**Who is Jesus?**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YQWCb-oIn54>

Many people have questioned who Jesus really was and is.

* Was he a real person or is he just Myth?
* Was He God or Just a Man?
* Who did he say he was? Did He ever claim to be God?

We know that Jesus is not a myth as there are too many historical records showing that he really existed and these records are not just from Jesus’s followers (i.e. Biblical Authors) but from Historians of the time like Polycarp, Irenaeus & Josephus.

We also know that early Christians believed He was God from their writings that started soon after Jesus Death and resurrection (i.e. Paul’s Letters and Marks Gospel). This was not something that was adopted later.

So that leaves us with: Who did Jesus say he was?

It may surprise you that Jesus never actually says “I am God” in the Bible. Many Atheist will use this fact to prove that Jesus is not God. With that said Jesus does make it very clear that he is God by the things he says and does in the Bible.

**Matthew 16:13-17** When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven.

* **Note:** Jesus will reveal himself to use when we follow him

**John 8:54-58** Jesus replied, “If I glorify myself, my glory means nothing. My Father, whom you claim as your God, is the one who glorifies me. Though you do not know him, I know him. If I said I did not, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and obey his word. Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad.” “You are not yet fifty years old,” they said to him, “and you have seen Abraham!” “Very truly I tell you,” **Jesus answered, “before Abraham was born, I am!”**

As you read through this you might think it is not clear if he is saying he is God but it was very clear to the Jews of that day and we can see this in the very next verse: **John 8:59** At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds.

Why would they want to stone him for saying that? Remember in Exodus 3:14 God introduces himself to Moses and **I AM.**

Throughout the gospel Jesus said and did things that only God could do

* Only God can forgive sins but so did Jesus
	+ **Mark 2:5** When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, “Son, your sins are forgiven.”
* Only God can Give eternal life so did Jesus
	+ **John 10:28-30** I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand.30 I and the Father are one.”
* Only God sits on the thrown in heaven
	+ When the high priest was interrogating Jesus at his trial Jesus made the following statement that would condemn him to die on a cross:
	+ **Matthew 25:31** “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne.
	+ **Mark 14:61-62 …**Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?” “I am,” said Jesus. “And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.
* Only God has all authority in Heaven and on Earth
	+ **Matthew 28:18** Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.
* We should only Pray to God
	+ **John 14:13** And I (Jesus) will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.
	+ **John 14:6** Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

**Who did Jesus say he was?**

 As you read through the book of John, you will find 8 different conversations in which Jesus makes very specific “I am” statements about himself that revel to us who he is. When he made these statements they would have seemed totally outrageous to the people around but the impact was and still is life-changing with everlasting consequence.

**I am the bread of life -**

* **John 6:35** Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.
* **John 6:51** I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”
* In the Old testament the Israelites were complaining they were hungry so God sent Mana down from Heaven to feed the Israelites. This mana became an essential part of their life to sustain them for the next 40 years. So, now Jesus comes along and says he is living bread from heaven that sustains everyone that follows Him.
* Physical bread perishes but Jesus is spiritual bread that brings eternal life.
* In Jesus our spiritual hunger is satisfied

 **I am the light of the world** –

* **John 8:12** When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”
* Christ offers spiritual truth that brings eternal life
* Jesus gives us a guiding light to Find eternal life
* **Psalm 27:1** The Lord is my light and my salvation whom shall I fear?...

**I am I am**- Jesus was there from the beginning

* **John 8:58** Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.
* **Exodus 3:14** - And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.

**I am the door** - Jesus holds the keys to the Kingdom, and no one can enter except through Him

* **John 10:9** I am the door; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture.

**I am the good shepherd** - A shepherd is responsible for his flock

* **John 10:11** “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”
* **Ezekiel 34:15**" I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God."

**I am the resurrection and the life** – Christ alone has the power to give eternal life

* **John 11:25-26** Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.”

**I am the way, the truth, and the life** - There is no other way into the presence of God other than by accepting the Christ death as payment in full for our sins

* **John 14:6** Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

**I am the vine** – if you remove a branch from the Vine it dies. Just as if we stop reading the bible and going to church our faith withers and dies

* **John 15:5** I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

**Other Versus**

As for our thirst, remember how Jesus told the woman at the well that the water He offered would cure her thirst forever

* **John 4:13-14** “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”
* And then on the last and greatest day of the Feast of Tabernacles, Jesus said,
* **John 7:37-39** “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.” By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive.

\*The water he speaks of is the Holy Spirit that you receive through Jesus

**Throughout the Bible we find many different names for Jesus**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| * Christ
* Lord
* Master
* Logos (the Word)
* Son of God
 | * Lamb of God
* The Good Shepherd
* Light of the World
* King of the Jews
* Light of the World
 | * Son of Man
* Son of David
* The Lion of Judah
* Angle of the LORD
 |

Who do you say he is? Is he a Good or Man? Or Maybe a great prophet? Or is he the author of your salvation and worthy of your praise, your prayers your dedication and your life?

* **John 6:46** No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father.

**Side Note: We sometimes see Jesus referred to as the angle of the Lord in the old testament**

[Video: Angel of the Lord:](https://bibleproject.com/videos/angel-lord)

### [Psalm 34:7](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+34%3A7&version=ESV) The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him and delivers them.

Exodus 3:2 And the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed.