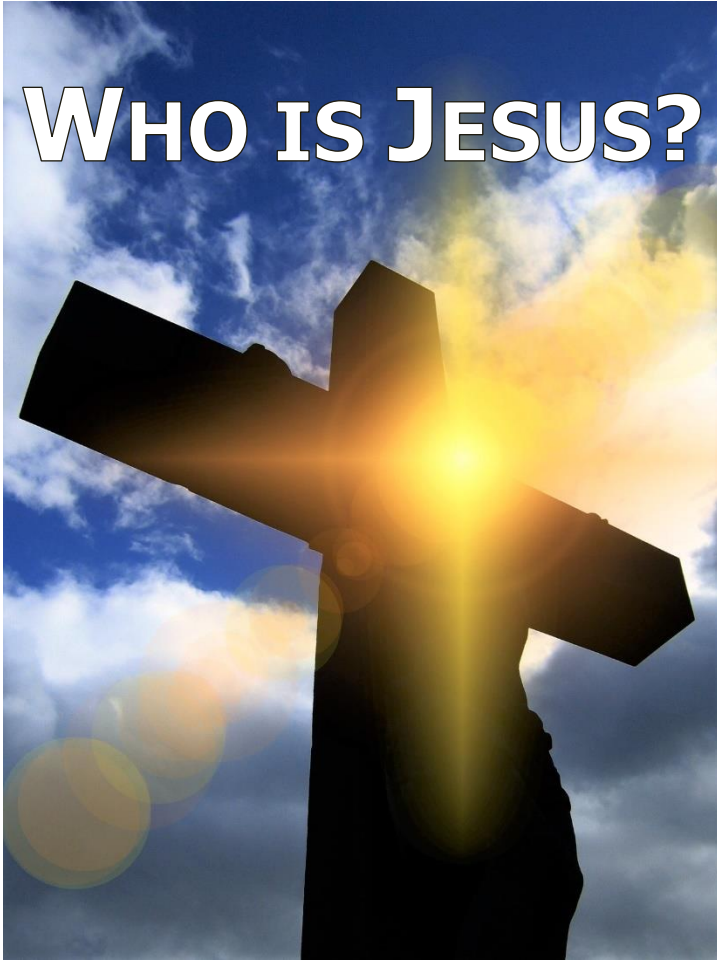


# WHO IS JESUS?



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'Who is Jesus?'  
by  
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# WHO IS JESUS?

## *Jesus's Parents*

Jesus's mother was Mary, a girl living in a town called Nazareth, who was engaged to a carpenter named Joseph. God sent an angel to tell her that she was going to have a baby even though she was a virgin, and the baby would be the Son of God. This meant that He would be both fully human through His mother – Mary, and fully divine through His Father - God. The angel told her she was to call Him Jesus which means 'He will save'.

After His birth, the Bible says in Luke 2:11 that God also sent an angel to tell some nearby shepherds that Jesus had been born, saying He is - '*a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.*' Christ means the Messiah who the Jews had been waiting for hundreds of years to come and save them. Eventually Mary and Joseph returned to Nazareth and brought Jesus up in their home where He probably worked with Joseph as a carpenter, until it was time to start His special work for God, when He was thirty years old.

## *Jesus - Son of God and God Himself*

In Matthew 3:17 as Jesus was being baptised, God spoke from heaven saying – '*This is my beloved Son.*' Jesus acknowledged Himself that He was God's Son, and Simon Peter, one of His disciples, said In Matthew 16:16 – '*You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.*' Philip, another disciple, was puzzled and asked Jesus to show them God. In John 14:9 Jesus replied – '*He who has seen me has seen the Father.*' John 1:1 says – '*the Word was God.*' And John 1:14 says '*The Word became flesh, and lived amongst us.*' The Word was God so Jesus was God Himself.

## *Jesus – Son of Man*

Jesus often called Himself the Son of Man. God had put people in charge of the earth and they had handed it over to the devil when they listened to him and started to think, say and do wrong things – what the Bible calls sin. God will never go back on His promises, so He couldn't just say, "You made a real mess of that, so I've changed my mind and I'm taking back authority over the earth." But because Jesus was a man, He was able to win the authority over the earth back from the devil, and God's promise remained intact. The wonderful thing is that Jesus then shared that authority with His followers. The devil can never steal it again.

Because Jesus was a human being, He knows exactly what living on the earth is like. The Bible says He was tempted in every way that people are, but He never gave in. He understands.

