

What Does The BIBLE Say?

As you read this study, I encourage you to study the corresponding scriptures for yourself to develop a personal, confident understanding of biblical truth. Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. Study like the Bereans, who listened to Paul but did not take his word for it. They studied the scriptures for themselves so they would know for sure.

Acts 17:11 “These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.” I ask that you do the same with this study. Please pray before you begin.

Is Jesus Christ God?

Read John 1:1-3. The Bible teaches that Jesus is God, and for Christians, the Bible alone is the source of all our teaching and practice **see 2 Timothy 3:16.**

Read Isaiah 7:14. We find evidence of Christ's divine nature even in the Old Testament. This is one of the most famous messianic prophecies (referring to Jesus as the Messiah)

The name Immanuel means “God with us.” Here, we find one of the earliest references to God being born into humanity. Many centuries later, the New Testament refers back to this Old Testament text: **See Matthew 1:23.**

From the very beginning of the New Testament, Jesus is referred to as God—even as an infant. In fact, the common Greek word for God in the New Testament is theos. This is where the word theology, meaning the study of God, comes from. In the Bible, Jesus is often referred to as theos.

Let's look at a direct reference to Jesus as God. **Read John 20:24–28** Thomas—who was known as “Doubting Thomas”—finally recognized the resurrected Jesus; he cried out to Him, “My Lord and my God [theos]”! The apostle Paul wrote **in Romans 9:5**, “According to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God [theos]. Amen”. Paul also quotes the Old Testament **in Hebrews 1:8**, where the Son is called God: “But to the Son He says: ‘Your throne, O God [theos], is forever and ever’”. This equates Jesus with God Himself.

The apostle Peter also affirms that Jesus is God **in 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 [theos] and Savior Jesus Christ”.

Jesus is God and our Savior. In fact, He could only be our Savior because He is God.

Did Jesus ever call Himself God?

In many New Testament passages, Jesus uses the phrase “I Am” in ways that echo the name God used when speaking to Moses and the Israelites.

Several of the other claims Jesus made when He used the phrase “I Am” imply a degree of authority that only belongs to God. Jesus is ‘the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Him, **see John 14:6**. He is ‘the resurrection and the life’ **in John 11:25**, and ‘the bread of life’ **in John 6:48**.”

One of the most dramatic examples of this use occurred when Jesus was in a discussion with the religious leaders. **Turn to John 8:56-57** and see what Jesus said. How did Jesus respond? Jesus used the term “I AM.” In English, the phrase “I am” seems straightforward. Yet the religious leaders’ reaction speaks volumes; they wanted to stone Him **in John 8:59**.

Why would they have wanted to kill Jesus unless they believed He was claiming to be God? He said only “I AM,” and they understood it as Jesus identifying Himself as God, the eternal God who spoke to Moses from the burning bush.

Back in the Old Testament, when God told Moses that he would be the one to lead the Hebrew people out of Egypt, He used the phrase “I AM.”

“Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they say to me, ‘What is His name?’ what shall I say to them?” **Exodus 3:13**. “And God said to Moses, ‘I AM WHO I AM.’ And He said, ‘Thus you shall say to the children of Israel. I AM has sent me to you.’” **Exodus 3:14**.

Another instance in which Jesus calls Himself God occurs **in Revelation 1:8**: “‘I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End,’ says the Lord, ‘who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty’”.

This is the Lord, the “Almighty,” who calls Himself the “Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End.”

Later **in Revelation 22:13**, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last”.

In other words, Jesus is saying, “I am God.” If God is our creator, is Jesus as well?

Is Jesus the creator?

Read John 1:1-5. While God the Father is commonly (and correctly) referred to as the creator, so was Jesus, His Son. (So was the Holy Spirit, since all three persons of the Trinity were involved.)

Read Genesis 1:26. Notice the use of plural pronouns in the Creation account. There are a few more passages of Scripture that depict both God the Father and God the Son as creators. **See Hebrews 1:1–2 and John 1:1–3.**

All the Greek terms for God in these examples derive from *theos*. John even explicitly says that the “Word was God [*theos*].” **John 1:14** clearly identifies the Word as the one who became human flesh and blood.) The text also says that “all things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made” **John 1:3**.

So, anything that “was made”—anything that once didn’t exist but then came into existence—did so only through Jesus. For this to be true, Jesus must have *always* existed. But if that is the case, why does God the Father call Jesus His Son?

What does it mean for Jesus to be God’s “only begotten Son”?

Because the Bible is clear that Jesus, as God, has always existed, His titles “the Son of God” and “only begotten Son” refer to His role in fulfilling God’s special promise of salvation to His people, as Isaac was Abraham’s “only begotten son” **read Hebrews 11:17-18**.

The Bible passage that calls Jesus “God’s only begotten Son” is the famous verse **John 3:16**. The phrase “only begotten son” suggests that Jesus came from or was sent by the Father. Here, a bit of knowledge of the original language is helpful. The Greek word *monogenes*, translated in the KJV, NKJV, and NASB as “only begotten,” doesn’t refer to birth or generation. Instead, it means “one of a kind” or “unique.” It’s about the nature of something, not its creation. *Mono* in Greek means “one,” such as one God, and *genes* means “kind” or “type.” Together, they mean “one of a kind.”

The correct translation appears in other versions, including the following: “For this is how God loved the world: He gave His one and only Son” (NET) and “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son” (NIV).

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son” (ESV). For another example, let’s look at **Hebrews 11:17**: “By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son [from *monogenes*]” (NKJV).

Only begotten son? But Abraham had another son, Ishmael, and later had even more sons (**Genesis 25:1–4**). So how could Isaac be his only begotten son, meaning the only son he bore? He couldn't, and he wasn't. The emphasis here was on Isaac's unique status. He was the son—the only son—who would inherit the covenant promises made to Abraham (**Genesis 17:19**).

The idea of Jesus as “the only begotten Son” underscores His unique role as God's Son in the plan of salvation. He fulfills God's covenant promise to send a Redeemer (**Genesis 3:15**). This has nothing to do with His origin.

His origin, as discussed earlier, is from eternity, even before the creation of the world. Like the Father, He's eternally divine. Since Jesus was God in the flesh, the only thing created was the body that housed God. This is how divinity was united with humanity. This is the uniqueness of our Lord Jesus, who has always been.

Why Christ's divinity matters

The divinity of Christ means that God Himself, not some lesser creation, died on the cross for us. He did this so that, as sinners, we could have the promise of eternal life with Him.

This great significance is expressed in verses such as the following:

In Romans 5:8, God shows His love to us, while we were sinners, Christ died for us.

Read 1 Timothy 1:15, Christ Jesus came into the world to save us.

He further demonstrates His great love for humanity **in Romans 8:23**.

It's incredible to consider that the God of the universe loves us that much. We can now see the beauty of this love, which shines through the life and sacrifice of Jesus.