

# JESUS CHRIST

**Jesus asked Peter, “who do you say that I am?” Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Matthew 16: 15-16). A person’s answer to that question will determine their eternity.**

## **JESUS BEFORE BETHLEHEM**

The Apostle John declares Jesus’ preexistence in John 1:1, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” Jesus says He is “the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End” (Revelation 1:8). Jesus reigns eternally (Hebrews 1:8), and He has existed before all things (Colossians 1:17).

## **JESUS’ DEITY**

Jesus did not become God – He always was God. Referring to His deity, Jesus said, “Before Abraham was, I AM” (John 8:58). The preexistence of Jesus Christ and the deity of Jesus Christ are inseparable. You cannot accept one and deny the other.

## **JESUS’ INCARNATION**

The word incarnation means “in flesh”. It denotes the way of the Son of God took to himself the nature of humanity through the virgin birth (Matthew 1:23). John writes, “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14). Paul says about Jesus that He “made himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of man” (Philippians 2:7).

## **JESUS' HUMANITY**

For Jesus to represent fallen humanity, He had to become a man. His virgin birth, which was essential for Him to fulfill the requirements of our just and righteous God, was prophesied long before it occurred (Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 9:6; Matthew 1:18, 23; Luke 1:34-35; and Galatians 4:4). Jesus experienced everything in life that we do; pain, suffering, thirst, hunger, sorrow, anger, and so on, yet He was without sin (Hebrews 4:15).

## **JESUS' DEATH**

The penalty for our sin is death (Romans 6:23). Jesus died in our place and paid our penalty (Matthew 20:28); John 10:17-18; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 3:18). The death of Jesus on the cross laid the foundation on which a righteous God could pardon guilty and sinful people without compromising His righteousness in any way.

## **WHAT DID JESUS' RESURRECTION ACCOMPLISH?**

It confirmed that God exists. Only the resurrection of Jesus Christ has given proof that the God of the Bible is the only true God. The empty tomb and His appearances to many after His crucifixion were just a few of the credible evidences of His resurrection. (Matthew 28:5-8; Luke 24:39; John 20:27-28).

It confirmed that Jesus was God. Jesus claimed equality with God (John 10:30) and told everyone that God would raise him from the dead. When God raised Jesus from the dead, He confirmed Jesus' claim of equality.

It confirmed that we are "justified". God declared that He accepted the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for our sin the moment He raised Him from the dead (Matthew 20:28; Romans 4:24-25).

It confirmed that we have a right (holy) standing before God. The Bible tells us plainly that no one can measure up to God's holy standard of perfection. Only Jesus did. But

because Jesus is resurrected, His life can be lived out in Christians, which means that living a holy life is now possible for those of us who are in Christ (Romans 6:4).

It confirmed that believers will inherit eternal life. Jesus' resurrection is proof that physical death is not the end of this life. All those who by faith have been united with Christ have conquered death, because Jesus has conquered death (John 14:3; 1 Thessalonians 4:14).

## **JESUS' RETURN**

The great news we have as believers is that Jesus Christ will come back again one day to receive His Church, the body of Christ, to Himself (John 14: 1-4; Acts 1:11; Revelation 1:7) and then we shall be with Him forever! He is our blessed hope (Titus 2:13).