

Define Blasphemy?

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- 1 a : the act of insulting or showing contempt or lack of reverence for God
- b : the act of claiming the attributes of deity
- 2 : irreverence toward something considered sacred or inviolable¹

This is the dictionary definition of “blasphemy.” While I believe that this is close to the truth, we need to look at blasphemy from the Scriptural point of view (as opposed to a strictly dictionary definition, which may or may not be correct). It is important that we take a look at the main texts which make use of that term: In Scripture, there are willful acts of blasphemy which also explain to some degree what those acts constituted, which we need to carefully examine.

And the Israelitish woman's son blasphemed the name of Yahweh, and cursed. And they brought him unto Moses: (and his mother's name was Shelomith, the daughter of Dibri, of the tribe of Dan:) (Leviticus 24:11)²

And he that blasphemeth the name of Yahweh, he shall surely be put to death, and all the congregation shall certainly stone him: as well the stranger, as he that is born in the land, when he blasphemeth the name of Yahweh, shall be put to death. (Leviticus 24:16)

In these texts it is clear that misusing the name of the Creator (Yahweh) is blasphemous. It is at the very heart of the third commandment, where it says plainly:

Thou shalt not take the name of Yahweh your Almighty in vain; for Yahweh will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain. (Exodus 20:7)

¹*Merriam Webster's Online Dictionary*, Blasphemy, <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/blasphemy>

²All Scripture quotes are taken from the King James Version, and the name of the Creator (Yahweh) is restored where appropriate.

So, essentially, blasphemy can involve a direct violation of the third commandment. Are there other forms of blasphemy? Yes, and here is the second major way in which blasphemy can be committed:

Therefore, son of man, speak unto the house of Israel, and say unto them, Thus saith Almighty Yahweh ; Yet in this your fathers have blasphemed me, in that they have committed a trespass against me. For when I had brought them into the land, for the which I lifted up mine hand to give it to them, then they saw every high hill, and all the thick trees, and they offered there their sacrifices, and there they presented the provocation of their offering; there also they made their sweet savor, and poured out there their drink offerings. . . . And that which cometh into your mind shall not be at all, that ye say, We will be as the heathen, as the families of the countries, to serve wood and stone. (Ezekiel 20:27-28; 32)

This text is saying that rebellion against Yahweh is blasphemy, especially as it involves the violation of the first and second commandments. Please note what these commandments involve:

I am Yahweh your Almighty, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I Yahweh thy Almighty am a jealous Almighty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me, And showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments. (Exodus 20:2-6)

To violate these commandments would constitute blasphemy, according to these Scripture texts. These commandments establish the basis for how to give proper worship to Yahweh. Making and worshipping idols would not constitute proper worship to Yahweh, nor would having other deities before him. Please note that this worship is directed to Yahweh, who is described as a singular deity, as in ONE.

The Jews have always understood the “oneness” of Yahweh to be singular—that there was no other deity with Him. And Scripture is also very clear about this point, that we are to worship only one (Deuteronomy 4:6) and that One is Yahweh, our heavenly Father, and Creator of all that is.

Hear, O Israel: Yahweh our Almighty is one Yahweh.
(Deuteronomy 6:4)

Here is some more evidence from Scripture to consider, evidence which clearly demonstrates that Yahweh was alone at the time of Creation, and that there was no other “deity” with Him—and that would have to include any Messiah:

Unto thee it was showed, that thou mightest know that Yahweh he is the Almighty One; there is none else beside him.
(Deuteronomy 4:35)

Know therefore this day, and consider it in thine heart, that Yahweh he is the Almighty in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: there is none else. (Deuteronomy 4:39)

There is none holy as Yahweh: for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock like our Almighty. (1 Samuel 2:2)

Ye are my witnesses, saith Yahweh, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no Mighty One formed, neither shall there be after me. (Isaiah 43:10)

I am Yahweh, and there is none else, there is no Mighty One beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me.
(Isaiah 45:5)

There are even texts which tell us that we are not to follow after those who entice us to follow other deities “which ye have not known”:

Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse, A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of Yahweh your Elohim, which I command you this day. And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of Yahweh your Elohim, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, *which ye have not known*. (Deuteronomy 11:28)

If thou shalt hear say in one of thy cities, which Yahweh your Elohim hath given thee to dwell there, saying, Certain men, the children of Belial, are gone out from among you, and have withdrawn the inhabitants of their city, saying, Let us go and serve other gods, *which ye have not known*, Then shalt thou inquire, and make search, and ask diligently, and, behold, if it be truth, and the thing certain, that such abomination is wrought among you, Thou shalt surely smite the inhabitants of that city with the edge of the sword, destroying it utterly, and all that is therein, and the cattle thereof, with the edge of the sword. (Deuteronomy 13:12-15)

The key phrase here to consider is “which ye have not known.” Think about this for a minute: Let us suppose, for the sake of argument, that Yahushua our Messiah *actually did* claim to be deity. Now I don’t believe that he did, and I think I have sufficient evidence to support that. But, if Messiah is actually claiming to be deity, then would that not constitute a new understanding about Yahweh that was not previously known? Moses makes a point to mention twice that in defining idol worship the key point to remember is that the wicked will serve “other gods, which ye have not known.” Would that definition include a perverted understanding of Messiah, such that Messiah is exalted to the status of deity? Yes it would.

