

# Who Is This Man Jesus?

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Many people have heard about Jesus. Some believe that he was a good man, others that he was a prophet, still others that he was the founder of a new religion. And some accept him as their Savior and Lord. Already in the times of Jesus the opinions varied (Mt 16:13-14).

## I. Jesus' Claims

In the New Testament many amazing claims about Jesus are found. But Jesus himself made also some interesting statements about himself.

John 5:25-27	He is the Son of God and the Son of Man and will raise the dead
John 6:47-48	He provides eternal life for those who believe in him.
John 10:30-33	Jesus is one with God the Father
John 14:6	Jesus is the only way to God, truth personified, and life
John 17:5	Jesus lived with God before creation
John 18:37	Jesus is King.
Mark 14:61-62	Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah. He sits at the right hand of God and will come back on the clouds.
Matt 28:19-20	Jesus is with us always, even to the end of the age.

This is not a comprehensive list. But it tells us: Although Jesus was a human being, he claimed to be God's Son, who became man in order to save us. He is God and creator (John 1:1-3), judge and king, and will come again.

## II. Reactions of His Audiences

While Jesus and his claims were rejected by a number of his contemporaries (John 7:46-49), there were others who believed in him:

Mark 15:39	A Gentile, namely a Roman centurion
Matt 16:16	Peter, one of his disciples
John 11:27	Martha, a woman who followed him
John 20:25-28	Thomas, a skeptic
Rom 9:5, Col 2:9	Paul who had persecuted the Christians and denied the Lordship of Jesus

Jesus has shaped this planet and has changed the life on it in a remarkable way. He has influenced it more than all armies that ever marched, all kings and rulers that ever reigned, and all inventions that were ever made. He left us his commandment of love, his exemplary life, and above all he saved us. More books are written about him, more pictures and sculptures manufactured portraying him, more music composed to honor him than any other person that walked on this planet. The time is reckoned from him.

## III. Evidences for the Validity of His Claims

Centuries before his birth Old Testament prophets made detailed predictions about the Messiah to come. It is said that there are more than 300 such predictions which were fulfilled in Jesus. Most of them Jesus could not have fulfilled himself even if he had wanted to. The predictions include his genealogy, place of birth, year of the beginning of his public ministry, triumphal entry in Jerusalem, speaking in parables, performing miracles, his rejection, betrayal, being abused and mocked, his crucifixion, year of death, his death in our place, burial, and resurrection. Here are some examples:

(1) Micah 5:2;	Prediction:	8 <sup>th</sup> century B.C., Bethlehem as the place of birth
Matt 2:1, 5, 6;	Fulfillment:	God used the Roman emperor Augustus for the
Luke 2:1-7		fulfillment of the prophecy, because shortly before

her delivery Mary and Joseph were still in Nazareth.

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| (2) Zech 9:9;<br>Matt 21:1-9; Mark 11:7 | Prediction:<br>Fulfillment: | 6 <sup>th</sup> century B.C., triumphal entry<br>Jesus entered Jerusalem.                                                                                              |
| (3) Zech 11:12-13<br>Matt 26:15; 27:3-7 | Prediction:<br>Fulfillment: | Thirty shekel of silver are to be paid for the Lord.<br>Jesus was betrayed for thirty shekels, Judas threw the money into the temple.                                  |
| (4) Ps 22:16-19<br>John 20:25; 19:23-24 | Prediction:<br>Fulfillment: | 10 <sup>th</sup> century B.C., crucifixion<br>Jesus was crucified and his clothes were distributed.                                                                    |
| (5) Exod 12:46<br><br>John 19:31-36     | Prediction:<br>Fulfillment: | c. 15 <sup>th</sup> century B.C., no bone of the Passover lamb was to be broken<br>Jesus' bones were not broken. The Passover lamb was a symbol for Jesus (John 1:29). |

#### **IV. Jesus and I**

The Old Testament prophecies were fulfilled in Jesus and in him alone. He is what he had claimed, the Messiah, the Son of God, but especially our Savior (John 3:16). We are asked to recognize him as such and believe in him.

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