Is Jesus the Son of God?

PinPoint Evangelism · WhichReligion.org · Bible quotations from the NKJV · Quran quotations from Sahih International

For many Muslims, calling Jesus the “Son of God” sounds like blasphemy, as if Christians believe God took a wife and had a child. If that were what Christians meant, Muslims would be right to object. But it is not what the Bible teaches.

> **Quran 6:101** “[He is] Originator of the heavens and the earth. How could He have a son when He does not have a companion [i.e., wife] and He created all things?”

> **Quran 112:3** “He neither begets nor is born,”

1. What the title does NOT mean

Christians agree that God has no wife and does not reproduce physically. The Bible never teaches that God had relations with Mary. Jesus was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, without a human father, something the Quran also affirms (Quran 3:47). The term “Son” is not biological.

> **Luke 1:35** “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.”

2. What the title DOES mean

In Hebrew and Arabic, “son of” often describes sharing a nature or character. Jesus called James and John “Sons of Thunder” (Mark 3:17). Arabic speaks of a traveler as *ibn al sabil*, “son of the road.” No one imagines the road gave birth to him. In the same way, “Son of God” means Jesus shares the very nature of God and has an eternal, unique relationship with the Father.

> **John 1:1 and 14** “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”

Interestingly, the Quran itself calls Jesus “His word which He directed to Mary” (Quran 4:171). The Bible explains what that means: the eternal Word of God took on human flesh.

3. How His listeners understood Him

The Jewish leaders of Jesus’ day knew exactly what He was claiming:

> **John 5:18** “Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.”

> **John 10:30 and 33** “I and My Father are one. ... The Jews answered Him, saying, ‘For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God.’”

At His trial, the high priest asked, “Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?” Jesus said, “I am. And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven” (Mark 14:61 and 62). For this answer He was condemned.

4. Jesus did what only God can do

Jesus forgave sins: “Son, your sins are forgiven you.” The scribes rightly asked, “Who can forgive sins but God alone?” (Mark 2:5 and 7). He claimed eternal existence: “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM” (John 8:58), using the name God revealed to Moses (Exodus 3:14). He accepted worship, saying of Himself, “He who has seen Me has seen the Father” (John 14:9). When Thomas called Him “My Lord and my God!” (John 20:28), Jesus did not correct him.

A prophet points to God. Jesus pointed to Himself as the way to God: “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me” (John 14:6).

> **A question to consider:** If Jesus was only a prophet, why did He accept worship, forgive sins against God, and claim to have existed before Abraham? Either He was who He said He was, or He was not a good prophet at all.

An invitation

We share this because we care about you. The Injil you are told to honor announces good news: God Himself has made a way for sinners to be forgiven. “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). Read the Gospel of John for yourself, and ask the God of Abraham to show you the truth about Jesus.