

At John 20:28 Thomas, one of the twelve apostles, called Jesus “God.” For a Jew this would be blasphemy unless Jesus truly were God.

Response: Imagine yourself as Thomas: you followed a man who taught as no one else had ever taught; you saw miracles take place in abundance, the healing of the sick, the raising of the dead, the casting out of demons, etc.; and you came to the conclusion that this man must be the promised Messiah of the Scriptures, the one expected to liberate Israel from Gentile domination. Then, suddenly, in a period of 24 hours this man is arrested by the Jewish religious authorities, turned over to the very Gentiles from whom you anticipated liberation, and executed! Had you been duped; was this just another false messiah?

Thomas, whose faith in Jesus was shaken by this turn of events, began to have his doubts about God! Upon seeing the resurrected Jesus, Thomas’ faith was not only restored in his Messiah, but in his God. (Consider John 14:1) Is it any wonder that he exclaimed, “*My Lord and my God!*”? That Thomas did not consider Jesus to be God literally is shown three verses later where the gospel writer explains, “*these things have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.*” If Thomas or John meant that Jesus was literally God, why didn’t John say so here? -- John 20:31

On one occasion Jesus was charged with blasphemy for having called himself *the Son of God*. In response Jesus cited Psalm 82:6 where God refers to Israelite judges as “*gods*” [Heb., *elohim*]. If God can call human judges who were supposed to act as His representatives “*gods*” without meaning it literally, why couldn’t Thomas call the one who has been appointed as God’s representative to judge all the earth “*God*” without meaning it literally?¹⁰ -- John 10:33-36

¹⁰ Later, if the apostles had been preaching to the Jews that Jesus was God in the flesh, there would have been huge controversies concerning the claim. The Christian Testament reports no arguments on the subject. (By way of contrast, circumcision for Gentile believers was hotly debated!) [Prop # 12]