



WHO IS JESUS CHRIST?

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In the Beginning

Why do we need to believe in Jesus Christ? Who is Jesus? In order to understand this, we must start at the beginning. In the beginning of time, there was a beautiful garden. God, whose name is Jehovah, made the garden and the earth and the heavens. The Creator is the high God. *“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth”* (Genesis 1:1). He made a man named Adam and put him in the garden. He told Adam he could eat of all the trees of the garden except the tree in the middle of the garden. *“And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die”* (Gen. 1:16-17). God made a wife for Adam. Adam’s wife took the fruit and ate it and they had to die because they did not obey God. *“And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her, and he did eat”* (Gen. 3:16). They did not obey God. This is sin. We also do not obey God. We also sin and one day we will die. *“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned”* (Romans 5:12). We are all guilty of lying, lust, selfishness, meanness.

God Requires a Sacrifice

God requires a sacrifice for sin. God offered the first sacrifice. He killed an animal and made coats for Adam and Eve. *“Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them”* (Gen. 3:21). Adam and his sons continued offering sacrifices. *“And Abel [Adam’s son], he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering”* (Gen. 4:4). Every generation after Adam offered sacrifices. *“And Noah builded an altar unto the LORD; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar”* (Gen. 8:20).

For four thousand years man had been slaughtering animals for sacrifices. Why? The innocent animal’s blood makes an atonement for the guilty party. Atonement means to make amends for an injury or wrong. We have wronged a holy God. *“And he shall put his hand upon the head of the burnt offering; and it shall be accepted for him to make an*

atonement for him” (Leviticus 1:4). “*And the priest shall make an atonement for him*” (Lev. 4:31, 35; 5:6, 10, 13, 16, 18; 6:7). Since we are all guilty, we need a sacrifice to make amends to a holy God. The guilty person can have his sins forgiven when he repents of his sin. “*It [his sin] shall be forgiven them*” (Lev. 4:20, 26, 31, 35; 5:10, 13, 16, 18; 6:7).

Conditions for the Sacrifice

The sacrifice must be without blemish. In other words, it cannot be sick or maimed or crippled (Lev. 1:3; 3:1, 6; 4:3, 23, 28, 32; 5:15; 6:6). Jesus Christ fit the condition. He was without blemish. He was and is the only person without sin. “*Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?*” (John 8:46) No person could point to any sin. He had not sin (II Cor. 5:12).

The Sacrificial Animal

The sacrificial animal must give its blood. “*And he shall kill the bullock before the LORD: and the priests, Aaron’s sons, shall bring the blood, and sprinkle the blood round about upon the altar that is by the door of the tabernacle of the congregation*” (Lev. 1:5). “*And the priest shall bring it [turtledoves or pigeons] unto the altar, and wring off his head, and burn it on the altar; and the blood thereof shall be wrung out at the side of the altar*” (Lev. 1:15). The innocent animal must die for the guilty. The animal must give its blood. “*The life of the flesh is in the blood*” (Lev. 17:11).

A Greater Sacrifice

The animal sacrifice has now been abolished. Why don’t the Jews still sacrifice animals? Because God has given a greater sacrifice. This greater sacrifice is not just for the Jews, not just for good people. We are all guilty of selfishness, lying, stealing, bad thoughts, wrong doing—sin. When Jesus died on the cross, He gave His blood. Hebrews 9:11-14 explains, “*But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*” A greater sacrifice than an innocent animal? A human sacrifice? But remember, the sacrifice must be perfect, without blemish. No person fits that

description----- God gave the sacrifice of HIMSELF! God became a man and sacrificed HIMSELF. “*God was manifest in the flesh*” (I Timothy 3:16).

Requirements for Forgiveness

The person who needs forgiveness must bring the sacrifice. “*He shall offer it of his own voluntary will at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation before the LORD. And he shall put his hand upon the head of the burnt offering; and it shall be accepted for him to make atonement [forgiveness] for him*” (Lev. 1:3-4). The person himself must get a sacrifice and bring it to the priest. He must then lay his hand on the offering. This signifies that the animal must give its life, its blood, in exchange for the guilty person. “*So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation*” (Hebrews 9:28).

