

Whom Say Ye That I Am?

Who WAS Jesus?

Who IS Jesus?

What did He tell us about Himself?

Jesus Christ, a Brief Biography.

One of Sam's Bible Tools¹

¹ Sam's Bible Tools are intended to be completely devoid of opinion and simply present facts as stated in the Bible. If you believe some language in this document presented as from the Bible is misrepresented or not accurately quoted from the Bible or is opinionated or biased, please let me know. You can contact me from my website, <http://www.goodolusa.com>

Whom Say Ye That I Am?

A note:

“Whom say ye that I am” is a quote from the King James Version of Matthew 16:15 in which Christ asks his disciple, Peter, the question. Peter responds, “Thou art “the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Without digressing, this is one of my personally favorite passages in the Bible. I checked a dozen recent translations and none of them use this same beautiful language. Newer translations favor, “Who do you think I am?”

If I were on one of those translation committees, I would want to keep the King James translation version.

Sam Johnson

Whom Say Ye That I Am?

Introduction

I recently bought a pair of video courses on the Old and New Testaments. The Old Testament was presented by a Jewish PhD at Vanderbilt University's School of Divinity. She all but said she did not believe anything in the Bible. The New Testament course was presented by a self-proclaimed atheist on the faculty of North Carolina University.

Both of these instructors incessantly went to extremes to deny the divine inspiration of the Bible. The New Testament instructor presented the Bible as just another historical document that, he says, there is almost no independent evidence to support even that, although he does acknowledge the writings of Josephus and others

In denying divine inspiration, the New Testament presenter claims that literally ANY difference between the texts constitutes, according to him, an inconsistency and renders the entire epistle "unreliable" and thus dismisses anything and everything in it.

He says there are numerous inconsistencies between the Apostle Paul's testaments and what Paul is quoted as saying in the Book of Acts. So, imagine if Paul said in Acts that he went to the store and in Romans said he had bought a loaf of bread, this presenter says that is an inconsistency and one or the other cannot be believed.

Also, since Paul typically stated he was the author of his books and the authorship of Acts is not certain, this instructor says it is, therefore, obvious that the Book of Acts was written by some unknown third party who may or may not have had first, second or even third hand knowledge. Thus, he says, Acts is totally unreliable. There is no such thing as complementary text in his view. So, only Romans could possibly be believed.

He also questions whether Paul ever knew what he was talking about in Romans too because he says Paul was not a citizen of Rome. Huh? Paul states very clearly in Acts 22 that he IS a citizen of Rome. Ah. You forget that this instructor has already dismissed Acts as unreliable and refuses to even acknowledge the existence of Acts chapter 22.

In fairness, I must say the large majority of these courses' content is accurate and very entertaining. However, they are ridiculously ludicrous in their abuse of logic.

The title of this Sam's Bible Tool is, "*Whom Say Ye That I Am?*" I found this inspiration as a result of another of this ridiculous atheist's proclamations. He says Paul and Christ taught different religions! Why does he say that? Because Paul preached about CHRIST returning, but Christ taught about some other chap coming called "the Son of Man". He "points out" that Christ never said it would be himself that would return.*

Whom Say Ye That I Am?

So, what DID Christ tell us about who He is?

The following is what the Bible tells us

Jesus Christ. himself, told us about

who He was --- and is ²

2

Acknowledgement:

The majority of the commentary herein is derived from this web page:

<http://answering-islam.org/Nehls/Message/msgS.htm>

Whom Say Ye That I Am?

Jesus told us his message comes from God and its truthfulness can be tested:

"My teaching is not my own. It comes from him who sent me. If anyone chooses to do God's will, he will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own."

—John 7:16

His message is eternal and will never change:

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away."

—Matthew 24:35

He came into the world (i.e. from outside) to testify:

"I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."

-- John 18:38

He came from heaven, i.e. from God, and is the only one to ever do so:

"No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven -- the Son of Man."

—John 3:13

God is always with Jesus and Jesus is always with God:

"The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me for I always do what pleases him."

—John 8:29

Jesus always had this in mind, to please and honor His heavenly Father.

"My food', said Jesus, is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work."

—John 4:34

Whom Say Ye That I Am?

And why we should believe him:³

"Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don't you believe me?"

—John 8:46

For us to do the work of God includes believing in Jesus:

"The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent."

—John 6:29

To reject Jesus is to reject God.

"He who rejects me rejects him who sent me."

—Luke 10:16

He not only came to bring a message, but to fulfill a task.

"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

—Luke 19:10

He came to call sinners to repentance and to rescue them from hell:

"It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

—Mark 2:17

To the weary He becomes like a brother. He wants to bring peace to troubled hearts.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

³ Muslims are sometimes taught that all prophets of God were sinless. That again is a deviation from the facts. Only Jesus is called sinless or holy (Surat 19:19), while even in Muslim texts we read of the sins of** Adam (Surat 7:22-23), Moses (28:15-16), Abraham (26:82), Jonah (37:141-144), David (38:24-25), and also of Muhammad (40:55, 47:19, 48:1-2).

