

WHO IS JESUS and WHAT IS HE LIKE?

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Jesus is a combination of the Almighty God and a human. He is the God/man. Approximately 2,000 years ago in the land of Israel, God enabled a young Jewish virgin named Mary to conceive a male child. There was no physical father. God enabled her to conceive through His own power. This child was Jesus, God's real Son through a human mother.

Luke 1:30–35: And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for you have found favor with God. And, behold, you shall conceive in your womb, and bring forth a son, and shall call his name JESUS. ... Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon you, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow you: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of you shall be called the Son of God.

As God's Son, Jesus has all the attributes, and power, and authority of His Father—God. Yet He has these attributes and this power mingled with a human body and human personality. Jesus is the mingling of God and human.

Colossians 2:9: For in him dwells all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

Jesus showed us what it looks like to live a human life on earth as God wants us to live. Jesus was perfectly obedient to all that God wanted Him to do. He was holy, good, and loving.

Acts 10:38: How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

When Jesus was about 30 years old, God's Spirit, called the Holy Spirit, came upon Jesus and filled Him in a special way. The Bible calls this event His "anointing." We call Him Jesus Christ. The word "Christ" comes from a Greek word that means "anointed." Jesus was anointed—He was Jesus, the Christ.

Luke 3:21–22: Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, You are my beloved Son; in you I am well pleased.

After His anointing, God told Him to go and preach to the people. God sent Him out to the community and to the surrounding areas in Israel to teach, preach, and heal the people.

When He went out, Jesus made it clear to the people that God had sent Him to them and had told Him what to say to them. He was giving them the words of God.

Matthew 4:23: And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.

John 12:49–50: For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.

Jesus totally unnerved and upset the Jewish religious leaders. He was not trained in their circles—He was not one of their group. He grew up working as a carpenter! Yet He spoke with authority, and the people were believing Him. The religious leaders became very jealous of Jesus and wanted to get rid of Him.

John 7:47–52: Then answered them the Pharisees, Are you also deceived? Have any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed on him? But this people who know not the law are cursed. ... They answered and said unto him, Are you also of Galilee? Search, and look: for out of Galilee arises no prophet.

After three years of His public ministry, the religious leaders arrested Jesus, had a quick trial, and found Him guilty of "blasphemy." "Blasphemy" is where you say something really arrogant or disrespectful about God. In this case, Jesus said He was the Son of God. With Jesus, this was a true statement, and said with love and respect. But the leaders didn't believe Him, and they thought He was lying and being arrogant.

Matthew 26:63–66: But Jesus held his peace. And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure you by the living God, that you tell us whether you be the Christ, the Son of God. Jesus said unto him, You have said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall you see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven. Then the high priest rent his clothes, saying, He has spoken blasphemy; what further need have we of witnesses? behold, now you have heard his blasphemy. What think you? They answered and said, He is guilty of death.

Now in this time in history, the land of Israel was part of the Roman Empire. So the Jewish leaders took Jesus to the local Roman governor, and told him that Jesus was claiming to be the king of the Jews. (Back then, claiming to be king would be an offense to the Roman Caesar.) When the governor questioned Jesus, Jesus admitted that yes, He was King. And this was a true statement—He was the rightful King.

John 19:12–15: And from thenceforth Pilate sought to release him: but the Jews cried out, saying, If you let this man go, you are not Caesar's friend: whosoever makes himself a king speaks against Caesar. When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus forth, and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called the Pavement, but in the Hebrew, Gabbatha. And it was the preparation of the passover, and about the sixth hour: and he said unto the Jews, Behold your King! But they cried out, Away with him, away with him, crucify him. Pilate said unto them, Shall I crucify your King? The chief priests answered, We have no king but Caesar.

For His claim to be the King of Israel, Jesus was condemned to be executed through a death called "crucifixion,"—where they beat Him horribly and then nailed Him to a wooden cross to hang there until He died.

John 19:19: And Pilate wrote a title, and put it on the cross. And the writing was, JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS.

Jesus died while hanging on that cross. They buried Him, but then three days later He rose from the dead.

Mark 16:1–6: And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him. And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun. And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre? And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great. And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted. And he said unto them, Be not affrighted: You seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him.

He stayed on earth for another 40 days, walked around and talked to the people, and then He went up to Heaven to be with His Father. The Bible tells us that one day Jesus will return to the earth, and He will rule from Jerusalem and be King not only of Israel, but of all the world.

Acts 1:9–11: And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; which also said, You men of Galilee, why stand you gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as you have seen him go into heaven.

The Bible tells us that Jesus could have stopped His execution. He was God—He could have annihilated everybody. But He allowed it to happen voluntarily, so that He could die for us. For more information, visit www.cindylail.com.



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