

# Chapter 1

## Who is Jesus ?

### A. BEGINNING OUR INVESTIGATION

If someone stopped you on the street and asked "Who is Jesus?" what would be your reply?

### B. WHY DOES IT MATTER?

So much depends on our response to this question. Is He only a good person among many good people? A moral teacher? Another religious leader? God's Son? Lord? How is He different?

Our response to these questions determines:  
Our eternal relationship with god

our lifestyle - vocation, career

how we raise our children

how we spend our money

what we do with our leisure time

### C. LETS LOOK AT THE EVIDENCE

#### PROPHECY

1. Thousands of years ago, God used the writers of the Old Testament to announce Jesus' coming. Written over a period of 1500 years, the Old Testament contains over 300 references to His coming.
2. The great prophets foretold details of Jesus' birth, His character , His life activities, even His death and resurrection.
3. The prophecies are very specific.

**4. The prophecies are verified in the New Testament. For example:**

**Isaiah 7:14 & Matthew 1:18-25**  
(The Virgin shall have a child, Immanuel)

**Micah 5:2, Matthew 2:1 and Col. 1:17**  
(Born in Bethlehem, Before all things)

**Isaiah 40:3 and Matthew 3:1-3**  
(John the Baptist preparing the way)

**Psalm 22:1-2 and Matthew 26:38-39;  
27:46 Psalm 22:6-8 and Matthew 27:39-44;  
Psalm 22:11-18 and Luke 23:33-37;**

**Isaiah 53:12 and Like 23:34; 2 Cor, 5:21**  
(Bear sins of many and intercede for the transgressors)

**John 19:33-3**  
(Crying out day and night; feeling forsaken; insults and mocking; crucifixion [a means of execution not known till Roman times]; cast lots for garments; side pierced; stared upon)

**Zechariah 9:9 and Luke 19:29-36**  
(The King comes on a donkey)

**Through the prophecies and their fulfillment we discover:**

- **There was a Divine mind behind the plan.**
- **They witness to the existence of God and His Son Jesus.**
- **The authentication of Jesus' claim of being Divine.**
- **That the Bible was Divinely inspired.**

**THE NEW TESTAMENT PERSPECTIVE:  
WHAT DID JESUS' CONTEMPORARIES HAVE TO SAY?**

- 1. JOHN (John 1:1-14)**
- 2. PETER (Matthew 16:16)**
- 3. MARTHA (John 11:27)**
- 4. STEPHEN (Acts 7:59)**
- 5. THOMAS (John 20:26-29)**
- 6. PAUL (Colossians 1:15-20)**

## WHAT DID JESUS SAY ABOUT HIMSELF ?

**John 8:38** He is the object (not just example) of faith. He received honor and worship, that according to Jewish Law, only God could receive.

**John 8:58** "I am." Jesus used the "memorial name of God" in reference to Himself, thereby establishing His identity as the Yahweh of the Old Testament.

**John 10:30** "I and the Father are One." He equated Himself with God.

**John 14:6-9** The way, the truth, and the life. He is the only way provided to reach and have a personal relationship with God and therefore is God's means of salvation for us.

**John 16:28** With God from the beginning. See also Genesis 1:26. He existed before time and was active in creation.

**Mark 14: 61-64** Son of the Blessed One. Jesus affirmed that He was the Messiah and also the coming judge of all humankind (right hand of power = the right hand of God or seat of Judgment).

## HOW IS JESUS UNIQUE ?

**1. His virgin birth and genealogy (lineage of David).**

Matthew 1:18-25

Luke 1:26-35

**2. He was sinless.**

John 8:28-30 / John 8:46 // 1 Peter 1:19, 2:22 / I John 3:35 // Luke 23:39-41 / Mark 14:55-56

**3. He performed miracles.**

Matt. 8:23-27 / Matt. 9:18-26 / Matt. 14:15-21 / Mark 8:22-25

**4. He exercised power over death.**

John 2:19 / John 10:17-18 / John 11:25-26 / John 14: 19 / Matt. 9:23-26 / John 11:38-44

**5. He forgives and removes sins.**

Mark 2:5 / Luke 7:48-50 / Acts 10:42-43

**6. He satisfies spiritual hunger in persons.**

Matthew 5:6 / John 4:14 / John 6:35 / John 10:10

## WHO DO YOU SAY JESUS IS?