

## 2. THE GOD-MAN'S SYMPHONY

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**“Like a composer conducting a score he wrote himself, Jesus orchestrated all the events of His death.” (Tom Simcox) ( <sup>1</sup> )**

We saw in the first part of our critique of Simcox's article how he proposes that Jesus **made His deity and sovereignty over the events of his death extremely clear because He was the God-Man orchestrating everything. Jesus knew the end from the beginning ...** After all, it was his own pre-written ‘score’ to conduct!

We concluded that the first major hurdle in his thesis is that the Bible nowhere tells us Jesus Christ composed his own story as though it was his own autobiography in advance. There is not a skerrick of evidence that is taught in the Bible!

### AN OLD THEORY

Now, it is true that Hugh J. Schonfield in *The Passover Plot* (1965) suggested Jesus deliberately sought his own crucifixion to fulfill a preordained plan. Schonfield proposed that because Jesus knew the Scriptures predicted he must die on the cross he therefore chose and manipulated the traitor Judas Iscariot to ensure the plan was fulfilled.

Simcox asserts as much, but much, much more than Schonfield. He proposes that Jesus had full sovereignty over all the events and persons involved in his State - sanctioned execution. His final sentence is: **“I have to accept the view that He was and is God”**.

The Bible has a straight-forward answer as to why Jesus chose Judas as one of the Twelve: He **continued all night in prayer to God (Lk 6:12-16)**. ***One who prays and asks God for guidance is admitting he is not in control of events!*** Jesus always acted in dependence upon His Father's leading. Not a word here about him orchestrating, directing, controlling, manipulating, his own demise!

True, he knew from the Scriptures that one of his own would betray him. That was his Father's decree as already revealed in the prophetic Scriptures; **Even my close friend, in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted up his heel against me (Ps. 41: 9)**.

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<sup>1</sup> The title of my articles is Tom Simcox's devotional piece that appeared in the March/April edition of **Israel My Glory** (published bi-monthly by The Friends of Israel Gospel Ministries, Inc.). Tom Simcox is Church Ministries training coordinator and Bible teacher for the Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry.

In the final days of his ministry, Jesus became aware that Judas loved money, but exactly when he perceived Judas' duplicitousness, we are not told. He did know Judas **was a thief and had the money box and he used to take what was put in it (John 12:6)**. Jesus did know Judas was **a devil** (i.e., an accuser) who would betray him to the authorities for silver (**Jn 6: 70-71**).

He announced that **the Son of Man is going as it has been determined, but woe to that one by whom he is betrayed (Lk 22: 22)**. The verb "**has been determined**" is a Perfect Passive Participle. ( <sup>2</sup> ) Bible scholars call this the **Divine Passive** and it's code for any action carried out by the Almighty Himself. ( <sup>3</sup> )

Certainly, our Lord knew he was marked out to be at the very centre of His Father's predetermined plan for the world's salvation, and that, **he must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day (Matt. 16:21)**.

Put simply, our Lord knew his Bible! And he looked to his God and Father to bring it to pass. All he knew was that he must obey His Father's leading. We saw in the previous article Jesus testified that, **"If you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote about me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words" (John 5:46-47)?** As every man must, Jesus lived by faith.

## **SECOND MAJOR HURDLE ... THERE IS NO 'GOD-MAN' IN THE BIBLE!**

Back to **Simcox**. He introduces his devotional piece with the well-known quote by **C.S. Lewis** in *Mere Christianity* that, If you do not accept Jesus as God, you must think Him either a lunatic or a liar. **C.S. Lewis** put it this way ...

**A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. ( <sup>4</sup> ) ( <sup>5</sup> )**

**Simcox** astonishingly claims that, **"At the final meal Jesus ate with His disciples immediately before His death, He made His deity and sovereignty over events extremely clear: I tell you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe that I am He (Jn.13:19).**

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<sup>2</sup> ὁρίζεσθαι from ὁρίζω / *horizō* means to determine, mark out, ordain, decree, appoint.

<sup>3</sup> It was common Jewish practice to use a circumlocution for Yahweh's Name. By using the "Divine Passive" the writers avoided directly using the Name of God and is a prominent method employed throughout the NT.

