

# FRAMING JESUS

HOW ANCIENT BIBLE CHANGES  
ELEVATED JESUS BEYOND OUR REACH



ANSILO BOFF

# **Framing Jesus**

**How Ancient Bible  
Changes Elevated Jesus  
Beyond our Reach**

**by Ansilo Boff**



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## Dedication

To those brave enough to let  
their most deeply-held beliefs  
stand in the light.

Truth has a way of setting us  
free ... rarely in the ways we  
expect, and never in the ways  
we were taught to fear.

If you have made it even this  
far, before page one, you have  
already done something  
remarkable.

This book is for you.

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# Introduction: Erased Fingerprints

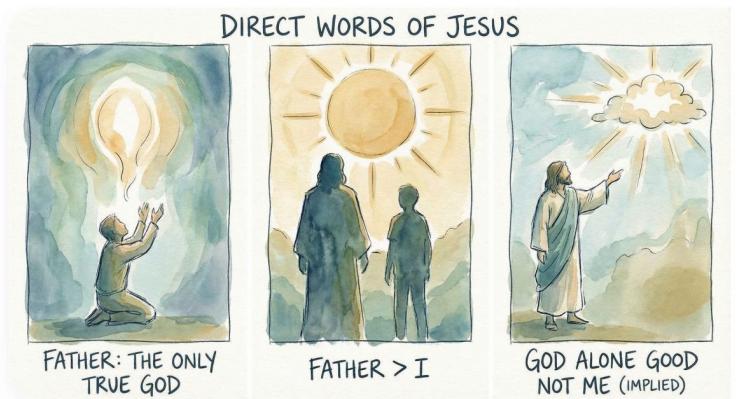
*"Father... You are the only true God." — John 17:3*

*"The Father is greater than I." — John 14:28*

*"Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone." — Mark 10:18*

*— The Words of Jesus*

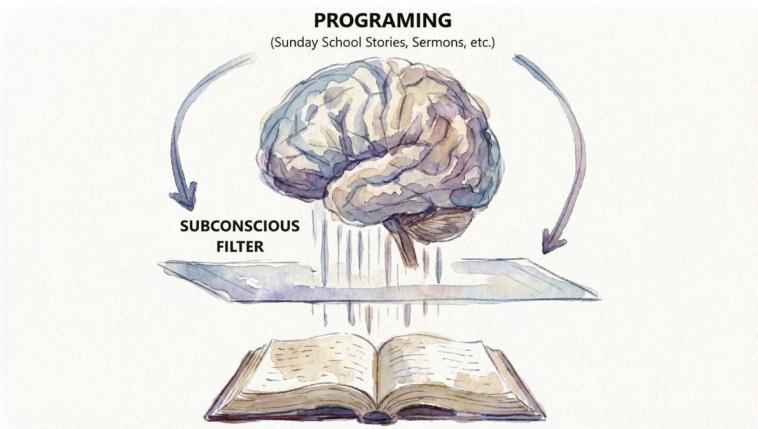
**R**eading those three verses is like scrolling through your social media feed when a quote stops you dead in your tracks. Not because it's controversial or shocking, but because it's *uncomfortably familiar* ... like hearing your own voice on a recording and realizing you sound nothing like you thought you did.



Those three verses above? They're Jesus' own words, yet they read like **forbidden text** in today's Christian landscape. Read them again... slowly this time... as if you've never heard them before. Strip away two thousand years of theological white noise, the hum of creeds and worship songs that have been playing in the background of your spiritual life like elevator music.

What emerges is **unsettling**. In Jesus' own mouth, the spotlight doesn't fall on Him ... it falls *through* Him, landing squarely on His Father. The pattern is there, hiding in plain sight like a watermark that only appears when you tilt the page against the light.

For decades, I was like everyone else: breezing past these clues with the mental equivalent of a polite nod. *Of course* Jesus honors the Father, I told myself. But surely He shares the same divine resume, right? My ability to see words for what they actually said had been hijacked ... not by malice, but by something more insidious: **familiarity**. Sunday school memories, thousands of sermons, worship lyrics that had been downloaded into my spiritual operating system like software updates.



Then came a moment that widened the faint hairline cracks in my polished set of beliefs.

It was 1903, and scholar Allan Hoben was doing what scholars do: cataloguing ancient citations, lost in the kind of tedium that occasionally births revelations. While poring through the writings of Irenaeus, a second-century bishop and premier early Church Father, Hoben stumbled across something that would have made his coffee go cold.

