

JESUS

1. WHO WAS JESUS AND WHAT WAS HIS MISSION?

- a. Some think Jesus was just a poor Jewish Rabbi
- b. Others think Jesus was a socialist revolutionary
a social justice warrior who came to help the poor and redistribute the wealth
- c. Some think Jesus came to teach universal peace:
teaching us how to get along, and not judge anyone
- d. Or a New Age Jesus, Islamic Jesus, or Mormon or Jehovah Witness Jesus

To understand what the gospel is, we must understand who Jesus is

I. THE DEITY OF CHRIST — The Word

A. THE DEITY OF CHRIST (John 1:1)

1. ‘The Word was with God’... Jesus had Face to Face relationship with God
2. ‘...and the Word was God.’ ... He Shared the fullness of deity
3. As declared in **(Hebrews 1:3 NIV)**
4. This is so critical to our salvation that Christians needed to be reminded
(Colossians 2:8–10)
 - a) The Deity and Humanity of Christ is Central to Christianity & Key to Salvation
 - b) Which is Why NT Writers Called Out False Doctrines about this

B. THE PRE-EXISTENCE OF CHRIST (John 1:1-2)

1. Notice this prophesy of Jesus recorded centuries before **(Micah 5:2)**
2. The Deity of Christ is shown in the pre-existence of Christ
3. Notice When Jesus spoke to Pharisees about Abraham... **(John 8:56–58)**

C. THE DIVINE ATTRIBUTES OF CHRIST (John 1:1-3)

1. Power of Creation **(Colossians 1:15-17 NLT)**
2. This was a mystery hidden through the ages until now! **(Eph 3:9)**

But the Deity of Christ is Further Proved through the Humanity of Christ...

II. THE HUMANITY OF CHRIST — The Word Became Flesh

A. THE CREATOR OF TIME AND SPACE ENTERED TIME AND SPACE

1. **(John 1:1; 14)** The Word became Flesh and dwelt among us!
2. It was a great mystery, but it was prophesied centuries before! **(Isa 7:14)**
3. **(Isaiah 9:6)** called ‘Mighty God’, ‘Everlasting Father’
4. And fulfilled in only one person—Jesus Christ **(Mt 1:23)**

B. CONSEQUENTLY WE'D EXPECT TO SEE EVIDENCE IN JESUS LIFE

- 1. HIS DIVINE TEACHING: when soldiers were sent to arrest Jesus**
 - a) they came back empty handed, and when asked why they said:
"No one has ever spoke words like this man."
 - b) The People were Astonished with His teaching—He spoke with Authority
- 2. HIS DIVINE AUTHORITY:**
 - a) **Jesus told the pharisees: Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw *it* and was glad.** They said, how is that possible?
Jesus said '**Before Abraham was, I Am**'
 - b) **Regarding His Divine Authority Jesus said: 'Heaven and earth will pass away but my words will never pass away' (Mk. 13:31)**
 - c) "His words have passed into law, they have passed into doctrines, they have passed into proverbs, they have passed into consolations, but they have never 'passed away.' What human teacher ever dared to claim an eternity for his words?"(Maclean)
- 3. HIS DIVINE POWER: sleeping in the boat during a storm... (Matt. 8:23–27)**
 - a) Who Can This Be, that the wind and sea obey Him?
 - b) Jesus showed His Power over Nature, Power over Disease, Over Demons, Over Satan and Even His Power Over Death

C. WE'D EXPECT TO SEE EVIDENCE IN FULFILLED PROPHECIES...

- 1. PROPHECIES CONCERNING HIS BIRTH...**
 - a) Born of a Virgin (Isa 7:14)
 - b) Seed of Abraham (Gen 22:18)
 - c) Tribe of Judah (Gen 49:10)
 - d) Family lineage of Jesse (Isa 11:1)
 - e) House of David (Jer 23:5)
 - f) Born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2)
 - g) Presented with Gifts (Psalm 72:10) [Wise men from East]
 - h) Herod Kills the Children of Bethlehem (Jer 31:15)
- 2. PROPHECIES REGARDING HIS NATURE**
 - a) His Pre-Existence (Micah 5:2) "Who's going forth is...from everlasting to everlasting"
 - b) He shall be called Lord (Ps 11:1)
 - c) Called Immanuel "God with us" (Isa 7:14)
 - d) A Prophet (Deut 18:18), Priest (Ps 110:4), Judge (Isa 33:22) and King (Ps 2:6)
- 3. THERE WERE PROPHECIES OF JESUS'...**
 - a) Place of Birth, Time of Birth, Manner of Birth, His Ministry, His Teaching and His Trial
- 4. BUT THE MOST SHOCKING OF ALL: The Darkest day of history...**

The Prophecy That The Messiah, Would Be Killed...

