

Jesus Shares the HANDS of God (Part 2)

Last Week

The HANDS of God

- Jesus shares the **honors** due to God.
 - Not all acts of worship imply deity or deification. If, however, the figure is the recipient of honors reserved exclusively for God, or of a wide range of honors normally associated with God and his believers express such honors in context of religious activity or spiritual devotion, such honors do indicate that those offering him such honors regard him as God.
- Jesus shares the **attributes** of God.
 - Given that angels bear some likeness to God's heavenly spirits and that human beings are created in God's image, elements of likeness or resemblance to God does not prove deity. Similarly, likeness to angels does not make one an angel. If, however, a figure possesses attributes that are unique to God, or if his likeness to God is complete, total, and perfect, those are strong, clear indicators that the figure is deity. The New Testament attributes characteristics to Christ that show him to be something far greater than a human being; indeed, they show him to be God.
- Jesus shares the **names** of God.
- Jesus shares in the **deeds** that God does.
- Jesus shares the **seat** of God's throne.

Divine Names

Many people in the Bible have what are called *theophoric* names, that is, names that include a name for God. For example, the name Elijah includes both the names *El* (God) and *Jah* (a short form of Yahweh). It should be obvious that Elijah is not God. Therefore, *theophoric* names do not imply that those so named are themselves divine.

1. **The NT clearly teaches that Jesus is God. Despite the fact that the NT usually uses the name God with reference to the Father, it also affirms several times that Christ is God.**

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." (John 1:1, ESV)

"Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood." (Acts 20:28, ESV)

“To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.” (Romans 9:5, ESV)

2. Jesus is often identified as LORD (that is YHWH) of the OT.

“because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved (cited from Joel 2:32).”” (Romans 10:9–13, ESV)

There are two passages in 1 Peter that refer to Jesus as LORD in a way that identifies him with the Lord YHWH. The first is Peter’s encouragement to new believers to grow in their salvation, *“if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good” (1 Peter 2:3)*. This is a clear allusion to the Psalmist’s exhortation in **Psalm 34:8** *“O taste and see that the Lord is good”*.

<p>1 Peter 2:3 (ESV) <i>“So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.”</i></p>	<p>Psalm 34:8-10 (ESV) <i>“Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him! Oh, fear the LORD, you his saints, for those who fear him have no lack! The young lions suffer want and hunger; but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.”</i></p>
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That the Lord in 1 Peter 2:3 is Jesus is evident from what follows: *“as you come to him, the living Stone – rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him” (v. 4)*. Peter goes on to quote a battery of Old Testament “Stone” texts that the early church interpreted as referring to Jesus (vv.6-8, quoting Isaiah 28:16; Psalm 118:22; Isaiah 8:14).

<p><i>“For it stands in Scripture: “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”</i></p> <p><i>So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,”</i></p> <p><i>and “A stone of stumbling, and a rock of</i></p>	<p><i>“therefore thus says the Lord God, “Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion, a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation: ‘Whoever believes will not be in haste.’” (Isaiah 28:16, ESV)</i></p> <p><i>“The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.” (Psalm 118:22, ESV)</i></p>
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offense.” *They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.”* (1 Peter 2:6–8, ESV)

*“Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but **in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy**, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,”* (1 Peter 3:13–15, ESV)

*“Do not call conspiracy all that this people calls conspiracy, and do not fear what they fear, nor be in dread. **But the LORD of hosts, him you shall honor as holy.** Let him be your fear, and let him be your dread. And **he will become a sanctuary and a stone of offense** and a rock of stumbling to both houses of Israel, a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.”* (Isaiah 8:12–14, ESV)

The last of these texts, in its original context, clearly refers to Yahweh as the “stone.”

When Peter applies to Jesus, then, the description open quote a stone of offense and a rock of stumbling” (one Peter 2:8), he confirms that when he called Jesus the “Lord” in verse three, he was indeed referring to him as the Lord (Yahweh).

3. He is King of kings and Lord of lords.

“They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful.” (Revelation 17:14, ESV)

4. He is the divine Savior.

“waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,” (Titus 2:13, ESV)

5. He is the one who says “I am” or “I am he”.

“I AM” – “I exist.” self-existent, eternal existence.

“God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And he said, “Say this to the people of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” (Exodus 3:14, ESV)

“I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins.” (John 8:24, ESV)

“So Jesus said to them, “When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me.” (John 8:28, ESV)

“The Jews answered him, “Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?” Jesus answered, “I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge. Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.” The Jews said to him, “Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, ‘If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.’ Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?” Jesus answered, “If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, ‘He is our God.’ But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad.” So the Jews said to him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?” Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.” So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.” (John 8:48–59, ESV)

Abraham was brought into existence. I exist.

The statement therefore is not that *Christ came into existence before Abraham did* (as Arians affirm is the meaning), but that He never *came* into being at all, but *existed* before Abraham had a being; in other words, existed before *creation*, or *eternally* (as Jn 1:1). *In that sense the Jews plainly understood Him*, since “then took they up stones to cast at Him,” *just as they had before done when they saw that He made Himself equal with God* (Jn 5:18).

6. He is the first and the last, the Alpha and the Omega, and the beginning and the end.

“Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen. “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.””
(Revelation 1:7–8, ESV)