

Jesus Is The Son Of God

Text : **Matthew 16: 13-20, Philippians 2: 5-11**

A. Before being baptized Christians make the confession :

S#1.

S#2.

"I believe that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God."

1. The wording of that confession is taken from :

S#3.

Acts 8: 37 – And Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."

2. Some scholars classify this verse as a spurious text.

- a. Some early manuscripts don't have it so some doubt that it was in the original.
- b. Whether or not it's in the original manuscript, it has been the common confession.

B. This confession was first made by Peter in response to Jesus' question.

S#4.

1. **Matt. 16: 16** – Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

2. Jesus responded to Peter with an affirmation of inspiration :

S#5.

Matt. 16: 17 – And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

C. There are several religious groups that accept Jesus as a prophet, but not as the "Only Begotten Son of God", i.e., as God.

S#6.

1. It is most difficult for any to deny the historical fact that Jesus lived and taught.

** No one man has had more impact on the history of the world than Jesus.*

S#7.

2. Even the Muslims accept that Jesus was a great prophet, but they deny He is God.

The thesis of this lesson : The bible teaches that Jesus is the Son of God. S#8.

I. Other world religions deny the divine sonship and thus the deity of Jesus.

S#9.

S#10.

A. Atheists admit that Jesus existed, but deny he was anything more than a man.

B. Hindus believe that Jesus was a Hindu who reached "god-consciousness."

S#11.

1. Say Jesus traveled across Southeast Asia as a teenager learning yogic teachings and He returned home as a guru to the Jews.
2. To them Jesus was a good teacher and perhaps one of their 330 million avatars.
(To the Hindu , an avatar is an incarnation of the impersonal, supreme being that Hindus believe fills the universe.)
3. Hindus teach that when Jesus said, "**I and the Father are one**" that he was affirming the Hindu teaching that through rigorous religious practice anyone can reach the level of god-consciousness.

C. The Buddhist view Jesus as a very spiritual person, but not as deity.**S#12.**

1. For the Dalai Lama, Jesus is the model of a “spiritually mature, good, and warm hearted person. ”
2. The Dalai Lama believes that others can learn this goodheartedness saying, “To emulate him, we should practice meditation.”

D. The Muslims view of Jesus as a very righteous prophet, but not as God.**S#13.**

1. The Qur'an refers to Jesus under the personal name "Isa" or "Isa Son of Mary" and he is also frequently called "Al-Masih" (Messiah).
2. In various passages the Qur'an refers to Jesus as :
 - a. "the Word of God" and "the Word of Truth"
 - b. "a Spirit from Him",
 - c. "the Messenger of God"
 - d. "the Prophet of God"
 - e. "the Servant of God"
3. He is even said to be "illustrious in this world and the next and of those nearest to God" (3:45). (* *Even with this honor, His followers are beheaded.*)
4. But the Muslims deny that Jesus is the eternal Son of God, **i.e.,** deity.
One apologist for Islam has argued that “Jesus never claimed to be a god or the Son of God.”He contended that Christ “was only the servant and apostle of the Lord” in the very same sense that others (like Moses) were messengers of God before him.”
 (Hammudah Abdala, **Islam in Focus**,
 Indianapolis: American Trust Publications, 1975, p. 158).
5. Of course, they view their prophet Mohamad as being above Jesus.

II. The two largest American cults deny the divine sonship and deity of Jesus.**S#14.****A. The Mormon cult denies the eternal sonship of Jesus, thus, His eternal deity. #15.**

1. There are difficulties in dealing with the changing Mormon doctrine.
 - a. They view three other books as of equal authority as the Bible : the Book of Mormon, the Book of Doctrine and Covenants and the Pearl of Great Price.
 - b. They redefine terms to agree with their doctrine, so Christians believe one thing is being said when they are actually saying something different.
 - c. Their missionaries are taught to deny some controversial doctrines unless confronted with their own sources.

