**The Divine Son of God**

*An answer to error espoused by the Jehovah’s Witnesses.*

**Introduction**

1. Perhaps the greatest of many errors believed and espoused by the Jehovah’s witnesses is that of Jesus as a created being, and not God.
2. What does it mean that Jesus is “the Son of God?” – the Bible’s explanation and that of the Jehovah’s Witnesses is entirely different.
3. We must believe that Jesus is the Divine Son of God in order to have eternal life – **John 20:30-31**
4. Is Jesus called the “Son of God” because God created Him?
5. Teaching of the Jehovah’s Witnesses
   1. “Jesus Is Not God. Jesus is unique​—he is the only person created directly by God. That is why the Bible calls him God’s Son. (John 1:14)” (The Watchtower, No. 1, 2020, “The Truth About God and Christ”)
   2. “The expression “Son of God” acknowledges that God is the Creator, or Source, of all life, including that of Jesus.” (Bible Questions Answered, “Why is Jesus Called the Son of God?”, www.jw.org)
   3. “However, because Jesus was God’s first creation and the only one created directly by him, the Bible describes Jesus as the foremost Son of God.” (Bible Questions Answered, “Why is Jesus Called the Son of God?”, www.jw.org)
6. What does the Bible teach?
   1. **Bible uses of the phrase “son of God”:**
      1. *Human beings* – **Luke 3:38** – as those created by God.
      2. *Children of God* – **Romans 9:26** – those who are righteous and are in fellowship with God.
      3. *Angels* – **Job 1:6; 2:1**
      4. *Jesus as the divine Son of God* – **Romans 1:4** – the resurrection was ultimate proof, and thus made the declaration.
   2. **Jesus is eternal, not created:**
      1. **John 1:1** – clearly indicates the eternal nature of the Word (preincarnate Son of God).
      2. Jehovah’s Witnesses translation – ***“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was a god.” (John 1:1, New World Translation.)***
         1. ““The beginning” refers to the time when God began his creative work and produced the Word.” (Bible Verses Explained, “John 1:1​—'In the Beginning Was the Word’”, www.jw.org)
         2. “The phrase “the Word was a god” describes the divine or godlike nature that Jesus possessed before he came to earth. He can be described in this way because of his role as God’s Spokesman and his unique position as the firstborn Son of God through whom God created all other things.” (ibid.)
      3. **John 1:2-3** – further explains **verse 1**
         1. **Beginning** – when creation started, the Word was already there – ***“with God”*** – i.e. in the same way God was already there.
         2. **(v. 3)** – all things made through Him – if He Himself was made, this makes no sense.
         3. **Cf. Colossians 1:15-17** – explains the idea of ***“firstborn over all creation”*** by showing He created all things.
            1. **It is illogical to say He is both Creator of all things and also Himself created.**
            2. **Revelation 3:14** – Beginning of creation in the active sense of being the cause of the beginning of creation.
   3. **Jesus is the “Son of God” in the unique sense of sharing God’s nature:**
      1. **John 1:14** – the Word who is eternal **(v. 1)** became flesh, ***“the only begotten of the Father.”***
      2. ***“only begotten”*** – *monogenēs* – “pert. to being the only one of its kind or class, unique (in kind)” (BDAG)
      3. ***“dwelt among us…beheld His glory”*** – literally, tabernacled among us – drawing on the glory of Jehovah in the tabernacle, saying that Jesus possesses that same glory, tabernacling in the flesh.
      4. I.e. He shares the same nature as the Father – **Colossians 2:9; 1 John 5:20**
   4. **Jesus is the “Son of God” because He possesses the same nature as God.**
7. Jesus never claimed to be God?
8. Teaching of the Jehovah’s Witnesses
   1. “Jesus Christ never claimed to be God. Instead, he explained: “I am a representative from [God], and that One sent me.” (John 7:29) When speaking to one of his disciples, Jesus called Jehovah “my Father and your Father” and “my God and your God.” (John 20:17) After Jesus died, Jehovah resurrected him to life in heaven and gave him great authority at His right hand.​” (The Watchtower, No. 1, 2020, “The Truth About God and Christ”)
      1. ***“But I know Him, for I am from Him, and He sent Me.” (John 7:29)***
9. What does the Bible teach?
   1. After Jesus healed a man at the pool of Bethesda – **John 5:16-18**
      1. **(v. 18)** – the logical conclusion they reached based on His statement was that He claimed to be equal with God.
      2. Rather than deny it, Jesus confirmed it:
         1. They are one in action – **John 5:19**
         2. They are one in honor – **John 5:22-23** – should honor Son in same way!
         3. They have life in themselves – **John 5:26**
         4. They are one in judgment – **John 5:29-30; 12:48**
