



Vintage Jesus Notes

Chapter 1 - Is Jesus the only God?



Chapter Summary

In this chapter we'll dive into if Jesus is the only God. We'll examine not only what scripture says about Jesus but also what other religions say about Jesus so we can correctly identify truth and lies. We'll deeply examine who Jesus said he was. A common ploy of the enemy and the derivative cults and religions is to say that Christians make Jesus someone who he never claimed to be. This will be a studios study of scripture showing just exactly who Jesus said he was, what power he claimed to have and the power he exerted.

By the end of this chapter everyone should clearly be able to stand upon scripture knowing that Jesus **is** the only God.

You can visit the Vintage Jesus website to see videos and audio of this series:

<http://relit.org/vintagejesus/downloads.php>



Notes

The name Jesus is derived from the Old Testament name *Joshua* which means “Yahweh God of salvation.” The title *Christ* means one chosen and anointed by God to be the messiah who delivers God’s people.

Jesus of the cults

1. Liberal “Christians” and some Emergent offspring believe Jesus was a good man but not God man
2. Jehovah’s Witnesses believe Jesus was Michael the archangel, a created being that became man
3. Mormons believe Jesus was not God, but a man who became one of many gods and that Jesus was a polygamist and half brother of Lucifer.
4. Unitarian Universalists believe Jesus was not God but a good man who should be respected for his teaching
5. New age guru Deepak Chopra believes Jesus is a state of mind we can all aspire to
6. Scientologists believe Jesus was an “implant” forced upon a Thetan a million years ago

Jesus of the demons

The demons knew that Jesus was God despite the fact that many men did not recognize it.

1. Mark 1:24 (Luke account Luke 4:33-34)
2. Mark 1:33-34 (Luke account Luke 4:40-41)

The demons in scripture have a higher Christology than most present day cults and religions which is tragic.

Who did Jesus say he was?

Jesus said he came down from heaven

1. This is not like a near death experience where people ascend into heaven, this is descent **from** heaven
2. Jesus said he lived in heaven and **sent** down to visit earth as man and do the will of the father (John 6:38)
3. Jesus’ claim to be God incarnate has never been made by the founder of any other *world religion* (some small cults leaders have claimed this, but no major leaders)



Jesus said he was more than a good man

1. Jesus says since everyone is a sinner there is no such thing as a good person, God is the only good person (Mark 10:17-18)
2. Even Jesus' enemies recognized that he didn't claim to be just a good man, they wanted to kill him for "making himself equal with God" (John 5:18)

Jesus said he is the son of man

1. Jesus used this phrase "Son of Man" most often. It was originally penned by Daniel 600 years before Jesus' birth.

Jesus performed miracles

1. More proof that Jesus wasn't just "enlightened", His ministry included the miraculous.
2. Unitarians and other cults deny Jesus' miracles, saying instead the important thing is his life.
3. Jesus said his miracles helped prove he was God. (John 10:36-39)
4. 40 miracles in the book of Mark alone
5. Even Jesus' enemies acknowledged the miracles. (Matthew 12:24, John 11:47)
6. Opponents of Christ outside of scripture talk of Jesus' miracles:
 - 6.1. The Jewish Talmud is a record of rabbinic discussions pertaining to Jewish law, ethics, customs and history. For the Jews this is second in authority only to the Old Testament or the Hebrew Bible. The Talmud charges Jesus "practiced magic"
 - 6.2. Josephus, a Jewish historian, also said Jesus was a "doer of wonderful works"
7. Jesus was the only person with command over creation. (Mark 4:41)

Jesus said He was God

1. Jesus clearly, emphatically and repeatedly said He was God. Today we believe Jesus is God not as a derivative belief or some conclusion we reached upon a preponderance of evidence, but rather because Jesus taught us and demonstrated that He was God.
2. Many cults falsely claim Jesus is not God:
 - 2.1. Jehovah Witnesses say, "Jesus never claimed to be God"
 - 2.2. Bahais claim that Jesus was a manifestation of God and a prophet but lower than Muhammed and Bahauallah
 - 2.3. Buddhism teaches that Jesus is an enlightened man but not God



- 2.4. Christian Science's (which has nothing to do with Christianity or science oddly enough) founder states simply enough, "Jesus Christ is not God"
3. Mark 14:61-64
4. John 8:58-59
5. John 10:30-33
6. Lots of people have claimed to speak for God, few have claimed to be God
 - 6.1. Religious leaders such as Buddha, Krishna, Muhammed, and Ghandi did not claim to be God
 - 6.2. Jesus in contrast clearly and repeatedly says he was God.
 - 6.3. Jesus was not killed for his nice deeds, but for blasphemy, for his claim to be God.

Jesus confirmed to others He was God

1. When confronted with death Jesus did not back down, yet confirmed that He was God. (Matthew 26:63-65)
2. The fact that Jesus never recanted when challenged proves that everyone who believed Jesus' claim he was God has not misunderstood his words.

Jesus said He was sinless

1. In all of history nobody has claimed with any credibility that they are sinless except for Jesus.
2. Jesus did not sin or repent of any sin. (John 8:46)
3. 41% of adults believe Jesus sinned, 40% of born again teenagers and 52% of protestant teenagers believe Jesus sinned
4. The claim of Jesus' sinlessness was repeated by Jesus' disciples most of whom suffered and died without recanting.
5. Those who testified to His sinlessness:
 - 5.1. friend Peter (Acts 3:14, 1 Peter 1:19, 1 Peter 2:22, 1 Peter 3:18)
 - 5.2. friend John (1 John 3:5)
 - 5.3. brother James (James 5:6)
 - 5.4. former enemy Paul (2 Corinthians 5:21)
 - 5.5. even Judas who betrayed Jesus (Matthew 27:3-4)



5.6. soldier who participated in the killing (Luke 23:22)

5.7. guilty sinner who was killed with Jesus (Luke 23:41)

Jesus forgave sin

1. In our world we deal with the effects of sin (war, illness, death, etc...). At best religions teach a way to pay back God for sin, but lack any concept of forgiveness.
2. Jesus forgave sin, He didn't just deal with its effects.
 - 2.1. Luke 7:48
 - 2.2. Luke 5:20-21
3. God alone has the authority to forgive sin because all sin is committed against God. So Jesus forgiving sin shows that He is God.

Jesus taught people to pray

1. Prayer is how we talk to God and Jesus told people to pray to Him. (John 14:13-14, John 15:16, John 16:24)
2. Early church deacon Stephen prayed to Jesus before his stoning. (Acts 7:59)
3. Jesus must be an eternal God to hear and receive our prayers.

Jesus said he was the only way to heaven

1. Many religious leaders and prophets claim to be able to point the way to heaven, but don't claim to be the path themselves. Jesus does. (John 14:6)
2. Heaven belongs to God and God alone grants access.
3. Many say there are other ways to heaven, but Jesus states He alone is the path and all others lead to hell. (Matthew 7:13-14)
4. C.S. Lewis -> only 3 possible responses to Jesus. He is either a liar, a lunatic or Lord.
 - 4.1. Liar: If Jesus is not God but claimed to be God and deceived others into dying for that claim, than he is a lying, demonized cult leader.
 - 4.2. Lunatic: Claiming to be God, but not being God makes you crazy.
 - 4.3. Lord: If He's not lying and not crazy, than He is our Lord!

In scripture we see that Jesus is worshipped as the only God by the blind man, the previously demonized man, Thomas the doubter, his best friend John, all of the disciples, a group of women, the mother of James and John, angels, entire churches, his own mother, his own brother, little children and his former enemies like Paul.