

Will the Real Yeshua Please Stand Up?

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Q: Why does Yeshua refer to, "My Father said . . ." and not "We did" or "We said" or "I did" or "I said"? How could Yeshua sit at his Father's side and still be the same? Yeshua says this more than one time in the Bible.

A: Thank you for the question. Tons of books have been written on the subject of Yeshua's unique divine identity but I'll do my best to be as concise as possible.

First things first.

Yeshua was **not** a creation of G-d as some would wrongly assume. How can The Creator be compared to His creation? In Yesha'Yahu/Isaiah 45:5 Adonai says, "*I AM the L-RD, and there is no other; Besides Me there is no G-d.*" And in the same chapter, verse 12 it says, "*It is I who made the earth, and created man upon it. I stretched out the heavens with My hands, and I ordained all their host.*" Also in Yesha'Yahu/Isaiah 44:24 it says, "*Thus says the L-RD your Redeemer, and the One who formed you from the womb, 'I the L-RD am the maker of all things. Stretching out the heavens by Myself, and spreading out the earth all alone.'*"

Concerning Yeshua in Colossians 1:15 we read, "*He is the image of the **invisible** G-d, the first-born of all creation.*"

Although He wasn't "*created*" by G-d, Yeshua was the first to have physical form. He is predominant over all He created.

Also concerning Yeshua in Colossians 1:16-17 it says, "For by Him **all things** were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or Dominions or rulers or authorities – **all things have been created by Him and for Him**. And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together."

We know G-d is the same yesterday, today and forever. In Messianic Jews/Hebrews 13:8 it says, "***Yeshua Messiah** is the same yesterday and today, and forever.*"

And as we assimilate truths of Scripture regarding Moshiach into the fabric of our beings, **we are transformed**, and will continue being transformed into new creations – **in His likeness**. G-d, who created us in His image, has given us the Messiah as the standard of **His** perfection.

The Scriptures instruct us and we understand that **Yeshua identified with humanity completely**. And even though the Scriptures never say He laughed or cut up with the guys, I believe He completely identified with people even in times of laughter. In addition to this, and even though not always recorded in Scripture, I do believe He showed His disagreement or disapproval either with His words or with the non-verbals of His body language. But most importantly, Yeshua was able to distinguish that which is holy from that which is profane – not only on outward appearances, but most importantly on the **inside** of a person which is **another trait of G-d**.

In all this, we know He never broke a single commandment – never broke a single ethical, moral, or spiritual boundary. And even though He challenged religious and cultural standards, He **never** violated any standard of holiness or righteous living established by HaShem or His written Scriptures. He was perfect in **everything** He said and did – **another divine quality!**

He was also perfect in His miracles.

The people of Isra'el have had a long list of prophets. Some have performed miracles but never anything like the miracles Yeshua performed. He turned water into wine, a symbol of the joy of His salvation. He walked on water and healed the sick. He cleansed people struggling through life with leprosy (see parashah readings for Tasri'a-Metzora and the B'rit Chadashah reading in Luke 17:11-19). He brought sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, fed thousands from just a few scraps of bread and some fish. He raised the dead. He also contradicted the laws of nature by stilling the winds and calming the waves by just speaking a word. All these things could **not** have been accomplished by anyone who was merely a man. All traditional Judeo/Christian monotheism agrees with this.

Did G-d put His Ruach (Spirit) into Yeshua to enable Him to do these things? Well, I believe the Scriptures are very clear that G-d clothed Himself in the flesh of a human being. But let me ask you a question. Has any observant Jewish person in Scripture ever bowed the knee to anyone other than G-d? Whenever and wherever they did, they were corrected.

In Philippians 2:6 it reads, "Although He existed in the form of G-d, [He] did not regard equality with G-d a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant and being made in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on an execution stake. Therefore also G-d highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Yeshua every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Yeshua the Messiah is L-rd, to the glory of G-d the Father."

