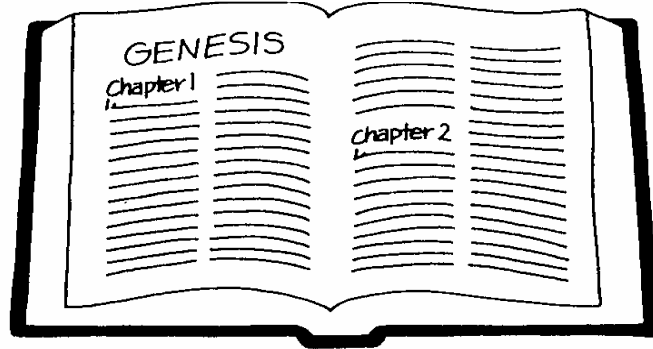


# Jesus, The Son of God

## Correspondence Course #5



### Introduction:

The entire bible, from Genesis to Revelation, is a testament revealing the coming, birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The purpose of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus is summed up by Matthew, *“And she (Mary) shall bring forth a son; and thou shalt call his name Jesus; for it is he that shall save his people from their sins”* (1:21). Again, the apostle Paul stated, *“Being therefore justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ; through whom also we have had our access by faith into this grace wherein we stand; and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God”* (Rom. 5:1-3).

Lesson 5 of the correspondence course shall focus on Jesus. The bible tells us that Jesus *“died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried; and that he hath been raised on the third day according to the scriptures”* (I Cor. 15:3-4). Do you (the reader) believe this statement to be true? Examination of this fact will prove to be the most profitable study that you will ever conduct!

### Let us examine Jesus, for the purpose of this lesson, in eight areas:

1. What do skeptics have to say about Jesus?
2. Jesus testifies that he is the Son of God.
3. Jesus the Son of God in prophecy.
4. Jesus' resurrection proves him to be the Messiah.
5. The NT attests to Jesus Christ being the Son of God.
6. The deity of Jesus.
7. The humanity of Jesus.
8. What does Jesus have to offer?

## What do skeptics have to say about Jesus?

The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia records the efforts of some skeptics to explain away the death burial and resurrection of Jesus by what is referred to as the “Christ-myth” theory. “This view states that the story of Jesus is a piece of mythology, possessing no more substantial claims to historical fact than the old Greek or Norse stories of gods and heroes, and its basis is sought in the parallels, actual or legendary, to the Gospel records concerning Jesus” (ISBE Vol. 2; pg. 1034). The **birth of Jesus** is abated by some that say it is based on traditions attached to the Buddha, Krishna, and Mithras. **The Miracles of Jesus** are compared with the works of men such as Apollonius of Tyana (A man born in the same year as Jesus who supposedly performed miracles). **The death and resurrection of Jesus** is explained away as being nothing more than a myth “of the dying-and-raising gods, so popular in the world of ancient pagan religion” (Ibid.). Mythological gods such as Attis, Adonis and Osiris were supposed to have been killed and brought back to life. The skeptics view the Jesus story as nothing more than these types of myths. The **life of Jesus** is discounted by others who say that He was a “teacher of righteousness of the Qumran community of the Dead Sea Scrolls” (Ibid.).

To the skeptic, all aspects of the life of Jesus Christ can be explained. Those of faith, look not to the skeptic however, but to the inspired word of God for their faith in Jesus Christ. The bible reveals that Jesus was not a mere man, but the son of the Living God!

## Jesus testifies that he is the Son of God:

The bible reveals Jesus’ own testimony regarding his relationship to God the Father. Jesus spoke with Nathaniel in John 1:44-51. Nathaniel was amazed that Jesus knew his daily activities although he was nowhere near. Nathaniel confesses that Jesus is the Son of God in John 1:49 and Jesus accepts this praise. When Jesus met the Samaritan woman at Jacob’s well, she said to him, “*I know that Messiah cometh (he that is called Christ) when he is come, he will declare unto us all things. Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he*” (Jn. 4:25-26).

On another occasion, Jesus claimed his Messiah-ship by stating, “*For if ye believed Moses, ye would believe me; for he wrote of me*” (Jn. 5:46). Moses had foretold of a prophet, that God would bring forth, through whom all people would be blessed and should obey (Deut. 18:18). The person Moses spoke of is Jesus (Acts 3:19-23).

Martha conversed with our Lord in John 11:23-27 regarding the raising of Lazarus from the dead. Jesus asked her if she believed on Him and she replied, “*Yea, Lord: I have believed that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, even he that cometh into the world*” (Jn. 11:27).

Jesus speaks with Philip in John 14:9. Philip asked Jesus to show the disciples the Father (God). Jesus replies, “*Have I been so long time with you, and dost thou not know me, Philip? He that hath seen me hath seen the Father; how sayest thou, Show us the Father?*” Jesus claimed to have this relationship even before the foundation of the world (Jn. 17:5, 24).

Lastly, as Jesus is on trial, Pilate asks Jesus, “*Art thou the king? (And Jesus said) To this end have I been born, and to this end am I come into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice*” (Jn. 18:37).

