



Who Is Jesus? Hebrews 1:3

Sunrise over Grand Canyon



Describe this for me as if I was blind

Who is Jesus?

- This is the same feeling I get trying to answer the question, “Who is Jesus?”
- We are quickly coming upon the time where most of the world will celebrate His birth?
 - Actually, they are celebrating time off from work, getting with families, parties, receiving presents without stopping and taking a long, deep look at who was in that manger
- This is the question I want to spend some time with over the next few weeks so we can honestly and accurately celebrate His birth

Scripture – Hebrews 1:3 ESV

- 3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.
- **Complete Jewish Bible**, “3 This Son is the radiance of the Sh’khinah (*presence of God*), the very expression of God’s essence, upholding all that exists by his powerful word; and after he had, through himself, made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of HaG’dulah BaM’romim (*the Greatest in the heights or the Greatness on high*).
- **John 1:1 ESV**, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

Who is Jesus?

- Just a simple reading of this verse shows us we are trying to define someone that we have nothing to compare to
 - If someone raised donkeys but had never seen a horse, how would you begin to describe a horse to them?
 - Being a guitar player, I could begin to help you see how great a guitar player Stevie Ray Vaughn or Joe Bonamassa are, we have something ever so slightly in common
- There is nothing in this created universe that can be use for comparison to understand who Jesus is
- The Hebrews author and the Apostle John have only one comparison to help us understand, and that is to El Elyon (*God Most High*)

He is the radiance of the glory of God, the radiance of the Sh'khinah (*presence of God*)

- Radiance is a shining forth, direct like the sun or indirect like the moon
 - When we see Jesus, we see God's glory revealed as never before
 - **Psalm 19:1 ESV**, "1 The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands."
 - **John 1:4-5 ESV**, "4 In him was life, and that life was the light (*radiance*) of all mankind. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."
 - **Matthew 4:16 ESV**, "16 the people living in darkness have seen a great light (*glory*); on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light (*glory*) has dawned."

He is the radiance of the glory of God, the radiance of the Sh'khinah (presence of God)

- Kenneth Wuest, “Glory in Greek refers to the expression of the divine attributes collectively and completely”
 - To get a true sense of the glory of a lion you must take every single one of its traits, characteristics, nature
 - God’s glory is an expression of who he is; it is what we can see and experience
 - God’s glory reveals His holiness to us
 - God’s glory is an expression of His love towards us
 - God’s glory reveals his righteousness

He is the radiance of the glory of God, the radiance of the Sh'khinah (*presence of God*)

- Jesus is **THE** primary reflection of God's glory
 - When you see Jesus in Scripture, you see God
 - When you hear Jesus in Scripture, you hear God
 - When you see His tears in Scripture, they are the tears of God
 - **John 14:9 ESV**, "Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. "
 - When a Jewish mind heard the expression "*Father*", they knew Jesus was referencing God Almighty

He is the radiance of the glory of God, the radiance of the Sh'khinah (*presence of God*)

- “the radiance of the Sh'khinah”
 - Shekinah Glory is a visible manifestation of God on earth, whose presence is portrayed through a natural occurrence
 - The word shekinah is a Hebrew name meaning “*dwelling*” or “*one who dwells*”
 - Shekinah Glory means “*He caused to dwell,*” referring to the divine presence of God

He is the radiance of the glory of God, the radiance of the Sh'khinah (*presence of God*)

- “the radiance of the Sh'khinah”
 - **Exodus 13:21-22 ESV**, “21 By day the Lord went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night. 22 Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people.”
- The Shekinah Glory of God, God’s visible presence on earth, is seen in the person of Jesus Christ

Jesus is the exact imprint of God's nature, the very expression of God's essence

- A dollar bill produced by The Bureau of Engraving and Printing is an exact imprint or expression of the master plate
 - Except for....
 - The paper is the same, ink the same, identification strips the same to prove it is authentic
 - All of those traits must line up correctly before it is declared true and spendable

Jesus is the exact imprint of God's nature, the very expression of God's essence

- **NIV**, "Jesus is an exact representation of his (*God's*) being"
 - **NLT**, "Jesus expresses the very character of God"
- Everything that makes God, God, is found in the person of Jesus Christ without any variance or change
 - **Malachi 3:6 NIV**, "I the Lord do not change"
 - **Colossians 2:9 MSG**, "Everything of God gets expressed in him (*Christ*), so you can see and hear him (*God*) clearly. You don't need a telescope, a microscope, or a horoscope to realize the fullness of (*of God in*) Christ."

Jesus is the exact imprint of God's nature, the very expression of God's essence

- **John 10:27-33 NIV**, “27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. 30 I and the Father are one.”
 - 31 Again his Jewish opponents picked up stones to stone him, 32 but Jesus said to them, “I have shown you many good works from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?”
 - 33 “We are not stoning you for any good work,” they replied, “but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God.”

He upholds the universe by the word of his power, upholding all that exists by his powerful word

- Not only does Jesus possess all the traits and characteristics of God, but He also holds everything created together with all the authority of God
 - Uphold = to give support to, to support against an opponent, to keep elevated
 - Everything of creation is held in place to accomplish its created purpose by Jesus Christ

He upholds the universe by the word of his power, upholding all that exists by his powerful word

- **Colossians 1:15-17 NLT**, “15 Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, 16 for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can’t see—such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him.
 - 17 He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together.

He upholds the universe by the word of his power, upholding all that exists by his powerful word

- And He does it with His word
 - **Psalm 33:4-9 NLT**, “For the word of the Lord holds true, and we can trust everything he does. 5 He loves whatever is just and good; the unfailing love of the Lord fills the earth.
 - 6 The Lord merely spoke, and the heavens were created. He breathed the word, and all the stars were born. 7 He assigned the sea its boundaries and locked the oceans in vast reservoirs.
 - 8 Let the whole world fear the Lord and let everyone stand in awe of him. 9 For when he spoke, the world began! It appeared at his command.”

He upholds the universe by the word of his power, upholding all that exists by his powerful word

- Battle of Armageddon
 - **Revelation 19:11-16 NLT**, 11 Then I saw heaven opened, and a white horse was standing there. Its rider was named Faithful and True, for he judges fairly and wages a righteous war. 13 He wore a robe dipped in blood, and his title was the Word of God. 14 The armies of heaven, dressed in the finest of pure white linen, followed him on white horses. 15 From his mouth came a sharp sword to strike down the nations. He will rule them with an iron rod. He will release the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty, like juice flowing from a winepress. 16 On his robe at his thigh was written this title: King of all kings and Lord of all lords.

He upholds the universe by the word of his power, upholding all that exists by his powerful word

- Battle of Armageddon
 - **Revelation 19:19-21 NLT**, 19 Then I saw the beast and the kings of the world and their armies gathered together to fight against the one sitting on the horse and his army. 20 And the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who did mighty miracles on behalf of the beast—miracles that deceived all who had accepted the mark of the beast and who worshiped his statue. Both the beast and his false prophet were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. 21 Their entire army was killed by the sharp sword that came from the mouth of the one riding the white horse.

Who is Jesus?

- **John 1:14 NIV**, “14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”
 - He is God wrapped in flesh
 - And it is this same God Man Jesus who hung on a criminal’s cross bearing the penalty of your rebellion toward God so we might be born-again
 - Life can get real nasty, unfair, unjust, horrible, but don’t ever say God does not love you because it was demonstrated in the person of Jesus Christ

Who is Jesus?

- **John 1:12-13 NIV**, “12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—
13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.”



Who Is Jesus? Hebrews 1:3