## *Jesus – Christ the Messiah*

Many of the Jews believed the Messiah would come as an earthly king and save them physically from the oppression of the Romans that they lived under. One reason many Jews could not accept Jesus as the Messiah was because He did not set Himself up as an earthly king and banish the Romans. Instead He talked about the Kingdom of God. One of Jesus's followers, Andrew, recognised straightaway who He was though. In John 1:41 he said to his brother, Simon – *'We have found the Messiah!'*

Jesus Himself revealed that He was the Messiah to a Samaritan woman who said to Him in John 4:25-26 – *"I know that Messiah comes, he who is called Christ."... Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who speaks to you."* It is brilliant that Jesus told this to a woman and one who was a Samaritan. The Jews did not educate

women or have them in any leadership capacity and the Jews hated the Samaritans. So here is someone who no Jew would have even considered discussing serious things with, being the first person Jesus told openly who He was.

## *Jesus – Saviour*

So if Jesus didn't come to save the Israelites from the Romans, who or what did He come to save them from? When an angel told Joseph that Mary was going to have this special baby he said to him in Matthew 1:21 – *'You shall call his name Jesus, for it is he who shall save his people from their sins.'* So what does that mean? If you're saved from something, it is no longer there to threaten you. John 1:29 says – *'Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!'* This is exactly what Jesus came to do – to save people from their sins by taking them away.

God absolutely and totally hates sin and could never let sin go unpunished, but He loves people so much and didn't want to punish them. Before Jesus, the Jews had sacrificed animals to obtain God's forgiveness, but these sacrifices had to keep being repeated. God sent Jesus as the final perfect sacrifice, to suffer the punishment for all people, for all sins and for all time. He was the Lamb of God. He was killed by crucifixion as God's 'once for all' sacrifice. Jesus died for all people - everyone who's ever lived, who is living and ever will live. It was for all time - it stands in history at a specific time and will never need to be repeated. And it was for all sins - past, present and future. Instead of punishing you for your sin, God punished Jesus instead. Jesus died instead of you! That's love! It was on the Cross that God dealt with sin once and for all. He took all the sins, sickness and poverty of this world on Himself and carried it for you. He won the victory over it all.

He saved you from your sins – He suffered the punishment for them all, so now all your sins are forgiven – past, present and future. Jesus took the blame for them all. He took your guilt and your shame and God forgave all your sins. They have been punished through Jesus and are now forgiven and forgotten. God has taken them all away. He isn't holding your sins against you. They're not written up on a list which He will confront you with one day.

However, you're not going to understand and experience the reality of this wonderful forgiveness until you're born-again, that is when you accept Jesus as your Lord and Saviour. It is only when you receive forgiveness through faith in Jesus that it will become real in your life.

When your sins have been forgiven and taken away, you are then free to become God's child! Sin doesn't stand in the way anymore. He loves you so much and He longs for you to know Him personally in a close Father and child relationship. This is true for everyone, but it's only as you believe in Him and are born-again that you will enter into that wonderful relationship.

The Cross was enough. It's all about what Jesus did, not what you do – how you measure up or how you perform. It's all about God's love for you.

Alongside this wonderful good news, a word of caution - this doesn't mean its ok for you to sin – it certainly isn't. It will hurt you and others too. God will still love you and forgiveness is still yours as you receive it, but sin will lead to all sorts of trouble in your life and the lives of people around you. It will also make it more difficult for you to experience your relationship with your Father God.

## *Love, Love, Love*

So what motivated God to send Jesus and why did He willingly come? Love! John 3:16 says – *‘For God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life.’* He loves people so much that He wanted to save them from their sins to make it possible for them to live with Him forever.

John 15:13 says – *‘Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.’* You’d be hard pushed to find someone who disagreed with this. To die in order to save someone else’s life is love indeed. This is Jesus’s love for the world, for everyone, for you – the ultimate sacrifice. He wants you with Him for eternity, not suffering everlasting punishment in hell. He wants you to know Him personally in this life and, when it is over, to live forever with Him in love, joy and peace.

And it’s not a love that responds to how good you are or how well you perform. It’s unconditional. Romans 5:8 says – *‘God commends his own love towards us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.’* No-one can ever earn God’s love and no-one deserves it. You just have to receive it. Do you want to experience this love in your life? Do you long to be loved totally unconditionally? There’s only one person who can do it – Jesus.

Jesus told His followers that they must love people too. He said in John 13:34-35 – *‘Just as I have loved you, you also love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.’* Love should be the hallmark of Christians. Your experience of some may tell you it isn’t, but it should be. Any negative experience you may have of the church cannot alter the fact that Jesus loves, and He loves you.

