

[Open Peer Review on Qeios](#)

Jesus Christ

Reza Rezaie Khanghah¹

¹ Shahid Rajaei Teacher Training University

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

In this paper we will discuss about:

- God is one and has no partner.
- Discussions by Imam Reza on Prophet Jesus (peace be upon him).
- Oneness of God
- Jesus and Imam Mahdi
- Was Jesus Crucified?
- Is Jesus the Same as God?

God is one and has no partner

God neither begets nor is born. No one is equal in nature and attributes to God.

God said: "O Jesus, son of Mary! Did you say to mankind: Take me and my mother for two gods beside God?"^[1]

Discussions by Imam Reza on Prophet Jesus (peace be upon him)

Imam Reza said that the fact that Jesus worshipped a lot shows that he was not God and he was a slave of God. This is confirmed in a statement made by a Catholic Archbishop, "Jesus never broke his fasting by day and never slept at night. He always fasted during the day and prayed at night."^[2]

This of course addresses the deviation in the Christian doctrine of the Holy Trinity, which is essentially a form of polytheism. If Prophet Jesus was continually engaged in worshipping of God, how can he and God be the same?

Imam Reza (PBUH) also alludes to the fact that the Bible as handed down can not necessarily be authenticated as the original, unadulterated Bible: he addresses the Catholic Archbishop, "O Catholic Archbishop! When you lost the first Bible, with whom did you find it?" – The Catholic Archbishop replied, "We only lost the Bible for one day. Then we found it fresh

(in its original state). John and Matthew brought it back to us."^[3]

Imam Reza (PBUH) sums up the grave consequences of this failure to safeguard the Bible when he says, "How little your knowledge of the Bible and its scholars is! If what you say is right, then why is there so much dispute amongst you with each other about the Bible? The reason is that there is controversy in the Bible which is in your hands today. Had it been the first Bible, there would be no disputes over it."^[4]

Oneness of God

One of the main doctrines in Christianity is the trinity. This idea comes from I John 5:7 "For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one." This verse indicates that God, Jesus, and the Holy Ghost are one. These words are John's words and not Jesus'. In the Bible, God and His prophets mention that God is only One, and not three in one:

And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord.^[5]

And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.^[6]

And the scribe said unto him, Well, Master, thou hast said the truth: for there is one God; and there is none other but he.^[7]

And to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love his neighbour as himself, is more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.^[8]

"Unto thee it was showed, that thou mightest know that the LORD he is God; there is none else beside him.^[9]

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD." God is one and not three in one.^[10]

"Yet I am the LORD thy God from the land of Egypt, and thou shalt know no god but me: for there is no saviour beside me."^[11]

"There is none holy as the LORD: for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock like our God!^[12]

"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.^[13]

"Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.^[14]

"One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.^[15]

"Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God."^[16]

"Fear ye not, neither be afraid: have not I told thee from that time, and have declared it? ye are even my witnesses. Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God; I know not any."^[17]

"I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me."^[18]

Jesus and Imam Mahdi^[19]

The Messenger of Allah (S) said in this regard: “When Isa ibn Maryam (Jesus the son of Mary) (‘a) comes down on earth from heaven and kills ad-Dajjal...”^[20]

The Prophet (S) also said: “When ‘Isa ibn Maryam (Jesus the son of Mary) comes down and kills ad-Dajjal, snakes and scorpions will not be hiding and will harm no one.”^[21]

Al-Hafidh Ibn Hajar al-Asqalani mentioned that, Imam Mahdi is of this Ummah, and that Isa (Jesus) (as) will come down and pray behind him.^[22]

This is also mentioned by another Sunni scholar, Ibn Hajar al-Haythami, who wrote, The Ahle Bayt are like the stars through whom we are guided in the right direction, and if the stars are taken away (or hidden) we would come face to face with the signs of the Almighty as promised (i.e., the Day of Resurrection). This will happen when Imam Mahdi will come, as mentioned in the traditions, and the Prophet Isa (Jesus) will recite prayers behind him, the Dajjal will be slain, and then the signs of the Almighty will appear one after another^[23].

Shahr ibn Hawshab said: “Hajjaj said to me: ‘O Shahr! There is a verse in the Qur’an that has exhausted me (and I do not understand its meaning).’ I asked: ‘Which verse?’ He replied: ‘It is when God says:

“There is none among the People of the Book but will surely believe in him before his death.”^[24]

And it has always happened that they would bring to me a Christian or a Jew and I would behead him, and then I would stare at his lips but they do not move (to utter the formula of faith) until his breath expires.’

