

# 625 Do You Know My Jesus?

## Phil Sanders

### God's Answers to Life's Questions

What do you think when someone says the word "Jesus" to you? Do you think of a great moral teacher? Do you think of an ancient prophet? Do you think of a carpenter? Do you think of Jesus as the Son of God? Stay with us, and we'll take a closer look at Jesus.

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven. Who Jesus is remains the most important question of our time! And who Jesus is to you remains the most important question you'll ever answer. It will affect your eternity!

James Allen Francis in 1926 wrote an remarkable essay about Jesus. He said, "Here is a man who was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another village. He worked in a carpenter shop until he was thirty, and then for three years he was an itinerant preacher. He never owned a home. He never wrote a book. He never held office. He never had a family. He never went to college. He never put his foot inside a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place where he was born. He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but himself. While still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against him. His friends ran away. One of them denied Him. He was turned over to His enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed upon a cross between two thieves. While he was dying, his executioners gambled for the only piece of property he had on earth—his coat. When he was dead, he was taken down and laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend. Nineteen long centuries have come and gone and today he is the centerpiece of the human race and the leader of the column of progress. I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever were built; all the parliaments that ever sat and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as has that one solitary life. #B

Jesus is unique among men. And there is no one like Him who ever lived. He was better, nobler, more holy, more kind, and more generous than person who ever lived. Moses said of Jesus, "The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your countrymen, you shall listen to him... I will raise up a prophet from among their countrymen like you, and I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. And it shall come about that whoever will not listen to My words which he shall speak in My name, I Myself will require *it* of him." (Deut. 18:15, 18-19). David prophesied of Jesus: The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at My right hand, Until I make Thine enemies a footstool for Thy feet." Isaiah could say of Jesus: "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. There will be no end to the increase of *His* government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this. (Isa. 9:6,7) Before his birth, an angel of the Lord told Joseph about Mary: "And she will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for it is He who will save His people from their sins." Now all this took place that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled, saying, "BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD, AND SHALL BEAR A

SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL," which translated means, "GOD WITH US." (Matt. 1:21-23) At his death, the centurion who crucified him said: "Surely he was the Son of God!" (Matt. 27:54). John the Baptist said of Jesus, "but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals;" (Matt. 3:11). Jesus was certainly no ordinary man and one who deserves our close inspection.

**The very name "Jesus" is important.** You'll remember the angel Gabriel told Joseph about Mary, "She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins" (Mt. 1:21). Jesus is indeed a Savior. Paul said in Galatians 1:4 that Jesus "gave Himself for our sins so that He might rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father." And He has rescued us indeed! Not only does His blood cleanse us from sin, Jesus also gave us a model, an example, to show us how to live a life above the life the world lives. Peter said about Jesus in 1 Pet. 2:21-25, "For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH; and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting *Himself* to Him who judges righteously; and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed. For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls." The name Jesus stands for everything that is holy and good, everything that is noble and gracious. You can look the world over and never find a better example than Jesus the Christ.

**As Christ, He is the Messiah.** That's what the word Christ means; it is the Greek translation of the Hebrew term Messiah. Jesus Christ means Jesus the Messiah. Who or what is the Messiah? The word Messiah means "anointed one." In the Old Testament, prophets, priests, and kings were anointed of God as His servants. The Messiah was to be all three: prophet, priest, and king. According to Alfred Edersheim the Old Testament predicts and speaks to the coming of the Messiah 456 times. Various designations were given to the Messiah. Among them are the "seed" of Abraham, "son of David," "Son of Man," "My Son," "My Servant," "My chosen one," "the Branch," "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, and Prince of Peace." Many of the Jews in Jesus' day lost sight of the fact that the Messiah was to save his people from sin, that he was a prophet and a priest. They focused on the idea that he was a king and would restore the kingdom to Israel. They thought he would have a kingdom like David and Solomon, where he would be a ruler with an army and would free them from Roman domination. They misunderstood. Jesus said in John 18:37, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm." Some people are still looking for Jesus to set up an earthly kingdom with a throne and headquarters, but the kingdom of Jesus is spiritual. It doesn't fight a physical war but a spiritual one. The kingdom of Jesus today is the church, and Jesus is today sitting at the right hand of the throne of God. Paul said to the church at Colossae, "For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." (Colossians 1:13-14). To be in the kingdom, one must be in the church.

