

Who was Jesus of Nazareth?

9-1-13

Who is Jesus of Nazareth? There are many answers to this question today.

- The world – a “good” man
- Islam – a prophet
- Some denominations – part of God
- Some denominations – An angel
- Some brethren – God, man, then God

Just as today, there were many answers to this question when it was asked 2000 years ago, according to Matthew 16:13-17. Peter told us that many people had different ideas as to who Jesus was, but it was what Peter said that was of such importance. There Peter made that wonderful confession “*You are the Christ, the son of God*”, a confession repeated by Martha in John 11:27, and first made by Nathanael in John 1:49.

One of the best passages in the Bible to tell us about Jesus is John 1:1-17. There we learn that Jesus was God in the Flesh; He was God from the beginning and He became a human being. A specific order and some clear statements that we sometimes are uncertain of when studying the Word.

These passages teach us two things: first, that He was 100% God while on earth (*John 8:58 - “before Abraham was, I AM” and John 20:28 - “My Lord and my God!”*). Second, we also know that He was 100% man while on earth (*Romans 8:3 - in the likeness of sinful flesh, and Galatians 4:4 – born of a woman*). Hence He is called both the Son of God AND Son of Man (*Mark 1:1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.; Luke 6:5 And He said to them, “The Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath.”*)

But the heart of this study is to see that it is so very important to believe these truths as about Jesus. He said: “*Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.*” (John 8:24). Why is this so important? Perhaps we can work at this backwards and ask ourselves what would happen if He was NOT God in the Flesh.

If He was not God in the flesh, He was a liar for saying so.

John 8:54 Jesus answered, “If I honor Myself, My honor is nothing. It is My Father who honors Me, of whom you say that He is your God.”

If He is NOT God in the Flesh the Jews should kill Him for claiming to be God.

John 5:18 Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.

If He is NOT God in the Flesh, His disciples were liars, since they tell us He was God.

1 Timothy 3:16a And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the world, Received up in glory.

If He is NOT God in the Flesh, then the prophets were liars for telling us the Mesisah would be God.

Isaiah 9:6 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.

If He is NOT God in the Flesh, then there can be no mediation, since His ability to mediate between God and man is because He is both God and Man.

Job 9:32-33 "For He is not a man, as I am, That I may answer Him, And that we should go to court together. Nor is there any mediator between us, Who may lay his hand on us both."

1 Timothy 2:5 For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,

If He is NOT God in the Flesh, then there can be no New Covenant, since the end of the first covenant was only accomplished by the death of the one who wrote it, i.e. God (in the flesh).

Hebrews 9:15-16 And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance. For where there is a testament, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator.

If Jesus was not God in the flesh, we cannot be saved. So as you see, our salvations HINGES on His identity. This is why Jesus told Peter that his confession would be the foundation of Christianity. We MUST BELIEVE that He is the Christ, the Son of God; He is God in the Flesh. This is the Confession that leads to salvation