

Study Guide
Five Reasons to Believe Jesus Is God
(Understanding God's Word 1.1)

Jesus asks His disciples an extremely important question:

Matthew 16:15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

Understanding who Jesus is – that's the most important question any of us has to answer! Why? Because if Jesus **is** God, then all of us will answer to Him, we're accountable to Him. Our eternal destinies depend on our relationship with Him.

Philippians 2:10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, **11** and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

But, on the other hand, if Jesus is just a prophet or a good teacher, then we can say with certainty that Jesus was a liar! Are you shocked? Just look at what Jesus said about Himself:

John 8:12 Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

John 6:51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

John 4:14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

John 5:25 "Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live.

John 8:58 Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am."

These are just a few examples of what Jesus said about Himself. If He's not God, then He's not the light of the world. He's not the bread of life. If Jesus is not God, He's either a crazy guy walking around telling people He came from God or He's a liar.

What is the evidence when it comes to the identity of Jesus? Today we'll look at evidence both from the Bible itself and from outside the Bible. There are many more reasons to believe Jesus is God ... but ...

Here are five reasons to believe that Jesus is God:

- 1) The first reason to believe that Jesus is God is simple: **JESUS DOES WHAT ONLY GOD CAN DO!** Look at the miracles Jesus does in the NT – the lame walk – the blind see – the lepers are cured – the deaf hear – the mute speak – Jesus controls nature with a word – Jesus creates food – Jesus exercises full control over demons – Jesus forgives sin (who can do that but God) – and Jesus demonstrates power over death – He raises Lazarus and others from the dead – and He Himself conquers the grave by rising from the dead – WHO CAN DO THESE THINGS? ONLY GOD.
- 2) A second reason to believe Jesus is God: **JESUS RECEIVES WORSHIP!** Notice throughout the Bible that whenever a human being tries to worship something other than God, they are stopped, corrected, and encouraged to worship God. Here's an example:
Revelation 22:8 I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me, **9** but he said to me, "You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God."
OR
Acts 10:25 When Peter entered, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshiped him. **26** But Peter lifted him up, saying, "Stand up; I too am a man."

But please note that when people worship Jesus in the New Testament, Jesus never corrects them. He never stops them. He never says, "You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you. Worship God." Why doesn't Jesus reject their worship? Because those who worship Jesus are worshipping God! Here are a few examples:

Matthew 2:11 And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

Matthew 14:33 And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Matthew 28:9 And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him.

Matthew 28:17 And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted.

John 9:38 He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him.

Jesus never rejects or corrects worship because He knows that all who worship Him are correct.

3) The third reason to believe Jesus is God comes from outside the Bible. I don't know how much you know about Jewish culture, but one thing is clear: a devout Jewish person is devoted to worshipping only one true God. Remember how the ten commandments start out?

Exodus 20:3 "You shall have no other gods before me.

In the 1st century, both while Jesus walked the earth and afterwards, thousands of devout Jews began to worship Jesus. That's just an historical fact. They wrote hymns about Jesus. They prayed to Jesus. For these people, the meaning of the Jewish Passover celebration became centered on Jesus.

The Apostle Paul, after spending years hating Jesus and persecuting believers, begins to worship Jesus. In fact, after meeting Jesus for himself, Paul puts Jesus on equal footing with God over and over again at the beginning of his letters to New Testament churches.

1 Corinthians 1:3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 1:7 To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 1:2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Think about that. The Jews never worshiped Moses or Elijah or Isaiah or Jeremiah or Daniel. None of the Old Testament figures in all of Jewish history had become the object of Jewish worship. Yet thousands and thousands of devout Jews begin to worship Jesus in the 1st Century and beyond!

Why? Obviously these who worshiped Jesus were convinced that He was God.

4) The fourth reason to believe Jesus is God: Jesus fulfills all the Old Testament prophetic predictions of God Himself coming to earth. I'll show you one, but there are many more:

Malachi 3:1 "Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts.

What is Malachi telling us? Someone will come to prepare the way of the Lord and then the Lord – God Himself will also come to earth. And what happens in the NT? John the Baptist is born. He's the forerunner that Malachi speaks of who prepares the way of the Lord. Then Jesus – Yahweh – God in the flesh comes and begins His ministry

That's why the gospel written by Mark begins this way ...

Mark 1:1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. **2** As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, **3** the voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"

5) The fifth reason to believe Jesus is God is that the Bible – specifically the New Testament - clearly proclaims Him to be God

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

Colossians 1:15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. **16** For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. **17** And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Hebrews 1:2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. **3** He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

So there you have it ... just 5 of the many reasons to believe Jesus is God.

Who do you say Jesus is? Perhaps for the first time in your life, you realize Jesus is God.

If that's the case, and if you're willing to serve Him as God, pray to Jesus right now. Confess your sin to Him and turn away from evil. His word promises you eternal life through Jesus:

John 1:12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, **13** who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

Can you find more reasons to believe Jesus is God? Please share them with me by emailing me at pastorscott@ruadisciple.com.

Your eternal destiny depends on your answer to the question of who Jesus is. Believe the truth, repent, and be saved through Jesus today.