

THE DIETY OF THE MESSIAH Ross Clark

Recently I saw a booklet written by a Theologian claiming Yeshua was not divine, had no pre-existence before His birth and was basically a good Torah teacher. Is this true? For all of us, one of the most important questions is - who really is the Messiah? What do we really believe? If we use only the Old Testament Tanach scriptures we will have a veiled understanding. He is revealed only partially. It is essential to also go the New Covenant scriptures for greater revelation.

The New Covenant scriptures assert that Yeshua is fully God. In Jewish literature only God is creator of all, sovereign over all, and worthy of worship. These attributes are all given to Yeshua in the New Covenant scriptures. Not only that, but He acts as His Father does commanding the storms, healing etc.

YESHUA'S DIETY NOT INVENTION OF ROMAN CHURCH

Philippians 2:5 – 11 this is an early Messianic Jewish hymn quoted by Paul

“Let this mind be in you which was also in Yeshua the Messiah who, being in the form of God did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but emptied Himself of His privileges, taking the form of a bondservant and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Therefore God has highly exalted Him and given Him a name which is above every other name. That at the name of Yeshua every Knee shall bow of those on heaven, and those on the earth and those under the earth.

And that every tongue should confess that Yeshua The Messiah is Lord to the glory of God the Father”

Some people say that the Diety of the Messiah is the invention of Roman Christianity, of the Nicene Creed etc. But this passage's origins are from the early Jewish believers of the 1st century. They were Jewish and they believed that Yeshua is part of the identity of God Himself and that He became flesh.

Philippians 2:5 – 11 is clear. It asserts:

1. The Messiah was in very nature God or in the form of God. But He did not cling to equality with God but took upon Himself the form of man. This is identification of Yeshua with Eternal Deity.
2. He is exalted to the highest place and level of worship that is appropriate to Him. This is unparalleled; it fits no man that ever lived, angel or created being. Only God deserves this level. The words used are in terms of Isaiah 45:22, 23 “every knee bows to YHVH and confesses that only in Him are righteousness and strength. Both sovereignty and worship are in these passages.

ISAI 45:22 Look unto me, and be saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else. 23 I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, that

unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear. 24 Surely, shall one say, in YHVH have I righteousness and strength: to Him shall men come;

Phil 2:11 "God has highly exalted Him and given Him a name which is above every name that at the name of Yeshua every knee should bow, of those in Heaven and those on the earth, and those under the earth".

He Yeshua, is treated as part of God, as Deity. In Isaiah above, the "Him" means YHVH and His Son/Messiah together.

VISIBLE MANIFESTATION

This verse is not the only scripture in the NT that shows Messiah's Deity.

Mathew 22:43 Yeshua asks about Psalm 110 "How can David call his son Lord?"

It cannot be. It can only be fulfilled in the greater Son of David, the Messiah, because He is Son and Adonai too. "The LORD (YHVH) said to my Lord (Adonai) "Sit at my right hand till I make Your enemies your footstool" Whose enemies? The Messiah's, David's Lord.

V4 YHVH has sworn and will not repent You are a priest forever (eternal) according to the order of Melchizedek. I.E. Both High Priest and King together.

Psalm 110 can only be fulfilled fully by one who is both God and man. This is the Messiah as the visible manifestation of God. God can be seen. The Messianic theme is a recurring theme in the Tanach, but sometimes in riddles. The following passages are Messianic.

Psalm 24:7 "Lift up your heads, O you gates; and be you lifted up, you everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. 8 Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle. 9 Lift up your heads, O you gates; even lift them up, you everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. 10 Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory. Selah".

Dan 7:13-14 "I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before Him. 14 And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve Him: His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom that which shall not be destroyed".

Wonderful! This is the Messiah! The King. He comes in glory. He is the King of Glory. Messiah Yeshua is YHVH too. No mere man or angel is given all this, only a Son!

