

JESUS 316

Who is Jesus?

Who is Jesus? The Bible gives us the only real answer to that question. The Apostle Paul wrote, *"All Scripture is inspired [breathed] by God,"* 2 Timothy 3:16. The God-breathed Bible, in Genesis through Revelation, teaches that Jesus is God from eternity past to eternity future. The Bible declares that He is *"the Alpha and the Omega who is and who was and who is to come,"* Revelation 1:8. The Bible identifies Jesus as God, the Creator, the Great Shepherd, the Lord, the Redeemer, the Lamb of God,, the Lord of Lords, the King of Kings, Immanuel (God with us) Savior, High Priest, and the Resurrection and the Life.

Jesus was the Creator. *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. All things came into being through Him. And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us; and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father,"* excerpts from John 1:1-14. *"By Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones, or dominions, or rulers, or authorities - all things have been created through Him and for Him,"* excerpts from Colossians 1:16-17.

Jesus is the "I AM". Jesus, the Angel of the Lord, called to Moses from the Burning Bush of Exodus 3 (~1,450 BC) and identified Himself as the great *"I AM"*. In John 8, Jesus proclaimed Himself to be the great *"I AM"* who existed before Abraham (~2,100 BC) and before the Jewish people. The Jews saw that as His claim of Deity and picked up stones to execute Him. Later Jesus stated *"I and the Father are one,"* John 10:30-31. And the Jews picked up stones again.

Jesus is in the Old Testament. No one has ever seen God the Father, John 1:18, 6:46. However, God as the pre-incarnate Jesus appeared to several people in Old Testament times before He was born in Bethlehem. He appeared as the Angel of the Lord to Hagar in Genesis 16 & 21, to Moses in Exodus 3, to Gideon in Judges 6, and to Samson's parents in Judges 13. Jesus also appeared to Abraham in Genesis 18 & 22 and to Jacob in Genesis 31 & 32. And Jesus is mentioned as one in the Trinity in Isaiah 48:12-19 (written about 700 BC).

Jesus was the predicted One. Over 300 Old Testament prophecies, from hundreds of years earlier, describe the birth, life, and death of Jesus. Some of those prophecies in Psalm 22 give a gruesome description of His crucifixion (written about 1,000 BC when stoning was the means of execution). The fulfillment of those Psalm 22 prophecies is recorded in Matthew 27.

Jesus became the God-Man. The Prophet Isaiah prophesied that *"A child will be born to us, a son will be given to us,"* Isaiah 9:6. Isaiah identified that One to be the mighty God. The eternal Son was given as a child born in Bethlehem. Jesus existed before He was born - from eternity past. The title *"Son of God"* describes His position rather than a birth. It does not mean that He came into existence at birth in Bethlehem. The Apostle Paul wrote, *"Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross,"* Philippians 2:5-8. Jesus became fully man while still being God. The eternal, preexistent Jesus came down from Heaven to become a man, John 3:13, 31, John 6:33-38. Jesus was simultaneously God and man.

Jesus performed miracles. Many of His miracles are found in the New Testament. Three dramatically accompanied His claims. He miraculously fed 5,000 and then said, *"I am the bread of life,"* John 6:35. He

healed a blind man after saying, "While I am in the world, I am the Light of the world," John 9:1-8. And He said, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies," John 11:25. Then Jesus walked to the tomb of His friend Lazarus who had been dead for four days and called him back to life. Jesus healed the sick, crippled, deaf, mute, leprous, and the possessed. He turned water into wine, walked on water, and calmed the sea. Matthew 9:2-7 tells of men who brought a paralyzed man to Jesus. He said to the man "take courage, son; your sins are forgiven." Religious leaders thought that was blasphemy because only God can forgive sin. Jesus asked them, "Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, and walk?' But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins - then He said to the paralytic, 'Get up, pick up your bed and go home.' And he got up and went home."

Jesus proved that He was God. Jesus fulfilled Old Testament prophecies about His birth, life, and death. He performed many miracles to demonstrate that He was God. He taught with authority. "When Jesus had finished these words, the crowds were amazed at His teaching; for He was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes," Matthew 7:28-29. And He lived a sinless life, Hebrews 4:15, 1 Peter 2:22, 1 John 3:5. Jesus, as the sinless God-Man, became the perfect Lamb of God sacrificed on the cross for our sins. "He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness," 1 Peter 2:24.

Jesus was crucified and rose from the dead. "You were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold - but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ," 1 Peter 1:18-19. "They also put Him to death by hanging Him on a cross. God raised Him up on the third day and granted that He become visible - of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins," Acts 10:39-40, 43 "I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures," 1 Corinthians 15:3-4. Jesus rose from the grave and was seen by many witnesses before He ascended back to Heaven.

Jesus is the only way to God. Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me," John 14:6. The Apostle Peter said, "There is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under Heaven that has been given among mankind by which we must be saved," Acts 4:12. The Apostle Paul wrote, "For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and mankind, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all," 1 Timothy 2:5-6. The way of Jesus to God is different from all other religions. They offer no solution to our sin problem. They teach that if you generally do good according to their varied definitions of good and bad, then their gods might overlook your sin and let you into Heaven. The way of Jesus is that by believing in Him your sins are paid for on the cross and forgiven. With Jesus you go to Heaven forgiven. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life," John 3:16.

Jesus will return. Jesus said, "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also," John 14:2-3. And in the final words of the Bible, Jesus said, "Yes, I am coming quickly [suddenly]." The Apostle John added, "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus," Revelation 22:20-21. If Jesus returned today, would you be ready to meet Him? Visit www.Gospel316.org to be sure you are ready by believing in Jesus and being forgiven by God.