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THE WORD BECAME FLESH

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In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. ... And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. (John 1:1-3, 14)

IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD (HE BECAME FLESH)

According to that passage above, Jesus before coming to earth as a man, was existing in the ¹form of God under one Godhead, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Thus we see them all under one name as well which is ²Jehovah. Also, we know that through him all things were made, both in heaven and on earth as declared in ³John's gospel as well as in ⁴Hebrews. So, if we would take the time to read through these same two books, we would discover that God sent his Son into the world to become flesh and blood just as we are. This he did in order to take on the sins of the world so that we can be forgiven and saved. ¹(Philippians 2:5-8) ²(Deuteronomy 6:4) ³(John 1:1-3) ⁴(Hebrews 1:2)

JEHOVAH THY GOD WILL RAISE UP A PROPHET LIKE ME

Jehovah thy God will raise up unto thee a prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken; (Deuteronomy 18:15)

According to this passage, what was Moses like? Was he a man like us in nature and form? I do believe so. So when Jesus came to earth, he took on the form of a man just like us. For we read: "Have this mindset in you that was also in Christ Jesus, who, existing in the form of God, considered being equal with God not something to be

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grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!" (Philippians 2:5-8)

So we see in that verse above it says that "he emptied himself" by completely letting go of his heavenly nature and all the attributes so that he could take on a human nature as the scripture says: ⁵*Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; ... Wherefore in all things he was indebted to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.* Did you grasp that? He had to be made like His brethren in all things. ⁵(Hebrews 2:14, 17)

And let's take heed to what John the apostle said: ⁶*"For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh." This is a deceiver and an antichrist.* This I say because, if anyone is claiming that Jesus wasn't fully human like us with all life's limitations and our total reliance upon God, would he then be truly flesh? Something we must all be concerned about because we don't want to be a deceiver or an antichrist. ⁶(2 John 1:7)

WAS JESUS MAKING HIMSELF TO BE GOD?

Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God. (John 5:18)

Now, let's be careful not to come to a wrong conclusion and believe that this passage above is saying that Jesus literally broke the sabbath and claimed that he was God. For we need to examine this passage more closely to find out what's really going on here. So, first we need to ask ourselves, did Jesus really break the Sabbath as they claim. Well, let's read what Jesus has to say about that: *"Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 5:18-19)*

So, if Jesus did break the sabbath, he by his own words would be called ⁷*"least in the kingdom of heaven."* Also, let's remember what Jesus himself said to the man who called him good, for we read: ⁸*"Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments."* So, we see that Jesus wouldn't even accept being called good, even though he himself was

without sin. He made sure that nobody would falsely accuse him of claiming to be Deity while being in the flesh. So that being said, we can see that Jesus wasn't breaking the sabbath nor was he claiming himself to be equal with God as well. Therefore, John was only recording what was wrongfully perceived by the Jews and thus should not to be taken literally. ⁷(Matthew 5:19) ⁸(Matthew 19:17)

Now, let's study another bible version and its commentary that may help shed light on what's being said here. In the Aramaic English New Testament (the Peshitta) which we read earlier above, we see that it uses the word "equating" instead of the word "equal." Andrew Gabriel Roth, a Messianic Jew who helped author this bible wrote in his commentary: "the charge here of Y'shua making himself equal to YHWH is simply Pharisee tradition projecting itself onto Y'shua." Then Mr. Roth goes on to say: The Ruach haKadesh (the Holy Spirit) in Mashiyach (in Christ) is equal to YHWH (God), but the Pharisees supposed that Y'shua and his followers equated his humanity with YHWH, they didn't understand Isaiah 11:1-2, that Mashiyach has the Ruach haKadesh within him. So we see that Jesus was not indicating that he was of the same nature as the Godhead while being in the flesh, but it was the Jew who saw it this way.

GOD WITH US

Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us? (Matthew 1:23)

But some may say, "doesn't that passage quoted above claim that God is with us?" Yes that is true because, ⁹*"for in him dwells, in a bodily manner, all the fullness of what God is"* However, this all come about after Jesus received the Holy Spirit when he was baptized by John in Matthew 3:16. And let's remember that: ¹⁰*"For he whom God sent continues to speak the words of God, for He continues to give to him the spirit without limit. So, all those who have seen Jesus, also have seen the Father at work in him. Therefore Jesus can rightly say: ¹¹"Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?" ⁹(Colossians 2:9) ¹⁰(John 3:34) ¹¹(John 14:9)*

Now, picking up from what was said above, we can see the same thing happening in John 10:30 and 33 where the Jews wanted to stone Jesus for saying: *"I and the Father are one,"* in which the Jews responded: *"We are not going to stone you for a good work, but for defaming words, and because you, being a man, make yourself a god."* So again, we have the Jews reading more into this than what Jesus was trying to convey to them. However, we have Jesus putting things in their proper perspective by reminding them saying: ¹²*"Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are gods? If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken;*

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Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God? ¹²(John 10:34-36)

