

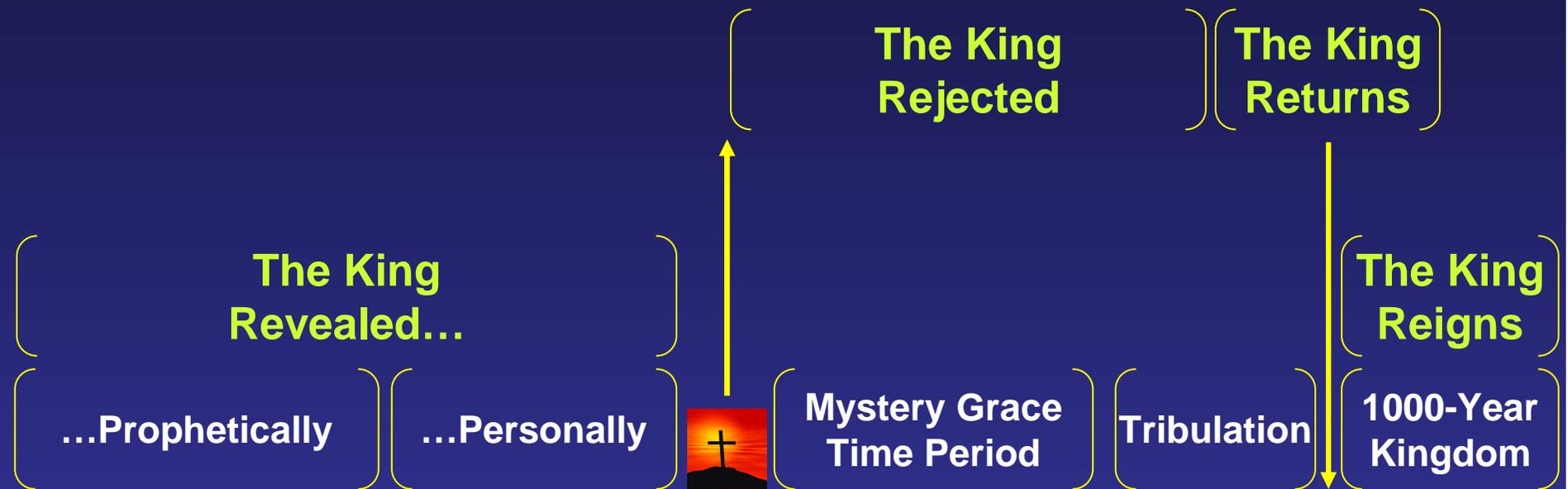
## Who was Jesus Christ? – Part 1

### Introduction:

1. The title of our lesson is “Who was Jesus Christ?” If you asked this question to 100 people on the street, you would probably be shocked at the answers.
2. Satan does not want people to know and understand who Jesus Christ was when He walked this earth, nor does He want people to know who Christ is today, or what He is doing today. He wants to blind people from the truth of Jesus Christ.
3. The entire Bible revolves around the person of Jesus Christ. They say that Christ is on every page of the Bible in some way.
  - Genesis through Malachi – These books give us pictures, types, and prophecies about Jesus Christ. They anticipate this Messiah coming to earth, and redeeming Israel, and establishing a kingdom on earth. (The King Revealed Prophetically)
  - Matthew through John – These books reveal to us Jesus Christ when He walked this very earth. He was fully divine, yet fully human. (The King Revealed Personally)
  - Acts through Philemon – These books explain to us where Christ is today and what He is doing today. They explain how He is functioning as Head of a new organism called the church, the body of Christ. (The King Rejected)
  - Hebrews through Revelation – These books explain to us what Christ will do when He begins to make His enemies His footstool, culminating with Christ returning to earth as King of kings. (The King Returning)
4. You must know what you believe about Jesus Christ and where to go in the Bible to prove what you believe. There is no way that you can impact others until you know specifically what you believe about Jesus Christ.
5. Why is this? Because any time you engage in a spiritual conversation with somebody, the discussion will always come back to, and center on, Jesus. The gospel of salvation is Jesus Christ.
6. What a person believes about Jesus Christ is the difference between heaven and hell - eternal life or eternal damnation. Galatians 1: 6-8; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; 1 John 5:10-13; 2 John 7-9
7. When people stand before God, the key questions that will determine their eternal destinies are “What did you believe about my Son?” and “What did you do with my Son?”
8. What does the Bible teach about Jesus Christ? Who was Jesus Christ?

