

Responding to Jehovah's Witnesses

On the Person of Jesus
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What are the Jehovah's Witnesses?

- The religious group was founded by Charles Taze Russell in the late 1870s.
- The JWs are very evangelistic in seeking converts, going door-to-door & publishing vast amounts of literature.
- But their view of Jesus differs very much from that of historic orthodox Christianity.
- Here we wish to look at Biblical materials to help us see one of the major theological problems of this movement.

JW view of Jesus

- Jesus is not Jehovah God.
- Jesus is merely a created being, though he is the greatest created being and may be designated 'god' under certain circumstances.
- He is typically identified with the archangel Michael, whose 'life force' was poured into Jesus when Jehovah created him.

A Sketch of Our Response

- (1) There are a number of Old Testament passages cited in the New Testament where the term 'Jehovah' (LORD) is applied to Jesus.
- (2) Jesus is worshiped.
- (3) Jesus is called 'God.'
- (4) Jesus is characterized as God is.

'Jehovah' applied to Jesus

- The term 'Jehovah' is old word used in some English translations to represent the Hebrew יהוה now thought to have been pronounced 'Yahweh.'
- Most English translations of the Old Testament represent this Hebrew word by LORD (all caps), as the Jews traditionally would not pronounce this sacred name, but instead substituted their word meaning "lord, master."
- In the New Testament, we often see OT passages about Jehovah (LORD) applied to Jesus.

OT Citations re/ Jesus as LORD

- Matthew 3:3 citing Isaiah 40:3
- Mark 1:2 citing Malachi 3:1
- John 1:23 citing Isaiah 40:3
- John 12:40-41 citing Isaiah 6:10 and 3
- John 19:37 citing Zechariah 12:10
- Acts 2:17 citing Joel 2:28
- Romans 10:13 citing Joel 2:28

OT Citations, continued

- Ephesians 4:8 citing Psalm 68:18
- Philippians 2:10-11 and Romans 14:11 citing Isaiah 45:23
- Hebrews 1:8 citing Psalm 45:6
- Hebrews 1:10 citing Psalm 102:25
- 1 Peter 2:8 citing Isaiah 8:14
- Revelation 7:17 alluding to Psalm 23:1-2
- Let's look at each of these.

Matthew 3:3 & Isaiah 40:3

Matt 3:1 (NIV) In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea 2 and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." 3 This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: "A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'" {[3] Isaiah 40:3}

Isa 40:3 (NIV) A voice of one calling: "In the desert prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God."

Matthew 3:3 & Isaiah 40:3

- Isaiah is speaking of preparing the way for the LORD, that is, Jehovah.
- Matthew applies this to John the Baptist preparing the way for Jesus (see verses 11-12).
 - 11 (NIV) I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. 12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

Mark 1:2 and Malachi 3:1

Mark 1:1 (NIV) The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. 2 It is written in Isaiah the prophet: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way" {[2] Mal. 3:1}

Malachi 3:1 (NIV) "See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the LORD Almighty.

Mark 1:2 and Malachi 3:1

- Malachi speaks of 'my messenger' who will prepare the way 'before me.'
 - It is the LORD who is here speaking.
- Mark applies this to Jesus, see verses 7-8:
 - 7 (NIV) And this was his [John's] message: "After me will come one more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. 8 I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

John 1:23 and Isaiah 40:3

John 1:22 (NIV) Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" 23 John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the desert, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'" {[23] Isaiah 40:3}

Isa 40:3 (NIV) A voice of one calling: "In the desert prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God."

John 1:23 and Isaiah 40:3

- Notice Isaiah speaks of preparing the way for the LORD.
- John the Baptist sees himself as the one fulfilling this prophecy as he prepares the way for Jesus:
 - See John's detailed explanation in John 1:22-34, which we will post on the next slide.

John 1:22-34

John 1:22 (NIV) Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" 23 John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the desert, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'" 24 Now some Pharisees who had been sent 25 questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" 26 "I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know. 27 He is the one who comes after me, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie." 28 This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing. 29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! 30 This is the one I meant when I said, 'A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.' 31 I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel." 32 Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. 33 I would not have known him, except that the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is he who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' 34 I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God."

John 12:40-41 & Isaiah 6

John 12:40 (NIV) "He has blinded their eyes and deadened their hearts, so they can neither see with their eyes, nor understand with their hearts, nor turn—and I would heal them." {[40] Isaiah 6:10} 41 Isaiah said this because he saw Jesus' glory and spoke about him.

Isa 6:5 (NIV) "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty" ... 10 Make the heart of this people calloused; make their ears dull and close their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed.

