

Who Is Jesus Christ?

[Part 1]

I'm seeking in this article to present a comprehensive explanation of who Jesus Christ is, using many scriptures in the Christian Bible to illustrate the answer to the question '*Who Is Jesus Christ?*'

Jesus Christ asked His disciples a similar question.

Matthew 16:13-17 [NIV] *“When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven.”*

Note that without the revelation of the Holy Spirit, even Jesus' disciples were uncertain who Jesus was.

The same question confronts all thinking people today, and will eventually confront every human being who has ever lived.

Who is this man?

What authority does He have?

Why should we trust Him?

The true Christian faith centres on Jesus Christ.

We need to know what kind of person He is.

Fully human and then some –

Jesus Christ was born in the normal way any human being is.

Jesus Christ grew in the normal way, He got hungry, thirsty, tired, ate, drank and slept.

Jesus Christ looked normal, talked in ordinary language and walked in the normal way.

Matthew 9:36 [NIV] *“When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.”*

Jesus Christ as a human being had normal emotions such as compassion.

Luke 7:9 [NIV] *“When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him, he said, “I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel.”*

Jesus Christ was surprised by the reaction of this Roman soldier.

John 11:38 [Amplified Bible] *“Now Jesus again sighing repeatedly and deeply disquieted approached the tomb ...”*

Jesus Christ experienced deep sorrow.

Matthew 26:37 [Phillips Translation] *“Then He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee and began to be in terrible distress. My heart is in bitter anguish, He told them, stay here and keep watch with me.”*

Jesus Christ knew that He was about to face and full of apprehension, asked His close friends to watch with Him to give Him emotional support.

Matthew 26:39 [NIV] *“Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”*

Jesus Christ prayed to His Father God in Heaven, as all human beings need to.

Matthew 11:19 [NIV] *“The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and “sinners”.’ But wisdom is proved right by her actions.”*

The most used title that Jesus Christ used when referring to Himself was *“Son of Man.”*

This was also a title that other people gave Jesus Christ when they were referring to Him.

Jesus Christ was truly a human being

2 John 7 [NIV] *“Many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist.”*

But Jesus Christ was such an extraordinary human being that after His resurrection and ascension to heaven, some people claimed that He was **not** human after all.

The thought that Jesus was so holy that surely He would have nothing to do with flesh, with its dirt, sweat, digestive functions and imperfections.

Perhaps Jesus Christ merely appeared to be human, in the way that angels sometimes appeared as humans, without actually becoming human.

This Satan-inspired lie about the Son of Man, Jesus Christ, is the major identification of those who are deceived into being among the antichrist who are so strongly condemned in scripture.

This is in spite of very clear evidence given by those who walked this earth with Jesus Christ for over three years.

John 1:1-5, 14 [NIV] *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.” ... “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”*

The apostle John in the opening sentences of his record of the life of Jesus Christ, strongly attacks this lie that Jesus Christ was **not** human.

1 John 4:1-3 [NIV] *“Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can recognise the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.”*

Again John attacks this lie about Jesus Christ.

1 John 1:1-2 [NIV] *“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched, this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us.”*

The apostle John confirms that Jesus Christ “*came in the flesh*” by personal experience.

Philippians 2:5-8 [NIV] *“Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death, even death on a cross!”*

The apostle Paul who was personally taught by Jesus Christ. [Galatians 1:15-18; Acts 22:14]

Galatians 4:4 [NIV] *“But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law,”*

A human birth into Jewish society.

Romans 8:3-4 [NIV] *“For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.”*

Our Saviour Jesus Christ took on the physical nature of all humans.

Hebrews 2:14-17 [NIV] *“Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham’s descendants. For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.”*

The writer of Hebrews also confirms that our Saviour Jesus Christ had to be flesh and blood like all humans, to be our Saviour.

Our salvation depends on the reality of Jesus’ humanity.

Hebrews 4:14-16 [NIV] *“Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathise with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are, yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”*

Jesus Christ’s present role as our intercessor and High Priest, depends on His experience as a human being.

John 20:24-28 [NIV] *“Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it.” A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.” Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”*

Even after His resurrection Jesus Christ was able to convince Thomas of His resurrection by him feeling his Saviour’s human flesh.

Luke 24:36-43 [NIV] *“While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. He said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.” When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, “Do you have anything here to eat?” They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate it in their presence.”*

Even after His resurrection Jesus had flesh and bones [note no blood mentioned] and was able to eat and digest food.

