

## Hebrews 13:8

After exhorting the readers in verse 7 to remember those leaders who have taught you the word of God and followed the Lord until their death, the writer of Hebrews draws attention to the only One who won't leave us. Jesus is the same forever because He is Jehovah God. Thus, He is ever present and will never fail us.

**“Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.”**

### IT DOES NOT MEAN:

What God has done in the past He will do today.

- Some use this verse to defend the continuation of spiritual gifts and miracle gifts today.
- Does God change His plan at different times in history?
  - Mosaic Law or the Law of Christ?
  - Israel or the Church?

### IT DOES MEAN:

1) Jesus is Jehovah, the eternal God

A. Old Testament

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| 1. | Isaiah 9:6      | <i>For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.</i>  |
| 2. | Micah 5:2       | <i>But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.</i>  |
| 3. | Jeremiah 23:5-6 | <i>Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.</i>    |
| 4. | Zechariah 12:10 | <i>And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.</i> |

B. New Testament

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| 1. | John 1:1,14  | <i>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word was made 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.</i>  |
| 2. | John 8:56-59 | <i>Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad. Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham? Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am. Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.</i> |

3. John 10:30-33 *I and my Father are one.  
Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him.  
Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from my  
Father; for which of those works do ye stone me?  
The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not;  
but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest  
thyself God.*
4. 1 Timothy 3:16 *And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was  
manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached  
unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.*

5. Hebrews 1:3

The Son is God

- a) *"by whom also he made the worlds;"*
- b) *"Who being the brightness of his glory,"*

The Son is not a reflector of that light He is the source of that light!

"All that God is - not merely in His ways, but in His being- is expressed absolutely by the Son...No one has grasped what the Son of God is until he has prostrated his soul before Him 'God over all, blessed forever'! (Romans 9:5). I would that I could put it so strongly that every soul would bow to the truth of it, the absolutely essential, perfect divinity of the Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ. We admit not one iota of a question, not one shadow of a doubt, not one bit of tarnish upon that glory which God has spread before us on this page." Samuel Ridout, Lectures on Hebrews

- c) *"the express image of his person,"*

The Son is everything God would be, in substance, if God took on human form

"Exact representation translates the Greek term used for the impression made by a die or stamp on a seal. The design on the die is reproduced on the wax. Jesus Christ is the reproduction of God. He is the perfect, personal imprint of God in time and space. Colossians 1:15 gives a similar illustration of this incomprehensible truth: 'He is the image of the invisible God.' The word 'image' here is *eikon*, from which we get *icon*. *Eikon* means a precise copy, an exact reproduction, as in a fine sculpture or portrait. To call Christ the *ekion* of God means He is the exact reproduction of God. 'For in Him all the fulness of Deity dwells in bodily form' (Col. 2:9)." John MacArthur, Hebrews, pg. 13

- d) *"upholding all things by the word of his power"*

Vs.6 - Jesus is worshiped by angels

quoting Deuteronomy 32:43 from the Septuagint (LXX)

*"Rejoice, O heavens, with him, and let all the sons of God worship him. Rejoice, O nations, with his people, let all the angels of God prevail for him, For He will avenge the blood of His sons, And will render vengeance on His adversaries, And will atone for His land and His people,"*

In the earliest citations of the Septuagint in other writings, we see a similar but slightly different reading. For example, Justin Martyr, writing around 155-160 AD, quoted it as:

*"Rejoice, O heavens, with him, and let all the angels of God worship him. Rejoice, O nations, with his people, let all the angels of God prevail for him, For He will avenge the blood of His sons, And will render vengeance on His adversaries, And will atone for His land and His people."*

"sons of God" could be used to denote angels, as we see in Job 1:6, 2:1, and 28:7 and that is most likely why Justin Martyr quoted it as "*angels of God*," which is how it is written in Hebrews 1:6.

Revelation 22:8-9      angels and men are to worship God only (see also Psalm 148:2-5)

Note that the Deuteronomy 32 passage is speaking of Jehovah (LORD)  
- see Deuteronomy 32:19, 27, 30, 36 and 37-39 - thus, this scripture as used here in verse 6 is saying Jesus is Jehovah.

Jesus is worshiped by men also.

Matthew 8:2; 9:18;14:33;18:26; Luke 24:52;  
John 9:35-38

35      *Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God?*  
36      *He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him?*  
37      *And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee.*  
38      *And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him.*

Vs. 8-9      - The Son is God the king

Vs. 10-12      - The Son is the Creator

Vs. 13      - The Son sits on the right hand of God

## 2) Jesus' character never changes

Isaiah 53:9      *And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.*

2 Corinthians 5:20-21      *Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. For he hath made him to be sin [offering] for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

Hebrews 1:12      *And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail.*

### **Christ's divine attributes would make it impossible for him to sin:**

**Immutability** - His basic nature never changes. He was holy in eternity past, and He remains holy now. (Psalm 90:2)

*Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.*

**Omnipotence** - Falling to temptation shows moral weakness or lack of power and ability. Christ had infinite power, and was therefore not susceptible to sin. (Psalm 115:3)

*But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased.*

**Omniscience** - Satan tempts us by attempting to deceive us. Jesus had infinite knowledge, so he could not be deceived. (Psalm 147:5; Isaiah 40:14;66:18;Luke 12:7; Acts 15:18)

*Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite.*

*With whom took he counsel, and who instructed him, and taught him in the path of judgment, and taught him knowledge, and shewed to him the way of understanding?*

*For I know their works and their thoughts: it shall come, that I will gather all nations and tongues; and they shall come, and see my glory.*

*But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows.*

*Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world.*

**One of the attacks in the evangelical world on God is *Open Theism*. *Open Theism* is a present day threat against the character of God.**

"Open Theism teaches that God does not know future events, that He can be surprised by them, that He can make mistakes, and that He learns what will happen as people make choices."

Christian Apologetics & Research Ministry

"Open Theism is defined as a cluster of views that follow from the key premise that the free, future choices of human beings cannot by definition be known, by any being including God, until they happen. Thus while God can and does determine with certainty that some future events will occur, open theists believe God's omniscience does not mean that God can know all future events ahead of time-especially those that God had chosen to allow humans to determine."

Open Theism, Denver Seminary Response to Open Theism, Craig Williford, Ph.D. President, Denver Seminary (Williford is presently the President of Multnomah University in Portland, OR)

Some of the proponents are Gregory Boyd, Clark Pinnock, and John Sanders.

***Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever*** is an ABSOLUTE statement of the deity of Jesus and that He is consistently faithful in all of His attributes ALWAYS!!!