Irenaeus was quoting Luke's Gospel, and what he quoted was this:

*"The Father is the Creator of all."*

Seven English words. Eight Greek words. **ONE MASSIVE PROBLEM.**

When you hunt through every modern translation of Luke's Gospel, scouring verse by verse... *nothing*. The verse has

**vanished** ... disappeared like a deleted tweet, leaving behind only the ghost of Irenaeus' testimony and the creeping suspicion that someone, somewhere, had taken an eraser to sacred text.

This wasn't just a missing puzzle piece. This was discovering that the puzzle you've been working on for years has been *modified* ... pieces removed, edges smoothed, the picture subtly altered while you weren't looking.

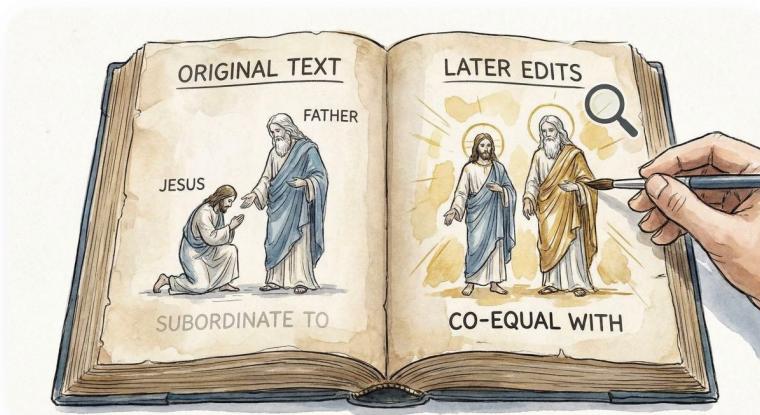


The opening verses I showed you (Jesus clearly distinguishing himself from his superior, divine Father) combined with this disappearing verse from Luke launched me into the investigation you now hold: an investigative journey through manuscripts that reads like a detective novel, except the evidence is written in ink that's two thousand years old.

**BRACE YOURSELF.** Because what I discovered will challenge everything you thought you knew about the most famous man who ever lived.

The pattern that emerged was like discovering that your favorite novel had been secretly edited by someone with an agenda. Whenever a passage presented Jesus as **UNDER** the Father, as **SUBORDINATE TO** the Father, later scribes found ways ... sometimes surgical, sometimes brutal ... to nudge him upward until he shared the very throne of God Himself.

Think of it like **Instagram filters** applied to reality. The *original photo* ... Jesus as the Father's **devoted son** ... got *filtered, edited, and enhanced* until it became **SOMETHING ELSE ENTIRELY**: Jesus as **co-equal** with the Father, Jesus as **pre-existent Creator**, Jesus as the *cosmic Christ of Paul's imagination*.



And yet, miraculously, a few verses survived the editing process. Like digital artifacts in a Photoshopped image, they reveal the original beneath the layers of theological enhancement.

I don't say this lightly. This discovery *rattled* me to my core, and I expect it may rattle you too. If you feel your heart rate

rising, if your palms are getting sweaty, **breathe**. I've been there. I've whispered into the darkness, "*Father, am I being led astray?*" And more than once, I've felt Him nudge back with something that felt like a cosmic wink: "*Follow the truth ... wherever it leads. I'm not afraid of honest questions.*"

Don't misunderstand me. I've witnessed the power of scriptural texts firsthand: the kind of power that heals bodies, calms anxious minds, and turns lives around like a spiritual U-turn. I've prayed for people in Jesus' name, been prayed for myself when I was at death's door, and experienced miraculous healings that defy medical explanation. I once prayed for someone who was almost totally deaf, in Jesus' name, and she began to hear!

But now, those same scriptures lay before me like a **sacred mystery**. The text sprawled across my desk like a priceless artifact, yet everywhere I looked, I saw smudges, erasures, and suspicious edits that betrayed the hands of those who had copied these texts over centuries. My task ... and now yours ... is to dust for fingerprints.

Before we dive into the evidence, let's step back and understand the battlefield we're entering. Imagine trying to explain to someone from the 1950s what a smartphone is ... except the someone is you, and the smartphone is the most complex theological question in human history: **Who exactly was Jesus?**



People have been wrestling with this question for two millennia, and the answers have been... *creative*. Was he just a human? Was he God in disguise? Did he have a human body but divine "superpowers" downloaded into his soul? If so, what was the ratio: 50% human, 50% divine? 70-30? 99.9% human with a sprinkle of divine essence?

