John 20:26-29—"And eight days after, his disciples were again within, and Thomas with them. Jesus comes, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst and said, Peace be to you. Then he says to Thomas, Bring thy finger here and see my hands; and bring thy hand and put it into my side; and be not unbelieving, but believing. Thomas answered and said to him, My Lord and my God. Jesus says to him, Because thou hast seen me thou hast believed: blessed they who have not seen and have believed."

## That is:

Thomas answered and said to him [not to the Father, nor simply to the empty air as blurting out an exclamation of surprise, but 'answered and said' directly and explicitly 'TO HIM,' to the risen Lord Jesus Himself], My Lord and my God [literally it reads that Thomas said to Jesus: "the Lord of me and the God of me"]. [And in response to Thomas' emphatic, fervent, worshipful confession of faith,] Jesus says to him, Because thou hast seen me thou hast believed: blessed they who have not seen and have believed [more blessed are they who have believed solely and entirely on the ground of Scripture as God's word—believing God simply in what He sets forth in His word, believing God's word on God's authority].

No rebuke or correction of Thomas by the risen Lord for confessing Him as his **Lord and God**, but obviously and necessarily <u>full acceptance!</u>—albeit his worshipful confession of faith is bound up with sight ('seeing' the risen Lord) rather than having been rendered by faith in His word without any sight.

"I am Jehovah, that is my name; and my glory will I not give to another." (Isa. 42:8)

"Fear God and give him glory . . . worship him who has made the heaven and the earth and the sea and fountains of waters." (Rev. 14:7)

"Thou art worthy, <u>O our Lord and God</u>, to receive glory and honour and power; **for thou hast created all things,** and for thy will they were, and they have been created." (Rev. 4:11)

"Stir up thyself, and awake for my right, for my cause, my God and Lord!" (Ps. 35:23)

"For certain men have got in unnoticed, they who of old were marked out beforehand to this sentence, ungodly persons, turning the grace of our God into dissoluteness, and denying <u>our only Master and Lord</u> Jesus Christ." (Jude 4)

"Mark, too, the confession of Thomas; not a word about 'My Father and your Father,' but, 'My Lord, and my God.' Just so the Jew [in a coming day] will acknowledge Jesus. They shall look on Him whom they pierced, and own Jesus of Nazareth to be their Lord and their God. (See Zechariah 12 {Zech.12:10 with John 19:34-37 above}) It [Thomas' confession] is not association with Christ, and He not ashamed to call us brethren, according to the position He has taken as man before His and our God and Father, but the recognition forced on him by the marks of the cross, which drew out the confession of Christ's divine glory and Lordship." (William Kelly [WK])

And compare the personal culmination of Thomas' avowal to the declarations that have been made up to this point throughout the Gospel of John (not to mention the other three Gospels and the rest of the New Testament, or the Old Testament Scriptures which likewise bear witness) to Christ's absolute Godhood. *He is the only true God*, as are the Father and the Holy Spirit, in accordance with the truth of the Triunity of the Godhead. Here is just a sampling to recap:

"In the beginning was the Word [not 'came into being' in the beginning, but ever 'was' in the beginning, and thus had no beginning], and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and [to be even more emphatic and absolute] without him not one thing [no exceptions: not a single thing!] came into being which has come into being [that is, not one created thing exists apart from the eternal Word bringing it into existence!]." (John 1:1-3)

"He [John the Baptist] came for witness, that he might witness concerning the light [Christ], that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but that he might witness concerning the light [Christ]. . .He [John the Baptist] said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the path of the Lord [i.e., the path of Jehovah, referring to Christ, Jehovah-Messiah, and thus to His intrinsic Divine glory], as said Esaias the prophet [in Isa. 40:3]." (John 1:7-8, 23)

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"He [the Son] who comes from above <u>is above all</u> [superior and supreme 'over all' as God the Son, no exceptions]. He who has his origin in the earth [John the Baptist] is of the earth, and speaks as of the earth. He who comes out of heaven is above all." (John 3:31)

"And for this the Jews persecuted Jesus and sought to kill him, because he had done these things on sabbath. But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto and I [the Son] work. For this therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he had not only violated the Sabbath, but also said that God was his own Father [in such a manner as to be] making himself equal with God. Jesus therefore answered and said to them, Verily, verily, I say to you, The Son can do nothing of himself save whatever he sees the Father doing: for whatever things he does, these things also the Son does in like manner. For the Father loves the Son and shews him all things which he himself does; and he will shew him greater works than these, that ye may wonder. For even as the Father raises the dead and quickens them, thus the Son also quickens whom he will: for neither does the Father judge any one, but has given all judgment to the Son; that all may honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He who honours not the Son, honours not the Father who has sent him." (John 5:16-23)

"Your father Abraham exulted in that he should see my day, and he saw and rejoiced. The Jews therefore said to him, Thou hast not yet fifty years, and hast thou seen Abraham? Jesus said to them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am [Jehovah the I AM]. They took up therefore stones that they might cast them at him; but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple." (John 8:56-59)

"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me; and I give them life eternal; and they shall never perish, and no one shall seize them out of my hand. My Father who has given them to me is greater than all, and no one can seize out of the hand of my Father. I and the Father are one. The Jews therefore again took stones that they might stone him. Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewn you of my Father; for which work of them do ye stone me? The Jews answered him, For a good work we stone thee not, but for blasphemy, and because thou, being a man, makest thyself God. Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law, I said, 'Ye are gods'? If he called them 'gods' to whom the word of God came (and the scripture cannot be broken), do ye say of him whom the Father has sanctified and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest, because I said, I am Son of God?" (John 10:27-36)

"But though he had done so many signs before them, they believed not on him, that the word of the prophet Esaias which he said [in Isa. 53:1] might be fulfilled, Lord, who has believed our report? and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? On this account they could not believe, because Esaias said again [in Isa. 6:10], He [Jehovah] has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart, that they may not see with their eyes, and understand with their heart and be converted, and I [Jehovah] should heal them. These things said Esaias because he saw his glory and spoke of him [that is, in seeing the glory of 'Jehovah of hosts' in Isa. 6, the prophet Isaiah saw and spoke of the Divine glory of the Person of God the Son in the Triune Godhead, Jehovah-Jesus!]." (John 12:37-41)

"Jesus says to him, Am I so long a time with you, and thou hast not known me, Philip? He that has seen me [the Son] has seen the Father; and how sayest thou, Shew us the Father?" (John 14:9)

"And now glorify me, thou Father, along with thyself, with the glory which I [the Son] had along with thee <u>before</u> the world was [i.e., in eternity past, before the beginning of time/creation].... Father, as to those whom thou hast given me [the Son], I desire that where I am they also may be with me, that they may behold my glory which thou hast given me, for thou [the Father] lovedst me [the Son] before the foundation of the world [i.e., in eternity past, before the beginning of time/creation]." (John 17:5, 24)

"And again another scripture [Zech. 12:10] says, They shall look on him whom they pierced [i.e., they shall look on <u>Jehovah</u>, referring to Christ Himself, <u>Jehovah-Messiah</u>, whom the Jews had pierced on the cross]." (John 19:37)

As the same apostle John, by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, elsewhere writes:

"That which was from the beginning, that which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes; that which we contemplated, and our hands handled, concerning the Word of life; (and the life has been manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and report to you the eternal life [the eternal Son], which was with the Father, and has been manifested to us). . . . And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us an understanding that we should know him that is true; and we are in him that is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. Children, keep yourselves from idols." (1 John 1:1-2, 5:20-21)