

God IS as God Does

If Jesus really is I AM, He should act like it. Four New-Testament books known as “Gospels” contain eye-witness accounts of Jesus performing miracles. What is a miracle? Miracles are signs worked by One with authority over the physical law of nature. God wrote this law and built the world to run by it. So, He’s the only One who can supervene it. Jesus does! He doesn’t just say things God says, He does things only God can do. Jesus sets broken things right again. He heals diseases, gives sight to those born blind, and even gives life to the dead. Jesus can do these things because He Is Life. Jesus worked miracles to show His power to work the ultimate miracle – entering a corrupt and broken world, and by Himself making it perfect and new (Revelation 21:5).

Now, God’s Perfect New-World can’t have an imperfect thing in it and still be perfect. That leaves you and me out, doesn’t it? Not so fast. There’s an essential difference between God’s Perfection and ours. God IS Complete in Himself. We aren’t. If we lack community with God, we remain incomplete and imperfect. So how is an imperfect thing made perfect?

It Takes a Miracle!

Perfect Does as Perfect IS

Where do apples come from? Apple-trees of course. The behavior of a thing follows from what it is. Fruit trees bear fruit. Song-birds sing songs, and The Perfect-Being does every perfect thing. Perfection is complete, so God lacks nothing. He has nothing to take from us. He has everything to give to us.

All that Jesus IS and does teaches us about God’s Love. Jesus IS God, but He’s not all that God IS. God IS Love, and Love is ever the gift of oneself to and for others. Jesus never claimed to be God alone. It isn’t good to be alone. Jesus prays to His Father, and He promises the Holy Spirit – the Others with Whom He IS One in a Community of Love. God IS the eternal Love-Relationship shared by The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit. We reflect God’s love whenever a man, a woman, and their children are one family. **This is the miracle.** To love God the Son, is to know God in His fullness. Jesus sets all of our broken things right, and makes us alive in The Holy Spirit, and one with the Father. God’s Life is our due-perfection. It’s what Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection are all about. HE IS the Life, Love, & Perfection of God given to us. **Perfect Does as Perfect IS.**

JESUS IS!

Exodus 3:14-15 – Mark 14:61-63 – John 3; 8:58

Is Jesus God?



Jesus of Nazareth IS by far the most important Human-Person of all time. Why? Jesus has a radical Self-Identity. He claims to be One with God in an overtly Personal sense. He was even tortured and killed for this alleged “blasphemy.” Jesus actually thinks HE IS God. The question is...

Is He?

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An Inescapable Choice

Jesus is too important to simply ignore. Odds are you don't ignore Him at all. Mocking His Name and Title may be the most popular curse there is. Think about that for a minute. Why do we curse the Name and Title of a first-century Judean carpenter with a "God-complex?" Seriously — what's the point of doing that? Why is it cool? Why don't any other "divine" historical figures get this special treatment. Nobody curses Julius Caesar, Hirohito, or the Dalai Lama on reflex. Ever wondered why not? Maybe it's because there isn't a wholesale world-rebellion underway against any of them.

Like it or not, Jesus IS the central figure of human history. To Christians, Jesus is the central figure of history period. It's all ultimately "His-Story." Great pains have been taken by *The Jesus Seminar*, and other liberals, to explain Jesus' impact on the world without acknowledging His radical Self-Identity, or sufficiently explaining the early and compelling evidence that Jesus worked miracles to show who HE IS. Ultimately, the issue is simple. Either Jesus is exactly who He claims to be, or He's not. **Who do you say HE IS?**

God IS as God Says

Many try to adopt a piecemeal view of Jesus. You might think it's easier to regard Him as a "prophet" or a "great moral teacher" instead of God The Son. Are these viable options? Let's define our terms and find out.

A prophet is someone who delivers a true-message on behalf of a supernatural authority. For example, Moses and Elijah spoke to Israel for God. Israel's prophets clearly distinguished prophecy from their own speech with careful preambles like "Thus says the LORD the God of Israel." **Jesus doesn't**. Instead, He begins assertions with phrases like: "**Truly Truly, I say to you.**" Notice this. Jesus speaks on His own authority. He doesn't claim to represent the truth. He says: "I AM the Truth" (John 14:6).

In Jesus' mind, He isn't just a prophet. **HE IS The Prophet**. All truth is His Truth, being from Him and about Him. Is He right? If He's wrong and knows it, He's a liar. If He's wrong and doesn't know it, He's an egotistic psycho. Prophets and "great moral-teachers" have something in common. They don't lie. They tell the truth! You can't take a piece of Jesus and leave the rest. HE IS Who HE IS. HE IS your Lord, or "he" is nothing to you.

"I AM WHO I AM"

Since Jesus' own opinions about His Name and Nature are fundamental to whether or not HE IS God, many dismiss the Christian view simply by asserting that "Jesus never claimed to be God." There's an important concept to point out before answering this objection. It's called an anachronism. This is a false expectation that speech and behavior in our time can be installed into the past and carry the same meaning. It can't. Think about Marty McFly wailing *Johnny Be Good* in 1955, and you'll have a pretty good idea of an anachronism.

The English word "God" is identical to an Anglo-Saxon word meaning "Good." This word was unknown in 1st century Israel. Then and there, Israel knew God by His Covenant-Name **YHVH (I AM)**. Indeed, the Jews were so pious about The Name that saying it aloud or writing it down wasn't done. The word "*Adonai*" (LORD) was used in its place, just like it is in our modern Bibles. But when Jesus stands trial and is asked to answer for His Name and Nature, He says: "I AM." The Jewish rulers knew His meaning. Its why they wanted Him killed (Lev. 24:16).