

Who is the Rap God? It seems that the biggest names in the rap industry have a god-complex. This is evident in everything from the nicknames they have adopted, to the allusions of god-hood in their lyrics, to outright calling themselves god. Let's take a look at some of the prime examples: **Jay Z calls himself "J-Hova,"** no doubt a reference to Jehovah, the God of the Bible. (Exodus 6:3) **Kanye West,** about his nickname Yeezus, (similar to "Jesus") said, **"West was my slave name and Yeezus is my god name."** While Kanye may deny that he is making himself equal with "God" by only referring to himself as merely "a god," Kanye has gone on to publish his own version of the Bible called **"The Book of Yeezus,"** in which all references to God are replaced with "Kanye" or "Yeezus." **Drake,** in his song "6 God" says, **"I'm the real 6 God boy,"** and **Eminem** in his song "Rap God" says, **"why be a king when you can be a God?"** Have the overwhelming levels of worship from fans, amassed fortunes, and power that these artists have attained simply gone to their heads? Or is there something more sinister at work?

Desiring godhood is nothing new. The first instance of this occurring took place at the beginning of creation, when Satan sinned, and lost his place in heaven because of his desire to be God. **"How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!...For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God...I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell."** (Isaiah 14:12-15) Ever since then, Satan has tempted and snared many with this very same desire, starting in the Garden of Eden when he caused the fall of mankind by convincing Eve to sin by promising, **"Ye shall be as gods."** (Genesis 3:5)

He even used it to tempt the Lord Jesus, but failed, **"Again, the devil taketh him [Jesus] up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve."** (Matthew 4:8-10)

While Jesus prevailed over this temptation, countless others have both received and accepted this same offer of power, fame, and wealth, including the most popular rap artists of our day. They wouldn't be where they are without it. Their desire for and expressions of godhood come from the spirit working through them, **"...according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience."** (Ephesians 2:2) So in reality, Satan is the true god of rap. Why does Satan do this? It's obvious what's in it for the artists; but what is the benefit for Satan?

Satan wants to take as many with him to hell as possible. Therefore, the reason he uses these artists can be summed up with this verse **"...the god of this world [Satan] hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ...should shine unto them."** (2 Corinthians 4:4) He wants you blinded, distracted and so into the rap and hip hop music scene that you become hardened in your sin, and don't even care about your own soul, much less know what God's word has to say about eternity and salvation through the blood of Jesus Christ. Satan doesn't care who you worship or idolize as long as you aren't truly worshipping the God of the Bible and his Son Jesus Christ. Anything that takes your time, energy, attention, adoration or obedience away from the true God is an idol and an abomination in the sight of the Lord. **"These men have set up their idols in their heart, and put the stumblingblock of their iniquity [sin] before their face:"** (Ezekiel 14:3) These rap artists have become idols in the hearts of their fans and God hates it and will judge it.

More than idolatry, these artists, by influence of Satan, also glorify overtly sinful themes. Think about the themes magnified by rap and hip hop for a minute: gang violence, murder, rape, sex with prostitutes, physical abuse, greed/covetousness, drug and alcohol abuse and outright rebellion. What does God's word have to say about these themes? **"Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of**

the which I tell you before...that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God." (Galatians 5:19-21) These sinful themes are used to lure you in and ensnare your soul! This further proves that Satan is behind their work, because actions show who someone belongs to regardless of what they say. Jesus said, **"Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth."** (John 8:44) **"He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning."** (1 John 3:8) To whom do your actions and desires show that you belong? Have you been ensnared?

Please also consider the following passage for a moment, which so accurately describes the Rap/Hip-Hop scene and pay special attention the last sentence, **"Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable [insatiable], unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them."** (Romans 1:29-32). Do you have pleasure in these artists who blaspheme and mock the Lord Jesus Christ and glorify sin? Then you too, are worthy of eternal death and hell in God's sight. **"But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone; which is the second death."** (Revelation 21:8)

My friend, if you are still reading, and are concerned for your eternal soul, there is still hope for you. God, in his love and mercy has provided for us a way to be forgiven by sending his Son, Jesus, to die a bloody death on the cross as our substitute. **"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."** (Romans 5:8) During his life on earth, Jesus perfectly kept all of God's commandments and then was punished on

the cross to satisfy the demands of God's justice for your sin. Even in your rebellion, Jesus took the punishment you deserve so you could be forgiven. **"But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities... and with his stripes we are healed."** (Isaiah 53:5) He was buried, and rose again from the dead on the third day, conquering death and proving his death was acceptable to God as a payment for sin. This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ that Satan is trying to blind you to. In order for the blood of Christ be effectual in saving your soul, it is required that you obey the first words of Jesus' earthly ministry: **"Repent ye, and believe the gospel."** (Mark 1:15)

Except ye repent, ye shall all like wise perish." (Luke 13:3) Repentance is humbling yourself and admitting your spiritually lost condition before God. It is recognizing that you have sinned against him alone, that your sin has separated you from him, and that his eternal wrath upon you is justified. Be sorry for your sin and rebellion against God, confess it, and hate it. **"For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation."** (2 Corinthians 7:10) Surrender, and turn from going your own way in life to going God's way by submitting to Jesus as your Lord. Repentance also means to recognize that you have no merit, good works, or attributes that play a role in your salvation. **"Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight."** (Romans 3:20) Until you realize you are lost and utterly helpless to contribute anything to your salvation, you will not receive grace and forgiveness. **"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."** (Ephesians 2:8-9) You must recognize that your only hope of redemption is to trust solely in the atoning blood of Jesus Christ as a payment for your sins. Repentance is a gift from God. You cannot repent without God granting you repentance. (2 Timothy 2:25) Earnestly and humbly seek the Lord through prayer and by reading and believing his word (use a KJV Bible), and ask him with your whole heart until he gives it to you. **"Strive to enter in at the straight gate; for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in and shall not be able."** (Luke 13:24)

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." (Acts 16:31) Believing the Gospel means to believe that Jesus died to pay for your sins in full, that he was buried, and rose again from the dead on the third day. It means to trust him as your only hope, apart from trusting in any works or merit of your own. The very moment that you repent and believe the gospel, you will be **"born again."** Being **"born again"** means to have a conversion experience in which God supernaturally changes your heart and transforms you from a child of disobedience into a child of God. **"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."** (2 Corinthians 5:17) You will have a new nature, new desires to love Jesus Christ, to obey his word, to be with other Christians and to live for him every day. Loving God will manifest as a willful obedience to his word in your life. **"For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous."** (1 John 5:3) You will never be without sin, but you will no longer love your sin, live for your sin, or be in bondage to your sin; no matter how much power it has over you now, you will have victory over it. **"For sin shall not have dominion over you:"** (Romans 6:14) Without allowing God to perform this radical transformation in your heart, you will die in your sins and go to hell for all of eternity.

How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation." (Hebrews 2:3) Today may be your day of salvation, friend. Do not wait! You are not promised tomorrow! The author begs you on Christ's behalf to repent, to believe the Gospel, and call upon the Lord Jesus Christ to save you before it's eternally too late! **"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."** (Romans 10:9,10,13)

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WHO IS THE



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