Yeshua name starts with a yod - His name is a shortened form of Yehoshuah which means YHWH's SALVATION as the angel said to Mary.

MALACHI 3:1 "Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the (New) covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts. YHVH TS'VOT"

This messenger who goes before was John the Baptist. The Lord whom you seek is the Messiah Yeshua. He is the messenger of the New Covenant.

MATH 28:18 Then Yeshua came to them and said, “ All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me”

This is not just earthly rule! This claim by Yeshua is truly AWESOME! All authority is given to me!
Yet Dan 7:13- 14 says exactly this.

SAME NATURE

Rev 1:8 says the LORD God is the Alpha and Omega. (First and last).

Isaiah 41:8 A similar statement is made by God. I, YHVH , am the first and last. I am He.

How can they both have the same title? Because God the Father and God the Son are part of the same Unity. Both are in union with each other. Yeshua says plainly:

JN 14:9 Yeshua 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. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? 10 Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. 11 Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me;

VISIBLE MANIFESTATION

Yeshua allows us to see God in a visible form. Not man becoming God but God expressing Himself in a man. JN 1 “The Word of YHVH made flesh and dwelt with us”. In the form of man but pure and holy, a “2nd Adam”.

PLURAL NATURE OF GOD

ISAIAH 6:8 we see Plural Godhead.

8 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?

ISA 48:13 My own hand laid the foundations of the earth, and my right hand spread out the heavens; when I summon them, they all stand up together... (The WORD of God goes forth)

ISA 48:16 "Come near me and listen to this: " I have not spoken in secret, from the beginning ; at the time it happens, I am there." And now the Sovereign LORD has sent me, with His Spirit.

This is the Messianic servant of Isaiah 42:1 and Messianic Prophet of Isaiah 61:1.

Here clearly are references to 3 separate persons – Me (the Messiah), Sovereign YHVH and His Spirit.

The “Me” here is who? The servant of the Lord. Each verse has 3 persons.

ISA 42:1 "Here is My Servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight;
I will put my Spirit on Him and He will bring justice to the nations.

ISA 61:1 The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on Me, because the LORD has anointed Me..
to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,

to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners,
ISA 61:2 to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor ..(IE Year of Jubilee - Forgiveness)

Yeshua was sent by His Father, God Almighty to bring Salvation, the perfect Israelite.

HIGHSPOT OF REVELATION

Thomas continues to doubt that Yeshua really has risen. The High spot, the pinnacle of revelation of who Yeshua is occurs when Thomas meets the risen Lord. What does He say?

JN 20:26 A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" 27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." JN 20:28 Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"
Scripture says in JN1 "...the Word was with God and the Word was God." – Unity and yet plurality too.

Yes Yeshua is God come to earth. He is part of "the Godhead" – all that God is. He is to be worshipped.

PRE EXISTANCE

Contrary to what some say, Yeshua claimed many times about His Pre-existence. IE That He had been with the Father in heaven before and only He knew Him. He also said that he had come from the Father and was returning to Him, JN6:38 "For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me". The scriptures say that He was the Word of God through who the creation was made. JN 1 "In the beginning was the Word ...and we beheld Him full of grace and truth"

Most powerfully:

JN 8:58 "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I AM!"

59 At this, they picked up stones to stone him,(for blasphemy)

He was declaring Himself as eternal and divine and not "I was" but the eternal I AM.

1TIM3:16 Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great:

He appeared in a body..was taken up in glory. IE He existed before His body did -The incarnation.

Why is all this important? Because if you can discredit His prexistence you can destroy the truth of His Deity. But how then can a mere man save the world? Why should we then believe in Him, in His name?

These things are lies from a very cunning evil being. Satan.

As Messianics we must never compromise on this foundation, however strong the pressure from Judaism, Liberal or interfaith groups etc is. We cannot deny Yeshua as Lord and God.

COL 1:15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, (IE before creation)

COL 2:9 For in Messiah all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, 10 and you have been given fullness in Messiah, who is the head over every power and authority.