jesus replied. "But I say to all of you: In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven." **Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? Look, now you have heard the**

blasphemy. What do you think?" "He is worthy of death," they answered. (Mt.26:63-66)

Jesus claimed to be God, for at His death, His enemies testified that He claimed to be the "Son of God":

Come down from the cross, **if you are the Son of God!**"... Let God rescue him now if he wants him, **for he said, 'I am the Son of God.'**" (Mt 27:40, 43) Therefore, in Judaic terms of Jesus' day, the phrase "Son of God" was a declaration to be God. W hen Jesus used it in speaking of Himself, He was making the claim to be God.

The Son of Man

While it is true that Jesus never uttered the words "I am God", He did claim to be God. As already stated, if Jesus would have said "I am God" in front of two or three devout Jews, instantly He would have been stoned—in the same way that a person would be stoned for saying something against Mohammed or the Koran in a strict Muslim nation. However, even though Jesus did not make a direct claim, He used the terminology of God which the Jews understood to be a direct claim to be God.

Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad." "You are not yet fifty years old," the Jews said to him, "and you have seen Abraham!" "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, **I am!**" **At this, they picked up stones to stone him,** but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds. (Jn.8:56-58) The reason they wanted to stone Jesus was that He used the term "I am". "I am" was the name for God when He spoke to Moses:

Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, '**What is his name?**' **Then what shall I tell them?**" God said to Moses, "**I AM WHO I AM.** This is what you are to say to the Israelites: '**I AM** has sent me to you.'" (Ex.3:13-14) When Jesus used the name of God "I am" in regards to Himself, the Jews by command of the law were required to stone Him for claiming to be God. In answering the Chief Priest's question concerning who He was, Jesus used the term "I am", which commanded a death sentence:

But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer. Again the high priest asked him, "**Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?**" "**I am,**" said Jesus. "And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven." The high priest tore his clothes. "Why do we need any more witnesses?" he asked. "**You have heard the blasphemy.** What do you think?" They all condemned him as worthy of death. (Mk.14:61-64)

Using those two words alone was to claim to be God. To the average unlearned man, Jesus never made the claim that He was God; and yet if they knew the prophecy of the Old Testament, His claim to be God is clear. In the previous Scripture, Jesus affirmed He was the Son of God and used the name of God "I am" to answer the question.

However, in His answer, He also uses the term "Son of Man". This again fulfills another prophecy:

"In my vision at night I looked, **and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven.** He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshipped him. **His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away,** and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed. (Da.7:13-14)

Jesus, repeatedly, referred to Himself as the Son of Man. By that title, He claimed to be more than a mere man—He was making the claim to be the Messiah:

The crowd spoke up, "We have heard from the Law **that the Christ will remain for ever,** so how can you say, '**The Son of Man must be lifted up**'? Who is this 'Son of Man'?" (Jn.12:34)

Jesus used the term the "Son of Man" because it implied one who originated from God—who came down from Heaven:

No-one has ever gone into heaven except **the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man.** Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. (Jn.3:13-15)

The strength of the term "Son of Man" is clearly seen in Stephen's trial, where the Jews were furious at his criticism of them. When he quoted the prophecy of the Son of Man in relation to the person of Jesus, they stoned him.

When they heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "**I see** heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." At this **they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices,** they all rushed at him, **dragged him out of the city and began to stone him.** (Ac.7:53-58)

Even though the common Jews did not have a problem with the term "Son of Man", the Jewish scholars did. While the common Jew wouldn't stone a person for using that term, the scholars of Jesus' day equated the terms as meaning one and the same. Jesus used the terms interchangeably:

I tell you the truth, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of **the Son of God** and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son to have life in himself. And he has given him authority to judge because **he is the Son of Man.** (Jn.5:25-27)

Jesus confessed that He was the Son of Man of the prophecy:

Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, "**Do you believe in the Son of Man?**" "Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him." Jesus said, "**You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.**" (Jn.9:35-37)

The "Son of Man" was a term used for the Messiah, which is a Hebrew word, while "Christ" is a Greek word, which is the same as the title "the Son of Man":

The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "**We have found the Messiah**" (that is, the Christ). (Jn.1:41; 4:25)

The Jewish Scriptures substantiate that the Christ was to be God several times. In the prophecy about the Christ, the Hebrew words translated "Lord" were names of God:

"**What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?**" "The son of David," they replied. He said to them, "How is it then that David, speaking by the Spirit, calls him 'Lord'? For he says, "**The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet."** **If then David calls him 'Lord', how can he be his son?**" No-one could say a word in reply, and from that day on no-one dared to ask him any more questions. (Mt.22:42-46)

Therefore, the "Son of Man" was a term for the "Messiah" which Jesus assumed by taking the title of Christ and which is a clear statement of Him being God.

Jesus said He was God

In proving that Jesus is God, I could go through a list of things that only God could do—like changing water into wine (Jn.21-11), walking on water (Jn.6:15-21), commanding fish to obey Him (Lk.5:4-11; Jn.21:4-11). But then you would say that God has done miracles through other people who worship Him. I could list things which only God can do, like the forgiveness of sin:

When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, **your sins are forgiven.**" The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, "**Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?**" Jesus knew *what* they were thinking and asked, "Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? **But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins....**" He said to the paralyzed man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God. (Lk.5:20-25)

But these could be discounted. I could go through more prophecies from the Jewish Scripture, which archeologically have been authenticated as being written long before the coming of Christ, which say that God was going to have a Son:

I have not learned wisdom, **nor have I knowledge of the Holy One. Who has gone up to heaven and come down?** Who has gathered up the wind in the hollow of his hands? Who has wrapped up the waters in his cloak? Who has established all the ends of the earth? **What is his name, and the name of his son?** Tell me if you know! (Pr.30:3-4)

But then some would say the Scripture of the Jews had

been tampered with. I could list Scriptures from the Apostles' account of Jesus' life, which claim Jesus is God:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God. ... The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.** We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. (Jn.1:1, 14)

But by your unbelief, they would be dismissed. I could go through Scriptures where God and Jesus are used interchangeably, proving they are one:

You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if **the Spirit of God** lives in you. And if anyone does not have **the Spirit of Christ,** he does not belong to Christ. (Ro.8:9)

But you would say that the Scriptures are inconsistent. I could list Scriptures where Jesus states that He is in the Father and the Father is in Him:

Believe me when I say that **I am in the Father and the Father is in me;** or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves. (Jn.14:11)

But you would say it is illogical. I could quote from the Scriptures when several times witnesses heard a voice from Heaven where God claimed Jesus to be His Son:

As soon as **Jesus was baptized,** he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw **the Spirit of God descending** like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "**This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.**" (Mt.3:16-17; Mt.17:5; Jn.12:28-29)

But you would claim it was only thunder. I could quote Scriptures which say Jesus is God (He.1:8). From John:

We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true—even **in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.** (1Jn.5:20)

Or from Paul:

Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of **Christ, who is God over all,** for ever praised! Amen. (Ro.9:5; Ti.2:13)

But you would claim it was only their opinion. Finally, I could show you a Scripture where Christ actually tells us that He is God:

"**I and the Father are one.**" Again **the Jews picked up stones to stone him,** but Jesus said to them, "I have shown you many great miracles from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?" "**We are not stoning you for any of these,**" replied the Jews, "but **for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God.**" (Jn.10:30-33)

It is true that Jesus never said "I am God", at least not in those words. However, He said it in too many ways which are recorded in Scripture, to be discounted. The question is not "Is Jesus God?" Rather, the question is: "What do you believe to be Scriptures?" Any religion is not a question of proof but of belief. **Old Man**