Is Jesus God? by Herbert Armstrong

Presented as a Sermon by Daniel Deininger
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Intro:
UCG President John Elliott extracted this material from an article by Herbert Armstrong. It was sent to the ministry as a reminder of the importance of Jesus in the plan of God as we prepare for the Passover. I thought it would be equally important for all the brethren to hear it.

Is Jesus God? Is He the same as *Jehovah*? This all-important subject has become jumbled.

> This became "jumbled" even by some in the United Church of God a few years ago.

Jesus Christ came to pay the penalty for sin in our stead. He gave of Himself, that we might be reconciled to God. How was this made possible?

> 2 Cor 5:18

First, if Jesus had been only human, His death could have paid the penalty for but one other human who had incurred that penalty by transgression of God's spiritual law (Romans 6:23).

> *Romans 6:23 NLT - For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Life alone can beget life. This is the absolute law of biogenesis. Man does not have eternal life inherent in himself. But, *"And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life"* (1 John 5:11-12 NKJV).

He was also human

When we sin, we break God's perfect spiritual law, *"for sin is the transgression of the law"* (1 John 3:4). The penalty for this sin is death. The penalty must be paid. It must be paid by man.

Therefore, Jesus, who is and was God, who has always existed (John 1:1-2),

> *John 1:1 NKJV - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*
> *John 1:2 NKJV - He was in the beginning with God.*

was actually made flesh (verse 14).

> *John 1:14 NKJV - And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.*

Notice Hebrews 2:14: *"Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood,* ***He Himself likewise shared in the same.****"*

Yahveh was the God of Israel, the **only One** of the Godhead known to ancient Israel. When He came in human flesh they did not recognize Him. *"He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and* ***the world knew him not****"* (John 1:10).

Yahveh was the "WORD" or Spokesman of the Godhead—its second member. As soon as God began to SPEAK to man, it was always Yahveh who spoke—see Genesis 2:16, 18 and Exodus 20:2).

> *Genesis 2:16 NKJV - And the* ***LORD*** *God commanded the man,* ***saying,*** *"Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat;*
> *Genesis 2:17 NKJV - "but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."*
> *Genesis 2:18 NKJV - And the* ***LORD*** *God* ***said****, "[It is] not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."*

LORD = H3068 = **Yᵉhôvâh,** yeh-ho-vaw'; from H1961; (the) self-Existent or Eternal; Jeho-vah, Jewish national name of God:—Jehovah, the Lord. Compare H3050, H3069.The KJV translates Strong's H3068 in the following manner: LORD (6,510x), GOD (4x), JEHOVAH (4x), variant (1x).

Outline of Biblical Usage [?]

I. Jehovah = "the existing One"
  1. the proper name of the one true God
    A. unpronounced except with the vowel pointings of H136

God = H430 = **'ĕlôhîym,** el-o-heem'; plural of H433; gods in the ordinary sense; but specifically used (in the plural thus, especially with the article) of the supreme God; occasionally applied by way of deference to magistrates; and sometimes as a superlative:—angels, × exceeding, God (gods) (-dess, -ly), × (very) great, judges, × mighty.
The KJV translates Strong's H430 in the following manner: God (2,346x), god (244x), judge (5x), GOD (1x), goddess (2x), great (2x), mighty (2x), angels (1x), exceeding (1x), God-ward (with H4136) (1x), godly (1x).

Outline of Biblical Usage [?]

I. (plural)
  1. rulers, judges
  2. divine ones
  3. angels
  4. gods

II. (plural intensive - singular meaning)
  1. god, goddess
  2. godlike one
  3. works or special possessions of God
  4. the (true) God
  5. God

Exodus 20:1 NKJV - And God spoke all these words, saying:
Exodus 20:2 NKJV - "I [am] the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

As a fragment of the evidence, compare Isaiah 8:13-14 with 1 Peter 2:7-8. Isaiah said, *"The LORD of hosts"—YHVH— shall be "a stone of stumbling" and "a rock of offence."* Peter said, in quoting this text in reference to Christ, *He is "a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence."* Jesus is the LORD —the Eternal of the Old Testament.

Isaiah 8:13 NKJV - The LORD of hosts, Him you shall hallow; [Let] Him [be] your fear, And [let] Him [be] your dread.
Isaiah 8:14 NKJV - He will be as a sanctuary, But a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense To both the houses of Israel, As a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

1 Peter 2:7 NKJV - Therefore, to you who believe, [He is] precious; but to those who are disobedient, "The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone,"
1 Peter 2:8 NKJV - and "A stone of stumbling And a rock of offense." They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed.

Now compare Isaiah 40:3 with Matthew 3:3 and Mark 1:3. John prepared the way before Yahveh (Isaiah 40:3) who was CHRIST (Mark 1:14-15).