<sup>4</sup> **C.S. Lewis**, *Mere Christianity* (New York, NY; Macmillan, 1943) p56

<sup>5</sup> By "Son of God" **C.S. Lewis** means "God in the flesh".

He knew the end from the beginning; how long He would live; what He would accomplish; and how, when, and why He would die. He was neither a lunatic nor a liar. **He was the God-Man who orchestrated everything.**” (My bold face.)

**Simcox's** explanation for Jesus' knowledge of the events surrounding his death is that in the Upper Room at his final Passover Seder, **Jesus made statements only God can make.** Then, in the Garden of Gethsemane, He agonized over what He was about to face, as only a human being can do.

Supposedly then, out of one side of his mouth Jesus could speak as God, and out of the other side of his mouth he could speak as man! ( <sup>6</sup> )

*Is it not strange that we have politicians who speak like that, and we can see through them and we call them liars!* But in the “mysterious” realm of religion we have a Jesus Christ who can speak out of both sides of his mouth (the native American Indians called this a forked tongue) yet be hailed as the God-Man (a descriptive phrase never found in the Bible, by the way)??? ( <sup>7</sup> )

Jesus allegedly had the benefit of possessing ...

## “TWO NATURES”

The two-natures theory of later church conciliar creeds is called the **Hypostatic Union**: Jesus is “the God-Man” with the inseparable union of his God-essence and his human nature. This is the rationale for the trinitarian Deity of Christ belief.

The problem for trinitarians and for **Simcox** when they propose a Jesus composed of two natures is that they effectively make him function as two separate persons in the one body, and they expend a lot of effort to try to prove it and convince us!

The way they glide back and forth so glibly between Jesus' immutable Divine nature (which is eternal, not created, knows all things, cannot be tempted, cannot die, etc.,etc.) and his mutable human nature (which is created, limited, does not know all things, can be tempted, can die, etc, etc.) is absolute proof that they do not understand their own “orthodox” position — for anyone who taught the separation of God and man in the “two-natured” Christ was condemned as heretical in 431 A.D.!

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<sup>6</sup> The “Hypostatic union”, or “two natures of Christ” theory is also expressed as “the Godhead and manhood being joined together in one person never to be divided, there is one Christ, very God and very man, who truly suffered, was crucified, dead, and buried.” It was a statement formalised in the Fifth Century.

<sup>7</sup> The **Athanasian Creed** asserts that “ the right Faith” means we believe and confess, that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is God and Man; God, of the substance of the Father, begotten before the worlds; and Man of the substance of his Mother, born in the world; Perfect God and perfect Man, of a reasonable soul and human flesh subsisting.

## THE NESTORIAN 'HERESY'

Indeed. Trinitarian explanations espoused by **Simcox** were actually anathematised by their own “orthodox” creedal pronouncements by the **Council of Ephesus**. That synod pronounced the Divine and human natures of Jesus are united in such a way that *one side cannot undergo an experience while the other side is completely segregated and unaffected*.

**Nestorius** was the main protagonist who was condemned. He said that Jesus could speak as either God or as Man — whenever necessary! But the council argued that to appeal to one nature and isolate the other nature would create two different persons within Christ.

Anybody who said, “**This verse applies to Jesus when he spoke and acted as man, but that verse speaks about Jesus acting or speaking as God**” was henceforth treated as heretical. **Simcox**, along with most trinitarians to this day, do not seem to recognise they should be excommunicated from the very “orthodox” community they wish to identify with!

As **Eric H.H. Chang** so insightfully puts it, if Jesus is “the God-Man” able to act and speak one moment as God and the next as man, **then it follows that, not only is he said to be man, but he is more than God because God is “only God”, while Jesus is both God and man**.