2. The “Book of Abraham” A section of Mormon scriptures in the *Pearl of Great Price* that was written by Joseph Smith in 1835 known as was described by Joseph Smith "a translation of some ancient records ... purporting to be the writings of Abraham, while he was in Egypt, called the Book of Abraham, written by his own hand, upon papyrus." Smith's translation of the papyri describes a story of Abraham's early life, including a vision of the cosmos. (multi-sourced including Wikipedia)
 - a. Abraham’s vision of the cosmos identified “Kolob” as the planet nearest to God.
 - b. Supposedly God lives near Kolob with his multiple of wives.
3. Bruce McConkie a Mormon “Apostle” and leading scholar wrote : **S#16.**

“The Father is a glorified, perfected resurrected, exalted man who worked out his own salvation by obedience to the same laws he has given to us so that we may do the same.” (A New Witness for the Articles of Faith, pg. 64).
4. Concerning the origin of man Brigham Young taught :

"How much unbelief exists in the minds of the Latter-day Saints in regard to one particular doctrine which is revealed to them, and which God revealed to me -- namely that Adam is our father and God ... Our Father Adam is the man who stands at the gate and holds the keys of everlasting life and salvation to all his children who have or ever will come upon the earth"

(Sermon delivered by Brigham Young on June 8, 1873.
Printed in the Deseret Weekly News, June 18, 1873.)
5. Brigham Young (*by revelation*) taught that Adam (*God*) brought one wife to Eden.

“When our father Adam came into the garden of Eden, he came into it with a celestial body, and brought Eve, one of his wives, with him. He helped to make and organize this world.” (Journal of Discourses Vol. 1, pg 50)

Note : Mormons believe in a “Heavenly Mother” also called the “Mother God.”
Joseph Smith originated this doctrine by teaching "In the heavens, are parents single? No, the thought makes reason stare! Truth is reason, truth eternal tells me I've a mother there."
6. The official Mormon doctrine about the birth of Jesus is that He was the result of physical coitus between the man god (*same as Adam*) and Mary.
 - a. God the Father is a perfected, glorified, holy Man, an immortal Personage. And

*“Christ was born into the world as the literal Son of this Holy Being; he **S#17.** was born in the same personal, real, and literal sense that any mortal son is born to a mortal father. There is nothing figurative about his paternity; he was begotten, conceived and born in the normal and natural course of events, for he is the son of God, and that designation means what it says.*

(Mormon Doctrine — page 742 By Bruce R. McConkie)
 - b. *“For Latter-day Saints, the paternity of Jesus is not obscure. He was the literal, biological son of an immortal, tangible Father and Mary, a mortal woman.” **S#18.***
(Encyclopedia of Mormonism, Vol.2, Jesus Christ, Fatherhood And Sonship)

Note : *Pearl of Great Price* affirms that even *Satan* himself was a son of God, and a brother of Jesus, equal with Jesus in nature.

(*Book of Moses*, Chapter 4, Verses 1-4)

B. The Jehovah's witnesses deny the biblical teaching about Jesus.**S#19.**

1. They believe that Jesus is merely an angel who is just one of many "gods."
"Jehovah God created Jesus as a divine-like spirit at some point in ancient, pre-creation time. This means that he was created before all the other spirit sons of God, and that he is the only one who was directly created by God"
(You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth [Brooklyn: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, 1982], p. 58). **S#20.**
2. They believe that Jesus is Michael the archangel.
"Scriptural evidence indicates that the name Michael applied to God's Son before he left heaven to become Jesus Christ and also after his return."
(Aid to Bible Understanding, Watchtower Bible & Tract Society, 1971, 1152).
3. They twist the scriptures to make many erroneous arguments denying Jesus,
 - a. e.g., "If you're the Son of God, surely you can't be the eternal Almighty God." **S#21.**
 Even the Jews didn't believe that argument.
John 5:18 – For this reason therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, Why? because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.
 - b. e.g., "If Jesus was born first He couldn't have been eternal." Referring to **S#22.**
Col. 1: 15 – He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.
 - 1) That word "**firstborn**," is the Greek word "*prototokos*." It does NOT mean *first created* as Jehovah's Witnesses have been taught by the Watchtower Society. There's another Greek word for 'first created' (*protoktistos*) and Paul did not use that word.
 - 2) Greek scholars agree that the word Paul uses here in Colossians 1:15 (*prototokos*) means: *Superior , Preeminent in rank , Above*

III. The scriptures teach that Jesus is the "Only Begotten Son Of God."**S#23.****A. To state that Jesus is the "Son of God" is to state that Jesus IS God.****S#24.**

1. We have already seen that the Jews understood this to be the case.
 - a. When chastised for healing on the Sabbath, Jesus referred to God as His Father.
 - b. The Jews understood Jesus to be claiming equality with God the Father. **S#25.**
John 5:18 – For this reason therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, [Why?] because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.
2. When the Jews sought to convict Jesus of blasphemy they asked Him : **S#26.**
 - a. **Luke 22: 70** – And they all said, "Are You the Son of God, then?"
 And He said to them, "Yes, I am."