John 12:40-41 & Isaiah 6

- John cites Isaiah 6:10, when Isaiah saw the LORD Almighty in the temple.
- John says that Isaiah here saw Jesus' glory and spoke of him.

John 19:37 & Zechariah 12:10

John 19:34 (NIV) Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. 35 The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe. 36 These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken," {[36] Exodus 12:46; Num. 9:12; Psalm 34:20} 37 and, as another scripture says, "They will look on the one they have pierced." {[37] Zech. 12:10}

Zech 12:10 (NIV) And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced...

John 19:37 & Zechariah 12:10

- In Zechariah, the LORD says "they will look on me, who they have pierced."
- John narrates Jesus being pierced by the soldier's spear in 19:34 and then says this is a fulfillment of Zechariah 12:10.

Acts 2:17 & Joel 2:28

Acts 2:17 (NIV) In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams... 33 Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.

Joel 2:27 (NIV) Then you will know that I am in Israel, that I am the LORD your God, and that there is no other; never again will my people be shamed. 28 And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions.

Acts 2:17 & Joel 2:28

- Notice in Joel, that the LORD is speaking (vv 27, 32) and he says "I will pour out..."
- In Acts 2, Peter quotes Joel 2:28 and then in verse 33 he says "he [Jesus] has poured out..."

Romans 10:13 & Joel 2:32

Rom 10:12 (NIV) For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, 13 for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." {[13] Joel 2:32}

Joel 2:32 (NIV) And everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved; for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be deliverance, as the LORD has said, among the survivors whom the LORD calls.

Romans 10:13 & Joel 2:32

- Paul has just noted in Rom 10:9 that "if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' ... you will be saved."
- Then he quotes Joel 2:32, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."
- Joel 2:32 clearly says "everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved."

Ephesians 4:8 & Psalm 68:18

Eph 4:7 (NIV) But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. 8 This is why it {[8] Or God} says: "When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men." {[8] Psalm 68:18}

Psa 68:18 (NIV) When you ascended on high, you led captives in your train; you received gifts from men, even from {[18] Or gifts for men, even} the rebellious—that you, O LORD God, might dwell there. 19 Praise be to the Lord, to God our Savior, who daily bears our burdens.

Ephesians 4:8 & Psalm 68:18

- The psalm applies the act of ascending to the LORD.
- Paul, in Ephesians, applies the act of ascending to Christ.

Philippians 2:10-11 & Isaiah 45:23

Phil 2:9 (NIV) Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Isa 45:22 (NIV) Turn to me and be saved, all you ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other. 23 By myself I have sworn, my mouth has uttered in all integrity a word that will not be revoked: Before me every knee will bow; by me every tongue will swear. 24 They will say of me, 'In the LORD alone are righteousness and strength.'

Philippians 2:10-11 & Isaiah 45:23

- In Isaiah 45:21, we see that there is no God apart from the one speaking; in 45:22, that he is God and there is no other, who is seen in v 24 to be the LORD.
- Paul quotes this passage and applies it to Jesus in Philippians 2:10. Notice in verse 9 that Jesus is given "the name that is above every name." Surely, this name is LORD or Jehovah.

Romans 14:11 & Isaiah 45:23

Rom 14:8 (NIV) If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. 9 For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living. 10 You, then, why do you judge your brother? Or why do you look down on your brother? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. 11 It is written: " 'As surely as I live,' says the Lord, 'every knee will bow before me; every tongue will confess to God.'" {[11] Isaiah 45:23}

Romans 14:11 & Isaiah 45:23

- Here Paul quotes the same passage he did in Philippians 2:10.
- In the Romans context, Jesus is clearly the Lord, both of the dead and the living.
- It is he who is quoted by Paul as speaking, 'As surely as I live,' says the Lord, 'every knee will bow before me; every tongue will confess to God.'

Hebrews 1:8 & Psalm 45:6

Heb 1:8 (NIV) But about the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom. 9 You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy." {[9] Psalm 45:6,7}

Psa 45:6 (NIV) Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom. 7 You love righteousness and hate wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy.

Hebrews 1:8 & Psalm 45:6

- Note that the writer of Hebrews says that the Psalmist is speaking about the Son (Jesus), when he speaks about God's throne.
- It appears that the king in Psalm 45 is addressed as God.
- This particular psalm does not use the name LORD or Jehovah.

Hebrews 1:10 & Psalm 102:25

Heb 1:10 (NIV) He also says, "In the beginning, O Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. 11 They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. 12 You will roll them up like a robe; like a garment they will be changed. But you remain the same, and your years will never end." {[12] Psalm 102:25-27}

Psa 102:25 (NIV) In the beginning you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. 26 They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. Like clothing you will change them and they will be discarded. 27 But you remain the same, and your years will never end.