Whom Say Ye That I Am?

—Matthew 11:28-30

Water is needed for life. Spiritually speaking Jesus offers "living water" not only to meet our needs, but also to be a fountain to let others taste of it as well.

"Whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

—John 4:14

"If a man is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him."

—John 7:37

To accept Jesus for what he is proves our love for God:

"I know that you do not have the love of God in your hearts. I have come in my Father's name and you do not accept me, but if someone else comes in his own name, you will accept him."

—John 5:42-43

He is the light of the world:

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

---John 8:12

"I have come into the world as a light, so that no-one who believes in me should stay in darkness."

—John 12:44-46

Jesus is the pathway to salvation:

"I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out and find pasture. 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 10:10

Whom Say Ye That I Am?

Jesus is the shepherd of his flock:

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

—John 10:11

"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep."

—John 10:4

Laying down his life was a voluntary act based on his own authority.

"The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. No-one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again."

—John 10:17

“life in full’ that Jesus came to provide includes the assurance here and now of the life to come:

"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no-one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no-one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one."

—John 10:27

To a person whose brother had been in the tomb for three days, and then been raised by Jesus from the dead, he

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

—John 11:25, 26

Jesus makes it clear that he himself is the only means to eternal salvation:

"I am the way and the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well."

Whom Say Ye That I Am?

—John 14:6

Jesus describes where he came from and his reason for coming to this earth:

"The bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

—John 6:33

"

I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty."

—John 6:35

"Whoever comes to me I will never drive away. For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall loose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life and I will raise him up at the last day."*

—John 6:37-39

"The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life."

—John 6:63

Here Jesus is quite specific and to the point:

"If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and now am here. I have not come on my own; but he sent me."

—John 8:42

"You are of this world; I am not of this world. I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am the one I claim to be, you will indeed die in your sins."

—John 8:23,24

Jesus returned to the home He came from:

"I came from the Father and entered the world; now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father."

—John 16:28

Whom Say Ye That I Am?

He urged his followers to believe in his divinity and again substantiated his claim:

"Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father."

---John 14:9

Jesus wants His followers to believe He was God's son.

"Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves."

—John 14:9-11

In prayer, Jesus communed with his Father and, referring to his eternal existence:

"Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began."

—John 17:5

Because Jesus had a human mother, he was a real human person. But He was still divine. Therefore, he could claim a relationship that may shock us at first:

"They all asked, 'Are you then the Son of God?' He replied, 'You are right in saying I am'."

—Luke 22:70

Liberation from fear, including the fear of death, satanic influences and freedom from sin comes from him alone:

"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

—John 8:36

Jesus lived before Abraham was born!

"I tell you the truth, before Abraham was born, I am!"

—John 8:58

In Hebrew, "I am" is the same as "Jahveh", the name of God! He always 'is'. He "was" before Abraam He is alive eternally! But he is not aloof. He loves you and me!

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you."

Whom Say Ye That I Am?

—John 8:58

Jesus foretold his approaching death and the purpose of his dying:

"The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

—Matthew 20:28

Jesus' claim to be divine was as upsetting to the Jews as it is to many people today:

"Again the Jews picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus said to them, 'I have shown you many great miracles from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?' 'We are not stoning you for any of these', replied the Jews, 'but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God'."

—John 10:31-33

Even at this very crisis situation of his life, Jesus thought not of himself, but of others.

"When they came to the place called The Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing'."

—Luke 23:33,34

After his resurrection, Jesus joined some of his companions on their way home, but remained unrecognized by them. Jesus explained to them who He was:

"'How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken. Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?' And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself."

—Luke 24:25-27

Jesus did not come for the Jews only, as some believe. He said:

"This is what is written (in the Law): The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day; and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."

—Luke 24:46,47

Whom Say Ye That I Am?

39 days after his resurrection from the dead Jesus was taken up to heaven before the very eyes of his disciples. His last words to them were:

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age."

—Matthew 28:18-20

Jesus explained His authority as the sole judge of all mankind:

*"The Father judges no-one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him. I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life. I tell you the truth, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son to have life in H***imself. And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man. Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice."*

---John 5:21-28

Jesus encourages us to trust in what He is doing for us:

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."

—John 14:1-3

Jesus will come again. There will be no forewarning:

"You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him."

—Luke 12:40

He told us how this would all happen:

"You will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."

Whom Say Ye That I Am?

—Mark 14:62

"As the lightning comes from the East and flashes to the West, so will be the coming of the Son of Man."

—Matthew 24:27

Why is Jesus speaking of himself as the 'Son of Man', and not of the 'Son of God'? The title 'Son of Man' is first mentioned in the Old Testament in the year B.C. 555:

"In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshipped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed."

—Daniel 7:13-14

The time to receive pardon is not yet over. Jesus is still waiting.



"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock.

If anyone hears my voice and opens the door,

I will come in"

—Revelation 3:20