

QUESTION 4: Why did Jesus willingly receive worship if He was not Jehovah God?

But before I begin, I was quite surprised to learn there were no Christians in history named 'Jehovah's Witnesses' before the 1870s. The name 'Christians,' however, is ancient and found in Acts 11:26. According to the JW.org website, "Thus, our name Jehovah's Witnesses designates us as a group of Christians who proclaim the truth about Jehovah, the Creator of all things." Isaiah 43:10 is the foundational verse which validates the name: "You are my witnesses," declares Jehovah..."

We Bible-believing Christians, on the other hand, take our name from Christ. Our foundational verse is Acts 1:8, "But you will receive power when the holy spirit comes upon you, and you will be witnesses of me in Jerusalem, in all Ju-de'a and Sa-mar'i-a, and to the most distant part of the earth'(2013 New World Translation).

We are witnesses for Jesus Christ because He commands it. The entire New Testament tells of Christ's disciples proclaiming the Gospel Good News of Christ. Nowhere are we commanded to proclaim 'Jehovah.'

Moreover, Christ commands us to "Go, therefore, and make disciples of people of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the holy spirit, teaching them to observe all the things I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19-20; 2013 NWT).

Nowhere does Jesus command us to make disciples of Jehovah. Nor does He command us to baptize in the name of Jehovah. Nor does He command us to baptize in the NAMES (plural) of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We biblical Christians understand Jesus teaching the Triunity of the one God by placing 3 Divine Persons under the heading of one name.

In addition, we are told, “Furthermore, there is no salvation in anyone else, for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must get saved” (Acts 4:12; 2013 NWT).

Proclaiming the name of Jehovah saves nobody. We biblical Christians preach Christ (1 Cor. 1:23), as did Paul and all the Apostles.

But I digress.....

Scripture Predicts the Messiah to be both Man and God

Isaiah 9:6 predicts the coming Messiah:

“For a child has been born to us, A son has been given to us; And the rulership will rest on his shoulder. His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace” (2013 NWT).

Is there any dispute Jesus is the promised Messiah? Of course not. Here we have a vivid portrayal of the Messiah born a male human, yet is also Mighty God, Father from Eternity. Scripture declares His two natures; we biblical Christians believe it.

Isaiah 7: 14: “Therefore, Jehovah himself will give you a sign: Look! The young woman will become pregnant and will give birth to a son, and she will name him Im·man’u·el” (2013 NWT).

There is a hyperlink footnote which states the definition of Immanuel: “Meaning ‘With Us Is God.’” The Messiah will be both man and God and *He will be with us*.

It is no coincidence Christ, the Messiah, promises, “And look! *I am with you* all the days until the conclusion of the system of things” (Matthew 28:20; 2013 NWT).

Jehovah Demands Our Worship Exclusive to Him Alone

Exodus 20:3-5: “You must not have any other gods besides me. You must not make for yourself a carved image or a form like anything that is in the heavens above or on the earth below or in the waters under the earth. You must not bow down to them nor be enticed to serve them, for I, Jehovah your God, am a God who requires exclusive devotion....” (2013 NWT).

Please note: The act of devotion condemned by Jehovah is not casual honor, loyalty or respect for others, but one of religious worship, whereby the object of worship is falsely venerated as God. This would include placing faith in that which is venerated, -----considered worthy of prayers; such as asking for help in times of trouble, asking for miraculous healing, acknowledging supernatural powers, the giving of gifts and sacrifices to thank, praise, appease or to win the favor of that which is worshipped.

In **Luke 4** the Devil tempted Jesus to worship him: “Then the Devil said to him: “I will give you all this authority and their glory, because it has been handed over to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. If you, therefore, do an act of **worship** before me, it will all be yours.” In reply Jesus said to him: It is written, ‘It is Jehovah your God you must **worship**, and it is to him alone you must render sacred service’” (NWT).

Jesus Receives Devotion and Worship

[All Scripture is from 2013 New World Translation.]

“And look! a leper came up and did **obeisance** [i.e. bowed down in worship] to him, saying: “Lord, if you just want to, you can make me clean” (Matt. 8:2).

“While he was telling them these things, look! a certain ruler who had approached did **obeisance** [bowed down in worship] to him, saying: “By now my daughter must be dead, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will come to life.” Then Jesus got up and, with his disciples, followed him” (Matt. 9:18-19).

“After they got up into the boat, the windstorm abated. Then those in the boat did **obeisance** [bowed down in worship] to him, saying: “You really are God’s Son” (Matt. 14:32-33).

“But the woman came and did **obeisance** [bowed down and worshipped] to him, saying: “Lord, help me!” (Matt. 15:25).

“Then the mother of the sons of Zeb’e-dee approached him with her sons, doing **obeisance** [bowed down in worship] and asking for something from him” (Matt. 20:20).

“And look! Jesus met them and said: “Good day!” They approached and took hold of his feet and did **obeisance** [bowed down and worshipped]to him” (Matt. 28:9).

“However, the 11 disciples went to Gal’i-lee to the mountain where Jesus had arranged for them to meet. When they saw him, they did **obeisance**, [bowed down and worshipped] but some doubted” (Matt. 28:16-17).

“Jesus said to him: “You have seen him, and in fact, he is the one speaking with you.” He said: “I do put faith in him, Lord.” And he did **obeisance** [bowed down in worship]to him” (John 9:37-38).

“For example, to which one of the angels did God ever say: “You are my son; today I have become your father”? And again: “I will become his father, and he will become my son”? But when he again brings his Firstborn into the inhabited earth, he says: “And let all of God’s angels do **obeisance** [bow down in worship] to him” (Hebrews 1:5-6).

“And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and underneath the earth and on the sea, and all the things in them, saying: “To the One sitting on the throne **and to the Lamb** be the blessing and the honor and the glory and the might forever and ever.” The four living creatures were saying: “Amen!” and the elders **fell down and worshipped**” (Rev. 5:13).

The same Greek verb, **proskuneó**, translated ‘worshipped’ in Rev. 5:13 and Luke 4, is the same Greek verb translated

'obeisance' in all verses cited above. Use the Kingdom Greek Interlinear to check it out.

All instances of obeisance cited in the Bible signify worship given Jesus, whom the JW's believe to be a man, lower than the angels. Jesus Himself acknowledged Jehovah is the One who deserves our worship (Luke 4). Yet not once does Jesus rebuke those worshipping Him. Why not?

We biblical Christians understand that Jesus was truthful when He proclaimed, "For the Father judges no one at all, but he has entrusted all the judging to the Son, so that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him" (John 5:22-23).

How do biblical Christians honor the Father? We honor the Father by worshipping the Son, Jehovah God, whom He sent as a propitiation for our sins: "The one who did not know sin, he made to be sin for us, so that by means of him we might become God's righteousness that we might be the righteousness of God in Him" (2 Cor. 5:21).

"Because from him [Christ] and by him [Christ] and for him [Christ] are all things. To him [Christ] be the glory forever. Amen.