24 PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN A 24 HOUR PERIOD AT THE CROSS

 - a) Jesus was Betrayed by a Friend (Ps 41:9)
 - b) Sold for 30 Pieces of Silver (Zech 11:12)

- c) Money that was thrown back into the Temple (Zech 11:13)
- d) Used to Purchase the Potters Field (Zech 11:13)
- e) Forsaken by His Disciples (Zech 13:7)
- f) Accused by False Witnesses (Ps 35:11)
- g) Spit on and Smitten (Isa 50:6)
- h) His Hands and Feet Were Pierced (Zech 12:10)
- i) Crucified Between two Thieves (Isa 53:10)
- j) Despised and Rejected, He Bore the Sins of Many (Isa 53:12)
- k) They Divided His Garments and Cast Lots (Ps 22:18)
- l) He Thirst and They Gave Him Vinegar to Drink (Ps 69:21)
- m) His Side Was Pierced (Zech 12:10)
- n) But Not One Bone Was Broken (Ps 34:20)
- o) Darkness was over the Land for 3 Hours (Amos 8:9)
- p) Jesus was Buried in a Rich Man's Tomb (Isa 53:9) Joseph of Arimathea who asked Pilate personally for the body of Jesus

5. OVER 330 PROPHECIES WERE SPECIFICALLY FULFILLED IN CHRIST

- a) A Professor of Mathematics and Statistics named Peter Stoner used a team to examine the statistical probability of these Fulfilled Prophecies...
- b) 1st He took Just 8 Main Prophecies (Born Bethlehem, lineage David etc.)**
- c) "We find that the chance that any man might have lived down to the present time and fulfilled all eight prophecies is 1 in 10^{17} " (10 to the 17th power). That would be 1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000 (17 zeros after the one).
- d) To help us comprehend this staggering probability, Stoner illustrates it...**
Suppose "we take 10^{17} silver dollars and lay them on the face of Texas. They will cover all of the state two feet deep. Now mark one of these silver dollars and stir the whole mass thoroughly, all over the state. Blindfold a man and tell him that he can travel as far as he wishes, but he must pick up one silver dollar and say that this is the right one. What chance would he have of getting the right one? Just the same chance that the prophets would have had of writing these eight prophecies and having them all come true in any one man, from their day to the present time, providing they wrote them according to their own wisdom."
- e) Next He Ran the Numbers of 48 prophecies and reports: "We find the chance that any one man fulfilled all 48 prophecies to be 1 in 10^{157} .."**
To Understand the Odds - A Quarter is Much to Big...
It Would Need to be the size of ONE ELECTRON
Such is the chance of any individual fulfilling forty-eight prophecies.
- f) The mathematical probability of the 332 specific Prophecies Concerning Christ**
- g) Could be fulfilled in one person by chance alone has been calculated as 1 in 84 times ten to the 123rd power (84 followed by 123 zeroes)

6. CHRISTIANITY IS CENTERED ON THE PERSON AND WORK OF JESUS

Our Faith is Not a Blind Faith—But Based on Real Evidence

III. THE MISSION OF CHRIST — Why the Word Became Flesh

A. THE MYSTERY OF JESUS' UNIQUE NATURE HAD A PURPOSE...

1. **Jesus was more than a carpenter...**
 - a) More than a Jewish Rabbi... More than a Good Person or a Good Teacher
2. **His Divine Claims Don't Allow Anyone That Option!**
 - a) A 'Good Person' does not claim divine authority for Himself!
 - b) A 'Good Person' does Not Say, "If You've Seen Me You've Seen the Father..."
 - c) or say: "All Authority has been given unto me in heaven and on earth"
3. **But Jesus was more than a good person—He is who He said He was!**
Fully Divine, Fully Human (1 Timothy 3:16 NKJ)
4. **It is an Incredible Mystery—a Mystery Now Revealed in Jesus!**

"To emphasize either the Deity or humanity of Jesus to the neglect, minimizing or denial of the other is to do a grave injustice to the truth. Let us not be so eager to maintain the fact that Jesus was God that we forget He was man; let us not be so zealous to insist that He was man that we forget He was God." (Max Dawson, Florida College Lecture Book, 1993, p.42)

B. JESUS' UNIQUE NATURE WAS FOR A UNIQUE MISSION...

1. **The Word Became Flesh for A Rescue Mission (Hebrews 10:5-7)**
2. **He Laid Aside His Divine Privileges but Not His Divine Nature (Phil 2:5-8)**
3. **CHART: Jesus and the Father as God** (p.131 Baker Encyc. Christian Apologetics)

<u>JESUS IS EQUAL</u>	<u>JESUS IS SUBORDINATE</u>
1) In His divine nature	1) In His human nature
2) In His divine essence	2) In His human function
3) In His divine attributes	3) In His human office
4) In His divine character	4) In His human position

C. AN INCREDIBLE EXCHANGE WOULD TAKE PLACE AT THE CROSS...

1. **Jesus Would Take the Wrath of God Upon Himself—in our place**
 - a) The Wrath of God is the holy revulsion of His being against evil
 - b) Jesus took the Wrath of God Upon Himself To Rescue Us from the Final Judgement
 - c) God Poured Out His Wrath on His Son so that it Would Not Be Poured Out On Us
Who Trust and Obey Our Lord.

Jesus Paid the Debt We Could Not Pay—and Gave Us the Grace We Could Not Deserve

Imagine some of the most expensive royal items from the treasury of the king were stolen, the criminal caught would be publicly whipped for their crimes...
But when the criminal was caught, **it was the king's mother**. She wouldn't survive the whipping, so the King stepped down from his throne, took off his royal robes for the garb of a servant, and wrapped himself with his arms around his mother and on his bare back, took the full agony of every whip and every ounce of punishment for her. (Greg Koukl, Story of Reality)

CONCLUSION: The Word Became Flesh to Die For Our Sins (John 17:1-5)

Jesus Died So We Could Live (1 Tim 3:16)

(The idea for this series is drawn from the book, 'The Story of Reality', by Greg Koukl)