

Is Jesus God?

Mark 14:53–65



Divine Sovereignty

- On the one hand, the ministry of Jesus—his teaching and his miracles—demonstrated his supernatural (divine) authority (Matt 7:29; 8:27; 9:6).
- On the other hand, the testimony of Jesus at his “trial” explicitly affirmed his (divine) sovereignty (Mark 14:53–65; cf. Matt 26:57–68; Luke 22:63–71).
 - The Jewish council officials tried to obtain testimony against Jesus to put him to death, but they were unable to secure reliable witnesses (Mark 14:55–61a).

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 - When the high priest questioned him, Jesus did not shrink away from calling himself “the Son of Man,” a statement that the Jews considered blasphemous (Mark 14:61b–64).

Excursus: Blasphemy?

- The word translated “blasphemy” (Gr. *blasphemia*) is “abusive or insulting speech” against another person (Matt 27:39; Mark 15:29; Luke 23:39) or God (Matt 12:31–32; cf. Mark 3:28–29; Luke 12:10).
- A subset of blasphemy against God is the claim to possess or exercise prerogatives that belong only to God (Matt 9:3; Mark 2:7; Luke 5:21; John 10:33).
- The Jews clearly associated the claim to be “the Son of Man” with a “blasphemous” affirmation of deity. Why?

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 - Jesus quoted, combined, and expanded OT prophecies to claim possession of divine sovereignty (Ps 110:1; Dan 7:13; cf. Isa 19:1–4 [LORD, cloud, king]; Mark 13:26; Rev 1:7).

Excursus: Son of Man?

- The phrase translated “Son of Man” is Jesus’s favorite self-designation, used some 80x in the NT.
- The OT provides the background for the “s/Son of m/man” language of the NT, sometimes merely referring to a man/human (Num 23:19; Ps 8:4) or a prophet (Ezek 2:1; Dan 8:17) or the Christ (Dan 7:13).
- When Jesus claimed to be the Son of Man, he was affirming that he was God and thus had divine authority (Mark 2:10, 28; 8:38; 10:45; 13:26; 14:62).

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- Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and the Son of Man, and the authority that he exercises (and will exercise) proves his deity (Mark 14:61–62; cf. Matt 28:18–20).

Conclusion

- Jesus has proven that he is God.
 - He accepts divine **HONORS**. *Will you honor him?*
 - He possesses divine **ATTRIBUTES**. *Will you worship him?*
 - He wears divine **NAMES**. *Will you call upon him?*
 - He accomplishes divine **DEEDS**. *Will you revere him?*
 - He exercises divine **SOVEREIGNTY**. *Will you obey him?*
- Does the identity of Jesus matter? Yes! Jesus says, “Unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins” (John 8:24; cf. vv. 31–32). *How will you respond?*