When a person realizes that he is a sinner, he must look to Jesus who is the Sacrifice. He must acknowledge that Jesus died for his sin. He must ask for forgiveness. “*For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved*” (Romans 10:13).

Jesus Christ, THE Sacrifice

When Jesus died on the cross, he met all the conditions for a sacrifice. He was without blemish. He was perfect. He had not sinned. He gave His blood. He died. He didn't just die a senseless death. He died for me, for you. “*Christ died for the ungodly*” (Romans 5:6). Why? God loves us. He wants to deliver us. He wants us to have a relationship with Him. He proved it by the sacrifice of Jesus. “*But God commendeth [proved] his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us*” (Rom. 5:8).

Hope Beyond the Grave

Jesus Christ died. He was buried. But He arose from the grave. “*Christ died for our sin according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures*” (I Corinthians 15:3-4). Of all the prophets who have died—Buddha, Confucius, Mohammed, Joseph Smith, etc.—none have risen from the dead. Only Jesus. If you go to the grave of Buddha, you will find DNA. If you go to the grave of Mohammed, you will find DNA. If you go to the grave of Joseph Smith, you will find DNA. BUT if you go to the grave of Jesus—there is no DNA. He is not there. He is risen. Not only that, but He raised Himself. Other people have been brought back to

life. Elijah raised a boy from the dead. Jesus and Paul raised people from the dead. But no person is able to raise himself from the dead, ONLY Jesus. *“Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself”* (John 10:17-18).

The Sacrificial Lamb

God still requires a sacrifice, a payment for sin, the shedding of blood. Jesus is the sacrifice. Look at what he did on the cross. He died to save you from your sin. Jesus is the sacrificial lamb. *“Behold the Lamb of God”* (John 1:36). But we must receive Him. *“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name”* (John 1:12). As the sinner took the lamb to the priest in the past and put his hand upon the lamb, he acknowledged his sin. We also need to acknowledge our sin and believe that Jesus is the Lamb and ask His forgiveness.

Why Jesus Christ?

Who is Jesus Christ? Why is He the sacrificial Lamb? Jesus is God. He is God the Son. In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth. Jesus Christ was alive in the beginning before the world was created. *“And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness”* (Genesis 1:26). The pronouns *us* and *our* are plural. *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God”* (John 1:1-2). Who is this Word? The Word is Jesus. *“And the Word was made flesh [became a person], and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth”* (John 1:14). Jesus became flesh. He became the baby in the manger at Christmas, with flesh like you and me, grew up, and showed God’s glory.

Jesus was there in the beginning and is the Creator. *“All things were made by him [Jesus]; and without him was not any thing made that was made”* (John 1:3). *“For by him [Jesus] were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him [Jesus], and for him. And he [Jesus] is before all things, and by him all things consist”* (Colossians 1:16-17). Jesus was with God before the world began.

The Mighty God

Who is Jesus Christ? Jesus is the Mighty God. Jesus has all of the attributes of God. Although Jesus had a man's body, he could do things that only God can do. For example, Jesus could read people's minds and see into their hearts. "*And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts?*" (Matthew 9:4). "*And Jesus knew their thoughts*" (Matt. 12:25). "*And immediately when Jesus perceived in his spirit that they so reasoned within themselves, he said unto them, Why reason ye these things in your hearts?*" (Mark 2:8). Jesus has all of the properties of God in that he could do things that only God could do. Jesus did many miracles. He healed the sick, cast out demons, restored the lame, made the deaf to hear, and the blind to see. "*Since the world began was it not heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind*" (John 9:32).

The All Powerful God

Jesus has all power. "*All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth*" (Matthew 28:18). Jesus has power over nature. "*And they feared exceedingly, and said, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?*" (Mark 4:41).