Now I am sure that there are a lot of texts which people can come up with, texts from the Messianic Writings which seem to support the idea that Yahweh is either more than one person, or that he has more than one manifestation of himself. While we could go into great detail on each of those points, I believe it is sufficient to remind the reader that the TaNaK (what is commonly called the Old Testament) is actually the foundation of our faith—not the so-called New Testament. When Moses says something absolute concerning Yahweh, (“there is none else beside him,” “there is none else,” “there is none beside thee,” “before me there was no Mighty One formed, neither shall there be after me,” “there is no Mighty One beside me”) we need to take those very poignant statements seriously.

Obviously, what I am alluding to here is the fact that most Christians believe that our Messiah is part of a triune deity (a Trinity of ‘gods’). This teaching is wholly without foundation, and is known by most reputable scholars to be foreign to Scripture (including the Messianic Writings, aka New Testament).

Here is what the *Encyclopedia of Religion* has to say about the origins of the trinity:

Exegetes and theologians today are in agreement that the Hebrew Bible does not contain a doctrine of the Trinity, even though it was customary in past dogmatic tracts on the Trinity to cite texts like Gen. 1.26 'Let us make humanity in our image, after our likeness.' Although the Hebrew Bible depicts God as the father of Israel and employs personifications of God such as Word, Spirit, Wisdom, and Presence, it would go beyond the intention and spirit of the Old Testament to correlate these notions with later Trinitarian doctrine. ... Further exegetes and theologians agree that the New Testament also does not contain an explicit doctrine of the trinity ... In the New Testament there is no reflective consciousness of the metaphysical nature of God ('immanent trinity') nor does the New Testament contain the technical language of later doctrine.³

Recently I made a statement regarding "blasphemy" in an article called *Questions that Demand Common Sense Answers*. Here is what I said:

Clearly, Scripture teaches that the Almighty cannot die and will live forever. Those who teach that Yahushua was either "the Almighty (God)" or part of a dual or triple "Godhead" are not only teaching a falsehood, but a blasphemous one at that!⁴

Is my statement accurate or is it in error? First, I want to point out that I am not passing judgment on individuals regarding the sin of blasphemy, for it might be the case that their words or actions are done out of ignorance as opposed to being an outright willful act of rebellion against Yahweh. Let us allow Yahweh to be the final judge regarding that.

However, regarding this teaching that Yahweh (the Eternal Creator) died on a cross, it appears to me this is without reason in the most absolute terms—especially in light of those texts which teach contrary to that:

Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honor and power everlasting. (1 Timothy 6:16)

³ *The Encyclopedia of Religion*, Mircea Eliade, Vol. 15, "Trinity," p. 53-57.

⁴ *Questions that Demand Common Sense Answers*, by W. Glenn Moore, p. 2.

But thou art the same, and *thy years shall have no end.* (Psalm 102:27)

See now that I, even I, am he, and *there is no elohim with me:* I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand. For I lift up my hand to heaven, and say, *I live for ever..* (Deuteronomy 32:39-40)

Scripture is very clear, that Yahweh cannot die—and yet those who believe in a Messiah who is also deity (yet deity died?) do not seem to realize that such a belief is not only heresy, but blasphemy as well—for blasphemy is clearly a violation of the 1st, 2nd, and /or 3rd commandments. The Scripture texts I just listed plainly state that Yahweh cannot die. To say deity *can die* suggests that Yahweh is not as all-powerful as He makes Himself out to be—which would then make him out to be a liar, which He is not. Satan has been watching this spectacle unfold over the past 1800 years, and *he is ecstatic!* No, Satan does not have the power to “kill God,” however, he gains great satisfaction from knowing that he has convinced many humans that this actually happened in the person of Yahushua Messiah (aka, Jesus Christ). And on top of it all, Satan then uses his agents of deception to claim that it was the Jews who (supposedly) *killed God!* *How absurd!!* How utterly stupid to think that the Creator of the Universe can die!

Allowing some latitude for ignorance (as I am sure Yahweh allows for that) here is how I see it. For someone who is *not* ignorant of Scripture and the true ways of Yahweh, to willfully say that Yahushua is Yahweh (when Scripture teaches that there is only one Yahweh) would be blasphemy, since it is a violation of the first commandment. To willfully say that Yahweh can die (when Scripture teaches that Yahweh cannot die) would be blasphemy, since it contradicts both common sense and the most plain statements of Scripture that say otherwise. To say that Yahweh can be tempted (when James 1:13 says He cannot be tempted) would be blasphemy, since this is an affront to his character. To say that it is alright to have a new understanding of Yahweh, such that deity became a man (when Scripture plainly states that we are not to go after other deities “which ye have not known”) would be blasphemy, since it is a violation of the first and second commandments.

