## David Harrison & Bernd Flock

# IS JESUS GOD? What the Bible Teaches Us

A devotional book that provides reassurance and answers to the age-old question, Is Jesus God?



David Harrison was born and raised in England and emigrated to Canada in 1973 at the age of 21. David became a Christ-follower at the age of 35. For 23-years David ran a successful audiovisual company in Toronto. In 2006 David founded Bus Stop Bible Studies, a ministry which used public transit advertising panels to display messages of encouragement to many millions of people in Canada.



Bernd Flock was born in Frankfurt, Germany and immigrated with his family to Canada when he was 18-months old. Bernd married his high school sweet-heart, and they have two daughters, and six grandchildren. After University Karin and Bernd went to Austria with Operation Mobilization for twenty months (1976-1978) and have been missionaries there since 1983. Photo credit: Merna El-Mohasel.

This devotional book may help you answer the age-old question: Is Jesus God? Here, we rely totally on Scripture for the answers, both from the Old and New Testaments.

Many people say: "He [Jesus] is God himself" but can we really say that? How can he be God when there are so many verses that show that he is under the Father or separate from the Father? Does the Bible teach about a triune God? Is it at all important that Jesus is God? Many ask why God didn't make it clear in His word. Pascal, a Catholic theologian, reasoned:

"Because He wanted to appear unveiled to those who seek him with all their heart, and because he wanted to stay veiled to those who flee from him with all their heart, he set his recognisability in such a way, that he gave signs of Himself, visible to those who seek him but invisible to those who do not seek him. There is enough light for those who want nothing else but to see, and there is enough darkness for the others who don't want to see."

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## IS JESUS GOD?

### WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES US

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#### **ABOUT THE AUTHORS**

DAVID HARRISON was born and raised in England and emigrated to Canada in 1973 at the age of 21. When he was 35, David became a Christ-follower. He is married and the father of two adult children. He attended a Brethren Bible Chapel in Scarborough for 25-years, ten of those years as an elder.

For 23-years David ran a successful audiovisual integration company in Toronto, Canada.

In 2006 David founded Bus Stop Bible Studies, a ministry which used public transit advertising panels to display messages of encouragement from the Word of God to many millions of people in Canada.

For 10-years David was the Board Chair of Daystar Native Christian Outreach, based on Manitoulin Island.

Now 'retired', David and his wife, Wendy, run a bed & Breakfast in Muskoka, and David (who failed miserably in English at school) has taken to writing as a hobby.

BERND FLOCK was born in Frankfurt, Germany and immigrated with his family to Canada when he was 18months old. He has a 4-year honors B.Sc. in Marine Biology from the university of Guelph, Ontario. Bernd married his high school sweet-heart, and they have two daughters, and six grandchildren. After University Karin and Bernd went to Austria with Operation Mobilization for twenty months (1976-1978) and have been missionaries there since 1983.

#### CITATIONS

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#### WHERE THESE QUESTIONS COME FROM

Quite a few years ago a dear family friend, Bernd Flock, shared with me an extensive list of questions concerning the deity of Jesus and answers from Scripture.

I am presently in the midst of writing another book, 'WHAT'S FOR DINNER, GOD?', 100 QUESTIONS PEOPLE ASK ABOUT GOD. In the process of researching answers to certain of these questions, I found myself repeatedly referencing Bernd's list. That in turn made me realize how reassuring so many of these, often much loved, verses are, and how much others would appreciate having such a treasure that you now hold in your hands.

Bernd's study used references from the King James Bible (KJV). In this book I have substituted references from the New International Version (NIV).

I was surprised how much time it has taken to compile, format, and add several Scripture passages of my own. So, I have to acknowledge how much of the 'heavy lifting' Bernd did in his original research some thirty years ago and the countless hours he invested.

We praise the One who provided the inspiration for this book.

David

"Man's chief end is to glorify God and enjoy him forever."

From the Westminster Shorter Catechism

Is Jesus God?

"O GOD, you have taught me from my earliest childhood, and I constantly tell others about the wonderful things you do. Now that I am old and grey, do not abandon me, O God. Let me proclaim your power to this new generation, your mighty miracles to all who come after me."

Psalm 71:17-18 NLT

#### **BEFORE WE BEGIN**

As we explore some of the things God says about Himself, and the person of Jesus Christ, His character, and why He does the things He does, it is essential that we have a more complete understanding of who God is. We cannot constrain God simply to the limitations of human understanding. The following is a [partial] list of the attributes of God and of Jesus as we see them in the Bible. It is important to note that God is all these things all the time. Every question we ask needs to be answered with these attributes active in the background.