The theological debates that followed Jesus' death make today's social media arguments look like polite dinner conversations. These weren't academic discussions over coffee... people **fought and died** defending their particular take on who Jesus was.

## Various views of Jesus

### A: JESUS WAS NOT A HUMAN



(DOCETISM)

Only APPEARED to be human  
(had a human likeness/appearance)

1Jn 4.2 'false teachers...  
don't acknowledge that Jesus  
came in the flesh (in a human  
body)'

Paul (a false teacher) (Phil 2)

"...made in human likeness ..  
found in appearance as a man"

## Various views of Jesus

### B: JESUS WAS A NORMAL HUMAN



View of the Ebionites

- Not inherently Divine
- Empowered by the Spirit

Take Docetism, for instance ... the belief that Jesus only

appeared to be human, like a divine avatar walking among us. This wasn't some fringe theory cooked up by conspiracy theorists. This was mainstream thinking among many early Christians, and **some scholars argue that Paul's language in the first few verses of Philippians 2 could be interpreted as having Docetic overtones.**

Look at what Paul writes in Philippians 2:

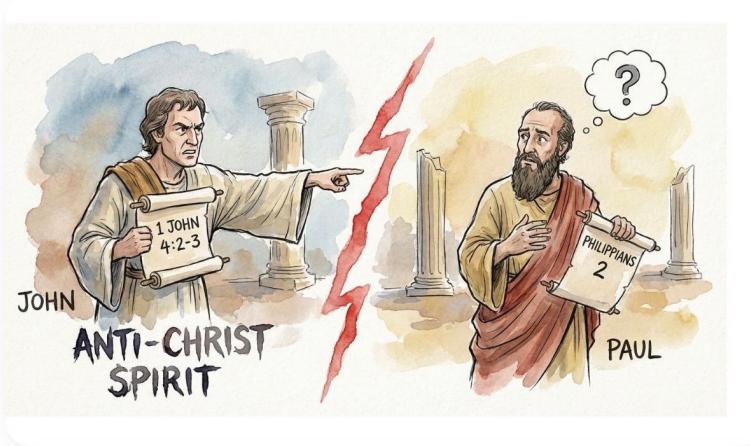
*[Jesus] Who, being in very nature God ...  
 [was] made in human likeness.  
 ... being found in appearance as a man*

**One could read this as Paul suggesting Jesus was God taking on human form:** a divine being who assumed human likeness for the sake of the mission. The phrases "*made in human likeness*" and "*found in appearance as a man*" can be interpreted to mean he only *appeared* to be human, while underneath was pure divinity. Whether Paul intended a fully Docetic reading remains debated among scholars, but the language he chose certainly left room for such interpretations in the decades that followed.

**But here's where it gets interesting.** The Apostle John, in what might be the **most scathing theological takedown in the New Testament**, absolutely *destroys* this view in 1 John 4:2-3. John is crystal clear: anyone who doesn't acknowledge that Jesus came "in the flesh": as a real, actual human being... is not just wrong, they're **false** and "not from God." He goes even further, claiming these ideas are shaped by an "**ANTI-CHRIST SPIRIT.**"

***If this is not a direct assault on Paul and what he***

**wrote in Philippians 2, then I don't know what is. You wouldn't be blamed for thinking he was almost calling Paul an Anti-Christ!**



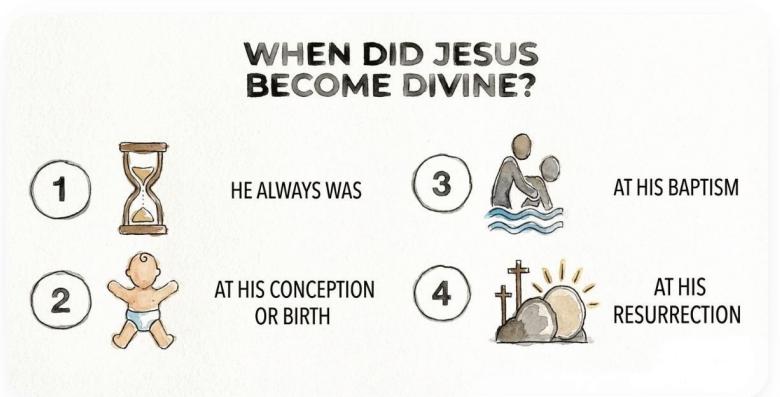
*Talk about theological drama. Here we have a pillar of early Christianity essentially calling another big-name a heretic.*