Come back next week, and find out!

# Jesus Christ the King from Genesis to Revelation



Christ Born  
in  
Bethlehem

(Genesis - Malachi) (Matthew - John) (Acts - Philemon) (Hebrews - Revelation)

## Who was Jesus Christ? – God in the Flesh

### Introduction:

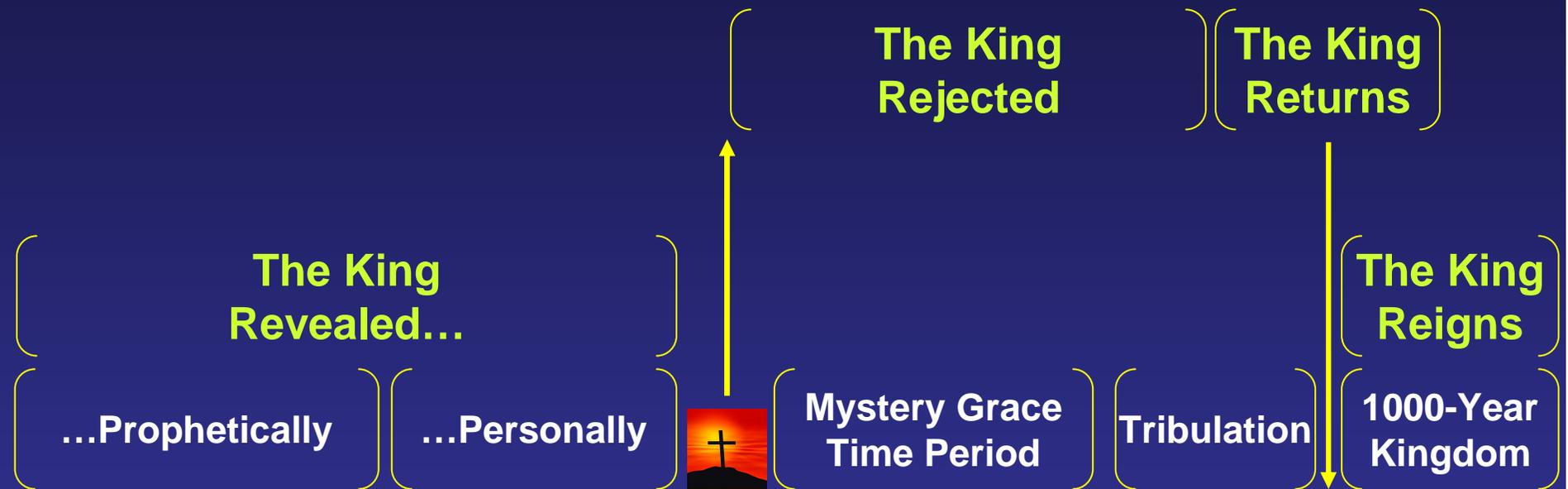
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7. When people stand before God, the key questions that will determine their eternal destinies are “What did you believe about my Son?” and “What did you do with my Son?”
8. What does the Bible teach about Jesus Christ? Who was Jesus Christ?

### Jesus Christ was God in the flesh.

1. Jesus was not just a good man, a prophet, a moral teacher, or a pattern of godlikeness. He was God manifested in a body of flesh. He was the incarnation of the Godhead.
2. There are two very different prophetic anticipations of Christ in the Old Testament:

- One of them pictures Christ in His lowliness as the suffering Servant of Jehovah.
  - The other pictures Christ as the mighty King and Messiah, ruling and reigning over the nations as Lord Jehovah.
3. But how can this be? They are so contrasting! These two lines of prophetic anticipation meet and find their solution in one person – Jesus Christ.
    - He took on our humanity so that He could die for our sins. As the God-Man, He is able to suffer and die, yet also reign in majesty and glory. Philippians 2:5-11
  4. When Christ was born in Bethlehem, it was God coming down and visiting man. Matthew 1:23
  5. Without this great and mysterious truth (1 Timothy 3:16), there is no gospel of salvation. Only God is worthy to atone for and forgive sin.
    - Remember when Jesus told the lame man, “*Son, thy sins be forgiven thee*”? Who alone can forgive sin? God. Either Jesus was deity, or He was the biggest sham and phony who ever lived. There is no middle ground.
  6. Jesus accepted worship, and a person who was simply a “good man” would never do this. **Example:** Thomas after the resurrection. John 20:28-29
  7. The title “Son of God” denotes Christ’s position within the Godhead and His voluntary submission unto the Father. “Son of God” denotes that there was a time in history when the second member of the Godhead became flesh and willingly submitted Himself to the plans and purposes of the Father.
  8. But, “Son of God” reveals that Christ was of the same essence and being as God the Father. This is why Christ declared, “*...he that hath seen me hath seen the Father,*” and also, “*I and my Father are one.*” John 14:9, 10:30
  9. Jesus was the manifestation of God in a flesh and blood body. John 1:1, 14, 18
  10. When Jesus hung on that cross, it was God shedding His blood for our redemption. It was God making atonement for our sins. Acts 20:28
    - We sing that great hymn, “Amazing love, how can it be, that thou my God shouldst die for me?”
  11. We’d better be thankful for that! Anything less than that and we would still be in our sins!

# Jesus Christ the King from Genesis to Revelation



Christ Born  
in  
Bethlehem

Genesis - Malachi   Matthew - John   Acts - Philemon   Hebrews - Revelation

## Who was Jesus Christ? – The Virgin-Born and Sinless One

### Introduction:

1. The title of our lesson is “Who was Jesus Christ?” If you asked this question to 100 people on the street, you would probably be shocked at the answers.
2. What does the Bible teach about Jesus Christ? Who was Jesus Christ?

### Jesus Christ was God in the flesh.

### Jesus Christ was born of a virgin.

1. The Bible is very clear. Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit. Mary was simply the vessel that was used to carry and bring forth Jesus into the world. Luke 1:26-35
2. Jesus could have entered the world in a grand and glorious manner, but instead He chose to come into the world by a poor, yet pure young lady in a lowly manger. Luke 2:7
3. Philippians 2:6-7 tells us that Jesus was equal with God, yet He “*made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men.*”
4. Jesus emptied Himself of His eternal, heavenly glory and entered into the world being born of a virgin. We have an intrusion of deity into human actuality.
  - “The Wonder of wonders, oh, how could it be, that God became flesh and was given for me. The Almighty came down, and walked among men. The Wonder of wonders; He died for my sin.”
5. Is it important that Jesus was born of a virgin? You’d better believe it! Had Christ not been born of a virgin, He would have inherited the same sin nature that you and I inherited from our parents. Romans 5:12; 1 Corinthians 15:45-49
  - If a man (like Adam) is a sinner, and he implants his seed in a woman who is a sinner, what do you think those two would produce? A sinner!
  - God had an ingenious plan. God bypassed the seed of the father through the miraculous conception of Christ in the woman by the Holy Spirit. This means that Christ was born into our world and took on our humanity, yet wasn’t contaminated by our sin.
  - Christ was not conceived by a man and a woman. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin.
  - Jesus Christ was a legal human descendant of David. He could be called “*the Son of David,*” yet was conceived in the womb by the Holy Spirit and could also be called “*the Son of God.*” He was perfect humanity, untainted by sin, yet undiminished deity – the God-man, fully divine, and fully human.
6. The death of Christ on the cross for our sins is the very core of the gospel, but if Jesus had not been virgin-born, there would be no meaning to the cross.

7. God's triumph over sin on the cross is inseparably bound to the virgin birth. If Christ was not born of a virgin, it must be said that He inherited the sin of Adam. This would mean that He died on the cross as a result of His own sins. Praise the Lord, He escaped the sin-nature of Adam, and He who knew no sin became our sin-bearer!
8. What about Mary, Jesus' mother? Should she be given special emphasis and worshiped? Of course not! She was simply the vessel that God used to carry and bear Jesus. Carefully examine Luke 8:19-21, 11:27-28.
9. Mary is mentioned in Acts 1:14 and is never mentioned again. She fades into utter obscurity.