Hebrews 1:10 & Psalm 102:25

- The writer of Hebrews applies this passage to Jesus, apparently identifying him with the LORD in Psalm 102.
- The Hebrew text has LORD (Jehovah) in verses 1, 12, 18-19, 21-22 of this psalm, and the Greek text has Lord in verse 26 also.

1 Peter 2:8 & Isaiah 8:14

1 Pet 2:7 (NIV) Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, "The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone,{[7] Or cornerstone}" {[7] Psalm 118:22} 8 and, "A stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall." {[8] Isaiah 8:14} They stumble because they disobey the message--which is also what they were destined for.

Isa 8:13 (NIV) The LORD Almighty is the one you are to regard as holy, he is the one you are to fear, he is the one you are to dread, 14 and he will be a sanctuary; but for both houses of Israel he will be a stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall. And for the people of Jerusalem he will be a trap and a snare.

1 Peter 2:8 & Isaiah 8:14

- Peter cites Isaiah 8:14, referring to Jesus as the stone of stumbling and the rock that causes falling.
- In Isaiah 8:13, this stone and rock is "the LORD Almighty."

Revelation 7:17 & Psalm 23:1-2

Rev 7:17 (NIV) For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

Psa 23:1 (NIV) The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters...

Revelation 7:17 & Psalm 23:1-2

- In Revelation 7:17, John is told by one of the 24 elders around God's throne that those who have come out of great tribulation will be shepherded by the Lamb, alluding to the 23rd psalm.
- In the psalm itself, we are told "The LORD is my shepherd."

'Jehovah' applied to Jesus

- So it appears that the NT writers had come to believe that it was proper to apply the OT name of God to Jesus.
- This is consistent with the following items as well:
 - Jesus is worshiped in the NT.
 - Jesus is called God in the NT.
 - Jesus is characterized as God is in the NT.

Worship & Jesus

First of all, let us notice that the NT consistently refuses to give worship to those who are merely created beings.

- Matthew 4:9-10 – Jesus & Satan
- Acts 10:25-26 – Peter & Cornelius
- Revelation 19:10 – John & angel
- Revelation 22:8-9 – John & angel

Matthew 4

Matt 4:8 (NIV) Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. 9 "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." 10 Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.' {[10] Deut. 6:13}"

Acts 10

Acts 10:22 (NIV) The men replied, "We have come from Cornelius the centurion. He is a righteous and God-fearing man, who is respected by all the Jewish people. A holy angel told him to have you come to his house so that he could hear what you have to say." 23 Then Peter invited the men into the house to be his guests. The next day Peter started out with them, and some of the brothers from Joppa went along. 24 The following day he arrived in Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends. 25 As Peter entered the house, Cornelius met him and fell at his feet in reverence. 26 But Peter made him get up. "Stand up," he said, "I am only a man myself."

Revelation 19

Rev 19:9 (NIV) Then the angel said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!'" And he added, "These are the true words of God." 10 At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

Revelation 22

Rev 22:6 (NIV) The angel said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants the things that must soon take place." 7 "Behold, I am coming soon! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy in this book." 8 I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I had heard and seen them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had been showing them to me. 9 But he said to me, "Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers the prophets and of all who keep the words of this book. Worship God!"

Worship & Jesus

Now let us look at what is done to Jesus regarding worship.

- Matthew 2:11 – the Magi
- Matthew 28:9 – the women at his resurrection
- Revelation 5:8-14 – the heavenly throne-room

Matthew 2

Matt 2:9 (NIV) After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. 11 On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Matthew 28

Matt 28:5 (NIV) The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. 6 He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. 7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you." 8 So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. 9 Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

Revelation 5

Rev 5:8 (NIV) And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. 9 And they sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. 10 You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth." 11 Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. 12 In a loud voice they sang: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!" 13 Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing: "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!" 14 The four living creatures said, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshiped.

Worship & Jesus

- So, worship is forbidden to given to anyone but God, as Jesus himself points out.
- But Jesus accepts worship from the Magi and from the women returning from the tomb.
- In heaven, Jesus is worshiped by the 24 elders, the 4 living creatures, and every creature in heaven & earth.
 - They fall down before him & worship him.
 - They offer incense and prayers to him.
 - They sing hymns to him and to the Father.

Jesus is Called God

- John 20:28 – by the apostle Thomas
- Titus 2:13 – by the apostle Paul
- 2 Peter 1:1-2 – by the apostle Peter
- Romans 9:5 – by Paul again
- John 5:18 – Jesus' Jewish opponents see his claim as tantamount to equality with God.
- Revelation 19:15 – called Almighty

John 20

John 20:26 (NIV) 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!"