   2. Jesus’ claim to be “I AM” is an emphatic claim to be God – **John 8:58**
      1. Jesus spoke to His origin and nature, and the necessity of believing such – **John 8:23-24** – ***“believe that I am”*** (Same as **verse 58**)
      2. ***“I AM”*** is a direct reference to Jehovah’s interaction with Moses – **Exodus 3:13-15** – I AM = ***“The LORD (Jehovah) God of your fathers”***
         1. I.e. when Jesus claimed to be the “I AM” He made Himself one with, equal with God.
      3. **John 8:59** – they attempted to stone Him for doing the same thing He did before – **John 5:18** – making Himself equal with God.
10. Is Jesus Michael the Archangel?
11. Teaching of the Jehovah’s Witnesses
    1. “The archangel, Michael, is the chief angel in terms of power and authority. The Scriptures clearly indicate that Michael is another name for Jesus Christ.​—1 Thessalonians 4:16; Jude 9.” (The Watchtower, No. 5, 2017, “The Truth About Angels”)
12. What does the Bible teach?
    1. **1 Thessalonians 4:16** – does not teach that Jesus IS an archangel, but that His coming will be accompanied by the voice of an archangel.
       1. Also ***“with a shout.”***
       2. Also ***“with the trumpet of God.”***
       3. If ***“with the voice of an archangel”*** means that Jesus IS an archangel, then wouldn’t ***“with the trumpet of God”*** mean that Jesus IS God?
    2. **Jude 9** – while this is used as proof of Jesus as the archangel Michael, it proves the opposite.
       1. What Michael was hesitant to do, Jesus did – ***“dared not bring against him a reviling accusation”***
       2. Jesus – **John 8:44** – brought a reviling accusation against the Devil.
    3. **Hebrews 1-2** shows that not only is Jesus not an angel, but that He is superior to the angels:
       1. **A more excellent name** – (**1:4-5)** – Son of God (of the same nature)
       2. **Worshiped by angels** – (**1:6)**
       3. **Called God, and given a throne** – (**1:8-9**)
       4. **Creator, not created** – (**1:7, 10-12**)
       5. **The *“world to come”* made subject to Him** – **2:5; Matthew 28:18; 1 Peter 3:22** – angels are actually made subject to Him.
13. Jesus should not be worshiped?
14. Teaching of the Jehovah’s Witnesses
    1. “we do not worship Jesus, as we do not believe that he is Almighty God.” (Frequently Asked Questions, “Do Jehovah’s Witnesses believe in Jesus?,” [www.jw.org](http://www.jw.org))
    2. “Jehovah, and no one else, is “the true God and life everlasting.” He alone is worthy to receive exclusive worship from those whom he created.​—Revelation 4:11.” (The Watchtower – Study Edition, October 15, 2004, “Who is ‘the True God and Life Everlasting’?”)
15. What does the Bible teach?
    1. Only God is worthy of worship – **Exodus 20:3-5; 2 Kings 17:36; Matthew 4:10**
       1. Consequence of Herod receiving glory as God – **Acts 12:21-24** – struck by God, eaten by worms and died.
       2. Refusal to receive worship – **Acts 14:11, 14-16** – we are men like you!
       3. Must refrain from worshiping angels – **Revelation 19:10; 22:8-9; Colossians 2:18-19**
    2. Jesus accepted worship:
       1. After He walked on water – **Matthew 14:33**
       2. The blind man Jesus healed – **John 9:38**
       3. At the appearance of the risen Lord – **Matthew 28:9-10**
       4. In Galilee before Jesus’ ascension – **Matthew 28:17**
       5. When Thomas was convinced of His resurrection – **John 20:28**
       6. **CONTRARY TO THE APOSTLES AND ANGELS – Jesus did not rebuke those who worshiped Him and did not refuse the worship.**
       7. **CONTRARY TO HEROD – Jesus was not struck dead as punishment for receiving worship.**
    3. Jehovah’s Witnesses have changed the translation of *proskyneō* (worship) to “obeisance” in the New World Translation when it refers to Jesus as the object of worship. The change is arbitrary and inconsistent.
       1. They do this to suggest that Jesus is worthy of honor, but not worship like God.
    4. Contexts of Jesus being worshiped show He is worshiped like God is. Especially in **Revelation 4-5**:
       1. The scene of the throne room of God where He is worshiped – **Revelation 4:9-11**
       2. The Lamb is introduced as standing in the midst of the throne – **Revelation 5:6**
          1. John identifies Jesus as the Lamb of God – **John 1:29, 36**
          2. Peter called Jesus the spotless Lamb – **1 Peter 1:19**
       3. The Lamb is worthy of worship – **Revelation 5:11-14**
          1. **Revelation 4:11; 5:12** – synonymous language for worship of God and the Lamb.
          2. **(v. 13)** – the ***“Blessing and honor and glory and power”*** are to God on His throne ***“AND TO THE LAMB”***

**Conclusion**

1. The Bible is very clear concerning the fact that Jesus is God.
2. This is an imperative doctrine which must be accepted and confessed in order to be saved
3. This truth must be defended.