

He is God!

“He is the image of the invisible God, the first born over all creation.” (Colossian 1:15)
“Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.” (Philippians 2:6)

Who is He, the image of the invisible God? Who is He, being in very nature God? For these two questions there is but one answer; He is JESUS. The Bible clearly declares that *Jesus is the (Greek) form of Joshua, which means “the Lord saves.”* God came down from heaven, became a man, Jesus, to save His people from sin and death. Jesus suffered and died on the cross, buried and raised from the dead on the third day to give eternal life to those who believe; He is the Saviour and the Lord to those who accept Him.

1- Jesus, the image of the invisible God accepts worship: After His resurrection from the dead and before He ascended to heaven, Jesus was meeting His disciples. ***“When He had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, He lifted up His hands and blessed them. While He was blessing them, He left them and was taken up into heaven. Then they worshipped Him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy.” (Luke 24: 50-52)*** These people they do not worship other than God for it is written in their law, ***“You shall have no other gods before me.” (Deuteronomy 5:7)*** Jesus Himself quoted, ***“Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.” (Matthew 4:10)*** His disciples worshipped Him because He is God. Jesus accepts worship from everyone who believe and obey Him.

2- Jesus identified Himself with God the Father: In many occasions Jesus verbally declared that He is identical to God. ***“Any one who has seen me has seen the Father.” (John 14:9)*** ***“I am in the Father, and the Father is in me.” (John 14: 11)*** ***“I and the Father are one.” (John 10:30)*** But many times He was accused because He identified Himself with God. The unbelieving people and the leaders and teachers of the Law strongly opposed Him and they even tried to stone Him. ***“Again they picked up stones to stone Him, but Jesus said to them, “I have shown you many great miracles from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?” They replied, “We are not stoning You for any of these, but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God.” (John 10:31-33)***

3- Jesus forgave sins because He is God: While Jesus was teaching, ***“Some men came carrying a paralytic on a mat and tried to take Him into the house to lay him before Jesus. When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus. When Jesus saw their faith, He said, “Friend, your sins are forgiven.” The Pharisees and the teachers of the Law began thinking to themselves, “Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone.” (Luke 5:18-21)*** Jesus is God and forgives the sins of everyone who come to Him in faith.

4- Jesus proved Himself and was addressed as God: After His resurrection from the dead, Jesus appeared to His disciples. One of them named Thomas was missing on the first visit of Jesus. ***“So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it.” A week later His disciples***

were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” Then He said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.” Thomas said to Him, “My Lord and my God.” Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” (John 20:25-29)

5- Jesus taught with God’s Authority: Many places in the Bible it is mentioned that Jesus’ teaching was with authority. ***“The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, “What is this? A new teaching and with authority! He even gives orders to evil spirits and they obey Him.” (Mark 1:27)*** In Matthew Chapter 5 (*please read from your Bible*), Jesus spoke to the people about the Law of Moses in this way: ***“You have heard that it was said, “Do not commit adultery.” But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”*** Seven times Jesus mentioned, ***“You have heard that it was said, . . . But I tell you . . .”*** and gave the new command and teaching. The Law of Moses was the highest authority known to the people because it directly came from God and no-one can change except God. Certainly, who can address to Himself what God had said except He who is God? Jesus Himself before He ascended to heaven said, ***“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.” (Matthew 28:18)***

6- Jesus did miracles greater than any prophet: He healed the sick, made the lame, the cripple and the paralytic stand and walk. He made the blind see, the deaf hear and the mute speak. He drove out demons, and raised people from death. He multiplied the bread and the fish and fed thousands of people. He calmed the raging sea and the disciples asked each other, ***“Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey Him!” (Mark 4:41)*** On another occasion while His claim was questioned they asked Him, ***“Are you greater than our father Abraham? He died, and so did the prophets. Who do you think you are?” “I tell you the truth,” Jesus answered, “before Abraham was born, I am!” (John 8:53, 58)*** ***“Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.” (John 21:25)***

As we come to know and accept who Jesus really is, our faith increase and we eagerly desire to see Him and to be with Him in His heavenly Kingdom. As we receive Jesus as our personal Saviour and Lord, God and King, our faith reach the optimum of knowing and believing that He is God. Finally, let us ponder these very words of Jesus: ***“I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am the one I claim to be, you will indeed die in your sins.” (John 8: 24)***

My dear and beloved, we write this to make our joy and your joy complete. Jesus clearly claim that He is God. We believe in Him and this gives us the greatest assurance and peace ***“while we wait for the blessed hope - the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ.” (Titus 2:13)***

My Prayer: *“Father God in heaven, I thank you for your great love to me. Thank you for your great sacrifice on the cross to give me eternal life. Today I take a step of faith. I believe in my heart and confess in my lips that Jesus is My Saviour, My Lord and My God.” Amen.*