God Is:

- Active
- Advocate [defender]
- Alive
- Approachable
- Author
- Avenger
- Beautiful [Lovely]
- Builder
- Benevolent
- Bountiful [generous]
- Commanding
- Compassionate
- Complete [Simplicity]
- Comforter
- Defender

- Deliverer
- Determined
- Discerning
- Emotional [Possibility]
- Encourager
- Eternal [Immortal]
- Faithful
- Friendly
- Gentle
- Good
- Glorious [unapproachable light]
- Gracious
- Healer
- Helper
- Holy [Pure]
- Humorous
- Humble
- Impartial
- Incomparable
- Incomprehensible
- Indestructible
- Infinite
- Innocent
- Intercessor
- Jealous
- Just [He judges all impartially]
- All Knowing [Omniscient]

- Life [The giver and sustainer of]
- Light [Radiant]
- Logical
- Longsuffering [Patient]
- Love
- All Loving
- Merciful
- Miracle Worker
- A Mystery [Incredible]
- Near [available]
- Nurturer
- Omnipresent
- One
- Physician
- Praiseworthy
- Pursuing
- All Powerful [Omnipotent, invincible]
- Present [Immanence]
- Promise Maker [Prophetic]
- Promise Keeper
- Protector [Guardian]
- Provider [Providential]
- Observer [He sees us]
- [One who] Redeems
- [One who] Remembers
- Real
- Reconciler

- Refuge [Protector]
- Resurrection
- Righteous
- Romantic
- Sacrificial [the Lamb of God]
- Salvation [from no one else]
- Satisfying
- Saviour [the One who saves]
- Servant
- Shepherd [He takes care of His flock]
- Sinless [Impeccability]
- Sovereign
- Spirit [Incorporeality]
- Teacher [Instructor]
- Transcendent
- Triune [Trinity]
- Truth [Veracity and honesty]
- Uncaused [Aseity]
- Unchanging [Immutability]
- Unmoving [Our Rock]
- Victorious [Triumphant]
- Water [of life]
- Warrior
- Wise
- Worthy [of worship]
- Wounded
- Wrathful

#### THE NAMES OF GOD

It is appropriate and helpful that as we read Scripture, especially in the Old Testament [Hebrew Bible], that we can look at the many names of God. To explore this more deeply you can reference the NAMES OF GOD BIBLE, published by Baker Publishing Group, and it is available for online reading at Biblegateway.com

Hebrew or Greek Name	BASIC MEANING	First Scriptural Use
Elohim	Mighty Ones	Genesis 1:1
El	Strong, Mighty, Mighty One	Genesis 14:18
El Shaddai	Almighty God, Most Powerful	Genesis 17:1
El Elyon	The Most High God	Genesis 14:18
El Olam	The Everlasting, Eternal God	Genesis 21:33
El Mosha'ah	God of Salvation, God the Deliverer	Psalm 68:20
Adonai	Master, Superior, the Highest Authority	Exodus 23:17

Is Jesus God?

"I AM"	The God who has existed for eternity and has no beginning or creator	Exodus 3:14
YHWH	The Eternal, the Self-Existing God	Genesis 2:4
YHWH El Kanna	Consuming fire, the jealous God	Exodus 34:14
YHWH Rapha	The Eternal Who Heals	Exodus 15:26
YHWH Jirah	The Eternal Will Provide	Genesis 22:14
YHWH Mekoddishkem	The Lord who Sanctifies You	Exodus 31:13
YHWH Nissi	The Eternal Is My	Exodus 17:15
	Banner	Exocus 17.15
YHWH Qanna	5	Exodus 17.15
YHWH Qanna YHWH Raah	Banner The Eternal Is	
	Banner The Eternal Is Jealous The Lord My	Exodus 20:5
YHWH Raah	Banner The Eternal Is Jealous The Lord My Sheppard	Exodus 20:5 Psalm 23:1
YHWH Raah YHWH Rapha	Banner The Eternal Is Jealous The Lord My Sheppard The Lord who heals	Exodus 20:5 Psalm 23:1 Exodus 15:26

Is Jesus God?

YHWH Tsidkenu	The Eternal Our Righteousness	Jeremiah 23:6
YHWH Tsaba'	The Eternal of Hosts/Armies	1 Samuel 1:3
YHWH Shalom	The Eternal of Peace	Judges 6:24

#### NEW TESTAMENT NAMES OF GOD

Theos	God, One who is divine	Matthew 1:23
	(Greek equivalent to <i>Elohim</i> )	
Kyrios	Master, supreme in authority	Matthew 1:20
	(Greek equivalent to <i>Adonai</i> )	
Despotes	Master, Lord	Luke 2:29
Iesous	"Jesus"	Matthew 1:1
	Greek version of	
	Yehshua (or	
	Joshua), meaning	
	"The Eternal is	
	salvation"	

#### INTRODUCTION - IS JESUS GOD?

This devotional book may help you answer the age-old question: Is Jesus God? Here, we rely totally on Scripture for the answers, both from the Old and New Testaments.

Hindus believe Jesus is just one of thousands of gods, Jehovah Witnesses believe that Jesus was a god, Muslims believe that Jesus was a great prophet. While there is no clear consensus on what Jews believe about Jesus there is general agreement about what they do not believe, especially about Jesus as Messiah<sup>1</sup>. Yet the Bible, read comprehensively, teaches that Jesus was fully God *and* Messiah – even in his humanity.

