



"You shall call
his name
JESUS,
for
HE SHALL SAVE
his people from
their sins"
Matthew 1:21

Jesus is a real person who lived from about 4BC when Israel was under Roman control. Eyewitness accounts in the first four books of the New Testament give evidence that Jesus is God's Son, sent to save his people.

*"Long ago... God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son."
Hebrews 1:1-2*

BORN TO BE KING

Those who studied the Old Testament were anticipating the arrival of an heir to King David's throne at the time Jesus was born (Matthew 2:1-6). Prophecies concerning this special descendant included that he would:

- be son of David & of God (2 Samuel 7:12-14)
- be born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:13-14)
- be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2)
- be rejected (Psalm 118:22, Isaiah 53:3)
- be victorious over his enemies (Isaiah 11:4)
- reign as king forever (Isaiah 9:7)
- bring blessings for all nations (Genesis 22:18)

These prophecies began their fulfillment when Mary became pregnant by God's spirit power while still a virgin (Matt 1:18-22, Luke 1:26-35, Galatians 4:4).

JESUS' TEACHINGS

People came from all over Israel to hear Jesus (Luke 6:17). Jesus taught the people to be sincere in their love for God and others and to humbly repent from wrong doing (Luke 6:35-45).

Jesus proved his authority by many miracles (Mark 2:10-12, John 11:47). Even non-Christian sources state that Jesus was known for "surprising deeds".¹

1. Flavius Josephus: Antiquities of the Jews, Book 18, Chapter 3, 3

RIGHTEOUS TO THE END

Yet Jesus did not make himself king and conquer the Romans. He was eventually arrested and crucified (John 19:15-30). Jesus overcame the temptation to use God's power to save himself (Matt 26:53, Luke 22:41-44). Instead, Jesus continued to show love and mercy (Luke 23:34, 1 Peter 2:23). More than one person was moved to say, "Surely this was a righteous man" (Luke 23: 47, 41, 15).

Jesus' death was the final victory of a life fully entrusted to God (Hebrews 10:9, Matt 26:39, Philippians 2:8). Jesus came to show us the need to conquer sin within ourselves (James 1:14, Matt 7:5).

JESUS - SON OF GOD

Jesus is the Son of God, not God himself. Jesus prayed to God; submitted himself to God's will; grew in understanding; and, finally, he needed God to raise him from the dead (John 17:1-3, 5:30, Luke 22:42, 2:52, Hebrews 2:10, Galatians 1:1)

It was through his utmost reliance on God that he was able to overcome his human nature and show us God's character by his living example of love and mercy (Hebrews 2: 14-18, John 14:7-10).

OUR SAVIOUR

God raised Jesus to eternal life after three days (Acts 2:22-24, 36; Romans 6:9). His disciples eagerly anticipated that Jesus would now become king. Instead, Jesus sent his disciples to proclaim the need for repentance and forgiveness to everyone who wished to be part of his kingdom. His disciples witnessed Jesus ascend into heaven to be with God with the promise that he would return as king (Acts 1:6-11).

The good news that Jesus' followers still spread today is that we too can be raised from the dead to have eternal life in God's coming kingdom on earth (John 6:40, Matt 6:10). God offers forgiveness of sins to those who come to him with sincere faith and repentance by associating themselves, through baptism, with the offering Jesus made (Acts 3:19-20, 8:12, 17:30-31).

"Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins." (Acts 2:38)