### **Jesus Christ was sinless.**

1. Every person that has ever lived on this earth inherited a sin nature from Adam. Romans 5:12, 3:10-12, 23
  - In our human wisdom we think that if we could just change a person's environment or the people around him, maybe he wouldn't sin.
  - We don't sin because of our environment, people, or even Satan; we sin because of our nature. It is in our very essence and being to sin.
2. But there is one glowing, shining exception - the Son of God, Jesus Christ. Because He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, He escaped the sin-nature that we inherited.
3. The Word of God breaks down all sin into three areas: 1 John 2:16
  - The lust of the flesh
  - The lust of the eyes
  - The pride of life
4. Jesus was tempted in every one of these areas by Satan. Matthew 4:1-11
  - Turn these stones into bread (lust of the flesh) – “Be selfish”
  - Look at the kingdoms of this world, I'll give them to you (lust of the eyes) – “Be successful”
  - Cast yourself down from the pinnacle of the temple (pride of life) – “Be spectacular”
5. This is why Hebrews 4:15 declares that Christ was “*in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.*” He was absolutely pure from the traces of sin. He lived all His days without the personal sense of sin's guilt and the personal fear of sin's consequences.
6. He knew more about sin than anybody, yet He himself never betrayed the least consciousness of it. Sin in others He saw, He rebuked, He forgave, He grieved over, He suffered for, but He never fell prey to.
7. Those who were closest to and fully acquainted with the details of Christ's life could not record one blemish or failure.
  - John – 1 John 1:8; cf. 1 John 3:5
  - Peter – 1 Peter 1:19, 2:22
  - Other Scriptures: 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15, 7:26

8. Why is this point so important? Because if Christ sinned just once, we are doomed eternally. If Christ is a sinner, He couldn't die for my sin.
9. No miracle of Christ equals the miracle of His sinless life. To be holy in all thought and feeling, never to fail in duty to others, never to transgress the law of perfect love to God or man, never to exceed or to come up short. This is a condition outstripping the power of imagination.
10. Here is the wonderful part. Since Christ overcame the power of sin and temptation, He now lives in the believer to give us daily victory over sin.  
Galatians 2:20
11. Through Him, we too can have victory!

## Who was Jesus Christ? – Part 4

### Introduction:

1. The title of our lesson is, “Who was Jesus Christ?” If you asked this question to 100 people on the street, you would probably be shocked at the answers.
2. What does the Bible teach about Jesus Christ? Who was Jesus Christ?

**Jesus Christ was God in the flesh.**

**Jesus Christ was born of a virgin.**

**Jesus Christ was sinless.**

**Jesus Christ was the ultimate sin-bearer for all of mankind.**

1. There is a word that the Bible uses in regards to Christ’s death on the cross, and it is the word “*propitiation*.” Paul tells us that Christ was “*set forth to be a propitiation*.” Romans 3:25
  - “*Propitiation*” is a great word. It carries the idea of appeasing one that is offended, and gaining his favor.
  - **Illustration:** Rich owes \$1,000 in taxes on his house and has no way to pay. His mortgage company is about to foreclose on his house. I go to them and pay the \$1000. I have appeased their wrath, and allowed Rich to gain favor again with them. I propitiated for Rich.
2. All of us in this world have offended God because of our sin. God gave His righteous law, and we have all broken it. The law declares us all, “*guilty!*” Romans 3:19, 20, 23
  - Where does this leave us? We are left to incur the wrath and judgment of Almighty God. Romans 1:18, 29-32, 2:5-6
3. We all desperately needed a propitiator – someone who could appease God (the offended party) on our behalf, and place us in His favor.
4. Praise God, the One person qualified to do this for us did it! 1 Timothy 2:5-6; cf. 1 John 2:2, 4:10
5. Our sin created a debt that we had no possible way of paying. Jesus satisfied the demands of a holy God by keeping the law. He never sinned one time. Christ then willingly paid the penalty for our sin by dying on the cross. He satisfied the demands, and then paid our debt in full. Romans 5:6, 8
6. Christ took the full wrath of God against sin so that we would not have to incur it. When we fully deserved the wrath of God for our sin, Christ propitiated that wrath on the cross. Romans 5:9-10
7. A great illustration of this is found in the Old Testament when, on the Day of Atonement, the high priest of Israel would enter into the Holy of Holies with the blood of a bullock.