Eventually, Christianity settled on what might be the **most mind-bending theological concept ever conceived**: the **paradox** that Jesus is simultaneously **100% HUMAN and 100% DIVINE**. Don't think about it too hard ... that's the official recommendation for keeping excruciating migraine headaches to a minimum. Otherwise, you might find your head spinning like a theological roulette wheel.

This fully-God, fully-Man view was codified into the **NICENE CREED AROUND 325 CE**: basically the theological equivalent of a constitutional amendment that's been embedded in church doctrine ever since.

**But here's where the plot thickens:** when exactly did

Jesus get his divine status? Was he born with it ... popping out of the womb already packing divine credentials? Did he earn it at his baptism, like some kind of spiritual promotion ceremony? So was he just a regular human with Joseph as his biological father, who got adopted by God at his baptism ... a view known as "**ADOPTIONISM**"?



There are numerous bible verses which support each position, such as the following, by way of example.

### 1. He Always Was — John 1:1

*"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."*

### 2. At His Conception or Birth — Luke 1:35

*"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore*

*the child to be born will be called holy — the Son of God."*

### **3. At His Baptism — Psalm 2:7 (NIV)**

*"I will proclaim the LORD's decree: He said to me,  
'You are my son; today I have become your father.'"*

### **4. At His Resurrection — Romans 1:3–4**

*"Regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David, and who was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead."*

And once he was divine, what was his relationship to the Father? Was he God's equal partner in the cosmic business, or was he more like a junior executive who reports to the CEO? Was he subordinate to the Father only during his earthly mission (as Paul suggests in Philippians 2:6-8), or was he **always** subordinate to the Father?

These aren't just theological nitpicks. As we'll discover, these ideological wars weren't fought in some distant theological ivory tower. **They were fought in the very manuscripts that became your Bible.** The victors didn't just win debates ... they rewrote history.

## Uncovering the Clues

This book will help us get to the good stuff: the evidence. This isn't late-night conspiracy theory material or theological fan fiction. We're talking about **concrete, verifiable clues** that create a trail of breadcrumbs leading us back to the original Jesus.

We're trying to discover his **UNTINTED teachings** because there is no question there is **WISDOM, TRUTH and POWER** in those words that go beyond the insecurities of institutions and governments. There is **no doubt in my mind as to his divinity**. He kept pointing to us to alert us to **our own divinity**.

*"For which of these good works are you going to stone me?"*

*"We're not stoning you for any good work, but for blasphemy, BECAUSE YOU, A MERE MAN, CLAIM TO BE GOD."*

— John 10:32-33

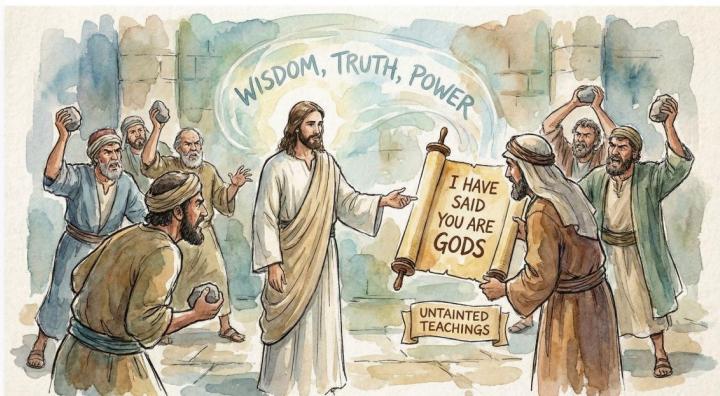
But here's where it gets interesting. Instead of backing down, clarifying that he's not claiming to be God, or acknowledging that he is in fact God, Jesus picks the third option and ropes us into his divine claim by quoting Psalm 82:

*"Is it not written in your Law, 'I have said YOU*

*[plural] ARE GODS'?"*

— *Psalm 82:6 (quoted by Jesus)*

He's basically saying, *"Look, if Scripture calls you gods, why are you so upset when, according to you, I make statements suggesting the same about myself?"*