When Yeshua came to us through the miracle of childbirth and grew up as a man, He was the perfect example of truth and righteousness even though in human form there was no flaw found in Him. It's almost as if G-d said, "You guys will never make it on your own but out of my love for you, I will show you the way by providing 'Myself a ram' (B'resheet/Genesis 22) – a sacrificial offering in your behalf."

We know Yeshua was devout as an observant Jew – He kept the Torah of Adonai perfectly. He was the perfect role model – the perfect example of non-hypocritical, righteous behavior. His very being exuded holiness.

We know that nowhere do the Scriptures say that man can become G-d. Jewish and Christian authorities have consistently affirmed that man cannot attain to G-dhood. There is One G-d. "*Adonai Elohaynu, Adonai Echad!*" But nowhere do the Scriptures teach that G-d **cannot** become one of us.

Yeshua's identity – His divine identity is borne out in the Scriptures.

In Yesha'Yahu/Isaiah 44:6 it says, *"Thus says the L-RD, the King of Isra'el and His Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: I am the first and I am the last, and there is no G-d besides Me."*

Compare this with Revelation 1:8, *"Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. Even so, amen. I am the Alpha and the Omega, Says the L-RD G-d, who is and who was and who is to come, **the Almighty.**"*

Yeshua has always been identified as the One who is, and who was and who is to come. Adonai has always been identified as the Alpha and the Omega (the Aleph and the Tav in Hebrew).

Now look at Revelation 22:12. Yeshua speaking says, *"Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done. I AM the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."* (See also Rev. 21:6)

And in Revelation 1:17, Yeshua's beloved talmid Yochanan (John) says, *"And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as a dead man. And He laid His right hand upon me saying, 'Do not be afraid; I AM the first and the last, and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades."*

Only as the slaughtered Pesach Lamb is the Messiah of Revelation also the First and the Last, the Alef and the Tav!

In Yochanan 1:14 it says, *"The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, **full of grace and truth.**"* And in this grace and truth, the portrait of Yeshua is fully revealed. The Word of God is a direct reflection of Yeshua, and so it stands to reason that this portrait is only partial if solely derived from the Gospel accounts. Any accurate portrait of Yeshua can only be understood from the **full counsel** of Scripture – from both the B'rit Chadashah and the Tanakh.

Now in answer to your question, if I may paraphrase, "How can the G-d of Echad – the One true G-d, share a throne with Yeshua if they are indeed one and the same person?"

More than an actual "chair" like you would picture a King's throne, the throne spoken of in Revelation may be literal, but I tend to lean more to the opinion that it represents a position of glory in G-d's kingdom. G-d, the Father is Spirit and cannot be seen. Yeshua is the physical "representation" of G-d. He's the only human form of G-d and is therefore the only visible being in this position of glory on the throne (See Rev. 5:6; 7:17) and it's *"to Him every knee will bow, and every tongue confess that He is L-rd, to the glory of G-d the Father"* (Colossians 1:15; Philippians 2:10).

Now why the communication is depicted the way it is in the Scriptures between Yeshua and the Father is the first part of your question. I believe while Yeshua was on earth, and even now, while He's in heaven, He is **the window** to G-d. He **is** G-d, but He's the Window through which we can see G-d visually and have contact with Him personally. *"There is One Mediator [window] between man and G-d – the man Messiah Yeshua."* While on earth, He communicated as a humbled man taking on the form of a bond-servant.

"When He died on the execution stake, His shame is in divine reality His honor and His humiliation is in divine reality His exaltation!"

The G-d who is high and lifted up can also be low and abased because G-d is G-d – not in seeking His own advantage but in self-giving." (God Crucified, Richard Bauckham)

There is so much more to be said on this subject but maybe this will provide some food for thought and whet your appetite for further investigation. I believe Yeshua has revealed His divine identity *clearly* throughout the Scriptures even in the very first Hebrew words in B' resheet (Genesis).

Keep in mind that the very thing that makes G-d so great is that we can't understand everything there is to know about Him. If we could, then we better ask Yeshua to move over on the "throne" because we'd be right up there with Him!! (D'varim 29:29)

Baruch HaShem

(All highlights, underscore and emphasis – mine. All Bible References – NASB)