Shahr ibn Hawshab said: “I said to him: ‘The meaning of the verse is not what you imagine; the meaning, instead, is that before the Day of Resurrection ‘Isa ibn Maryam (Jesus the son of Mary) (‘a) will come down from heaven and follow Hadrat al-Qa’im (Imam Mahdi)(‘atfs). At that time no Jew and Christian will be left except those who would believe in him before his death.’

“Hajjaj inquired: ‘From where have you learned this interpretation and who taught it to you?’ I answered: ‘Imam al-Baqir (‘a) taught this interpretation.’ Hajjaj said: ‘You have obtained it from the pure fountain’.”^[25]

The Messenger of Allah (S) also said: “...The Jews who are with ad-Dajjal will flee and conceal themselves, but the trees and stones will cry: ‘O Spirit of Allah (Jesus)! Here are the Jews.’ He will also kill them and no one will be left.”^[26]

Was Jesus Crucified?

One of the beliefs of Christianity is that Jesus died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins but let us examine this:

Willingness of Jesus Christ to die for our sins

Jesus talked to Peter and the two sons of Zebedee as in Matthew 26:38 "Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me." Then Jesus went a little further away from them and prayed to God as in Matthew 26:39 "And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt."

It is very obvious from the above verse in Matthew 26:39 that Jesus had no intention of dying. (Matthew mentions Jesus repeating this prayer three times) to have this death removed from him. (let this cup pass from me), Jesus would not have hesitated and tend to be killed at all. some said this hesitation came from the flesh side of him , and that his soul which is godly did not have this hesitation at all. When we look at Matthew 26:38 we see that Jesus was contradicting this idea by saying, "My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death."^[27]

God answered the prayers of Jesus Christ

After Jesus made the above mentioned prayer he was answered by God according to Hebrews 5:7 "Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared." So the above verse shows God responded to his prayer and saved him from death or crucifixion.

if we examine the bible more we will see these verses regarding Son of Man:

*Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee.^[28]
But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas:^[29]*

For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.^[30]

Jesus was crucified on Friday, known among all Christians, and it's the reason for calling that Friday by "Good Friday."

Jesus was buried on Friday night. Now let us start counting:

Friday night Jesus was buried. This is night 1.

Saturday day Jesus was still in the grave. This is day 1.

Saturday night Jesus was still in the grave. This is night 2.

Mary Magdalene, very early in the morning before sun rise and after the Sabbath (Saturday), went to see Jesus, and

found that he was not there. The following verses describe this event:

And when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him.^[31]

And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun.^[32]

And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre?^[33]

And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great.^[34]

And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted.^[35]

And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him.^[36]

The number of days and nights Jesus spent in the heart of the earth is 1 day and 2 nights. This challenges what Jesus had prophesied and if this Son of Man that Churchman refers that Son Of Man in Bible is Jesus, at here Son Of Man is Jesus? If he isn't Jesus so who is he?

Why Jesus have to die on the cross?

According to the Christian doctrine, Jesus died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins. The question is; why does anyone have to die for our sins when God, the all merciful, could as easily grant us forgiveness if we asked for it?

Jesus was not killed, not even crucified, but before Jesus was killed, God took him to heaven and saved him. In fact, if we want to define a savior in one sentence, we say that a savior is one who must be alive then May he save the people, and he should not die, and then God raised him up and save him. In fact, Jesus was not killed at all so that God would save him. If Jesus is killed, it's questionable that he is the savior, because the savior is the one whom God protects from danger and is not killed.

The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.^[37]

But if the wicked will turn from all his sins that he hath committed, and keep all my statutes, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die.^[38]

"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man."^[39]

"And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the

LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.^[40]

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."^[41]

"Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil."^[42]

"For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."^[43]

Jesus Christ may not have died on Cross.^[44]

Is Jesus the Same as God?

In John 10:30 Jesus said,

"I and my Father are one." This verse, according to Christians, shows God and Jesus Christ to be same.

But in John 20:17,

"Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God."

In other words Jesus himself had a God. Also,

"And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? That is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"^[45]

"I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me."^[46]

"...for my Father is greater than I"^[47]

If Jesus the same as God were then he would not have said what he said in the above verses.

let examine Jesus said I and my Father are one;

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.^[48]

And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.^[49]

My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.^[50]

I and my Father are one.^[51]

As you read from John 10:28 and John 10:29 Jesus was telling the Jews that he and God share something in common, and it was: no man is able to pluck the faithful from either of their hands. This is not mean that Jesus was himself God.