The trinity doctrine is a teaching and commandment of men, and as such is not worthy of our consideration. All reputable scholars know it is a deception, and they will only give it lip service in order to maintain their employment and respect among their peers. Part of the reason that the Christian church even

adopted the Trinity doctrine is because of the conflict over the issue of whether Messiah was a man or a God—so even the “oneness” doctrine and supposed deity of Messiah is directly involved when the Trinity doctrine is dispelled. Yes, the whole reason they ended up with the Trinity is because of the dispute over the deity of Messiah. So, those who say that this conflict is strictly a “Jehovah’s Witness” pet doctrine do not seem to understand much about history—this conflict has been going on for at least 1800 years!! And it will continue until Messiah comes to set the record straight.

But let us take a brief look at history from a Jewish perspective, as the church historians explain the fundamentally historical Hebraic view of Yahweh:

It was the proud boast of the Jew, who among all the nations of antiquity gloried in being a monotheist.⁵

Monotheism was the proud boast of the Jew. . . The first teachers of Christianity were never charged by the Jews (who unquestionably believed in the strict unity of God), with introducing any new theory of the Godhead.⁶

The Jews gave us true monotheism, and the world has attempted to pervert that from the beginning through Greek pagan philosophy. Even the early believers in Messiah (according to this authority) did not attempt to change the basic fundamental Jewish concept concerning Yahweh, for if they had the Jews would have accused them of this along with all the other things they were accused of. And yet we have no record of that.

L. L. Paine, Professor of Ecclesiastical History at Bangor Theological Seminary, says this about the view of Yahweh as presented in the Bible:

The Old Testament is strictly monotheistic. God is a single personal being. The idea that a trinity is to be found there, or even in any way shadowed forth, is an assumption that has long held sway in theology, but is utterly without foundation. . . . On this point there is no break between the Old Testament and the New. The monotheistic tradition is continued. Jesus was a Jew, trained by Jewish parents in the Old Testament scriptures. His teaching was Jewish to the core; a new gospel indeed, but not a new

⁵Farrar, Frederic William. *The Early Days of Christianity. Vol. 1.* (Boston, Massachusetts: DeWolfe, Fiske & Company, 1882), p. 336.

⁶*Ibid.*, p. 55.

theology. . . . And he accepted as his own belief the great text of Jewish monotheism: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one God.'⁷

Both Shaul and John said that there would be a falling away from the pure faith (2 Thessalonians 2:3 and 1 John 2:18), and that falling away had already come in their own day. And let us not forget the prophecies of Revelation, which indicate that the fulfillment of the prophecy would revolve around a dragon, an earth beast, and a sea beast (Revelation 12-13) I believe those prophecies *have already been mostly fulfilled* during the dark ages, and this through the activities of Christianity (centered primarily around the Roman Catholic Church). Since the prophecy of Revelation mentions the persecution of the saints, it is not surprising that much of that persecution was a response to the rejection of the Trinity doctrine and all that it entailed (including the supposed deity of Messiah). Jews and so-called heretics were killed by the millions for upholding their faith in the one true deity of Scripture, a faith that they came to from their own personal study of Yahweh's Word and the direction of his true holy spirit.

Let us consider what would happen if the apostles of Messiah were resurrected and brought back to life and then injected into our present world system, would they be accepted? Yes, admittedly, their dress and customs would be very different. But teach them our language, teach them to use our technology, give them suitable clothing, and then invite them to fellowship with Christians—would they feel at home in such an environment? Would our Messiah, even, feel at home there? And what message would they hear from the Christian pulpit? Would it be the same message that they themselves preached almost 2000 years ago, a message which was centered around “the great text of Jewish monotheism”—the Shema of Deuteronomy 6:4?

Christians retained the same faith, believing in the strict unity of God, and the proper humanity of Christ, all the time of the Apostles and of those who conversed with them, but began to depart from that doctrine presently afterwards; and the defection advanced so fast, that in about one century more, the original doctrine was generally reprobated and deemed heretical.⁸

⁷Levi Leonard Paine, *A Critical History Of The Evolution Of Trinitarianism*, (Boston and New York, 1900), p. 4.

⁸Joseph Priestly, *A History of the Corruptions of Christianity*. The British and foreign Unitarian Association, London, 1871, p.7.

My job is not to bring judgment, nor to condemn, but to study Yahweh's Word and share my convictions and understanding with those I *hope* might be capable of understanding. I sincerely think that most people who believe Messiah is deity are doing it out of ignorance, just as I also did many years ago. However, it is now time for us to awaken from our slumber:

And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: (Acts 17:30)