**Chang** goes on to draw the logical conclusion of “the two-natured” Jesus: **Since we see God as “only” God, but Jesus is God plus man, God’s perfection is, for us, imperfect because it lacks manhood. But this is found in the perfection of Christ, who is both God and man in one person. Trinitarianism (unwittingly no doubt) has produced a super-idol, greater even than God himself, for this doctrine implies, almost imperceptibly, that God is “perfected” (from the human point of view) by the addition of manhood! ( <sup>8</sup> )**

If Jesus is “100% true God and 100% true man” in contrast to God as “only” 100% God, the inevitable question **Chang** asks is, “**How close is all this to blasphemy?**”

Nor will it do, to appeal to “mystery” as I have heard countless times. In the NT a “mystery” is defined as a secret hidden long ages ago in the mind and plan of God but which is now openly revealed to, and known by, the people of God. Check it out!  
( <sup>9</sup> )

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<sup>8</sup> *THE ONLY TRUE GOD: A Study in Biblical Monotheism* (Xlibris Corp 2009) p120 (Italics original)

<sup>9</sup> E.G. **Matt 13:11; Mk 4:11; Lk 8:10; Rom 11:25; 16:25; 1 Cor 2:7; 15:51; Eph 1:9; 3:4; 6:19**, etc.

## A MENTAL DISORDER

There is a mental disorder which used to be known as **Multiple Personality Disorder** but which has more recently been reclassified as **Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID)**. It is extremely rare, and usually develops after a victim, say, of continual sexual abuse when young, attempts to develop ways of coping with the trauma. A sufferer from **DID** adopts various voices, roles, stories, according to the character they are able to manifest at any one time.

In Australia a court in 2024 allowed such a victim to give evidence in her multiple personalities. ( <sup>10</sup> ) I simply raise this matter to highlight that a theory which proposes a Jesus who lived with two totally opposite natures in any other field would be diagnosed as mentally unstable, suffering illness. I know my trinitarian friends will be choking in their coffees right now, but why can theology get away with contradictions dismissed as abnormal by any other discipline?

Okay. So somebody doesn't like my comparison. So let me make it more palatable. Nowhere in Scripture does Jesus ever claim to be "the God". He never claims to be YHWH God. He never claims to be the Eternal One, the Creator. He never claims to be the Almighty. He never claims to be the LORD God. He never claims to be the Most High God. He never claims to be the Sovereign of the Universe.

The word which the Greek-minded theologians of yesteryear coined to describe Jesus' two natures was *homoousios*. You won't find it anywhere in the Bible, so no point looking for it in a Lexicon! So what does this extra-Biblical word mean? We could ask **Tom Simcox** but first let's ask the man believed to be the great proponent of the doctrine, **Athenasius**.

**Athenasius** in his debates with **Arius** said God can do anything he chooses to do, and that he chose to make Himself into man for our salvation. Of course he insisted that Jesus Christ is one of God's creatures, but God incarnated Himself in human form. If you are a trinitarian this sounds perfectly normal, but in actual fact it is hopelessly confused and contradictory. In the words of another ...

Can God do anything He chooses to do? Of course — *except* those things that are inconsistent with being God. Can He choose to be evil or ignorant? Could He be the Devil — or nothing at all? No, the Christian God is the Eternal God of Israel, Creator of the Universe. **Athenasius** maintains that this utterly transcendent God

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<sup>10</sup> <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-12-15/dissociative-identity-multiple-personalities-child-abuse-court/104701112>

transformed Himself into a man, suffered, died and then resurrected Himself!  
Doesn't *this* mixture of Creator and creature sound pagan? ( <sup>11</sup> )

Let's face the truth: It's nonsense to say one can be both mortal and immortal *at the same time*. It's nonsense to say one can be omnipotent and yet limited *at the same time*. It's nonsense to say one can be eternal and yet temporal *at the same time*. It's nonsense to say one can exist yet not exist *at the same time*. Thus, Jesus cannot be God and man simultaneously!

Of course **Athenasius** recognised the problem and tried to avoid its implications by insisting that God did not create Jesus (as the Arians taught) but that He "begot" him out of His own nature. However, because the idea of God fathering offspring with a human woman was too disgusting to contemplate, **Athenasius** hastened to add that the Father's method of generating the Son is beyond human understanding! Better retreat back into the realm of 'mystery' to "explain"!

