

WHO IS JESUS?

WHO IS HE?

Jesus is both the most influential and the most misunderstood figure in all of human history. Many dismiss Him as “just a man”, even as a liar or a lunatic. But He is someone you simply cannot ignore. There are four biographies of His life written by eyewitnesses who had a front row seat to His life, death, and resurrection, being the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. It is in the Gospels that we meet the real Jesus, and it is there we must look to discover the truth about His identity, purpose, and mission to the world.

The Gospels introduce us to Jesus, born of Mary in Bethlehem in Judea. But He was no ordinary child. Jesus is God’s only Son, eternal and uncreated, who was eternally pre-existent with the Father and the Spirit, the second person of the blessed Trinity. He was long promised to the world as the Messiah of the Old Testament, God’s only chosen King. In the fullness of time, according to the will of God, the eternal Son, while not ceasing to be God, laid aside His heavenly glory, came to earth, took on human flesh, and became a living human being, incarnate of the Virgin Mary yet conceived of the Holy Spirit, without a human father. The infant Jesus did not cease to be God but began to be human, the Almighty God become a helpless baby, not by the mixing together of Godhood and humanity, like a hybrid God-man, but by taking up humanity into the life of God. As the second person of the Trinity, Jesus was forever changed, and has forever become flesh and blood with us in our humanity.

Jesus was both fully God and full human at the same time and continues to be so in His glorified state.



WHY DID HE COME?

In Jesus, God became one of us and one with us, for the purpose of repairing the relationship between us and God that had broken down. Jesus has done this by reconciling us to God, the Father. In fulfilment of His mission, it was vital that Jesus first live a life of perfect obedience to all the will of His Heavenly Father, which He did. He had no sins of His own to account for. His earthly life of 33 years was the only sinless life that has ever been lived. Throughout His life, Jesus was subjected to temptation, just as we are, yet He did not give in. He remained without sin. Then, having lived the one perfect life that has ever been lived, the life we have all failed to live, He freely offered up upon the cross His one pure, perfect, unblemished life as a sacrifice of atonement sufficient for the sins of the whole world. Being a pure and sinless sacrifice, Jesus’ death upon the cross achieved its God-intended purpose, in that it was sufficient to satisfy God’s justice concerning our sin, and sufficient to turn aside God’s righteous anger from all who acknowledge their need of forgiveness and accept that what Jesus accomplished at the cross was for them.

THE WAY OF SALVATION

We come to benefit from the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus when we acknowledge that what He did there was for us, He stood in for us, He acted as our substitute. He bore our sins in His own body upon the cross. There happened to Him what should have happened to us. There Jesus paid in full the penalty our sins deserve. Jesus' resurrection from the dead on the third day was God's "yes" to the cross, affirming that the cross had in fact accomplished all that it was intended to achieve. The moment we repent and turn away from our sin of living in God's world as if God did not exist, of rejecting God in the world He has made, the benefits of Jesus' accomplished work of atonement upon the cross are applied to our hearts by faith. Our sins as a job lot are deemed to have been laid on Jesus and paid in full by Him. Because of His shed blood, applied to our hearts by faith, not one sin remains unforgiven, we are now declared by God to be forgiven, pardoned, accepted. When we confess Jesus as our Lord and Saviour, God looks upon us as now in Christ, all our sins are paid for and covered, now we are clothed in the righteousness of Christ, and are accepted and loved on that basis.

WHERE IS JESUS NOW?

Jesus is a perfect Saviour. He is able to save completely all who come to Him in repentance and faith. His salvation comes to us by sheer grace. We do nothing to earn it. We simply believe and receive it as the free gift of God that it is. Having accomplished for us an eternal salvation, Jesus rose bodily from the grave, in possession of a glorified, perfected, resurrected human body, just like what awaits all His believing people at the last. In that resurrected human body, Jesus ascended into Heaven and is now glorified in the Father's presence with the glory He had with Him before the world began. He also serves as our great high priest, and is able to sympathise with us in our weaknesses because He is flesh and blood just like us. Having ascended into Heaven, Jesus has not left us alone, but has sent His Holy Spirit to be with us to the end of the age, to lead us and keep us for Himself as we journey through this life. From Heaven, Jesus promises to come again at the end of the age, to bring in His eternal kingdom. All believing people await His coming and pray: "Come Lord Jesus, come quickly".

THE COMING JUDGEMENT

Jesus has been appointed by God the Father as judge of all the earth by virtue of His resurrection from the dead. Every person who has ever lived will one day appear before the judgment seat of Christ, where their eternal destiny will be determined. Our only hope on that day will be that we have believed in the accomplished work of Jesus upon the cross as the sole basis of our acceptance with God, the Father.

FIND OUT FOR YOURSELF

To meet Jesus today, just take up the Gospels and read. They are God's written Word, and they introduce us to Jesus as God's living Word and the Light of the World. If you have not read the Gospels, read them for yourselves. Don't settle for believing what someone else tells you they think He is like.