

# Who is Jesus?

A 10 lesson study on the person  
and work of Jesus Christ



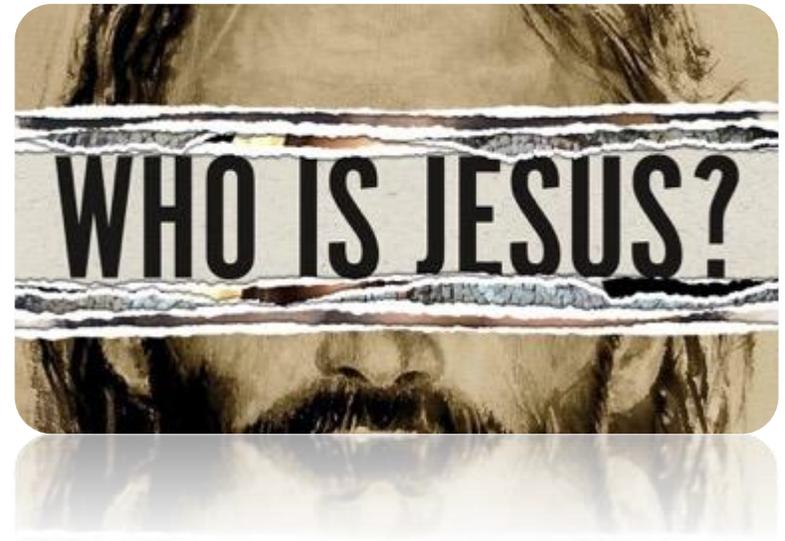
## CONTENTS

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- Lesson 1 - Introduction**  
*Page 4*
- Lesson 2 – Pre-Existence of Jesus**  
*Page 5*
- Lesson 3 – Virgin Birth**  
*Page 6*
- Lesson 4 – Humanity of Jesus**  
*Page 7*
- Lesson 5 – Deity of Jesus**  
*Page 8*
- Lesson 6 – Content of His Life**  
*Page 9*
- Lesson 7 – Death of Jesus**  
*Page 10*
- Lesson 8 – Burial of Jesus**  
*Page 11*
- Lesson 9 – Resurrection of Jesus**  
*Page 12*
- Lesson 10 – Ascension of Jesus**  
*Page 13*

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WHO IS JESUS?



## Introduction

What you think about Jesus is, by far, the most important belief you will form. The basis for the Christian religion is not based on the teachings of Jesus, but the man Jesus. What do you believe about Him? Was He human? Was He God? Did He die? Is He alive today? What did His life accomplish? His Death? His resurrection? Where is He now? All these questions, and many more, have eternal impact on your life. This study is designed assist you as you dig into His life and uncover who He is and why that matters. I think you'll find out that once you know who He really is, you'll never be the same.

## LESSON 1 - INTRODUCTION

*Christology – The study of the person and work of Jesus Christ*

What is included:

- Personhood (Who He is)
- Work (What He did)
- Implications (What that means for us)

What is not included:

- The meaning of His teachings
- Not the ‘doctrines’ of Jesus, but the doctrine of ‘Jesus’

Purpose of Christology:

- Understanding the Identity of Jesus (John 8:24)
- This is the mission of all 4 gospels:
  - **Matthew** – Jesus is King
  - **Mark** – Jesus is Servant
  - **Luke** – Jesus is the Son of Man
  - **John** – Jesus is the Son of God

Why does it matter?

His identity is the foundation of Christianity

- If He is not who He said He is Christianity does not exist.
- No other religion is based on the **identity** of its founder

His identity is the heart of Christianity

- Our **Salvation** – John 21-30
- Our **Family** – Matthew 16:13-23
- Our **Hope** – 1 Peter 1:3-5, 20-21
- Our **Identity** – Col. 1:15-29 & 2 Corinthians 3:17

*“And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another.” – II Corinthians 3:18*

## LESSON 2 – PRE-EXISTENCE

*Did Jesus of Nazareth have an eternal, personal existence before being born on earth?*

Only two options: **Yes** or **No**

Testimony of Prophets:

Micah 5:2 | Isaiah 9:6 | John 1:30

Testimony of Jesus:

John 17:5, 24 | John 10:30 | John 8:58

Testimony of Apostles:

John 1:1-5, 14 | Colossians 1:15-20 | Hebrews 1:2-3, 8

Implications from Scripture:

- Creation attributed to Him (John 1:1, Col. 1:16)
- His given names & titles (Lord, Immanuel)
- He did not refuse worship (John 20:28, Heb. 1:6)
- His attributes reflected God:
  - **Giver of life** (Luke 7:11-17)
  - **Self-Existent** (John 5:26)
  - **Immutable** (Heb. 13:8)
  - **Omnipresence** (Matt. 28:20)
  - **Omniscience** (Col. 2:3)
  - **Omnipotence** (Luke 8:22-25)

Why does it matter?

