

The Divinity of Jesus

Jesus is the Messiah, God Incarnated. This truth revealed by the Books of the New Testament is the basis of our faith. Yet, some people, all along the centuries, tried to destroy this doctrine basing themselves on the Gospels. The "Nicolaitans" (Revelation 2,6), the followers of "Arius" -IIIrd century AD- and "Jehovah's Witnesses" are among those. The main verses on which they base their arguments to deny Christ's Divinity are the following:

1- John 14,28: "The Father is greater than I", said Jesus. He is not therefore God, since he is lower than him.

2- Acts 2,22: "Jesus... this **man**..."

3- Romans 5,15: The grace confided to only one **man**.

4- 1 Timothy 2,5: The unique mediator is the Christ, a **man**.

They conclude by these verses that the Christ is not God incarnated but just a man.

Answer to the first point:

John begins his Gospel by revealing: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was at the beginning with God... And the Word became flesh and He lived among us..." (John 1,1-14).

God's Word, Jesus, through incarnation, came down to men's level by taking a human body. This human condition is lower than the divine nature, but doesn't cancel it. Jesus is therefore man and God. He is God incarnated. Jesus is right, therefore, to say that the Father, as Eternal Spirit, is greater than Him as created temporal body.

This is what Paul explains in his letter to the Philippians 2,6-11:

"Jesus, of **divine condition**, did not keep jealously the rank **that equaled Him to God**. But He annihilated Himself, taking the condition of a slave, and becoming similar to men. Having behaved **like a man**, He humiliated Himself even more, obedient (to God's plan) until death and death on a cross! Therefore God has exalted Him and has given Him the **Name** (divine) **that is above all names**, so that all, in the name of Jesus, **kneel**, in Heaven, on earth, and in hell, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is **Lord** to the glory of God the Father."

Answer to the other points:

Jesus is really a **man**. But this doesn't mean that He is not God who took "the condition of a slave and becoming similar to men", as says Paul in the previous text. Jesus is God and a **man** at the same time. His divinity appears in several evangelical texts:

1. He is God's incarnated Word as John revealed it (John 1,1-14).

2. Jesus said that He existed even before Abraham (John 8,56-59). His glory was with God "before the world ever existed" (John 17,5).

3. The Jews understood that Jesus presented Himself as God's equal and He didn't deny it (John 5,18 & 10,33).

4. To Philip who asked Him: "Show us the Father", Jesus answered: "Who saw Me saw the Father! How can you say show us the Father"? (Jean 14,8-9).
5. Thomas recognizes Jesus' divinity after His Resurrection and told Him: "My Lord **and my God**" (John 20,27-29).
6. "... the Christ is above all, God blessed eternally" (Romans 9,5).
7. "...In Him (Jesus), in bodily form, lives divinity in all its **fullness**" (Colossians 2,6-9).
8. "God made the centuries by Jesus" (Hebrews 1,2) "... Jesus is well superior than angels" (Hebrews 1,4)... "When God introduces the Firstborn in the world, He says: That God's angels worship Him" (Hebrews 1,6). This contradicts the Witnesses of Jehovah who pretend that Jesus is the incarnation of the archangel Michael since "He is well superior than angels" who, moreover, owe Him "worship".
9. St. Paul also says: Jesus' dignity is greater than the one of Moses "in as much as the dignity of the constructor of a house is greater than the house itself... and the One who constructed everything is God... ". Jesus is therefore the "Constructor" of Moses and of the whole universe (Hebrews 3,3-4) and the Constructor is none other but God.
10. "While waiting for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ..."(Tite 2,13).

The Messiah's divinity in the Old Testament:

1. The necessity of the advent of God Himself on earth was felt briskly by the prophet Isaiah in the VIIIth century BC. Eager for God's advent, he exclaimed: "Ah! if You tore the heaven and if You descended! " (Isaiah 63,19).

The names assigned to the Messiah by Isaiah reveal His divinity: "Eternal Father" and "Mighty God" (Isaiah 9,5).

2. The prophet Ezekiel saw the Messiah under the appearance of a **human being** who had the aspect of God's glory (Ezekiel 1,26-28).

3. The prophet Micah in the VIIIth century BC., revealed that the days of the Messiah go back to the day of Eternity (Micah 5,1).