

Why Worldview Matters

Is Jesus God?

John 1:1-5

May 17, 2026

Bob Hightchew

Introduction:

- **John 1:1-5**
 - Last week we finished – *How Do We Know God Exists?*
 - Four questions:
 - What is His name?
 - What is He like?
 - What does He expect from us?
 - Can we know Him?
 - Four more roads to evidence:
 - Reason
 - Intelligence
 - Nature
 - Intuition
 - The only way to not see the TRUTH of the Bible ... Or NOT believe that God Exists ... or that Jesus is God in Man ... is to choose to remain blind in every area ... *Historically, Archeologically, Literarily, and Spiritually.*
 - Is Jesus God?
 - Who did Jesus say He was?
 - Who did first-hand witnesses say He was?
-

1. Who did Jesus say He was?

- a. Few scholars deny the existence of Jesus.
- b. **Bertrand Russell** ... “*Historically, it is quite doubtful whether Christ ever existed at all and if He did, we do not know anything about Him.*”
- c. Many secular historians confirm the existence Jesus – *Tacitus ... Suetonius ... Josephus ... Pliny the Younger ... Thallus ... Lucian ... the Emperor Trajan.*
- d. **Exodus 3** – Moses
- e. I AM ... translated in the Hebrew is the name **Yahweh** (YHWH) ... This is one of the most important names of God to the Jews. It means the **Self-Existing One**.
- f. The Prophets of God would never misuse the name of God. Nor did the Prophets think they were God.
- g. So, if Jesus were just a good moral teacher or a prophet, why would He call Himself God? He would not. That would be blasphemy.
- h. **John 8:54-58** – In saying this, Jesus is saying that He is the Great I AM ... He is the Creator ... He is God!
- i. **John 8:59**

- j. **Matthew 9:2-6**
- k. **Isaiah 7:14**
- l. The three specific names that were given to the Messiah, which also showed that He was God was Son of Man, Son of God, and the Christ. All three names showed His divinity.
- m. **John 8:59**
- n. **Matthew 26:63-64**
- o. Did Jesus ever do anything with witnesses there that could only be done by the power of God?
 - 1. **Luke 8:45**
 - 2. **Luke 8:49-56**
 - 3. **John 11**
 - 4. **Matthew 8**
 - 5. **Matthew 14**
 - 6. **Mark 6**
 - 7. **John 10:18** – That is a BIG one.

2. Who did the firsthand witnesses say He was?

- a. The first Roman Centurion – **Matthew 8**
- b. Greek - **Kyrios** – English - **Lord** – “*One who has supernatural authority.*”
- c. The Centurion at the Cross – **Matthew 27:54**
- d. The Demons named Legion – **Mark 5**
- e. Satan – **Matthew 4**
- f. What about the Christian witnesses. Who did they say Jesus was?
 - 1. Simeon ... A righteous man held the baby Jesus in **Luke 2:25-30** ...
“Sovereign Lord may now dismiss me in peace ... For my eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared in the sight of all people.”
 - 2. John the Baptizer said that Jesus was the Son of God ... **John 1:34**
 - 3. John (Apostle) said Jesus was the Word, the Word was God ... **John 1:1-5**
 - 4. Mark said that Jesus was the Son of God ... **Mark 1:1**
 - 5. Peter said Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the Living God ... **Matt. 16:16**
 - 6. Paul said that Jesus was the Son of God ... **Galatians 4:4**
 - 7. The Angel Gabriel said Jesus was the Son of God ... **Luke 1:35**
 - 8. God The Father said Jesus was His Son ... **Matthew 3:17**

3. Who do you say Jesus is?

- a. **Matthew 16:13** – “*Who do people say the Son of Man is?*”
 - 1. But then Jesus asks – “*What about you, who do you say I AM?*”
 - 2. Peter replied – “*You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.*”
- b. Pilate did not know what to do with Jesus.
 - 1. **Matthew 27:22**

2. C.S. Lewis ... A great theological thinker who also at one point in his life was an atheist, but after honestly evaluating the evidence of scripture, became a Christian. He authored the *Chronicles of Narnia* and many other books.
 3. He presented the Trilemma – Jesus is either a Liar, Lunatic, or Lord.
 4. **Irwin Linton** - “*Obviously, who is Christ is just as important as, what He did.*”
 5. If Jesus’ claims are true, ... Josh McDowell says, then He is the Lord and we must accept Him or reject Him. But either way we are without excuse.
 6. But if His claims are false, ... Then we have just two other options to pick from. He either knew His claims to be God were false ... OR ... He did not know they were false – Let’s consider what that looks like.
- c. Was Jesus a liar?
1. When Jesus told people that He was God, but he knew He was not, then he was lying right to people’s faces. But if He was a liar, then He was also a hypocrite.
 2. If He was a liar, He was also evil, because He told people He was the only way to get to the Father in Heaven.
- d. Was Jesus a Lunatic?
1. If He was not a liar, could He have thought He was God, but He wasn’t?
 2. Peter Kreeft ... “*The measure of insanity is the gap between what you think you are ... and what you really are ... IF I think I am the greatest philosopher in America I am an arrogant fool ... If I think I am Napoleon, I am probably over the edge ... If I think I am a butterfly, then I have left the sunny shores of sanity ... **But if I think I am God**, then I am even more insane because the gap between anything finite and the infinite God is even greater than the gap between man and a butterfly!*”
- e. Jesus is Lord!
1. **Matthew 28:18-20**
 2. **John 20:28**
 3. **Revelation 21:6-7**
 4. You cannot put Jesus on a shelf as a great moral teacher, a man of great love and values. Those are not valid options to you at all. Jesus is either LORD, LUNATIC, or He is a LIAR.
 5. What about you, who do you say Jesus is?