Jesus spoke with both clarity and authority as he unashamedly proclaimed his identity. He was indeed the Son of God!

## Jesus the Son of God in prophecy:

The OT stands as an eternal testimony to the identity of Jesus. The OT was divided up into three sections before Jesus came into the world. The three divisions are known as the “*scriptures*” (Lk. 24:45; Jn. 5:39). Jesus stated that these “*scriptures*” comprehensively testified of Him. The three divisions are “The Law of Moses,” “the Prophets,” and “the Psalms” (Cf. Luke 24:45). The outline below gives the OT prophecy in parenthesis and the fulfillment in brackets.

- A. The first division of the OT is “**The Law of Moses**” (The first five books of our bible):
  - 1. Jesus, the seed of Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3); [Gal. 3:8, 16].
  - 2. Jesus, to bless all nations (Gen. 22:18) [Gal. 3:26-29].
  - 3. Moses refers to Jesus as a great prophet (Deut. 18:18) [Jn. 5:46; Acts 3:19-23].
- B. The Second division of the OT is known as “**The Prophets**” (includes the books of Joshua – 2 Kings; and the major and minor prophets):
  - 1. Jesus, the seed of David (II Sam. 7:12-16; Isa. 7:10-14) [Matt. 1:1, 6, 17; Lk. 1:30ff].
  - 2. Jesus called Immanuel (Isa. 7:14) [Matt. 1:18-23].
  - 3. Jesus, born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2) [Matt. 2:1-6; Jn. 7:41-42].
  - 4. Jesus, the king of his kingdom (Isa. 6:5) [Jn. 12:36ff]; (Jer. 23:5-7) [Jn. 18:33-37].
  - 5. Jesus, to bear the sins of mankind (Isa. 53:4-6) [Heb. 9:27-28].
  - 6. Jesus, as king, made his triumphal entry into Jerusalem (Zech. 9:9) [Matt. 21:4-5].
  - 7. Jesus sold for 30 pieces of silver (Zech. 11:12-13) [Matt. 26:14-16; 27:9-10].
  - 8. Jesus, the crucified one (Isa. 53:7-8) [Luke 23:33].
  - 9. Jesus, the gazed upon (Zech. 12:10) [Jn. 19:37].
- C. The third division of the OT is “**The Psalms**” (includes Psalms, Job, Proverbs, Song of Solomon, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther, Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah and I and II Chronicles):
  - 1. Jesus, the seed of David (Ps. 132:11) [Matt. 1:1, 6, 17].
  - 2. Jesus to be raised from the dead (Ps. 16:9-11) [Matt. 12:39-40; 28:1-6; Acts 2:22-28].
  - 3. Jesus the “Son of man” (Dan. 7:13) [Matt. 8:20; 26:64].

## The resurrection testifies that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God!

Jesus often spoke of his resurrection while he was alive (Matt. 12:40; Mk. 8:31; Jn. 2:19). Though unbelievers tried to guard the tomb of Jesus to keep him in, they could not restrain our Lord’s power over death (Matt. 27:63ff). The apostle Paul teaches that it is the resurrection of Jesus that proves him to be the long anticipated messiah (Rom. 1:3-4). Consider the importance of the resurrection in relationship to its testimony of Jesus being the Son of God:

- A. The witness of the apostles regarding the resurrection of Jesus (I Cor. 15:1-5) was so powerful on the first Pentecost after Jesus was crucified that 3000 souls were added to the church (Acts 2:47). The **Church** attests to Jesus’ resurrection (Acts 2:1-4; 41).
- B. The **NT** is proof of Jesus’ resurrection. The words of our bibles were written because of Jesus being raised from the dead. Jesus promised His resurrection and then fulfilled His promise of sending the Holy Spirit to the apostles (Luke 24:49; Jn. 14:25). The apostles, in turn, wrote the gospel message as the Holy Spirit guided them (Eph. 3:3-7).

- C. The **first day of the week** is evidence of the resurrection. Worship to Jehovah God occurs on Sunday just as Jesus was raised on Sunday (Acts 20:7; I Cor. 16:1-2).
- D. **Baptism** is proof that Jesus was raised from the dead (Rom. 6:3-5; Col. 2:12). Before Jesus was crucified and resurrected, there was no Mosaic reference to baptism for the remission of sins. However after Jesus was resurrected, baptism's association with the resurrection is everywhere mentioned.

### **The NT attests to the fact that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God:**

The apostle John stated, "*Many other signs therefore did Jesus in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book: but these are written, that ye may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye may have life in his name*" (Jn. 20:30-31; see also Jn. 21:24-25). The apostle Peter stated that Jesus performed "*mighty works, wonders and signs which God did by him in the midst of you, even as ye yourselves know*" (Acts 2:22-23). The very works and teachings of Jesus are recorded in our NT for the purpose of identifying Jesus as the Christ. Many other NT writers proclaimed that Jesus was the Son of God as well (I Cor. 1:23; II Cor. 1:19; Heb. 4:14-16; I Jn. 4:15; 5:5-13 etc.).