- There, in front of him, was the ark of the covenant (a chest that looked like a coffin). In it were the tables of the law which Israel had broken over and over again.
  - Above the ark were the covering cherubim, and God's glory was said to dwell between them. You have a holy God, a broken law, and, in between, a mercy seat (same word as propitiation). There, the high priest would sprinkle the blood. Now the blood stood between a holy God and the broken law. The blood was an atonement - a propitiation - for the sins of Israel.
  - God's offended justice could only be propitiated by the blood that was sprinkled.
8. All of this was a shadow of the final, once for all, sacrifice of the Lamb of God - Jesus Christ. Christ not only died for sin, He took His precious blood and sprinkled it on the mercy seat of heaven. Hebrews 9:11-12, 12:24
9. The blood in heaven proves that what Christ did is enough and is accepted of the Father. He successfully propitiated for your sins and mine. We can now have eternal redemption. Christ's eternal blood on that mercy seat secures my eternal redemption.
- Jesus doesn't have to keep dying over and over again. He can point to His blood on that mercy seat and say, "*It is finished.*" Hebrews 9:24-26; cf. Romans 6:9-10
  - Hebrews 12:24 – Abel's blood cried out to God that Cain was a murderer. Christ's blood on the mercy seat cries out to the Father, "The debt has been paid in full. He's redeemed. He's free. His sins are washed away."
  - As the old hymn says, "There is a fountain filled with blood drawn from Immanuel's veins, and sinners plunge beneath that flood lose all their guilty stains."
10. But how do we take what Christ did for us on the cross and apply it, personally, to our own sin debt, to our hearts, and lives? Look at Romans 3:25, 28, 5:1.
11. The Bible is clear – you apply it to your heart by faith in Jesus Christ. The moment you believe and trust that His sacrifice was for your sins, God fully forgives you of all sin, and brings you into a place of peace with Himself.
- It isn't done on the basis of your good works, or religious rituals, or self-effort. It happens on the basis of the fact that you have a Propitiator who made a propitiation for your sin.
12. God is fully satisfied with the sacrifice Christ made for sin. When you rest in Him, and trust Him, and believe that what Christ did was fully sufficient, you and God end up in full agreement, and He saves and forgives you based on what Christ did on the cross.
13. Have you trusted Christ? Have you simply believed totally on Him to save you from the wrath of God, and make you at peace with God? If not, you need desperately to trust Him today.
14. Illustration of two people that are seeking to be restored to God because they know they have sinned:

- The first person says, “I’ll go to church, get baptized, give money, do religious rituals, do good to others every chance I get, etc. Surely this will appease God’s wrath and propitiate for my sins.”
- The second person says, “I will humble myself before God and tell Him that I know that I don’t deserve His favor and never will. But I believe that Christ made a full payment for my sin, and I believe that what Christ did is enough. I am fully trusting Christ.”
- Which person is justified before God? Romans 3:28, “*Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.*”

## Who was Jesus Christ? – Part 5

### Introduction:

1. The title of our lesson is, “Who was Jesus Christ?” If you asked this question to 100 people on the street, you would probably be shocked at the answers.
2. What does the Bible teach about Jesus Christ? Who was Jesus Christ?

**Jesus Christ was God in the flesh.**

**Jesus Christ was born of a virgin.**

**Jesus Christ was sinless.**

**Jesus Christ was the ultimate sin-bearer for all of mankind.**

**Jesus Christ was raised from the dead and is the everliving One.**

1. The most dynamic event ever recorded in history is the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It ushered in a Christian faith which has altered the course of history, shaken entire continents, and has gone to the ends of the earth.
2. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the cornerstone of our Christian faith. You cannot be a Christian if you deny the resurrection. 1 Corinthians 15:14-19
  - Without the resurrection of Christ, the Bible is a deceptive Book, Christianity is simply a dead religion, and we are dead in our sins, with no hope whatsoever. But praise God, He is risen! 1 Corinthians 15:20-22
  - Christ’s resurrection is a reality of history. You can prove it. You could go into a court of law and use the laws of authenticity that validate historical events, apply those same rules to the resurrection, and come away with historical certainty that He raised from the dead.
  - A person may debate what that event in history **means** (and only God’s Word defines the meaning), but there is no denying the **facts** of it.
3. The resurrection of Christ is what distinguishes Christianity from all the dead religious systems in the world.
  - Christ promised that He would be raised from the dead and return to this earth. No religious leader ever did this (Mohammed, Confucius, etc.). Only Christ dared to make this kind of a promise.
  - Even if another man did promise to come again, it would have no credence because the decayed remains of all the founders of the world’s religions occupy graves. It is Christ alone who left behind an empty tomb!
  - No other religious leader has substantiated his claim to reveal God and the supernatural by rising from the dead.
4. Jesus’ resurrection was a physical, bodily resurrection. This is important because if it was not a physical resurrection, then our bodies are destined to rot in the grave too.
5. Some have proposed that the disciples saw an apparition, a ghost, or a spirit. Some say they were hallucinating. The Bible clearly refutes this in Luke 24:36-43.

