

Jesus: God Incarnate

According to Josh McDowell (*Evidence*, p. 92), except for Jesus, not one recognized religious leader (Moses, Paul, Buddha, Mohammed, Confucius, etc.) has ever claimed to be God. Jesus made claims on several different occasions to deity.

- 1. In John 5: 17, Jesus had been doing some things on the Sabbath that brought persecution from the Jews. In verse 18, “For this reason, the Jews tried all the harder to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.”**
- 2. In John 8:58-59, Jesus was speaking to the Jews, “I tell you the truth, 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. Notice that in Jesus response, he not only predated himself to Abraham, he said “I AM.” These were the exact words from the book of Exodus that were used when God first called Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. Moses asked God, “When the people ask me what is your name, what shall I tell them?” In Exodus 3: 14, “God said to Moses, ‘I AM WHO I AM.’” When Jesus said, “I AM!”, the Jews knew exactly what Jesus was saying, and this is why they picked up stones to stone him for blasphemy!!**
- 3. In John 10:30, Jesus stated “I and the Father are one.” The Jews knew what he meant by this, because in the very next verse, they picked up stones to stone him! The Jews then replied that they were stoning him “for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God.” After more dialog between Jesus and the religious leaders, they tried to seize him, but he escaped their grasp.”**

- 4. Mark 14: 61-64. At the trial of Jesus, the high priest asked him “Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?” Jesus replied to him, “I AM, 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 recognized this three-fold claim (I AM, Son of Man, and Blessed One!) to deity, which explains why he tore his clothes and replied, “You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?” And they condemned him to death!**
- 5. In the sentencing phase of the trial of Jesus, in John 19:7, the Jews insisted, “We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God.”**
- 6. In Mark 13: 31, Jesus said, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My Words will never pass away.”**
- 7. The Bible clearly teaches that worship and adoration are reserved for God alone! Yet, Jesus accepted adoration from the leper (Matthew 8: 2), from the man born blind after being healed (John 9: 35-39), the disciples (Matthew 14: 33), and Thomas after the resurrection (John 20: 27-29). No one else in the entire Bible EVER accepted worship.**
- 8. Peter’s affirmation in Matthew 16: 15-16. Jesus asked Peter at the Last Supper, “But what about you? Who do you say I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.”**
- 9. See Philippians 2: 9-11—Jesus is Lord! “Therefore, God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”**

10. Jesus claimed to be able to forgive sins, as evidenced in Mark 2: 5 and Luke 7: 48.

In summary, Jesus claimed to be God, a claim that was violently challenged by the religious leaders of his day, a claim that became the basis, reason, justification for the crucifixion of Jesus.

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**Dr. Robert J. Rapalje, Retired
Seminole State College of Florida
Altamonte Springs Campus
Email: rapaljer@mathinlivingcolor.com**