27 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."

28 Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

29 Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Titus 2

Titus 2:11 (NIV) For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. 12 It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, 13 while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

2 Peter 1

2 Pet 1:1 (NIV) Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours: 2 Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. 3 His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

Romans 9

Rom 9:1 (NIV) I speak the truth in Christ—I am not lying, my conscience confirms it in the Holy Spirit— 2 I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. 3 For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, those of my own race, 4 the people of Israel. Theirs is the adoption as sons; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises. 5 Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of Christ, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen.

John 5

John 5:16 (NIV) So, because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jews persecuted him. 17 Jesus said to them, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working." 18 For this reason the Jews tried all the harder to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God. 19 Jesus gave them this answer: "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. 20 For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, to your amazement he will show him even greater things than these."

Revelation 19

Rev 19:14 (NIV) The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. 15 Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." {[15] Psalm 2:9} He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. 16 On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

Isa 63:3 (NIV) I have trodden the winepress alone; from the nations no one was with me. I trampled them in my anger and trod them down in my wrath; their blood spattered my garments, and I stained all my clothing.

Jesus as God

Not only is Jesus occasionally called God, but he is regularly characterized as God is.

- Jesus is Creator.
- Jesus is Redeemer.
- Jesus raises the dead, including himself.
- Jesus judges all.
- Jesus forgives sin.
- Jesus is prayed to.

Jesus as God, continued

- Jesus has hymns sung to him.
- Jesus is worshiped.
- Jesus is to receive the same honor as the Father.
- Jesus does everything God the Father does.

Jesus is Creator

John 1:1 (NIV) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

Col 1:15 (NIV) He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. 17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Jesus is Redeemer

Gal 3:10 (NIV) All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law." {[10] Deut. 27:26} 11 Clearly no one is justified before God by the law, because, "The righteous will live by faith." {[11] Hab. 2:4} 12 The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, "The man who does these things will live by them." {[12] Lev. 18:5} 13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree." {[13] Deut. 21:23} 14 He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.

Jesus Raises Dead

John 5:20 (NIV) For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, to your amazement he will show him even greater things than these. 21 For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it.

John 2:18 (NIV) Then the Jews demanded of him, "What miraculous sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?" 19 Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days." 20 The Jews replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" 21 But the temple he had spoken of was his body. 22 After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said.

Jesus Judges All

John 5:20 (NIV) For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, to your amazement he will show him even greater things than these. 21 For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it. 22 Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son...

Jesus Forgives Sin

Mark 2:5 (NIV) When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." 6 Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, 7 "Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" 8 Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, "Why are you thinking these things? 9 Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'? 10 But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins ..." He said to the paralytic, 11 "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." 12 He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

Jesus is Prayed To

Acts 7:56 (NIV) "Look," [Stephen] said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." 57 At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, 58 dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul. 59 While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." 60 Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep.

Jesus is Sung Hymns To

Rev 5:8 (NIV) And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

9 And they sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation..."

11 Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders.

12 In a loud voice they sang: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!"

Jesus is Worshiped

- We looked at Revelation 5 twice earlier.
- The 4 living creatures and the 24 elders and innumerable angels offer him worship.
- They fall down & worship.
- They offer incense and prayer to him.
- They sing hymns of praise to him.
- They sing a doxology jointly to Jesus and the Father.

Jesus & the Father

John 5:20 (NIV) For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, to your amazement he will show him even greater things than these. 21 For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it. 22 Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, 23 that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him.

Jesus & the Father

John 5:18 (NIV) For this reason the Jews tried all the harder to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God. 19 Jesus gave them this answer: "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. 20 For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, to your amazement he will show him even greater things than these."

Summary

- The Biblical picture of Jesus has proved a stumbling block to many over history:
 - Many Jews of his own generation & since
 - Jehovah's Witnesses and many earlier people that theologians label Arians
 - Theological liberals of many different sorts
- Yet the Bible is quite definite about who Jesus is.

Summary

- Part of the trouble has been the peculiar nature of the person of Jesus.
- Unlike any other being in existence, Jesus is both uncreated and created.
 - He is uncreated as regards his deity, being one with the Father and the Spirit.
 - He is created as regard his humanity, being really & fully human, a descendant of David, Abraham, and Adam.

Summary

- May the Lord help us to handle his word rightly and not to stumble over the person of Jesus:
- 1Pet 2:5 (NIV) you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 For in Scripture it says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame." {[6] Isaiah 28:16} 7 Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, "The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone," {[7] Psalm 118:22} 8 and, "A stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall." {[8] Isaiah 8:14} They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for.

The End

May we not stumble over Jesus!