So we see Jesus was one with the Father through the presence of the Holy Spirit within him. And in like manner, we are one with both God the Father and Jesus Christ as well. This is true because the Holy Spirit dwells within us also. For we read: ¹³*That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.* ¹³(John 17:21-23)

IN THREE DAYS I WILL RAISE IT UP

Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. (John 2:19)

Now we come across another passage that needs to be examined closely. For we must ask ourself, did Jesus raise himself up? Again, to determine this we need to see what God's word has to say. First we read: ¹⁴*Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.* Next we read: ¹⁵*The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree.* And finally we read: ¹⁶*And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. (1 Corinthians* So we see that there are three scriptures that bear witness that God raised up Jesus, and not Jesus himself. ¹⁴(Acts 2:23-24) ¹⁵(Acts 5:30) ¹⁶(15:14-15)

So, to find out what Jesus is really saying here, we need to look at some another passages that can help in all this. First we read: ¹⁷*Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.* So what is Paul saying here, are we really able to save ourselves and others? No, of course not. For Paul is using a figure of speech which is pointing to the fact that thought our faith in God and being doers of his word, we and those who believe our preaching are saved by God's mercy and grace, and not our own. Also, we read in the book of Acts: ¹⁸*The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree.* So, was it the Jews who physically murdered Jesus by nailing him to a cross? Again, no of course not. For it was the Roman solders who did it. And also in our day and life, don't people say; "I completely remodeled my kitchen" when it was really the hired contractors that did it. ¹⁷(1 Timothy 4:16) ¹⁸(Acts 5:30)

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So in like manner, Jesus was saying this as a figure of speech. For he was fully aware that by his obedience to the will of his Father, he would bring into reality his future resurrection. This we know was accomplished by God the Father, not Jesus himself. We can see this to be true also in the passage that reads: ¹⁹*"This is the reason the Father loves me: because I lay down my life so that I can take it back again. No one takes it away from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it again. This commandment I received from my Father."* So again, Jesus is not saying he is going to raise himself, but was simply inecating that through his obedience to the Father's will, he had the right to receive it again by the Father raising him from the dead. ¹⁹(John 10:17-18)

JESUS BEING LED BY THE SPIRIT

And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, (Luke 4:1)

So now we see Jesus being fully human, was filled and led by the Holy Spirit as said before. For we can see this to be true in John the Baptist's own testimony of Jesus when he said: *And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost. (John 1:32-33)*

And let's remember what Peter said as well: ²⁰*Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know.* First we see Peter saying that he was "a man approved of God" and this through "miracles and wonders and signs" and then secondly we read: "which God did by him." Also, Jesus said concerning himself: ²¹*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,* And again we read in Colossians 2:9, "for in him dwells, in a bodily manner, all the fullness of what God is." Which shows that he physically wasn't God, but that God's nature was reveled in and through him. ²⁰(Acts 2:22) ²¹(Luke 4:1)

So all that being said, we see that God's word is simply showing that Jesus, thou being completely human while in the flesh, was operating through the power of the Spirit of God in him. This would include his ability to do miracles, casting out demons, foreseeing things and events and all other supernatural works. And let's remember what John also said: ²²*For he whom God sent continues to speak the words of God,*

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for He continues to give to him the spirit without limit. Therefore, let us not make the mistake believing that Jesus (while in his earthly body) was some non human God-man. For this would be claiming that he didn't come in the flesh, and would make you a deceiver and an antichrist. ²²(John 3:34)

DOING DISHONOR TO JESUS

But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men. (Matthew 16:23)

We like Peter can make the mistake of thinking we're doing Jesus honor with our words and actions. However like Peter, we can actually bring Jesus dishonor with our wrong conclusions. This would include anyone thinking that Jesus was both fully God and man at the same time, or believing that he didn't suffer in hell in our place, or even proclaiming that he didn't exist before becoming a man. All these wrong conclusions would be robbing Jesus of the glory that is due him.

Other passages that show that Jesus emptied himself of his deity and became fully man on our behalf.

- Here we have Jesus humbly admitting his humanity and declaring that he was not God, for we read: *And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life? And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God. (Mark 10:17-18)*
- Here we have Jesus admitting that he himself was not all knowing as the Father was. This shows his full humanity: *But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. (Mark 13:32)*
- Here we have Jesus crying out "my God, my God." This shows his complete humanity, for if he was still fulling God (as some say that he is), he could not rightfully say this. *And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? (Mark 15:34)*
- Here we have Jesus trusting the Father with his soul after death, that he would not leave him in hell or allow his body to decay. *"For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved: Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope: Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption." (Acts 2:25-27)*

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- Here we have Jesus trusting the Father with his spirit. *And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I place my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost. (Luke 23:46)*
- This verse proves that Jesus was not fully God during his time on earth as a man: *But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. (Hebrews 2:9)*
- Only a man can plead to God with tears pouring out his heart. If Jesus was fully God in the flesh, he would not need to fear nor learn obedience as it says here concerning him: *Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared; Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him; (Hebrews 5:7-9)*