- Jesus has flesh and bones – this refutes the resuscitation theory. Does Jesus look like a man barely holding on and about to die?
  - Jesus has hands and feet. cf. Matthew 28:9
  - Jesus is seen eating.
  - Jesus invited Thomas to touch him in John 20:27.
6. The Bible states that Jesus walked the earth for forty days after His resurrection and showed Himself alive by many “*infallible proofs.*” Acts 1:3
- “Infallible” means “incapable of error.”
  - There are over a dozen recorded appearances of Christ in Scripture. One appearance was to over 500 people at one time. 1 Corinthians 15:4-8
7. Some have proposed a fraud theory. They say the resurrection was a well-orchestrated hoax and the disciples were a bunch of conspiratorial liars. They say that Jesus’ body is still dead. Let’s consider a few facts:
- From the beginning, Christianity was a public faith, not a secret society. Any evidence of argument for Jesus’ resurrection was open to investigation and challenge. All the Jewish leaders had to do to stomp out Christianity forever was simply produce the body of Jesus. They possessed the political power and motivation to do it, but they could not do it.
  - Prior to the resurrection, the disciples were cowering in a locked room for fear of the Jews (John 20:19). They had all forsaken Jesus at the cross (Matthew 26:56) and Peter vehemently denied Him out of fear (Matthew 26:69-75).
  - After seeing the resurrected Christ for forty days, these same men stood before the very leaders that crucified Christ and boldly proclaimed that He had risen and that He was Lord and Christ (Acts 2:22-24, 32-33; 4:5-12; 5:26-32, 40-42). They had the guts to make this claim within walking distance of the site where they said it happened.
  - They were ordered to cease, and refused to do it. Something dramatic happened to transform these man from cowering wimps to some of the bravest, boldest men to walk the earth.
  - Despite disapproval and persecution from the religious leadership of Israel, they convinced thousands of people that Christ had risen from the dead, including a great number of the priests (Acts 6:7).
  - In five years, Christianity had spread to Samaria and Damascus (Acts 8-9), and within forty years to Rome (the center of the empire where Nero lived).
  - Saul of Tarsus, a man of culture, training, and promise, saw the risen Christ, and Saul (the proud student of Gamaliel) willingly gave up everything and became a social outcast on the strength of his conviction.
  - All of the apostles ended up dying cruel deaths as martyrs.
  - After considering these facts, the fraud theory seems rather outlandish and ridiculous and impossible.
8. We can rest assured that Christ is not here, He is risen! And because Christ was victorious over death, we too can be victorious (1 Corinthians 15:54-57; cf. Philippians 3:20-21).
9. This is how the apostles could die cruel, martyr deaths. They had seen with their own eyes the One who Paul says, “...*abolished death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.*” 2 Timothy 2:10

## Who was Jesus Christ? – The Ascended and Exalted One (Part 1)

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**Jesus Christ ascended back to heaven and has been exalted at the right hand of the Father.**

