A TRINFINITY MINI BOOK

Who Jesus Really Is

The Son of God who came to save us

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About this book

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Introduction

Almost everyone has an opinion about Jesus. Some say He was a good teacher. Some say He was a prophet. Some say He was a legend that grew over time. Jesus Himself asked His disciples the question that matters most: who do you say that I am?

This book looks at what the Bible says about who Jesus is, what He came to do, and why the answer to His question changes everything. If you are searching, I hope you will read the Gospel of John alongside it and meet Him for yourself.

1 The question Jesus asked

Jesus once asked His disciples what people were saying about Him. They gave Him the popular answers. Some said John the Baptist, others Elijah or one of the prophets. Then He made it personal.

But who do you say that I am? Simon Peter answered, You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Matthew 16:15-16 (NASB)

The word Christ is the Greek form of the Hebrew word Messiah. It means the Anointed One, the King God promised to send. Peter was saying that Jesus was not just another prophet in a long line. He was the One the whole line had been pointing to.

You might ask, why not just call Him a good teacher and leave it there? It boils down to what He claimed. A man who says the things Jesus said is either telling the truth or He is not. A good teacher does not claim to be God unless He is.

2 God who became a man

John opens his Gospel by going back before creation.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:1 (NASB)

The Word was with God, and the Word was God. Then John tells us who the Word is: the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us (John 1:14, NASB). Jesus did not begin in Bethlehem. All things were created

through Him and for Him (Colossians 1:16, NASB). Jesus told the religious leaders, before Abraham was born, I am (John 8:58, NASB), using the name God gave Himself at the burning bush. They understood what He meant and picked up stones.

Paul wrote that in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form (Colossians 2:9, NASB). When doubting Thomas finally saw the risen Jesus, he did not say, my teacher. He said, My Lord and my God! (John 20:28, NASB). Jesus did not correct him.

Christians believe in one God who exists as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Jesus told His followers to baptize in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19, NASB). One name, three persons. It is more than our minds can hold, and I would expect nothing less from God.

3 Promised long before He came

Hundreds of years before Jesus was born, the prophets described Him. Micah named the town. From Bethlehem would come a ruler whose goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity (Micah 5:2, NASB).

For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6 (NASB)

Isaiah also saw that this King would suffer. He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities (Isaiah 53:5, NASB). Those words were written centuries before the cross. When Jesus came, He fit both pictures: the King who reigns and the servant who suffers in our place.

4 Fully God and fully man

Jesus was not God pretending to be human. He was born, grew up, got tired, got hungry, and wept at the tomb of a friend. Hebrews says He was tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin (Hebrews 4:15, NASB). That means He understands what you are going through.

who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Philippians 2:6-8 (NASB)

Because He is God, He can show us what God is like. Jesus told Philip, He who has seen Me has seen the Father (John 14:9, NASB). Because He is man, He can stand in our place. There is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus (1 Timothy 2:5, NASB).

5 Why He came

Jesus told us in His own words why He came.

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.

Mark 10:45 (NASB)

A ransom is the price paid to set a captive free. Our sin holds us captive, and we cannot pay our own way out. Jesus paid it with His life. Hebrews says that when He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high (Hebrews 1:3, NASB). The work was finished.

Then He rose. The resurrection is God's stamp on everything Jesus claimed. If He had stayed in the grave, He would be one more teacher who died. He did not stay there. He showed His disciples His hands and His feet and said, touch Me and see (Luke 24:39, NASB).

6 What your salvation depends on

Who Jesus is matters because your salvation depends on Him. Not on your goodness, your church, or your family's faith. On Him.

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

John 3:16 (NASB)

Believing in Him is more than agreeing that He existed. It is trusting Him with your life and your eternity. When the jailer in Philippi asked what he must do to be saved, Paul answered, Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved (Acts 16:31, NASB).

If you have never done that, you can do it today. Tell God you know you have sinned. Tell Him you believe Jesus is His Son, that He died for you and rose again. Ask Him to forgive you and to be your Lord. Jesus promised, the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out (John 6:37, NASB).

Who Jesus Really Is

Good teacher, prophet, or legend? Jesus asked, Who do you say that I am? This book looks at what the Bible says about who He is, how the prophets promised Him, why He came, and why your salvation depends on Him.

But who do you say that I am?

Matthew 16:15 (NASB)

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