

Who was Jesus?

Jesus the Man of History

Many people when they think about Jesus put him alongside fictional characters like Winnie the Pooh or Santa Claus. Yet historians have proven without doubt that Jesus did indeed exist within human history. Jesus far from being a made up myth has more evidence to prove conclusively his existence historically than almost any other ancient historical figure. In fact today you can go to modern Israel and see the historical sites of where Jesus lived, ministered, died and rose again. **Christian Evidence for Jesus' existence** More than 5,300 known ancient Greek manuscripts of the New Testament. Altogether there are 24,000 ancient manuscripts all testifying to the historical facts of Jesus birth, death and resurrection. This is more historical documentation for who Jesus was, when he lived and what he did than for almost any other figure in human history.

Non-Biblical Evidence for the historical Jesus
Roman Historian called Cornelius Tacitus
 Born A.D. 52 – 54 writing in the time of Nero about Jesus and the early Christians. :-

“ But Nero falsely laid the guilt of the fire of Rome on the persons commonly called Christians, Christus the founder was put to death by Pontius Pilate, Procurator of Judea in the reign of Tiberius.

Flavius Josephus born A.D. 37 A Jewish historian

“ At this time there was a wise man called Jesus. And his conduct was good and he was known to be virtuous. And many people from the Jews and other nations became his disciples. Pilate condemned him to be crucified and die. His disciples reported that he appeared to them three days after his crucifixion and that he was alive; accordingly he was perhaps the Messiah concerning whom the prophets have spoken about.”

In many other non Christian sources Jesus is spoken about and the details, of his life are given substantial concrete historical evidence as to make them fact. The Encyclopaedia Britannica says this of the independent secular accounts of Jesus of Nazareth:-

“ These independent accounts prove in ancient times even the opponents of Christianity never doubted the historicity of Jesus. This has been disputed for the first time **but on inadequate grounds** by several authors at the end of the 18th, during the 19th and at the beginning of the 20th centuries.”

Secular historical evidence proves Jesus lived on earth and that he was worshiped as God. He founded the church who has worshiped him for 2,000 years. Over 2.5 billion people today call themselves Christian and believe that they have a relationship with Him today. He has changed the course of human history. **So who was this Jesus and who did he claim to be?**



Famous Quote

“ I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Jesus. “ 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 is 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 of a man who says he is a poached egg or else he would be the devil of hell. You must make your choice. Either Jesus was and is the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse.”

(C.S. Lewis)

We know that Jesus existed historically but what evidence is there that he is God? If God became man what would He look like?

Jesus' Life

All the major experiences of his life bear witness to Jesus being God. From his unusual birth, to the voice of his Father at his baptism. From his dynamic ministry, to his death and Resurrection, all these events and more paint for us a portrait of a man who was God. .

Jesus' Actions

When we look at Jesus' actions we get a visible demonstration of the invisible God at work. In every sense Jesus reveals to us the love of God in action. From healing the sick, to caring for the outcasts, from feeding the five Thousand, to raising the dead, Jesus showed the compassion, supernatural power and authority of God at work. His ability to look into people's hearts and satisfy the spiritual hunger of people, clearly supports Jesus' claim to be God.

Jesus' Words

Jesus spoke some of the greatest words that have ever been spoken. His words have shaped nations, changed billions of lives and have had a lasting and universal effect.

So what did Jesus say about himself?

Many times Jesus personally testified that he was God. He said “ If you don't believe my words that look at the miracles and actions that I do.”

Here are a number of times Jesus testified to his divinity:-

Again the high priest asked him “ Are you the Christ the Son of the Blessed One?”

“I am,” said Jesus “ And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the righthand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.” (Mark 14 v 61 – 62)

“ I and the Father are one whoever has seen me has seen the Father.”

I am the Way and the Truth and the Life no one comes to the Father except through me.” (John Ch 14 v 6)

“ You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit on 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 up with any patronising nonsense about him being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us, he did not intend to!”

C. S. Lewis