1. You hear so much about Christ’s resurrection (and rightly so). In fact, much of the religious world sets aside a Sunday each year to celebrate Christ’s resurrection (Easter). We do the same for His birth (Christmas).
2. In many churches, you also see crosses to remind people of Christ’s great cross work, where He died for our sins and made possible our redemption and forgiveness.
3. But, there are two other important aspects to the doctrine of Jesus Christ that are often ignored. These two events in the life of Christ help us to answer the question, “Who was Jesus Christ?”
4. After His resurrection, then what happened? This is an important question to answer.
5. There are two key words that will help us to understand. Christ **ascended**, and was **exalted**. We don’t want to confuse these two – they are two separate issues.
  - **Ascension** – This refers to Christ going back to heaven in His resurrection body.
  - **Exaltation** – This refers to the act of the Father by which He gave to the risen and ascended Christ the position of honor and power at His own right hand.
6. First, let’s consider Christ’s ascension. It is recorded in Acts 1:8-11.
  - Jesus had been walking the earth for forty days after His resurrection, showing Himself alive to hundreds of witnesses. Acts 1:1-3; cf. 1 Corinthians 15:6
  - Jesus took his disciples outside of Jerusalem to the Mount of Olives. Acts 1:12

- Jesus had some final words of instruction, and then He ascended back to heaven while the disciples were gazing up. Acts 1:9-11
  - Luke also gives an account of Jesus' ascension (Bethany was a village on the southeastern slope of the Mount of Olives, two miles from Jerusalem). Luke 24:50-52
  - Right before this, Jesus had showed them His hands, feet, flesh, and bones, and He also ate with them. Luke 24:38-43
  - What does all of this teach us? Jesus Christ physically and bodily ascended from the earth to heaven. It was not simply a spiritual ascension of His soul and spirit.
7. Second, let's consider Christ's exaltation. This is an extremely important doctrine.
- After Christ ascended, the Bible teaches that He was highly exalted to the right hand of the Father, crowned with glory and honor, and given all power. Philippians 2:9-11; Ephesians 1:20-22; Matthew 28:18; Hebrews 2:9
  - Christ has been given a position of exaltation and, because of this, we have received some wonderful blessings.

**Because He is exalted, we can receive the forgiveness of sins.**

- Hebrews 10:12 teaches that Christ offered Himself as a once-for-all sacrifice for sins, and then He sat down at the right hand of the Father.
- When Jesus sat down in His exalted position, this spoke of the fact that the work of redemption was complete and finished. He sat down. Why? The work was done!
- In Ephesians 1:20-23 we saw Christ's exaltation in heavenly places. Notice the earthly result of this in 2:1 – *"And you hath he quickened who were dead in trespasses and sins."* cf. Ephesians 1:7
- Because His work was complete on the cross, He was exalted and is now offering total and complete forgiveness of sins to any person on earth who will trust Him.

**Because He is exalted, we can now be made one with Jesus Christ.**

- In Ephesians 1:20-21 we see Christ's exaltation, but then it declares, *"...and gave him [Christ] to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body..."* vs. 22-23
- In His exaltation, Christ was given the position of being head over a new creation called the church, the body of Christ. This new organism is being formed today and is composed of all believers in Christ.
- He is the Head and we are His body. We are made one with Jesus Christ! Ephesians 5:30-32
- When He ascended to heaven and was exalted, Christ sent back His Holy Spirit (Acts 2:33). Later the apostle Paul revealed that the moment a sinner trusts Christ, the Holy Spirit enters into his spirit and brings that person into oneness with Christ. Ephesians 1:12-14

**Because He is exalted, we now have an intercessor to God the Father.**

- An intercessor is a go-between, also called a mediator. Romans 8:34; 1 Timothy 2:5
- When writing to Hebrew believers, the term “*high priest*” is used. Again, the idea is that of a mediator or intercessor.
- Jesus Christ literally sits in His exalted position in heaven and intercedes for us and pleads our case. The devil is called the great accuser of the brethren, but we have an advocate - a mediator who intercedes on our behalf. Romans 8:33-39
- Our intercessor is powerful (Ephesians 1:20-23), yet merciful and compassionate. Hebrews 2:17-18, 4:14-16
- Christ brought back to the right hand of the Majesty on High His glorified humanity. Therefore, He can understand what we go through as humans (tears, sorrow, temptation, rejection, trials, etc.).

