

# Googling God



Who is Jesus?



**Jesus is a real historical figure.**

## **Religious sources mentioning Jesus**

- Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John
- The Acts of the Apostles
- New Testament letters
- Ancient creeds
- Apocryphal literature
- Gnostic gospels
- Early church fathers
- Jewish Rabbinic Literature

## **Historians mentioning Jesus**

- Titus Flavius Josephus / Yosef Ben Matityahu (ca. 37-100 A.D.)
- Publius Gaius Cornelius Tacitus (ca. 56-117 A.D.)
- Mara Bar-Serapion (late 2nd century A.D.)
- Flavius Justinus, Justin Martyr (ca. 100-165 A.D.)
- Gaius Suetonius Tranquillus (69-122 A.D.)
- Pliny the Younger (ca. 61-113 A.D.)
- Lucian of Samosata (ca. 125-180 A.D.)
- Celsus (Late 2nd century A.D.)

**Our dating system revolves around the existence of Jesus.**

The B.C./A.D. (“Before Christ” and “Anno Domini” (in the year of our Lord)) year-numbering system was created in 525 AD by a monk named a monk named Dionysius Exiguus, and became popular in the ninth century after the Roman Emperor Charlemagne used the system for government documents. The system was widely used in all of Western Europe by the fifteenth century.

**Jesus is God in the Flesh.**

**There are many biblical proofs that Jesus was sent from God.**

- The testimony of John the Baptist (John 5:33)
- The testimony of His work and 37 miracles (John 5:36)
- The resurrection (Acts 17:31)
- Fulfillment of prophecy (Acts 10:43)
- The voice of the Father from heaven (at baptism (Matt. 3:17), transfiguration (Matt. 17:5), and Passover (John 12:28b-29))
- The testimony of others (Mary, Joseph, shepherds, angels, people he healed, etc.)
- The ascension

**Not only was he sent from God, but he is God in some sense.**

Both Jesus (Rev. 17:14) and YHWH (Deut 10:17) are called the Lord of Lords. Jesus (Rev. 1:17b) and YHWH (Isaiah 44:6; 48:12) are called the First and the Last. They are both called the Alpha and Omega (Revelation 22:13,16 and Revelation 1:8). Jesus claimed to be the Lord of the Sabbath (Mark 2:28), but YHWH called the Sabbath *his* holy day (Isaiah 58:13). Jesus and YHWH are both called Mighty God (Isaiah 9:6; Isaiah 10:20-21). Jesus is our Savior (2 Peter 3:18), but YHWH says there is no savior besides him (Isaiah 43:11). Jesus knows men’s hearts (Luke 9:47; Rev. 2:23), but YHWH alone knows the hearts of men (1 Kings 8:39). Jesus was glorified by the Father (John 17:5), but YHWH does not share his glory (Isaiah 42:8). Jesus is to be worshiped (Phil. 2:10), but YHWH is the only one to be worshiped (Exo. 34:14). All things came into existence through Jesus (John 1:3), but YHWH created the heavens and the earth by himself (Isaiah 44:24). Jeremiah says the coming Messiah (Jesus) will be called, “YHWH Our Righteousness” (Jer. 23:5-6). Everyone who calls on the name of Jesus will be saved (Rom. 10:13), and everyone who calls on the name of YHWH will be saved (Joel 2:32a). We get eternal life through belief in Jesus (John 2:15-16; Acts 16:31), and we get eternal life through believing in the Father (John 5:24; Rom. 4:5).

Jesus' name, Immanuel, means "God with us." John 1:1 and 1:18 both clearly say that Jesus is God. Jesus has attributes of God such as having always existed (John 1:2; 17:15, 24), being omnipresent (Matthew 18:20; 28:20b), forgiving sins (Mark 2:5), putting his own words on par with Scripture (Matt. 5:21-22, 27-28), claiming to be able to answer prayer (John 16:24), and judging the world at the end of time (Matt. 25:31-32). The Son will subject himself to the Father according to 1 Corinthians 15:28, which implies that he was equal to the Father before subjecting himself. In Zech. 12:1 we see that YHWH is speaking, and in verse 10 he says, "They will look on me, the one they have pierced." This prophecy was fulfilled in Jesus on the cross (John 19:37). In Phil. 2:5-6 it says that Jesus is in very nature, God. Colossians 2:9 states that the fullness of the Deity lives in Christ. Titus 2:13 calls Jesus "our great God and savior." 2 Peter 1:1 also calls Jesus "our God and Savior." In Heb. 1:18, in speaking about the Son it says, "Your throne, O God, will last forever." 1 John 5:20 calls Jesus "the true God." In John 8:58-59 Jesus said he was the "I am." "I am" is the name YHWH called himself at the burning bush (Exodus 3:14). When Jesus said this, the Pharisees understood this connection and wanted to stone him for blasphemy. When Thomas saw Jesus, he said, "My Lord, and my God," and Jesus did not correct him. Jesus' enemies also thought he claimed to be God (Matt 26:65; Mark 14:64; Luke 5:21; John 10:30-36).

In Isaiah 8:12-13 there is a passage about not fearing men, but fearing YHWH Almighty instead. In 1 Peter 3:14-15, Peter quotes from this passage, saying that we should not fear men, but set apart *Christ* as Lord. In Romans 10:13, it says that "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." In context, this is clearly talking about Jesus (see vs. 9), yet, this is a quote from Joel 2:32 in which the "Lord" is clearly YHWH. In Psalm 102:25-27, there is a passage about YHWH creating the world. In Hebrews 1:8-12, this same passage is quoted in reference to Jesus creating the world.

### **Jesus is far more than a great moral teacher.**

**The Trilemma:** "I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept his claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to. ... Now it seems to me obvious that He was neither a lunatic nor a fiend: and consequently, however strange or terrifying or unlikely it may seem, I have to accept the view that He was and is God."

- C.S. Lewis (1844)

### **Jesus can't be put in a box.**

#### **Jesus came to be our Savior.**

John 12:46 [Jesus said,] "I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness."

Matthew 20:28 [Jesus said,] "...the Son of man [Jesus] did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Also Mark 10:45)

Luke 19:9-10 Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. <sup>10</sup>For the Son of Man came to seek and save what was lost."

John 3:17 [Jesus said,] "For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."

John 10:10 [Jesus said,] "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

John 12:27 [Jesus said,] "Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour."

John 18:37 "You are a king, then!" said Pilate.

Jesus answered, "You are right in saying that I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."

1 Timothy 1:15 Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I [Paul,] am the worst.

### **Jesus invites you to be in relationship with him.**

John 14:23 Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them."