- b. They understood His claim to be the Son of God to be an affirmation of deity.

Luke 22: 71 – Then they said, “What further need do we have of testimony? **S#27.**
For we have heard it ourselves from His own mouth.”

B. Jesus clearly claimed to be the eternal God.

S#28.

1. **John 14: 8-9** Philip said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough **S#29.**
for us.” **9** Jesus said to him, “Have I been so long with you, and
yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me
has seen the Father; how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”

2. Jesus claimed to be the God to which Moses spoke at the burning bush. **S#30.**

- a. **Exod. 3: 13-14** Then Moses said to God, “Behold, I am going to the sons of
Israel, and I will say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent
me to you.’ Now they may say to me, ‘What is His name?’ What
shall I say to them?” **14** God said to Moses, “**I AM WHO I AM**”;
and He said, “Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, **I AM**
has sent me to you.’ ”

- b. **John 8: 56-59** “Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it **S#31.**
and was glad.” **57** So the Jews said to Him, “You are not yet
fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?” **58** Jesus said
to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born,
I am.” **59** Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him,
but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple.

3. Jesus said the miracles proved Him for be the Son of God.

John 10: 36-38 “Do you say of Him, whom the Father sanctified and sent into **S#32.**
the world, ‘You are blaspheming,’ because I said, ‘I am the Son
of God’? **37** If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe
Me; **38** but if I do them, though you do not believe Me, believe
the works, so that you may know and understand that the Father
is in Me, and I in the Father.”

C. Others also testified that Jesus is the Son of God.

S#33.

1. God the Father called Jesus “My Son.”

S#34.

Mark 1: 10-11 Immediately coming up out of the water, He saw the heavens
opening, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon Him (*Jesus*);
11 and a voice came out of the heavens: “You are My beloved Son,
in You I am well-pleased.”

2. By inspiration of God Peter attested to His deity.

S#35.

Matt. 16: 15-16 He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” **16** Simon Peter
answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

3. John the baptizer testified that Jesus is God.

S#36.

John 1: 34 – I myself have seen, and have testified that this is the Son of God

4. Nathanael (also called Bartholomew) acknowledged His sonship. **S#37.**
John 1: 49 – Nathanael answered Him, “Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel.”
 5. After the resurrection Thomas realized Jesus was God. **S#38.**
John 20: 28 – Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!”
 6. The Gospel writers **S#39.**
Mark 1: 1– The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
John 20: 30-31 Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the **S#40.**
presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but
these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the
Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.
- D. Jesus is referred to in the same terms as God the Father. **S#41.****
1. **Exod 3 –cf– John 8 ... “I AM” ... The eternally existent one **S#42.****
 2. **Isa 41:4; 44:6; 48:12 –cf– Rev 1:17; 2:8; 22:13 ... The first and the last**
 3. **Deut. 10: 17 –cf– Rev. 17: 14 ... Lord of Lords**
 4. **Psa. 24:10; 29:3 –cf– I Cor 2:8 ... Lord of Glory**

CONCLUSION :

- A. Truly Jesus is the only begotten Son of God. **S#43****
1. He did not become the “**Son of God**” when he was born of Mary.
 2. As a member of the trinity Jesus has an eternal relationship with the Father.
 3. **John 8:24 ... One must believe that Jesus is “the Only Begotten Son” or be lost.**
- B. Being the Son of God and a member of the trinity, Jesus rules sovereign. **S#44.****
1. **John 12: 48 – He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one **S#45.****
who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day.
 2. **Phil. 2: 10 – so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who **S#46.****
are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
- C. Are you bowing your knee to “the Only Begotten Son of God?” **S#47.****
1. If you are not, ... **you will !**
 2. You can do it bowing before Him as your Judge.
 3. OR ... You can do it bowing before Him as your savior.

INVITATION : We invite you to surrender your life to the Lord of glory ? **S#48.**

Lesson Text :**Matthew 16: 13-20**

13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" **14** And they said, "Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets." **15** He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" **16** Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." **17** And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven. **18** I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. **19** I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven." **20** Then He warned the disciples that they should tell no one that He was the Christ.

Philippians 2: 5-11

5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, **6** who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, **7** but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men. **8** Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. **9** For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, **10** so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, **11** and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.