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## **Who was Jesus Christ? – The Ascended and Exalted One (Part 2)**

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1. There are some other ramifications of His exaltation that do not directly affect us, but nevertheless are very true. Just as His exaltation insures blessings to believers in this dispensation, His exaltation also insures judgment and wrath to unbelievers in the future.
2. If Christ was **not** exalted far above all principality and power, then this would mean that He is **not** Lord. Unbelievers could continue to scoff and mock the name of Christ with no fear whatsoever of retribution.
3. But the Bible teaches that He is, in fact, exalted at the right hand of the Father. He is exalted far above all. He has “*a name which is above every name,*” and that name is “Lord.” He is Lord of all! Philippians 2:9-11; Hebrews 1:3-4; 1 Peter 3:22

**Because He is exalted, divine wrath will be poured out upon the enemies of Christ in the future. Acts 2:34-35; Hebrews 10:12-13; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9**

- In Acts 2:32-35, Peter is preaching to Israel and urging them to repent of crucifying their Messiah, Jesus Christ. Peter was well acquainted with the prophetic order and quotes Psalm 110, a prophetic psalm.
- After Christ's resurrection and exaltation at the right hand of the Father, the Holy Spirit would be given to the believing flock of Israel. Then would come the day of His wrath (Psalm 110:5), judgment on the ungodly (Psalm 110:6), Christ's enemies would be made His footstool (Psalm 110:1), and Christ would rule and reign. Psalm 110:2
- Based on the fact of Christ's exaltation, Peter tells Israel to know assuredly, "...that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ." Acts 2:36
- What Peter did not know about was the mystery. This was later revealed through Paul. It is called the dispensation of the grace of God. God would give to the world a grace period before pouring out His wrath and making Christ's enemies His footstool.
- Instead of dispensing wrath and judgment, God would extend His grace and offer peace and reconciliation to all of His enemies in the world, based on Christ's atoning sacrifice on the cross. Colossians 1:20-22, 25-27
- When the world was ripe for judgment and wrath (Acts 7:56 – Christ is standing. The wrath is about to fall!), instead the Father had Christ sit back down and, in Acts 9, He saved his chief enemy (Saul of Tarsus), and revealed to him the dispensation of grace that God would give to the world!
- Today, we live in a grace period in which God is holding back His wrath and offering peace and grace to all of His enemies in the world. But, one day the wrath will come to this earth. Christ's exaltation guarantees this. Hebrews 10:12-13; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9

**Because He is exalted, every person who has rejected Him will one day fall on his or her knees in submission to Him. Philippians 2:9-10**

- Notice that all knees will bow to Jesus in heaven, in earth, and under the earth (a reference to hell). So every person who has ever lived (no matter the dispensation) will one day bow before Christ in submission.
- Those who were self-willed and hated Christ will be forced to bow before Him in reverence. Christ is offering reconciliation to all of His enemies now. He cries out "*Come unto me... and I will give you rest.*"
- But, those who will not come - those who are not interested in His offer of reconciliation - will one day come and bow before Him. You can bow now or you can bow later, but every knee will bow. His exaltation guarantees this.

**Because He is exalted, all people who have rejected Him will one day confess with their tongues that He is Lord. Philippians 2:11**

- Those who have cursed the name of Jesus Christ, those who have ridiculed Him, those who have denied Him – they will bow, and with their tongues they will confess that He is Lord, He is supreme, He is preeminent, He is the way, the truth, and the life!
- There will be no arguments, no discussion, no debates – just a simple confession – “Jesus was right and I was wrong.” He is Lord of all!
- Christ is exalted and, because of this, there is an appointed Day of Judgment (Acts 17:31; Romans 2:5). In Revelation 20:11-15, it is called the Great White Throne Judgment.
- All people who have ever lived will have to stand before Christ, give account for their lives, bow before Him, and confess that He is Lord.
- Unfortunately, this confession will not gain for them eternal life. They made their choice while living on earth to either accept or reject what God’s Word clearly said. A person’s eternal fate is settled by his decision on earth.
- The small and great will stand before Christ and then bow in reverence. Every movie star that cursed His lovely name on a movie screen, every sports star, every powerful politician, every wealthy businessman – no person will escape this judgment. Christ’s exaltation guarantees this.

**In Conclusion:**

1. Who was Jesus Christ? My prayer is that this series of lessons has enlightened your eyes and equipped you to answer this vital question, not only for yourself but to others who may ask you.
2. Jesus was God in the flesh; the virgin born, sinless One; the ultimate sin-bearer for all of mankind; the ever-living One who ascended to heaven and is exalted forevermore!

# WHO WAS JESUS CHRIST?

