

2. Who is Jesus?

Jesus is the Son of God

Many would accept that Jesus was a Teacher sent from God, a Prophet, a good man – but of Himself He said; ***“I and My Father are one.”*** **John 10 v. 30**

This truth is central to the atoning work of the Cross, and was the thing that stirred up anger in Jesus’ day amongst the religious leaders; they immediately wanted to stone Him. Today, as then, His claim to be God incarnate and the **only way** to the Father arouses fierce resistance in those who worship other gods and would have us believe the lie that ‘there are many ways to God’!

The book of John reveals many aspects of Jesus’ relationship with His Father. The Trinity is a mystery which we cannot understand with our finite mind but accept by faith; God is three in one – Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and yet Jesus came as a man in complete submission to His Father, to do His will on the earth.

Isaiah 7 v.14 tells us: ***“...the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His Name Immanuel”*** (Hebrew name meaning ‘God with us’)

To find out more about Jesus’ relationship with His Father read:

John 8 v. 28-29 ***“...I always do those things which please Him.”***

Ch. 10 v. 17 ***“...My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life...”***

Ch. 14 v. 10 ***“...I am in the Father and the Father in Me...”***

Jesus is our perfect example of a life lived as God intended, not doing our ‘own thing’ but in all things saying “Father, what would you have me do?” Those Godly men and women who have done mighty exploits for the Lord and remained **humble** are such people.

Jesus the Son of Man

In the Gospels Jesus referred to Himself as the Son of Man many times, emphasising to us His humanity and His complete understanding of what it is like to be a man. We read that He ***“was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.”*** **Hebrews 4 v.15** What a comfort to know that He has experienced the very same temptations we go through, and that He is our way of escape in the midst of them!

We read in **Luke 2 v. 51** that Jesus was obedient to His parents just like any other child, and that as He grew up in this human family He ***“increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and with men.”***

Find out about Jesus’ ministry as the perfect **High Priest** – one who was appointed by God, could fully sympathise with human weakness, and offered the perfect sacrifice – Himself, for our sins.

For further reading: Hebrews 5 v. 1-11

Jesus the Lamb of God

Revelation 13 v. 8 tells us that Jesus was ***“...the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”***

Why was He given this name? It is used 29 times in Revelation as the title of the exalted Son of God. As the Lamb of God, He is gentle, compassionate, loving and kind, innocently suffering and dying to atone for our sins. He is in direct contrast to the beast, who is savage, cruel, hostile and destructive. In Revelation, lion and lamb combine the two elements of majesty and meekness.

Even before the sacrificial system we read of in **Leviticus – 3 v.7, 4 v.32, 5 v.6, 14 v.13, 23 v.12,** (and many more verses) **Abraham**, on being willing to offer up his beloved Isaac, received from God the provision of a lamb instead for the burnt offering. **Moses**, on Passover night, was instructed by the Lord to take ***“...a lamb for a household”*** and to put the blood on the doorposts so that the Israelites would not be destroyed by the plague of death which God sent upon the Egyptians.

Hebrews 9 v.22 – ***“...without shedding of blood there is no remission (forgiveness)”***

2.

Jesus is the Word

As we read **John 1 v.1-5**, we understand that as The Word, Jesus is the eternal, ultimate expression of God. We have already seen that God **spoke** the world into existence and here we are told that Jesus the Word was with God and was Himself God – **v.3: “All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.”**

Think back to the first chapter of Hebrews, where we read that God the Son is **“upholding all things by the word of His power.”**

Why should we ever worry about anything when we consider the glorious power of Jesus our Lord?!

Jesus the Risen Lord

Jesus came from God, because God sent Him (**John 8 v.42**). He was eternally with the Father, sharing in His glory – but for our sakes willingly left the glory of heaven – **“He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.”** **Philippians 2 v.8**

The following verses tell us the glorious truth of His exaltation to the highest place of honour, so that His Name is above every other name, and there will come a day when **every knee will bow** at His Name!

After His death, Jesus descended into Hades/Sheol -the domain of the dead (**Acts 2 v.31, Psalm 16 v.10**) to release the righteous dead to eternal glory.

God raised Him from the dead (**Colossians 2 v. 12**), and after appearing to His disciples over a period of 40 days, Jesus ascended to the Father’s right hand (**Heb. 1 v.13**), where He now lives and intercedes for us continually (**Heb. 7v. 25**) His ministry on our behalf continues as He mediates between us and God, and acts as our Advocate before His throne.

What an awesome thought, and what reassurance this gives to us in our weakness.

Jesus the Messiah

The name Messiah literally means the Anointed One; it means the expected King and deliverer of the Israelites (the same word in Greek is ‘Christ’). The first promise of a deliverer is given to Eve in **Genesis 3 v.15**. and throughout the Old Testament God tells His people that One will come who will save His people and reign forever. See **Deut. 18 v.18, Isaiah 7 v.14, Is. 9 v.6-7, Micah 5 v.2**.

Jesus, **Yeshua** in Hebrew, is the King of the Jews and will return to reign over His people in Jerusalem. The wise men came seeking the King of the Jews; they had seen an unexplained phenomenon in the heavens which somehow they knew was a sign that a King had been born in Israel. (**Matt. 2 v.2**)

Jesus the Jewish Rabbi

Here’s an interesting one! We are beginning to have our eyes opened to Jesus the Jew as never before. Since the church of around 300 A.D. broke away from its Jewish roots we have been led away, even by translation of Scriptures, from a full understanding of Jesus as a Jew. He would have worn a prayer shawl and dressed as an orthodox Jew, He preached in the synagogue and was addressed as ‘Rabbi’ by Nathanael and Nicodemus in **John 1 and 3**. In **John 20 v.16** Mary called Him ‘Rabboni’ which was the term of greatest respect – ‘my lord, master’. It was said of Jesus:”...**No man ever spoke like this Man!**” **John 7v.46**. As a Teacher He was without equal as He explained in simple yet profound terms the truths of God’s kingdom.

Jesus our heavenly Bridegroom

In **Revelation 19** we read of that wonderful future event which really is the culmination of all the ages – the marriage supper of the Lamb! We are not saved only to gain entrance into heaven; there is something far greater that God had in mind from the beginning of creation – a wife for His beloved Son, made up of those who are born of God’s Spirit and who have ‘made themselves ready’, who have purified themselves from unrighteousness in preparation for this glorious time. Then we shall be with Him forever! (**Read also 1 John 3 v.3**)