His life on earth was **volitional** (of His own choice)

- His choice was informed (Rom. 5:6-8)
- His love is based on His choice, not our performance
  - Lie – “I am loved because I am good”
  - Causes one of two problems
    - “I can’t be loved” (always deflated)
    - “I am so lovable” (always inflated)

*The pre-existence of Jesus teaches me that I am loved because he chose to love me. So I can rest in his love on my best or worst day.*

## LESSON 3 – VIRGIN BIRTH

*Jesus was conceived in the womb of the Virgin Mary by the miraculous work of the Holy Spirit.*

Biblical Witness:

Matthew 1:18-25 | Luke 1:26-38

List the similarities:

List the differences:

Considering the Critiques:

- Only 2 of 4 gospels record this
  - Matthew – Jewish believers (God becoming a man would be offensive). Being true is only motivation to include.
  - Luke – Historian & Physician. Including a myth would be inconsistent with his effort.
- Not mentioned in NT – Rom. 1:3 + Gal. 4:4 + Col. 1:15-16

Why does it matter?

Displays the Nature of God:

- He works within our world in supernatural ways
  - Noah, Moses, Jericho, Gideon, David, etc...

Displays the Nature of Christ:

- The virgin birth is the basis for Jesus' existence
  - 100% Man and 100% Divine. He knows the glory of both

Displays the Nature of Salvation:

- God comes for us, not the other way around
  - Do you question God's desire for you? Isa. 62:5b + Psalm 23:6
- We need a redemption they cannot create ourselves
  - Are you trying to produce your own salvation? Heb. 4

*The virgin birth of Jesus teaches me that God came for me, and had to save me in a way that I cannot save myself.*

## LESSON 4 – HUMANITY OF JESUS

*The nature of Jesus is at the center of Christianity. Jesus Christ existed as fully human and fully God.*

Human Experience:

- Born – Lk. 2:7
- Grew – Lk. 2:52
- Hungry – Mt. 4:2
- Thirsty – Jn. 4:7
- Became tired – Jn. 4:6
- Had a mind – Mk. 13:32
- Had a will – Jn. 6:38
- Slept – Mt. 8:24
- Died – 1 Cor. 15:3

Human Qualities:

- Grieved – Jn. 11:33-35
- Prayed – Mk. 1:35
- Healed – Mk. 14:14
- Forgave – Mk. 2:5
- Marveled – Mt. 8:10
- Got Angry – Mt. 21:12-13
- Suffered in Spirit & Body – Jn. 12:27, 13:21, 19:1-37
- Tempted – Mt. 4:1-11
- Compassionate – Mt. 14:14

How He became human:

Philippians 2:5-8

- His Form:
  - He was in the form of God and took on human form
- His Choice
  - Equality with God not to be grasped. Took form of servant
- His Process:
  - Kenosis: He emptied Himself
  - Did not give up being God, took on being man

Why does it matter?

He Delivers:

- From Separation (by atonement) - 2 Cor. 5:18-19
- From Law (by fulfilling it) – Rom. 8:1-4
- From Death (by defeating it) – Heb. 2:14-15
- From Sin (by redemption) – Eph. 4:20-24

*'That which he has not assumed, He has not healed'* – Gregory of Naziansus

He Understands:

- Weakness (Suffering/Struggle) – Heb. 4:15
- Temptation (overcoming) – Luke 4:1-11
- Vulnerability of faith (risk of trusting) – Heb. 2:13

*The humanity of Jesus teaches me that He knows exactly what it is like to be in my shoes, and that He satisfied all the requirements for me to be reunited with God as a human myself.*

## LESSON 5 – DIVINITY OF JESUS

*The nature of Jesus is at the center of Christianity. Jesus Christ existed as fully human and fully God.*

### Witness of the Apostles:

- Paul: Titus 2:13, Acts 20:28
- Peter: 2 Peter 1:1
- John: John 1:1, 14

*How would you describe their understanding of Jesus?*

### Examining Jesus:

- Attributes:
  - Eternal (Heb. 1:11-12), Immutable (Heb. 13:8), Omnipresent (Mt. 28:20), Omniscient (Jn. 2:24-25)
- Names:
  - YHWH (Rom. 10:9), I AM (Ex. 3:14 & Jn. 8:58)
- Works:
  - Miracles (Jn. 5:21), Forgive (Mk. 2), Judgment (Jn. 5:22)
- Worship:
  - He received worship (Jn. 9:38) Highest offense in Judaism.