Jesus has power over death. He has the power to raise people from the dead. "*And he [Jesus] came and touched the bier: and they that bare him stood still. And he said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise. And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak. And he delivered him to his mother*" (Luke 7:14-15). Other people have raised the dead, but nobody has RAISED HIMSELF from the dead! Only Jesus. "*Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again*" (John 10:17-18).

Jesus has power over demons. He cast many devils out of people. "*And as he was yet a-coming, the devil threw him down, and tare him. And Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, and healed the child, and delivered him again to his father*" (Luke 9:42). In another situation "*Jesus asked him, saying, What is thy name? And he said, Legion: because many devils were entered into him...Then the devils went out of the man, and entered into the swine...Then they went out to see what was done; and came to Jesus, and found the man, out of whom the devils were departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid*" (Luke 8:30, 33, 35).

The Forgiving God

Jesus Christ can forgive sin. Yes, when someone offends us or says something wrong we can forgive them. But Jesus can forgive us of ALL of our sins and clean our

hearts. No person can do that. *“But that ye may know that the Son of man [Jesus] hath power on earth to forgive sins”* (Matthew 9:6, Mark 2:10, Luke 5:24). *“In whom [Jesus] we have redemption [salvation] through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace”* (Ephesians 1:7, Colossians 1:14).

The Almighty God

Jesus Christ is the Almighty God. *“But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom”* (Hebrews 1:8). In this verse God the Father calls Jesus the Son---God. If the God of heaven calls Jesus God, we also need to recognize Jesus is God. Jesus said He was one with the Father. *“I and my Father are one”* (John 10:30). Jesus said whoever had seen Him had seen the Father. *“Jesus cried and said, He that believeth on me, believeth not on me, but on him that sent me. And he that seeth me seeth him that sent me”* John 12:44. As Jesus was talking to his disciples, he declared that when they look at Him, they also see the Father. *“If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. Philip saith unto him, Lord, show us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? He that hath seen me hath seen the Father”* (John 14:7-9).

The Great I AM

Who is Jesus Christ? Jesus is God, the Almighty. The Almighty God revealed Himself to Moses in the burning bush. When Moses asked for God’s name, God replied, *“I AM THAT I AM.”* And He said, *“Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you”* (Exodus 3:14). Jesus Himself used this title of Deity: *“Before Abraham was, I am”* (John 8:58). Using the title “I AM,” Jesus claimed to be what no human being can claim. He claimed to give sustenance of life. *“I am the bread of life”* (John 6:48). He claimed to give light in a dark world. *“I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life”* (John 8:12). He said I am the door. *“I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture”* (John 10:9). I am the Good Shepherd. *“I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine”* (John 10:14). I am Master and Lord. *“Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am”* (John 13:13). I am the resurrection. *“Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live”* (John 11:25). I am the truth. *“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me”* (John 14:6). I am the Son of God. *“Say ye of*

him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God?” (John 10:36). I am the way. There is only one way to heaven—through Jesus. “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6). I am he [The I AM]. “Jesus therefore, knowing all things that should come upon him, went forth, and said unto them, Whom seek ye? They answered him, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus saith unto them, I am he. And Judas also, which betrayed him, stood with them. As soon then as he had said unto them, I am he, they went backward, and fell to the ground” (John 18:4-6). I am from above. “And he said unto them, Ye are from beneath; I am from above: ye are of this world; I am not of this world. I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins; for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins” (John 8:23-24).

Conclusion

Who is Jesus Christ? Jesus has all the properties of God. He is self-existent. He is from eternity past. “*Before Abraham was I AM*” (John 8:58). He is the sacrificial lamb. “*And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering*” (Genesis 22:8). He can forgive sins. He gives eternal life. “*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him [Jesus] should not perish, but have everlasting life*” (John 3:16). He has the right to accept worship. “*Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God*” (Matthew 14:33). Jesus will one day be the Judge of the world. “*For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son*” (John 5:22).

WHO IS JESUS CHRIST?

**Jesus is God the Son,
the Mighty God, the Almighty God.
Believe Him. Accept Him. Trust Him. Worship Him.**