### **Jesus was Human:**

Jesus gave up the glories of heaven to come and dwell among sinful man. The apostle Paul illustrates both the humility and humanity of Jesus by saying He, "*emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men*" (Phil. 2:7). Jesus did not give up his deity when he came to earth. Jesus occupied a fleshly body for the purpose of saving the world from sin (Matt. 1:21). The only way salvation could be granted to man was through the system of sacrifice with blood shed (Lev. 17:11 and Matt. 26:28). Jesus served as a perfect sacrifice never one time sinning (Jn. 8:46; I Pet. 2:22). The author of Hebrews said, "*Having then a great high priest, who hat passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we have not a high priest that cannot be touched with the felling of our infirmities; but one that hath been in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin*" (Heb. 4:14-15). Jesus was that perfect sacrificial offering (I Cor. 5:7b).

As God incarnate, Jesus willingly went to the cross that his fleshly body would be offered as a sacrifice for the sins of the world. His humanity was a must for atonement to occur.

### **Jesus Christ was and is deity!**

Though Jesus came to the earth as a man, he never one time sinned (Heb. 4:15; I Peter 2:22). Only Jesus could look at men and say, "*which of you convicts me of sin?*" (Jn. 8:46). Though Jesus was flesh and blood, he was also deity, God incarnate! Consider what the prophets of old had to say about Jesus. Isaiah said, "*For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called wonderful, counselor, mighty God, everlasting Father, prince of peace*" (Isa. 9:6). Again, the prophet tells us

*“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name **Immanuel**”* (Isa. 7:14). Matthew tells us just what and who this Immanuel is by quoting from Isaiah 7:14 and then stating, *“which is, being interpreted, **God with us**”* (Matt. 1:23-24).

While Jesus was on the earth he asserted that he was indeed God (Cf. Lk. 5:20-25; Jn. 8:58 {Ex. 3:14}; 10:29-33). Not only did Jesus claim deity, but others did as well (Thomas in John 20:26-28; Paul in Colossians. 2:9; Titus 2:13; the author of Hebrews 1:8 etc.).

## **What does Jesus have to offer?**

The **first** thing Jesus has to offer is freedom from sin! Jesus said, *“everyone that committeth sin is the bondservant of sin”* (Jn. 8:34). Slavery is antithetical to freedom. Jesus revealed sin to be the very opposite of what he desires for man. Jesus depicted the relationship between slavery and sin when he said, *“if ye abide in my word, then are ye truly my disciples; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free”* (Jn. 8:31-32). Sin separates (Isa. 59:1-2) where as truth reconciles one to God (Eph. 1:13, 2:1ff). God loves all (Jn. 3:16) and is not willing that any should perish (II Pet. 3:9).

**Secondly**, Jesus offers citizenship in the kingdom of God. God’s spiritual kingdom had been precisely foretold of coming into existence in the OT (Cf. Isa. 9:7; Dan. 2:44 etc.). John the baptist introduced Jesus to his disciples saying, *“the kingdom of God is at hand”* (Matt. 3:2). Jesus spoke the same words saying, *“repent ye, for the kingdom of God is at hand”* (Matt. 4:17). The very teaching of Jesus was termed *“the gospel of the kingdom”* (Matt. 4:23). When the kingdom was established (Cf. lesson # 6), Jesus was the foundation (Matt. 16:13-19) and chief cornerstone (Eph. 2:20). Those who have been *“reconciled”* to Christ (Eph. 2:16) are *“no more strangers and sojourners, but are fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God”* (Eph. 2:19).

**Thirdly**, Jesus offers an eternal home with God the Father at the end of life’s journey (Heaven). One who patterns his or her life after the revealed word of God will not be disappointed (Isa. 35:8; Matt. 7:13-14; Jn. 14:6; I Cor. 11:1; II Cor. 10:3-5). Such labor in the Lord will not be found *“in vain”* (I Cor. 15:53-58). The very hope of the Christian will then be realized (I Jn. 2:16-17). Heaven will be a place where God *“shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and death shall be no more; neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain, any more:”* (Rev. 21:4).

**Conclusion: Do you believe that Jesus is the Son of God?**

**QUESTIONS:**

- 1. What is the purpose of Jesus coming into the world as given in Matthew 1:21?**
- 2. How do skeptics explain away the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus?**
- 3. What did Jesus tell the Samaritan woman about himself in Jn. 4:25-26?**
- 4. What are the three divisions of the OT?**
- 5. Give examples from each of these divisions of prophecy concerning Jesus and give their fulfillment in the NT:**
- 6. How important was Jesus' resurrection when considering his status of being the Son of God? (Give Scriptural references)**
- 7. Give four examples of the resurrection identifying Jesus as the Son of God.**
- 8. In what way does our NT help determine Jesus to be the Son of God?**
- 9. Was Jesus God? Please prove your answer:**
- 10. Was Jesus man? Please prove your answer:**
- 11. What are three things Jesus has to offer?**
- 12. Do you believe that Jesus is the Son of God?**

# **Bibliography**

Bromiley, G. W. "The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia." William B. Eardmans Publishing Company; Grand Rapids, Michigan 1982