

A man in a bright yellow long-sleeved shirt and khaki pants is kneeling on a rocky outcrop in the foreground, looking down with his hands clasped in prayer. Behind him is a calm, turquoise lake that perfectly reflects the surrounding landscape. The lake's surface is like a mirror, showing the dark evergreen trees on the left shore, the jagged, snow-dusted peaks of the mountains in the background, and the clear blue sky. The mountains are rugged and steep, with patches of white snow clinging to their slopes and crevices. The lighting suggests it's either early morning or late afternoon, with a warm, golden glow on the mountain peaks. The overall scene is one of peace and contemplation in a majestic natural setting.

Is Jesus God?

IS JESUS GOD?

by L. M. Fontaine

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Is Jesus God?

It couldn't be more important to know who Jesus is because He told the Jews listening to Him, "...if you do not believe that I am *He*, you will die in your sins."¹

Before we determine from the Scriptures exactly who Jesus is, let's discuss who He is not. According to the Jehovah's Witnesses, Jesus is Michael the Archangel.² But when you look in the Bible at Hebrews chapter 1, the writer explains that Jesus is not an angel and never has been an angel. In fact, we read in this chapter that the Father commands the angels to worship Jesus!³

According to the Mormons, Jesus' birth came about exactly like all other births.⁴ They believe He is the offspring of God and Mary. This is similar to the concept found in Greek mythology. However, the Bible teaches that Jesus' birth was miraculous. He was born of a virgin.

If you ask a Mormon if he believes Jesus is God, he most likely will answer in the affirmative. But that really doesn't mean much since they believe they themselves could someday end up being a god!⁵

Other people see nothing supernatural about Jesus. They believe He was only a good moral teacher – worthy of our admiration, but not our worship.

But if we believe what Jesus said is true, we're not left with the option of accepting Him simply as a man. He made amazing claims. For instance, He claimed He came down from heaven.⁶ He claimed He was going to be the One to resurrect people at the last day.⁷ He even claimed He was going to resurrect Himself from the dead!⁸

As astonishing as Jesus' claims were, there are still some people who think Jesus never claimed to be God. But ponder this - when the Jews questioned Him about who He claimed to be, He answered that He had seen Abraham. He said, "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad."⁹

Those listening were incredulous because Abraham had been dead for almost 2,000 years! They asked, "You are not yet 50 years old, and have you seen Abraham?"

Jesus' answer leaves no question as to His affirmation that He is God. He said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM."¹⁰

The Jews certainly had no doubt about what Jesus was claiming. That's why the next verse says they took up stones to throw at Him. They understood perfectly that He was declaring Himself to be the One who appeared to Moses as the great I AM in the burning bush – God Almighty.¹¹



Jesus possesses attributes that God alone has. Consider the following:

God alone is the Creator

Genesis 1:1 says, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth," and in Isaiah 44:24, God says, "I am the LORD, who makes all things, who stretches out the heavens all alone, who spreads out the earth by Myself." Yet when you turn to the New Testament, you read concerning Jesus, "All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made" (John 1:3). It is also stated in verse 10, "He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him." Since the Bible says Jesus is the Creator, that means Jesus is God.

God is Omnipresent

God alone has the ability to be everywhere at the same time. Jeremiah 23:24, says, “Can anyone hide himself in secret places, so I shall not see him? says the Lord; Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the Lord.” Jesus made the claim that He was everywhere present. When Jesus commissioned His disciples to go out and make other disciples, He told them, “And lo, I am with you always even to the end of the age.”¹² And if Jesus were not present everywhere, then how could He hear and answer prayers? Jesus said, “If you ask anything in My Name, I will do it.”¹³

God is Omniscient

God alone knows everything. Solomon said, as he addressed God, “Then hear in heaven, Your dwelling place, and forgive and act, and give to everyone according to all his ways, whose heart You know (for You alone know the hearts of all the sons of men).”¹⁴ Compare this with what Jesus says in Revelation 2:23, “And all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the mind and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your work.” He also says, “And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.”¹⁵

Someday Jesus will reward His children for the work they did for Him while here on earth. But please note that Jesus never taught that going to heaven was the reward. He said, “Lay up for yourselves treasures *in* heaven.”¹⁶ He never said to lay up heaven as a treasure.

The Bible teaches that eternal life is a gift¹⁷ that cannot be earned.¹⁸ If somehow we could have gained eternal life through our efforts, the death of Jesus would have been unnecessary. Galatians 3:21- 22 say, “For if there had been a law given which

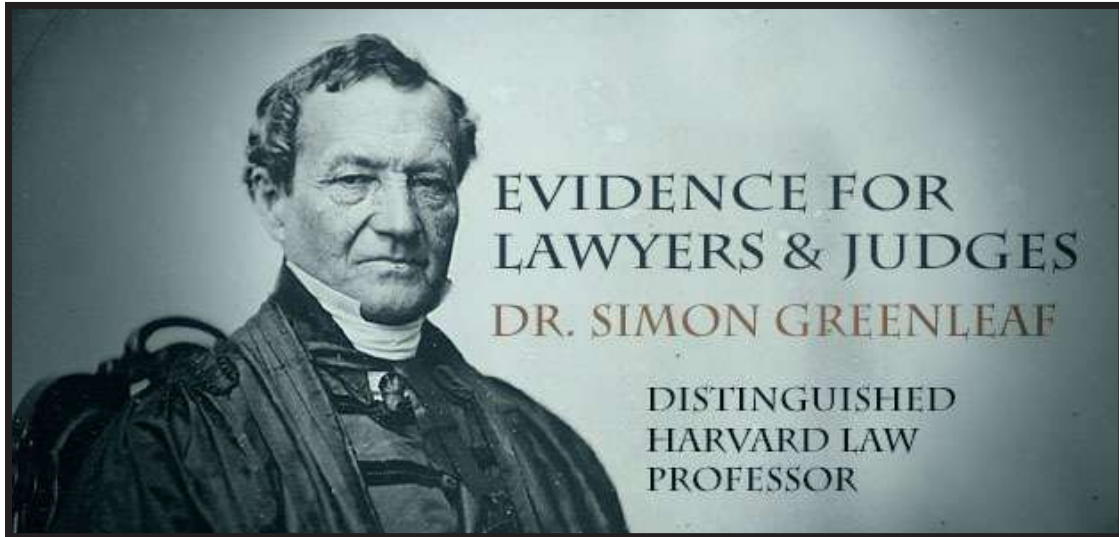
could have given life, truly righteousness would have been by the law. But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.” Please note these verses don’t mention anything about turning from sin, or asking Him into one’s heart/life, or confessing Him. They simply state the promise of eternal life is given to those who believe.