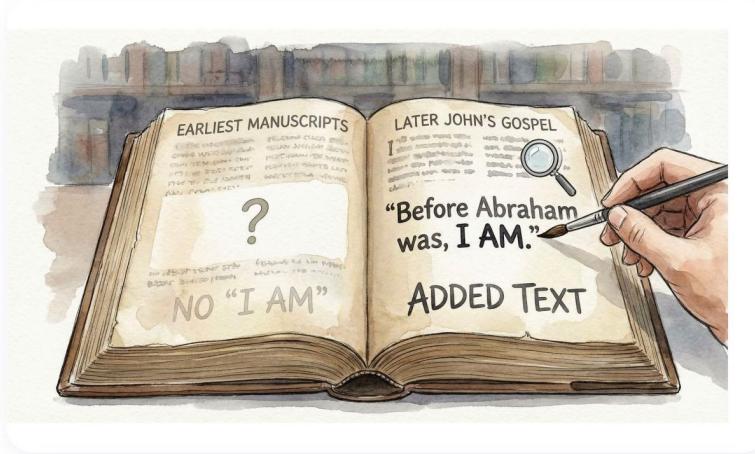
That's the Jesus I'm talking about: the one who addressed the question about a **perceived divinity claim**, by pointing to **our shared divine nature**. It seems to me that, at least in this particular interaction, he wasn't trying to elevate himself above us; he was trying to **wake us up to who we really are**. But let me not get ahead of myself.

I already hear you screaming, *"But what about when he said 'Before Abraham was, I AM...' in John 8:58!" Surely he was calling himself God in this verse!"*

*"Before Abraham was, I AM."*

— John 8:58

Let me say the following: when you dig into the **manuscript evidence**, something interesting emerges. This verse appears **nowhere in the earliest Christian writings** ... not in Paul, not in the other Gospels, not even in the earliest Church Fathers who were obsessed with proving Jesus' divinity. It only shows up in John's Gospel, which was written **decades later** and contains several passages that read like **theological additions** rather than historical accounts. The fact that this explosive claim about pre-existence appears in **isolation**, without any corroboration from earlier sources, suggests it might be exactly the kind of **textual enhancement** we'll be investigating throughout this book.



Think of what follows as the theological equivalent of a

textual investigation. Each clue tells a story, and together they paint a picture that's impossible to ignore.

## CLUE NO. 1: Bible Contradictions (Internal)

Here's the thing about contradictions: most people treat them like bugs in the system, glitches to be ignored or explained away. But what if they're actually *features*? What if the contradictions are like cracks in a wall that reveal the original structure beneath the plaster?

Bible contradictions are **invaluable gifts** when you're hunting for truth. They're the places where the editing process wasn't quite smooth enough, where the seams show through. Let me show you what I mean with three examples that will make your head spin:

### Bible Contradiction Example 1: The Missing Generation

Matthew 1:17 makes a bold claim: there were exactly *fourteen generations* from the Babylonian exile to Christ. It's a neat, symmetrical summary that sounds like divine mathematics: "...*there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Messiah.*" Beautiful symmetry, right?

But here's the problem: when you actually count

the names listed in Matthew 1:12–16, you get **thirteen** generations, not fourteen. One is missing. You order a dozen donuts and only get eleven.



### How many generations from the Babylonian exile until Christ?

**A**

Matthew  
says fourteen.

Matthew 1:17

**B**

A careful  
count of the  
generations  
reveals only  
thirteen.

Matthew 1:12–16

So where did the fourteenth generation disappear to? Some apologists scramble to explain this away ... maybe "Jesus" is counted twice, or maybe it's meant to be symbolic rather than literal. But Matthew doesn't say "about fourteen" ... he says *exactly fourteen*. This isn't just a math error; imagine discovering your bank statement doesn't add up, and the bank says, "Well, it's close enough."

## Bible Contradiction Example 2: The Genealogy Wars

Here's where it gets really interesting. *How many ancestors did Jesus actually have between King David and himself?* According to Matthew 1:17, there are exactly **28 generations** from David to Jesus. But flip over to Luke 3:23–31, and suddenly the family tree explodes to a whopping **43 generations!**

That's not a rounding error ... that's 15 extra ancestors. You believed your mom when she told you you had 28 cousins only to discover you have 43. Someone's definitely wrong, or someone's definitely lying.

