

HERESIES ABOUT JESUS 0 - 500 AD

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EBIONISM →



1st C. AD



JESUS = FULLY HUMAN, NOT DIVINE

Jesus was a normal human being, who was naturally born (i.e. not by virgin birth). He was not divine but was empowered by the Spirit of God.



Ebion?



There is only one God, who is distinct from his chosen Messiah.



DOCETISM →



1st-2nd C. AD



JESUS = DIVINE, NOT HUMAN

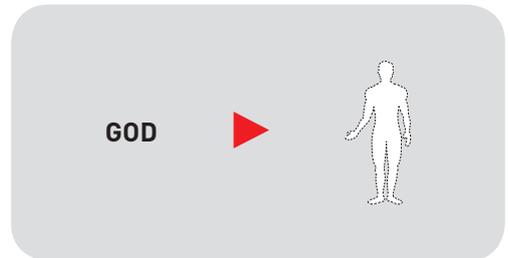
Jesus only seemed to be human in his incarnation, suffering and death.



Unknown



God cannot suffer or be corrupted by human flesh and therefore the divine Jesus could not be truly human.



ADOPTIONISM →



2nd C. AD



JESUS = HUMAN, NOT ETERNALLY DIVINE

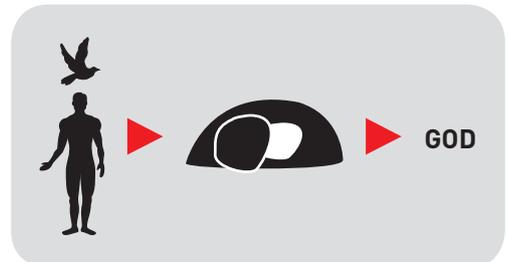
Jesus was born human, united with God's spirit in his baptism, and adopted into God's being in his resurrection.



Theodotus of Byzantium?



There is only one pre-existent creator God. Therefore for Jesus to be God, he had to *become* divine.



MODALISM →



2nd C. AD



JESUS = DIVINE MODE, NOT HUMAN PERSON

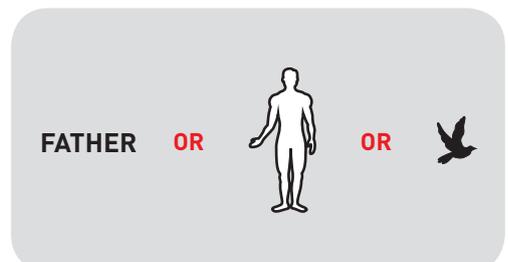
The Father, Son and Spirit are not three discrete persons, but are three modes or aspects of the one God.



Unknown



There is only one God. God can only be three persons in appearance, not in actuality.



timeframe



teacher



big idea



argument

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APOLLINARIANISM →



4th C. AD



JESUS = DIVINE, BUT NOT FULLY HUMAN

Jesus' human spirit / soul was replaced by the divine 'logos' (the Word) in his incarnation.



Apollinaris the Younger



Jesus could not sin and so could not have a human spirit, i.e. the source of human sin.

LOGOS

HUMAN SPIRIT



ARIANISM →



4th C. AD



JESUS = HUMAN, NOT DIVINE

The 'Logos' (the Word) was 'the firstborn' of creation, taking on human flesh in the incarnation. 'There was a time when the Son was not.'



Arius



The divine and transcendent Creator cannot share his being with another. Therefore Jesus must have been created.

LOGOS
≠
GOD



MONOPHYSITISM →



4-5th C. AD



JESUS = DIVINE, NOT HUMAN

Jesus has only one nature: divine. Jesus' human nature was virtually absorbed by his divinity in his incarnation, leaving only a 'cladding' of humanity.



Euthyches



Jesus is incorruptable and so could not be truly human.

GOD



HUMANITY

NESTORIANISM →



5th C. AD



JESUS = DIVINE AND HUMAN (BUT SEPARATE)

Jesus' divine and human natures were completely separate in the incarnation. Mary was the 'Christ-bearer', not the 'God-bearer'.



Nestorius



The divine and human natures cannot be mixed.

HUMAN SPIRIT

GOD



timeframe



teacher



big idea



argument