In continue:

Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him.^[52]

Jesus answered them, Many good works have I showed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me?^[53]

The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God.^[54]

Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are gods?^[55]

If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken,^[56]

Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God?^[57]

If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not.^[58]

But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him.^[59]

Therefore they sought again to take him: but he escaped out of their hand.^[60]

In John 10:31 Jews misunderstood what Jesus had said "I and my Father are one."^[61]

And in John 10:33 they accused him of blasphemy. Jesus said, "Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are gods?" What he was trying to say was that if the Jews called "I and my Father are one" blasphemy then they should call what was written in their law "Ye are gods" blasphemy too. The reasoning behind this is "Ye are gods" does not mean that you, the Jews, are Gods, it is rather an expression that means you are godly people. The same applies to "I and my Father are one." It does not mean that Jesus is God or that he and God are the same literally. It's just an expression. (The same goes for calling himself "the Son of God." This statement should not be taken literally either).

Some other proofs regarding that Jesus is not God:

“Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.”^[62]

“Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.”^[63]

“I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.”^[64]

“And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? There is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.”^[65]

“Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I.”^[66]

Now you best understand the discussions by Imam Reza on Prophet Jesus (peace be upon him).

References

- ^{1.} [^] *Quran 5:116.*
- ^{2.} [^] *Uyun Akhbar ar-Ridha Volume 1, ch. 12: A Session of Al-Ridha (a.s.)’s Debate with Prominent Theologians from among the Rhetoricians and The Various Religions.*
- ^{3.} [^] *Ibid.*
- ^{4.} [^] *Ibid.*
- ^{5.} [^] *Mark 12:29.*
- ^{6.} [^] *Mark 12:30.*
- ^{7.} [^] *Mark 12:32.*
- ^{8.} [^] *Mark 12:33.*
- ^{9.} [^] *Deuteronomy 4:35.*
- ^{10.} [^] *Deuteronomy 6:4.*
- ^{11.} [^] *Hosea 13:4.*
- ^{12.} [^] *I Samuel 2:2.*
- ^{13.} [^] *I Timothy 2:5.*
- ^{14.} [^] *James 2:19.*
- ^{15.} [^] *Ephesians 4:6.*
- ^{16.} [^] *Isaiah 44:6.*
- ^{17.} [^] *Isaiah 44:8.*
- ^{18.} [^] *Isaiah 45:5.*

19. [^] [Website](#).
20. [^] *Ibn Tawus, Malahim, p. 97.*
21. [^] *Ibn Tawus, Malahim, p. 97.*
22. [^] *Fath al-Bari, by Ibn Hajar al-Asqalani volume 5 page 362.*
23. [^] *al-Sawa'iq al-Muhriqah, by Ibn Hajar chapter 11 section 1 p234.*
24. [^] *Surah an-Nisa' 4:159.*
25. [^] *Qummi, Tafsir Qummi, p. 146; Ihqaq al-Haqq, vol. 13, p. 332; Al-'Ara'is al-Wadihah, p. 209; Bihar al-Anwar, vol. 14, p. 349.*
26. [^] *Ahmad ibn Hanbal, Musnad Ibn Hanbal, vol. 3, p. 367; Hakim, Mustadrak, vol. 4, p. 503. See Ibn Hammad, Fitana, p. 159; Ibn Majah, Sunan Ibn Majah, vol. 2, p. 1359.*
27. [^] *Matthew 26:38.*
28. [^] *Matthew 12:38.*
29. [^] *Matthew 12:39.*
30. [^] *Matthew 12:40.*
31. [^] *Mark 16:1.*
32. [^] *Mark 16:2.*
33. [^] *Mark 16:3.*
34. [^] *Mark 16:4.*
35. [^] *Mark 16:5.*
36. [^] *Mark 16:6.*
37. [^] *Ezekiel 18:20.*
38. [^] *Ezekiel 18:21.*
39. [^] *Ecclesiastes 12:13.*
40. [^] *I Samuel 15:22.*
41. [^] *II Chronicles 7:14.*
42. [^] *Matthew 5:17.*
43. [^] *Matthew 5:18 and 5:19.*
44. [^] [Website](#).
45. [^] *Matthew 27:46.*
46. [^] *John 5:30.*
47. [^] *John 14:28.*
48. [^] *John 10:27.*
49. [^] *John 10:28.*
50. [^] *John 10:29.*
51. [^] *John 10:30.*
52. [^] *John 10:31.*
53. [^] *John 10:32.*



54. [^] [John 10:33](#).
55. [^] [John 10:34](#).
56. [^] [John 10:35](#).
57. [^] [John 10:36](#).
58. [^] [John 10:37](#).
59. [^] [John 10:38](#).
60. [^] [John 10:39](#).
61. [^] [John 10:30](#).
62. [^] [John 5:19](#).
63. [^] [John 20:17](#).
64. [^] [John 5:30](#).
65. [^] [Matthew 19:17](#).
66. [^] [John 14:28](#).