### Why does it matter?

#### Secured Atonement

- Divine Strength (to endure suffering)
- Divine Value (God is of infinite value – enough to save all)
- Divine Conqueror (Faced & Destroyed our enemy – death)

#### Distinguishes Christianity

- Jesus is more than an example and teacher. He is a Savior
- He doesn't teach you 'how to have faith'
- He is what you have faith in! Do you trust Him?

#### Determines how I interact with Him

- If we think of Him as a teacher, prophet, guide, or awesome human – but not God – we will pick and choose what we want from Him
- If He is God – we fall at His feet and say “command my life”
- How do you relate to Jesus? Consultant or King?

*The divinity of Jesus gives me assurance that my salvation is secure, and demands of me that I give Him my life as my Lord.*

## LESSON 6 – CONTENT OF HIS LIFE

If you had to write a eulogy for Jesus, what would you say?

### His life was defined by Obedience:

#### To His earthly parents:

- As a boy - Luke 2
- As a man – John 2

#### To His heavenly Father:

- Submission of His will (John 6:38)
- Fighting temptation (Luke 4:1-11)
- Sinless life (John 8:46)
- Enduring the cross (Luke 22:42)

### Why does it matter?:

He was a spotless sacrifice – 1 Peter 1:19

He fulfilled the requirements of the Law – Matt. 5:17-18

- Jesus was perfectly righteous. The only person in history who can stand before God blameless – Psalm 24:3-4
- He didn't ignore the Law for our sake, He fulfilled it Romans 8:1-4 (Jn. 8:1-11)
- At the cross, He take our sin and gives us His righteousness 2 Cor. 5:21, Phil. 3:9
- This gift of righteousness allows us to enjoy fellowship with God 1 John 1:1-4

The perfect obedience of Jesus life is not just my example; it is His gift to me. His righteousness can now be mine by faith, and I can enjoy fellowship with God again through Him.

## LESSON 7 – DEATH OF JESUS

*'For I decided to know nothing among you, except Jesus Christ and Him crucified' – 1 Corinthians 2:2*

Read: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

### Controversy of the Cross:

- Foolishness: to the Greeks (adored intellect)
- Weakness: to the Jews (adored dominion & power)

*To those perishing – cross appears foolish and weak. Those are the two conditions we must meet to let the cross save us*

### Effect of the Cross

The cross is wisdom & power to save.

It must be understood **objectively** to be effective **subjectively**

Objective (How the cross secures our salvation):

- Wisdom
  - Solves our problem (Mankind could not have thought of this)
  - Reveals the truth (about God & Us)
- Power
  - It effectively solves the problem (Rom. 3:21-26, 1 Jn. 1:9)
  - Reveals the truth (The cross worked to bring forgiveness)

Subjective (How the cross fuels our sanctification):

- Wisdom
  - The more you believe the objective work of the cross the more you will come near to God & have truth exposed (Light)
  - Scripture reveals areas you still need to grow (Esp. the lists) Galatians 5, Colossians 3, 2 Peter 1
  - The Cross begins to show you your 'wounds of sin'
    - Ways you've hurt and ways you've been hurt
    - False beliefs formed based on negative experiences
- Power
  - You take your wounds to the cross for healing
  - Awareness, Confession, Repentance, Refreshment/Grace

### Why does it matter?

Secured Atonement – If I am saved by the merit of His sacrifice, and if His sacrifice is perfect, then I can be sure I am saved.

*The divinity of Jesus gives me assurance that my salvation is secure, and demands of me that I give Him my life.*

## LESSON 8 – BURIAL OF JESUS

*The burial of Jesus is just as impactful as His death & resurrection*

### Details of the event:

- Death confirmed by 6pm (Sabbath)
- Body taken by Joseph of Arimathea & Nicodemous
- Laid in a new tomb and sealed with stone
- Guarded by Roman soldiers

### Where was Jesus during the burial? Why does it matter?

His physical Body was in the tomb. Guarded by a soldier

His soul/spirit went to hades (realm of the dead) – in paradise

- Acts 2:27 & Luke 23:43
  - He was in the form of God and took on human form

He went through death just like every other human

- He overcame death like no other human!

