

WHAT IS A GOD?

Before we can settle the question of who Jesus (Yahshua) was, and if Jesus was a god, we must first define some terms. Without defining terms we can't be sure that we're asking the right questions.

The first term we must first define is the word "God." Most familiar with the etymology of this would agree that the word "god" has been adapted into the English language from Anglo-Saxon origin. The old Saxon word *gudh*, *godh*, or *gud*; the German *got*, or *gott*; or the Gothic word *guth*, all have the same meaning as "good" and are written exactly alike in Anglo-Saxon. For this reason, it has been inferred that "god" was named from His "goodness." In a later usage, the word "god" has become associated with "that which is invoked" or "anyone or anything that is worshipped." ("Invoked" means "to be called upon, or praised.")

In modern English usage the word "god, or God" has become used to apply to Israel's Almighty Sovereign Creator Power Life-Force essence, whose true name is [YHWH](#) (Yahweh). By association, the word "god" has now also become used as a word to fit any of the gods of other nations. In fact, it can now be used for anything, or any person, thing or entity that's called upon, prayed to, or worshipped.

In I Corinthians 8:5, we read, "there are many gods and many lords." The Greek word for "god" is "theos." "Theos" means a deity: or a lord, anything or anyone that's esteemed and held above the people. Different cultures and different people have different deities that they call upon and worship. "Theos" is always rendered "God" in English. It's used in the New Testament for any and all gods. When you read the word "theos" in the Greek New Testament, you should remember that the word comes from a language that was based on the pagan usage as well as Christian use. It can refer to a pagan god, or it can refer to Yahweh – depending upon the context.

In English, the word "god" is equally broad in scope to the Greek "theos." Therefore, it worked well as an English translation for the Greek "theos." The words were applied the same in both cultures. Both cultures had various, multiple gods. The old Saxon gods, Thor and Odin, are examples of how it was applied by many European English ancestors.

The Old Testament Hebrew word for "god" is "Alueim." Again, the English word "god" is an adequate translation if one understands its historical meaning. "Alueim" means "mighty ones, or powers" in Hebrew. It can be singular or plural. "Alueim" is used in the Old Testament to refer to the Almighty, as well as to other gods. In other words, the Creator is called an "Alueim" (Mighty One) as well as His messengers (the angels), and so are heathen gods such as Baal, Chemosh, Dagon and other idols. And what's even more surprising is that the Hebrew word "Alueim" is also commonly used for judges and kings, as in Psalms 82:

GOD (Alueim) standeth in the congregation of the mighty; he judgeth among the gods (Alueim).

This body of "gods" refers to the **judges** in Israel. Some Bibles indicate this in their marginal references. Yahweh however judges the judges (the Alueim).

*How long will ye judge unjustly, and accept the persons of the wicked? Selah. Defend the poor and fatherless: do justice to the afflicted and needy. Deliver the poor and needy: rid them out of the hand of the wicked (unjust judges; flesh-and-blood men). They know not, neither will they understand; they walk on in darkness: all the foundations of the earth are out of course. I have said, **Ye are gods** (Alueim); and all of you are children of the most High.*

Even Moses was an "*Alueim*" (a god).

Exodus 7:

*And the Lord said unto Moses, See, **I have made thee a god** (*Alueim*) to Pharaoh: and Aaron thy brother shall be thy prophet.*

God made Moses an "Alueim" to Pharaoh.

In John 10, we find another reference to this:

*Jesus answered them, is it not written in your law (the Old Testament), I said, **Ye are gods?***

Webster's 1828 Dictionary defines "god" as:

The supreme being: Jehovah.

A false god or a heathen deity.

A prince, a ruler, a magistrate or a judge.

So, we can see deeper into the definition and historical usage of this word. The historical aspect is especially important because we're considering its usage in our most ancient document: the Bible.

Now, when we ask the question, "**IS JESUS GOD?**" what are we really asking?

Is Jesus *called upon*? Yes, He is. Some call upon Jesus. When they pray, some call upon him.

Is Jesus *worshipped*? Yes, Jesus is worshipped by Christians.

Is Jesus a *mighty one*? Oh, yes, he certainly appears to be a mighty one!

By this criteria, Jesus (Yahshua) can certainly be considered a "god" – but, only if you have an adequate understanding of the meaning and Bible usage of the word. Otherwise, such a statement could lead you to the wrong conclusion.

Should Jesus (Yahshua) be worshipped as a god?

Mat 19:16 *And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?*

Mat 19:17 *And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, Theos (God): but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.*

From the passage above, Jesus (Yahshua) did not even want to be called "good" because he believed only the Almighty (YHWH) of the Hebrew Bible was to be called "good."

Therefore, from the evidence that we've found, we can say that Jesus (Yahshua) is a god (i.e. one who is worshipped as a mighty one). However, that is quite different than saying that Jesus is Yahweh!

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