Jesus says, “For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”¹⁹ Could that be clearer? Jesus said going to heaven is determined by believing in Him and Him alone. And please note that it says people will be condemned because they didn’t believe in the Name of the only begotten Son of God – not because they committed some serious sin. The name *Jesus* means *God who saves*. When someone is saved, he is not put on probation. Once a person has believed Jesus is God and that He alone is the One saving him from going to hell, that person becomes a child of God forever. Jesus said, “the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out” (John 6:37). But a person trusting Christ as his Savior must believe that Savior is God. Jesus bore this out when He told the Jews, “...if you do not believe that I am *He*, you will die in your sins.”

Can we believe His claim?

Absolutely!!! The truth of Christianity stands or falls on the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Jesus said to those who wanted Him to show them a sign – “Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up” (John 2:19).

What is utterly fantastic is that one of the greatest legal minds of all time, Simon Greenleaf, who was Jewish, came to the conclusion that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is the best attested fact of ancient history.



Simon Greenleaf was one of the principle founders of the Harvard Law School. Being a complete skeptic, he was put to the challenge by some of his Christian students to investigate the claims of Christianity. He accepted the challenge and set out to disprove the biblical testimony concerning the resurrection of Jesus Christ. He was convinced that a careful examination of the four Gospel accounts would show that Christianity is based on faulty evidence. But this legal scholar came to the conclusion that the witnesses were reliable, and that the resurrection did in fact happen.

Below are some of the things he had to say about Jesus after his research:

Lastly, the great character they have portrayed is perfect. It is the character of a sinless Being; of one supremely wise and supremely good. It exhibits no error, no sinister intention, no imprudence, no ignorance, no evil passion, no impatience; in a word, no fault; but all is perfect uprightness, innocence, wisdom,

goodness and truth. The mind of man has never conceived the idea of such a character, even for his gods; nor has history or poetry shadowed it forth. The doctrines and precepts of Jesus are in strict accordance with the attributes of God, agreeably to the most exalted idea which we can form of them, either from reason or from revelation. They are strikingly adapted to the capacity of mankind, and yet are delivered with a simplicity and majesty wholly divine. He spake as never man spake. He spake with authority; yet addressed himself to the reason and the understanding of men; and he spake with wisdom, which men could neither gainsay nor resist. In his private life, he exhibits a character not merely of strict justice, but of flowing benignity. He is temperate, without austerity; his meekness and humility are signal; his patience is invincible; truth and sincerity illustrate his whole conduct; every one of his virtues is regulated by consummate prudence; and he both wins the love of his friends, and extorts the wonder and admiration of his enemies. He is represented in every variety of situation in life, from the height of worldly grandeur, amid the acclamations of an admiring multitude, to the deepest abyss of human degradation and woe, apparently deserted of God and man. Yet everywhere he is the same; displaying a character of unearthly perfection, symmetrical in all its proportions, and encircled with splendor more than human. Either the men of Galilee were men of superlative wisdom, and extensive knowledge and experience, and of deeper skill in the arts of deception, than any and all others, before or after them, or they have truly stated the astonishing things which they saw and heard.²⁰



If you have been in doubt about whether Jesus is God, I pray that you, like the man known as Doubting Thomas, will come to the same conclusion as he did. When he saw with his own eyes the risen Lord, he said to Him, “My Lord and my God!”²¹

The Apostle Paul said concerning Jesus that He is “over all, the eternally blessed God.”²²

It is fitting to end with the words of the Apostle Peter. He wrote concerning Jesus -

To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.²³

¹ John 8:24

² "Michael the Archangel, the first creation of Jehovah, before He came to earth and returned to the identity of Michael after his resurrection." (Aid To Bible Understanding, p. 1152).

³ Hebrews 1:6

⁴ "The birth of the Saviour was as natural as are the births of our children; it was the result of natural action. He partook of flesh and blood—was begotten of his Father, as we were of our fathers" (Journal of Discourses, vol. 8, p. 115).

⁵ After you become a good Mormon, you have the potential of becoming a god (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, p. 345-347, 354).

⁶ John 6:38

⁷ John 6:40

⁸ John 2:19

⁹ John 8:56

¹⁰ John 8:58

¹¹ Exodus 3:14

¹² Matthew 28:20

¹³ John 14:14

¹⁴ I Kings 8:39

¹⁵ Revelation 22:12

¹⁶ Matthew 6:20

¹⁷ Romans 6:23

¹⁸ Ephesians 2:8-9

¹⁹ John 3:17-18

²⁰ *An Examination of the Testimony of the Four Evangelists by the Rules of Evidence Administered in the Courts of Justice*, (Baker Book House, 1965, reprinted from the 1847 edition), p. 47.

²¹ John 20:28

²² Romans 9:5

²³ II Peter 3:18

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