*Isaiah 40:3 NKJV - The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the **LORD;** Make straight in the desert A highway for our God.*

Matthew 3:1 NKJV - In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea,
Matthew 3:2 NKJV - and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"
*Matthew 3:3 NKJV - For **this is he** who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying: "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.' "*

*Mark 1:1 NKJV - The beginning of the gospel of **Jesus Christ, the Son of God**.*
Mark 1:2 NKJV - As it is written in the Prophets: "Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You."
Mark 1:3 NKJV - "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.' "
…
Mark 1:11 NKJV - Then a voice came from heaven, "You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."
…
*Mark 1:14 NKJV - Now after John was put in prison, **Jesus** came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,*
Mark 1:15 NKJV - and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

In Revelation 1:17 we read: "*When I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last."* And in verse 8, *"I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty."*

Now compare these texts with Isaiah 44:6: *"Thus says the LORD the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: 'I am the First and I am the Last; besides Me there is no God.'"*

And also in Isaiah 41:4, *"Who has performed and done it, calling the generations from the beginning? '**I, the LORD, am the first; and with the last I am He.**'"* All of these scriptures show that Yahveh is the first and last.

Christ is the Rock

In 1 Corinthians 10:4, the "Rock" of the Old Testament is called Christ: *"and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and **that Rock was Christ**."*

Notice also 2 Samuel 22:2-3: "*And he said: 'The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; the God of my strength, in whom I will trust; my shield and the horn of my salvation…my Savior.*'" See also verse 32.

> 2 Samuel 22:32 NKJV - "For who [is] God, except the LORD? And who [is] a rock, except our God?

In Psalm 18:1-2, this same "ROCK" is Yahveh.

> Psalm 18:1 NKJV - To the Chief Musician. [A Psalm] of David the servant of the LORD, who spoke to the LORD the words of this song on the day that the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul. And he said: I will love You, O LORD, my strength.
> Psalm 18:2 NKJV - **The LORD is my rock** and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

When Moses was talking to Yahveh, and asked Him His name (Exodus 3:4-5, 13), He answered that His name was "*I AM*" (verses 6, 14) and Yahveh—the Eternal One (verse 15).

> *Exodus 3:3 NKJV - Then Moses said, "I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn."*
> *Exodus 3:4 NKJV - So when the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am."*
> *Exodus 3:5 NKJV - Then He said, "Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand [is] holy ground."*
> *Exodus 3:6 NKJV - Moreover He said, "**I [am]** the God of your father--the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God.*

Exodus 3:7 NKJV - And the LORD said: "I have surely seen the oppression of My people who [are] in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows.
Exodus 3:8 NKJV - "So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites.
Exodus 3:9 NKJV - "Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them.
Exodus 3:10 NKJV - "Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt."
Exodus 3:11 NKJV - But Moses said to God, "Who [am] I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?"
Exodus 3:12 NKJV - So He said, "I will certainly be with you. And this [shall be] a sign to you that I have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain."
Exodus 3:13 NKJV - Then Moses said to God, "Indeed, [when] I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What [is] His name?' what shall I say to them?"
Exodus 3:14 NKJV - And God said to Moses, ***"I AM WHO I AM."*** *And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel,* ***'I AM has sent me to you.'*** *"*
*Exodus 3:15 NKJV - Moreover God said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: '****The LORD God*** *of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This [is] My name forever, and this [is] My memorial to all generations.'*

See also Exodus 6:2-3: "*And God spoke to Moses and said to him: 'I am the* LORD*. I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by My name* LORD *I was not known to them.*"

In John 18:5-8, as soon as Jesus identified Himself to the mob led by Judas as "I AM" (the "He" in italics is added without inspiration, and was not in the original), they went backward and fell to the ground.

John 18:5 NKJV - They answered Him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am [He]." And Judas, who betrayed Him, also stood with them.

Hebrew Names Version:They answered him, "Yeshua of Natzeret." Yeshua said to them, ***"I AM."*** *Yehudah also, who betrayed him, was standing with them.*

John 18:6 NKJV - Now when He said to them, "I am [He]," they drew back and fell to the ground.
John 18:7 NKJV - Then He asked them again, "Whom are you seeking?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth."
John 18:8 NKJV - Jesus answered, "I have told you that I am [He]. Therefore, if you seek Me, let these go their way,"

Hebrew Names Version: Yeshua answered, "I told you that ***I AM****. If therefore you seek me, let these go their way,"*

Again, in John 8:56-58, Jesus called Himself *"I AM."* For we read, *"Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, before Abraham was, I am" (verse 58).*

John 8:54 NKJV - Jesus answered, "If I honor Myself, My honor is nothing. It is My Father who honors Me, of whom you say that He is your God.
John 8:55 NKJV - "Yet you have not known Him, but I know Him. And if I say, 'I do not know Him,' I shall be a liar like you; but I do know Him and keep His word.
John 8:56 NKJV - "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw [it] and was glad."
John 8:57 NKJV - Then the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?"
John 8:58 NKJV - Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM."
John 8:59 NKJV - Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

The person of the Godhead who is our REDEEMER is Jesus Christ.

