

Who Is Jesus?

Christmas 2017

Who Is Jesus? Introduction

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- Most people have an opinion about Jesus Christ.
- Many admire him.
- Others think he is irrelevant – or at least live as if he is.
- Still others think he was a fictional character made up to fulfill some people's need for a hero or a religious longing.

Who Is Jesus? Introduction

- We're going to start with the story of Jesus' birth in the Gospel of **Matthew**.
- We will then try to answer a few questions.

Who Is Jesus?

- Questions about Jesus:

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- Questions about Jesus:
 1. Was he real?
 2. Was he more than a great man?
 3. Why does it matter?

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- Let's read **Matthew 1 & 2.**

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1. Was he real?

- Matthew goes out of his way to tie Jesus to historical people and places.
- This is not a “Once upon a time” beginning.

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- Questions about Jesus:
 2. Was he more than a great man?
- Matthew again goes out of his way to tie Jesus to biblical prophecy as the Messiah.
- His point in **1:23** about “Immanuel ... God with us” is perhaps most important of all.

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- Questions about Jesus:
 3. Why does it matter?
- Matthews point in **1:21** is most important,
- “you shall call his name *Jesus* [which means ‘salvation’], for he will save his people from their sins.”

Who Is Jesus?

- The big story of the Bible tells us that the world was created to be good, but is now a flawed and broken place.
- The problem was caused by sin – a rebellion begun by Lucifer, an angel – also known as the devil or Satan.

Who Is Jesus?

- It was made worse Adam and Eve joined him because they – and we – were made in God's image and meant to rule.
- And this is applicable to the whole human race.

Who Is Jesus?

- Christ's coming is God's way of making things right.
- Its importance goes beyond his birth, or even his teaching, to his death on the cross.
- And it extends to all nations – the “wise men” or *magi* come from the east to worship the Messiah of Israel.

Who Is Jesus?

- Read **1 Corinthians 15:1-8**
- Read **Philippians 2:1-11**

Who Is Jesus? A Closing Prayer

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- Dear Lord Jesus,
- We thank you for humbling yourself to come as a man to pay the price for our sins on the cross.
- We receive that payment as our own.
- We declare that in your resurrection you confirmed your victory over sin and death.
- We receive your gift of eternal life and request your help and strength as we live our lives for you.
- Amen