### What the burial accomplished:

#### Overcoming Agony in death:

- Acts 2:24 – Death was a powerful & painful master
- Agony – endurance of pain as in childbirth (John 16:20-21)
- Jesus entering death like us disarmed death of its power

#### Overcome the power of death:

- Hebrews 2:5-18 – Power of death is fear
- Makes you live one of two ways
  - This is all I have – live it up
  - This is all I have – don't mess it up
- Fear of death is Satan's manipulative power over us

#### Overcome the sting of death:

- 1 Cor. 15:50-58 – Sting of death is final separation
- Death, in sin, seals our destiny separated from God
- This sting is now removed in Christ (Romans 6:1-14)
  - Baptism is when we unite ourselves with Christ
  - In His death/burial – who is associated? (vs. 6)
  - In His resurrection – who is associated? (vs. 4)
  - Once associated with His burial – who are you to associate with? (Vs. 11-14)

*The burial of Jesus removed from my life the fear of death that this life is all I have as well as the sting of death that sealed my fate apart from God. My old life can be left in the grave of baptism.*

## LESSON 9 – RESURRECTION OF JESUS

*The resurrection of Jesus is the most important event in history*

If it is true – He is God

If it is not true – He is a liar

### Importance of the Resurrection:

- Distinguishes Christianity from all other religions
- Necessary for religious and irreligious who come to faith
  - **Religious** – Often know teachings, not the Teacher
  - **Irreligious** – Turned off by teachings, haven't considered the Teacher
- Creates full conversion and establishes unshakable faith  
1 Corinthians 15:56-58
- Shows us our future glory
  - Resurrected body is prepared for glory  
1 Cor. 15:35-50, Phil. 3:20-21, 1 Jn. 3:1-3
- Establishes ultimate hope – 1 Peter 1:3-7
  - **Nature:** Living Hope
  - **Aim:** Future perfect place (vs. 2) & Self (vs. 3)

### Evidence of Resurrection:

- Eye Witnesses
  - Hundreds/Thousands – many named
  - First witnesses were women
- Spread of Christianity
  - First participants were Jews
    - Last people on earth to believe God was man
    - Last people on earth to worship a human
  - Took over the Greco-Roman world
- Transformation of disciples
  - Prior to the resurrection, they were cowards
  - After the resurrection – boldness
- Saul of Tarsus conversion
  - Had everything to lose, nothing to gain
- The Empty Tomb
  - Could have ended the movement immediately

*The resurrection of Jesus demonstrates God's power over all things, and assures me that He can resurrect my sinful life to a new life.*

## LESSON 10 – ASCENSION OF JESUS

*The ascension of Jesus is the moment things change for the mission of Christ and the life of the disciples*

### The Event:

Mark 16:19 | Luke 24:50-53 | Acts 1:6-11

### Meaning of the Ascension:

- He received honor (Ephesians 1:19-23)
  - Ascension is more than levitation – Coronation
- He showed a pattern for His return (Acts 1:11)
  - 1 Thess. 4:13-18 | Phil. 3:20-21
- Signified the completion of His earthly ministry (Jn. 19:30)
  - Received into God's presence as a man means His sacrifice was accepted (Romans 4:24-25)
  - He "sat down" signifying His work is done (Heb. 10:12)

### Ministry in the Ascension:

- Distributing gifts to His people
  - Acts 2:38 & Ephesians 4:7-16
- Making Intercession for His people
  - Romans 8:34 & Hebrews 7:25
- Advocating for His people:
  - Revelation 12:10, 1 John 2:2

### Why it Matters:

- Jesus is Lord of the Universe (Do you trust Him?)
- Sin is paid for (Are you still trying to pay for yours?)
- Jesus is with you (Do you have his presence?)
- He is working for you (Do you know what He is doing for you?)
- You're called to work for Him (Are you on mission?)
  - This is the life changing, legacy leaving, purpose fulfilling work you will always long for

*The ascension of Jesus teaches me that Christ is King over all the universe and is actively working all things for my good. I can trust that He is my advocate, intercessor, and mediator with God and that He has called me to serve Him.*