Also, in Isaiah 48:17, Yahveh is called the Redeemer, and "the Holy One of Israel"—the One of Israel who is holy!

Isaiah 48:17 NKJV - Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, The Holy One of Israel: "I [am] the LORD your God, Who teaches you to profit, Who leads you by the way you should go.

The same is expressed in Isaiah 43:14: *"Thus saith the Lord, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel.*" Also note the next verse (15)*: I am the LORD, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King."*

*Isaiah 43:14 NKJV - Thus says **the LORD, your Redeemer,** The Holy One of Israel: "For your sake I will send to Babylon, And bring them all down as fugitives--The Chaldeans, who rejoice in their ships.*
Isaiah 43:15 NKJV - I [am] the LORD, your Holy One, The Creator of Israel, your King."

Christ was David's Shepherd

Who was David's shepherd (Psalm 23:1)?

Psalm 23:1 NKJV - A Psalm of David. The LORD [is] my shepherd; I shall not want.

In John 10:11, Jesus said He was the Shepherd.

John 10:11 NKJV - "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.

Hebrews 13:20: *"Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, **that great Shepherd of the sheep**, through the blood of the everlasting covenant."*

Compare this text with 1 Peter 2:25, which says, *"For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls."* We also read: *"Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor*

*as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; and **when the Chief Shepherd appears**, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away" (1 Peter 5:2-4).*

It is JESUS CHRIST who is coming again in person as KING of kings to rule, and to RESTORE.

The great Shepherd who is coming to RULE as King of kings is Yahveh. *"And ye my flock, the flock of my pasture, are men, and I am your God, saith the Lord God"—Yahveh or Christ!* See Ezekiel 34:11, 30-31.

> *Ezekiel 34:11 NKJV - 'For thus says the Lord GOD: "Indeed I Myself will search for My sheep and seek them out.*
> *…*
> *Ezekiel 34:30 NKJV - "Thus they shall know that I, the LORD their God, [am] with them, and they, the house of Israel, [are] My people," says the Lord GOD.' "*
> *Ezekiel 34:31 NKJV - "You are My flock, the flock of My pasture; you [are] men, [and] I [am] your God," says the Lord GOD.*

Now notice Isaiah 2:1-4 and Micah 4:1-4. "*It shall come to pass...that the mountain [Kingdom] of the Lord's [Yahveh's] house shall be established in the top of the mountains [kingdoms]"*—ruling the world. *"And he [Yahveh—Christ] shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people," and then they shall have PEACE.*

> *Isaiah 2:1 NKJV - The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.*
> *Isaiah 2:2 NKJV - Now it shall come to pass in the latter days [That] the mountain of the LORD's house Shall be established on the top of the mountains, And shall be exalted above the hills; And all nations shall flow to it.*
> *Isaiah 2:3 NKJV - Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.*
> *Isaiah 2:4 NKJV - He shall judge between the nations, And rebuke many people; They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, Neither shall they learn war anymore.*
>
> *Micah 4:2 NKJV - Many nations shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion the law shall go forth, And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.*
> *Micah 4:3 NKJV - He shall judge between many peoples, And rebuke strong nations afar off; They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, Neither shall they learn war anymore.*
> *Micah 4:4 NKJV - But everyone shall sit under his vine and under his fig tree, And no one shall make [them] afraid; For the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken.*

In almost every Old Testament passage, the LORD Yahveh—the Eternal—is Jesus Christ.

And as we come to Passover, we can be thankful to Jesus Christ for all He has done!

Revelation 5:5 NKJV - But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals."
Revelation 5:6 NKJV - And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, **stood a Lamb as though it had been slain,** having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.
Revelation 5:7 NKJV - Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.
Revelation 5:8 NKJV - Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.
Revelation 5:9 NKJV - **And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,**
Revelation 5:10 NKJV - And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth."
Revelation 5:12 NKJV - saying with a loud voice: **"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!"**
Revelation 5:13 NKJV - And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: "Blessing and honor and glory and power [Be] to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!"

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[The above are excerpts from: "Is Jesus God" by Herbert Armstrong, 1950, 1955, 1967, 1972, 1977, 1982]
Available on the UCG-MT.org website:
https://ucg-mt.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Is_Jesus_God.pdf

Additional Resources:

"Mini-Bible Study: An Amazing Truth: Jesus Christ and the Old Testament."
https://www.ucg.org/good-news/good-news-magazine-november-december-2013/mini-bible-study-amazing-truth-jesus-christ-and-old-testament

UCG Bible Study by Rick Shabi: Isaiah 49: YHWH and the One Who Became Christ
https://www.ucg.org/sermons/bible-study-august-30-2023-isaiah-49-yhwh-and-one-who-became-christ
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