**A third way to identify Jesus is to acknowledge that He is Lord.** Saying Jesus is Lord means that one believes in his authority. Peter proclaimed in the sermon at Pentecost, "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified." (Acts 2:36) Jesus does

indeed have authority over our lives. In Matthew 28:18 Jesus said, "All authority is given unto me in heaven and on earth." Paul proclaimed in Ephesians 1:20-23 that God raised Jesus from the dead and "seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly *places*, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all." Those who think that Jesus will not have any authority until he comes back to the earth to set up his kingdom are mistaken. Jesus has already set up his kingdom and already has all authority. One cannot have more authority than "all." My friend, Jesus the Lord has complete control over your life and mine. To be Lord means that He has the right to make decisions that affect our lives and that we belong to Him. He has a right to determine what is and is not sinful. He has the right to determine the nature of the church and how one enters it. He is indeed Lord over all things to the church.

**Fourth, The Lord Jesus Christ is also the Son of God.** As the Son of God, He is Divine. He has the divine characteristics of His Father in heaven. Jesus said in John 10:37-38, "If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; but if I do them, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, so that you may know and understand that the Father is in Me, and I in the Father." Jesus could say in John 14:7, "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him." Jesus is the Son of God, and as His Son was able to manifest to us the character and the love of God His Father. We can understand the God of Heaven because of His Son Jesus. John 1:18 says that Jesus explains God to us. We know how much God loves us, because Jesus loved people. We know of the holiness of God, because of the holiness of Jesus. We know the importance of truth to God, because of the honesty of Jesus. We know God's power, because of the miracles Jesus worked through the power of God. Because Jesus is God's Son, God has invested an authority in Jesus unlike anyone else. When Peter wanted to build three tabernacles on the Mount of Transfiguration (one to Moses, one to Elijah, and one to Jesus), you'll remember that God the Father spoke from the bright cloud of Jesus, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!" John 3:35-36 says, "The Father loves the Son and has given all things into His hand. He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

**Fifth, Jesus is the Son of Man.** As the Son of Man, Jesus suffered for us. In Matthew 20:17-19, Matthew says, "As Jesus was about to go up to Jerusalem, He took the twelve *disciples* aside by themselves, and on the way He said to them, 'Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of Man will be delivered to the chief

priests and scribes, and they will condemn Him to death, and will hand Him over to the Gentiles to mock and scourge and crucify *Him*, and on the third day He will be raised up.'" Jesus was fully human and fully divine. He showed the character of His Father in morals and wisdom, but he was also flesh and blood. He grew hungry, thirsty, and tired; and He felt pain of the heart and of the flesh. He suffered on the cross before He died. It is because he could feel pain and feel temptation as a man that he is also able to help us. The Hebrew writer said in Hebrews 4:14-16, "Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as *we are*, yet without sin. Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need." Because Jesus understands us, we can have confidence in His ability to help us when we need Him.

Jesus as the Son of God is our Savior, but Jesus as the Son of God will one day be our judge. Jesus said in Matthew 16:21, "For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and WILL THEN REPAY EVERY MAN ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS." I hope that you are living such a life that the Lord Jesus Christ will bless you eternally. I hope that you are prepared to meet the Lord. If there is anything amiss in your life, correct it today. Become a Christian by believing that Jesus is the Christ, repent of your sins, confess His name, and be baptized in water for the forgiveness of your sins.

Jesus said to them, "But who do *you* say that I am?" Are you willing to give Jesus first place in your life? Do you believe that He is the Christ, Lord, the Son of God and will one day judge you and me according to the things we have done whether good or bad? If people were to look at your life, could they tell that you are a Christian? Who do you say Jesus is by the way that you live? Jesus is Lord and Christ whether you or I admit it or not. I recently heard about a young lady making fun of Jesus and saying that he could not have been the Son of God. Whether she is willing to admit it or not does not change the truth. Paul said in Philippians 2:9-11 that "God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." If we decide that in this life we are going to ignore the Lord, the time will come in the next life when we can no longer ignore Him. Every knee will bow and every tongue will confess Jesus as Lord. How much better to do it in this life by choice and with love than to have to do it in the next life! My friend, serve the Lord and love Him!

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Concord Road Church of Christ  
8221 Concord Rd., Brentwood, TN 37027  
1-877-226-5747

[phil@God-answers.org](mailto:phil@God-answers.org)

[www.tv.God-answers.org](http://www.tv.God-answers.org)