### THE GOD-MAN THEORY REMOVES JESUS FROM HUMANITY!

A huge problem with this theory of *homoousias*, or the two natures of Jesus, is that it completely removes Jesus from being a real human being like the rest of us. The Scriptures portray Jesus the Christ as a man who was capable of change and growth in understanding and as a man who walked by faith. Jesus himself told his enemies, **You seek to kill me, a man ... (Jn 8:40)**. He did not say, "I am the God-Man and you can only kill the human nature in me"! ( <sup>12</sup> )

However, **Athenasius** says that being God by nature Jesus Christ was perfect and could not change as we human beings do. So, how could Jesus be faithful and virtuous if he was incapable of change? **Athenasius's** answer: This is a matter beyond our understanding! Ah, "mystery" covers a multitude of sins!

But as **Rubenstein** observes well, **The problem is not only that Athenasius' theory mixes God with His creation, but that it removes Jesus entirely from human society, from the universe of moral turmoil, and places him in the unchangeable heavens ...** ( <sup>13</sup> )

### THE GOD-MAN THEORY ACTUALLY DENIES THE TRINITY!!

Another problem for the two-natures of Jesus theory is that it creates a huge contradiction between the two core doctrines of trinitarianism. Trinitarians propose that the 'Godhead' is three Persons existing in one eternal and unchanging nature.

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<sup>11</sup> Richard E. Rubenstein, **WHEN JESUS BECAME GOD: The Epic Fight over Christ's Divinity in the Last Days of Rome**. (Harcourt Brace & Co. NY, San Diego & London, First Edition, 1999) p 118.

<sup>12</sup> For a fuller understanding of this see my article **DID JESUS LIVE BY FAITH?** on this website under the first sub-heading of **God, Jesus & the Holy Spirit**.

<sup>13</sup> IBID, p 119



At the same time they propose that “perfect God” became “perfect man” by taking on a second nature or essence, yet all the while denying that God cannot change!

The inevitable conclusion then, is that trinitarians insist their god has only one eternal nature, but that “He” now has two natures in ‘the God-Man’. Which is it? Are we to believe God has one nature or now has taken on a second nature? If “God the Son” took on flesh, how many natures does the Trinity now have?

I offer here and now my entire house if anybody — Tom Simcox included — can show me anywhere in all of Scripture where Jesus is termed “the God-Man”. I am deadly serious. A two-natured Jesus “fully God and fully man” is a man-made fiction found nowhere in the Bible, denying both Jesus’ real humanity and Yahweh’s eternal immutability. ( <sup>14</sup> )

The Hypostatic Union, the two-natures of Jesus, is a big conundrum for trinitarians!

## CONCLUSION

Here is my pain. There are ministries like the Friends of Israel Gospel Ministries (Fol) who are totally devoted to bringing the Message of Jesus the Messiah to Jews. They pray, they give, they sacrifice, they work to bring Jews to faith in their revealed Messiah. Truly commendable. Oh for such zeal myself!

But I am reminded of the apostle Paul’s own burden for his fellow countrymen and how he had great sorrow and continual grief in his heart, even to the point of wishing that he could be accursed (cut off, lost) from Christ, if only he might bring them home. Paul describes them as those who have zeal without knowledge.

When Simcox says that after the Last Supper, after Judas left, Jesus spoke to the remaining 11 disciples, imparting many of His most comforting words — all of which point to His deity; and the disciples, who were Jewish, believed him, then I must protest.

Simcox’s article closes with C.S. Lewis’ famous quote (really a false dilemma): You must make your choice. Now it seems to me obvious that [Jesus] was neither a lunatic nor a fiend: and consequently, however strange or terrifying or unlikely it may seem, I have to accept the view that He was and is God.

I am sure every “Jesus is the God-Man” believer has the noblest of intentions and wishes for nothing higher than the honour of God and His Christ, but it pains me to say that this teaching is non-Biblical zeal without knowledge, and thus, a *delusion*!

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<sup>14</sup> There is a perfectly good Greek word for “God-Man” and it’s Θεοσάνης / Theosanēr, but you won’t find it in the LXX or Koine Greek NT.