Many people say: "He is God himself" but can we really say that? How can he be God when there are so many verses that show that he is under the Father or separate from the Father? Does the Bible teach about a triune God? Is it at all important that Jesus is God? Many ask why God didn't make it clear in His word. Pascal<sup>2</sup>, a Catholic theologian, reasoned:

"Because He wanted to appear unveiled to those who seek him with all their heart, and because he wanted to stay veiled to those who flee from him with all their heart, he set his recognisability in such a way, that he gave signs

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> aish.com/why-jews-dont-believe-in-jesus/ (Christians generally disagree with the contextual interpretations presented on this website.)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blaise\_Pascal

of Himself, visible to those who seek him but invisible to those who do not seek him. There is enough light for those who want nothing else but to see, and there is enough darkness for the others who don't want to see."

If Jesus is God, then we have to give him the worship that God should have; to neglect in giving him this would be an insult to God. If Jesus Christ isn't God, then our worship would be blasphemy and idolatry, even if he was a higher being. If Jesus isn't God, then many are sinning because they "worshiped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed forever" Romans 1:25.

We let God's Word speak (all scripture references that follow are from the New International Version). More than forty different traits, attributes, and actions of God, that are fulfilled in the Person of Jesus Christ, are reviewed in this book.

It is important to read and comprehend Scripture *in context*. Therefore, you are encouraged to keep your Bible at hand and look up the referenced passages so that you can understand them as the writers intended. The last thing we want is to be accused of using Scripture out of context simply to make a point.

This book specifically focuses on the divinity of Jesus, the One who is God incarnate. For additional study, there are lists<sup>3</sup> to be found of the 351 Bible prophecies fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> newtestamentchristians.com/bible-study-resources/351-old-testament-prophecies-fulfilled-in-jesus-christ/

#### DO YOU HONOUR THE SON LIKE THE FATHER?

[Jesus said] "Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honour the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him."

John 5:22-23

#### CAN ANYONE OTHER THAN YAHWEH RECEIVE WORSHIP?

"You shall have no other gods before me."

Exodus 20:3

"Do not worship any other god, for the LORD<sup>4</sup>, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God."

Exodus 34:14

Jesus<sup>5</sup> said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship<sup>6</sup> the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"

Matthew 4:10 and Luke 4:8

Thayer's Greek Lexicon: proskuneo

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Hebrew: Yahweh is El Kanna

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Greek: Yeshua

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Throughout the New Testament, the Greek word *proskuneo* is used consistently. The KJV Bible uses the word, 'worship' in all referenced verses. In the NIV, and some other translations, contextually, they use "knelt before him".

<sup>1)</sup> to kiss the hand to (towards) one, in token of reverence

<sup>2)</sup> among the Orientals, especially the Persians, to fall upon the knees and touch the ground with the forehead as an expression of profound reverence

<sup>3)</sup> in the NT by kneeling or prostration to do homage (to one) or make obeisance, whether in order to express respect or to make supplication

<sup>3</sup>a) used of homage shown to men and beings of superior rank

<sup>3</sup>b) to the Jewish high priests

<sup>3</sup>c) to God

<sup>3</sup>d) to Christ

<sup>3</sup>e) to heavenly beings

come to worship<sup>6</sup> him."

IS JESUS GOD?

**DID JESUS EVER RECEIVE WORSHIP?** 

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have

On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped<sup>6</sup> him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Matthew 2:11

A man with leprosy came and knelt before<sup>6</sup> him [Jesus] and said, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean."

Matthew 8:2

Matthew 2:1-2

While he was saying this, a synagogue leader came and knelt before<sup>6</sup> him [Jesus] and said, "My daughter has just died. But come and put your hand on her, and she will live."

Matthew 9:18

Then those who were in the boat worshiped<sup>6</sup> him [Jesus], saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Matthew 14:33

24

The woman came and knelt before him<sup>6</sup> [Jesus]. "Lord, help me!" she said.

Matthew 15:25

Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped<sup>6</sup> him.

Matthew 28:9

When they saw him [Jesus], they worshiped<sup>6</sup> him; but some doubted.

Matthew 28:17

Then they worshiped<sup>6</sup> him [Jesus] and returned to Jerusalem with great joy.

Luke 25:52

When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees<sup>6</sup> in front of him.

Mark 5:6

Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped<sup>6</sup> him.

John 9:38

Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. He went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne. 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 God's people. And they sang a new song, saying:

"You are worthy to take the scroll

and to open its seals,

because you were slain,

and with your blood you purchased for God

persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.

You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God,

and they will reign on the earth."

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. In a loud voice they were saying:

"Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,

to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!"

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying:

"To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb

be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!"

The four living creatures said, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshiped<sup>6</sup>.

Revelation 5:6-14

#### DOES THE BIBLE TELL US TO WORSHIP JESUS?

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2-9-11

And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says,

"Let all God's angels worship<sup>6</sup> him."

Hebrews 1:6

In a loud voice they were saying:

"Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,

to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!"

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying:

"To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb

be praise and honor and glory and power,

for ever and ever!"

The four living creatures said, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshiped<sup>6</sup>.

Revelation 5:12-14