## *Jesus – the Resurrection and the Life*

One day Jesus was talking to a friend called Martha who was mourning her dead brother. Jesus brought him back to life, but first, He said to her in John 11:25 – *‘I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will still live, even if he dies.’* Jesus Himself came back to life after He’d been killed on the Cross. That’s why this booklet is called ‘Who is Jesus?’ not ‘Who was Jesus?’ Jesus is the only way you can find everlasting life and it’s as you’re born-again that it becomes yours.

## *Jesus – the Healer*

Jesus spent a huge part of His time on earth healing people and setting them free from the devil, and He brought people back to life too. He never said “No” to anyone who asked Him for healing. He never said the time wasn’t right or they had something to learn first. He healed them. Through His torture and death, Jesus defeated sickness and made healing possible for you today.

## *Jesus – the Way, the Truth and the Life*

Jesus said to His disciples at their last meal together in John 14:6 – *‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father, except through me.’* Many people think there are lots of different ways to God through other religions and philosophies, but Jesus made it clear there is only one. It is only in Jesus that the way to God can be found. He is the only one who has sacrificed Himself so you can be free from your sins and be in a relationship with God Himself. He is the only way to find real, fulfilling life in this world and also life for ever with Him after you die. And it’s all because He loves you so much.



## *Jesus – the Same Yesterday, Today & Forever*

Hebrews 13:8 says – *‘Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.’* Jesus is completely trustworthy. What He says and what He has done stands forever. You never have to wonder what sort of mood He’s in. He will always love you. He is the only person you can put complete confidence in. He will never let you down. His love is perfect and He wants you to understand and believe it. Everything He has done is for everyone, but it’s also personally for you. Perfect love just for you – wonderful!

## *Jesus – Your Friend*

In John 15:15 Jesus said to His followers – *‘No longer do I call you servants ... But I have called you friends.’* Jesus is God but if He is your Lord and Saviour, He is also your friend. He wants to walk through your life with you every step of the way. Respect Him as God but relate to Him as the best friend you can ever have.

## *Jesus – the Teacher*

Jesus was the perfect teacher – everything He said and taught was true. Today people will often acknowledge Jesus was a good moral teacher, but deny He was the Son of God. But Jesus said He was the Son of God. If the things He said about Himself weren’t true, then either he was lying or he was crazy. Neither of these are the mark of a good moral teacher. You either have to dismiss Him as bad or crazy or accept Him as the Son of God. There is no other option. But Jesus was indeed who He said He was. He is good and He is the best teacher ever. He told His followers to teach others what He had taught them, assuring them that He would never leave them. When you’re born-again you have that promise too – Jesus will always be with you.

## *Jesus – Your Lord and Saviour*

When you acknowledge that Jesus is God and decide that you want to follow Him you are making Him your Lord. If you've never accepted Jesus as your Lord and Saviour then make today the day you do. It's called being born-again. God loves you totally and unconditionally, but it's only as you're born-again that you can receive the forgiveness Jesus won for you and enter into that wonderful love relationship with Him.

Romans 10:9 says – *'If you will confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.'* Tell God you are sorry for the wrong things you do, say and think. Choose to believe that Jesus is Lord, that He died for you and is now alive. Accept Him as your Lord and Saviour. Say it with your voice and believe it in your heart.

If you've done that sincerely, you are now born-again and Jesus has come to live in you. Everything you've ever done wrong or ever will do wrong is forgiven, and after this life is over, you'll live in peace and joy with your loving Father God for ever.

As a child of God, you now have a whole new family of brothers and sisters. Tell a trusted Christian that you are now born-again so they can help you in your new life in Jesus. And you have the Bible to help you understand and experience more of God's love for you and all Jesus has done and won for you. It will help you to live your life in the best possible way – His way.

It's only as you live your life believing Jesus is all the Bible says He is, that you will find it to be true. You now have Jesus Himself living in you, blessing you, working for you, helping you and guiding you every step of the way. Enjoy your life with your wonderful Lord and Saviour – Jesus!

# *Life in Jesus*

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Some people think Jesus was just a good moral teacher,  
but Jesus said He was God.  
He either is God or He isn't.  
And if He isn't,  
then He told lies about Himself  
so He couldn't be that good moral teacher.

This booklet will help you find out who the real Jesus is  
and why He came to earth 2000 years ago.



**Katherine Hilditch** has been teaching in local churches for many years. In 2013 she wrote her first booklet and since then has written many more. She created her website to make all the booklets freely available to everyone. They can be read online or printed out. Katherine's threefold purpose is to help people understand more about Jesus and all He has done and won for them, to encourage them to go deeper in their relationship with God and to provide material to help them share their faith with others. To read her story and find all the booklets go to –

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