1 Timothy 2:5 [NIV] *“For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,”*

The apostle Paul refers to Jesus Christ as a “man” at the throne of God in heaven.

Even in His heavenly glory, Jesus Christ continued to be a human being.

Jesus Christ acts like God –

Luke 5:21 [NIV] *“The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, “Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?”*

Sin is an offence against our Creator God, so how could a human speak for God and say that the offence is taken off the record?

The Pharisees looked on this as blasphemy.

Luke 5:22-26 [NIV] *“Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, “Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? Which is easier: to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk’? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins....” He said to the paralysed man, “I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.” Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God. Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, “We have seen remarkable things today.”*

Jesus knew what the Pharisees were thinking but He still went ahead and forgave this man’s sins as part of his healing him physically.

John 8:46 [NIV] *“Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don’t you believe me?”*

Jesus Christ claimed that He was without any sin, nobody is recorded as challenging this claim.

Matthew 26:63-65 [NIV] *“But Jesus remained silent. The high priest said to him, “I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.” “Yes, it is as you say,” Jesus replied. **“But I say to all of you: In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.”** Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, “He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? Look, now you have heard the blasphemy.”*

Jesus claimed that He would in the future sit on God the Father’s throne as His right hand man. This also was loudly exclaimed as blasphemous by the chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin. [v59]

John 5:17-18 [NIV] *“Jesus said to them, **“My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working.”** For this reason the Jews tried all the harder to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.”*

Jesus Christ claimed to be the Son of God which to the Jews implied that He was equal to God the Father.

Hence to the Jews this was blasphemy.

John 19:7 [NIV] *“The Jews insisted, “We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God.”*

The Jews used this claim of being the Son of God as a reason for Jesus Christ to be put to death. [Leviticus 24:13-16]

John 5:19 [NIV] *“Jesus gave them this answer: “I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.”*

Jesus Christ claimed to be in perfect communication with God the Father.

John 10:30 [NIV] *“I and the Father are one.”*

Jesus Christ claimed to be one with God the Father.

John 10:33 [NIV] *“We are not stoning you for any of these,” replied the Jews, “but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God.”*

Again to the Jewish leaders this claim of being one with God the Father was blasphemy when made by any human being.

John 14:9 [NIV] *“Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”*

Jesus Christ claimed that He was so like God the Father that people should look at Him to see God the Father. [John 1:18]

John 16:7 [NIV] *“But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counsellor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.”*

Jesus Christ claimed to have the authority to instruct God the Holy Spirit to come into the lives of the disciples and work through them.

John 5:22 [NIV] *“Moreover, the Father judges no-one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son,”*

Jesus Christ claimed that God the Father had entrusted Him with the authority to judge all human beings.

Matthew 13:41 [NIV] *“The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil.”*

Jesus Christ claimed that, as the Son of Man, He had authority to direct the actions of angels.

John 5:21 [NIV] *“For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it.”*

Jesus Christ claimed as the Son of God, He could raise the dead to life.

John 6:40 [NIV] *“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.”*

Jesus Christ claimed that He would at His Second Coming raise people from the dead and give them eternal life.

John 10:18 [NIV] *“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. This command I received from my Father.”*

Jesus Christ claimed to have control over His own death and His resurrection.

Matthew 7:22-23 [NIV] *“Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’”*

Jesus Christ claimed that everyone’s gift of eternal life was dependent on their relationship with Him.

Matthew 5:20 [NIV] *“For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.”*

Jesus Christ claimed that what the Jews had received through Moses was not enough under the New Covenant that He had brought from the Father and would ratify with His own blood.

[Also read **Matthew 5:21-48**]

Matthew 12:8 [NIV] *“For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.”*

Jesus Christ claimed that He was Lord [Greek word “*kurōs*” meaning supreme in authority, and controller] of the Sabbath a God-given law, given by God through Moses. [**Exodus 20:8-11**]

If Jesus Christ were merely human, His teaching was arrogant and sinful.

John 14:11 [NIV] *“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.”*

But Jesus backed up His words with some amazing miracles.

Miracles can not force anyone to believe, but the miracles Jesus Christ did give evidence that what He said about Himself is true.

Jesus Christ has more than human power, because He is more than human.

The claims that would have been blasphemous in anyone else were true for Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ could speak like God and act like God because He was God in the flesh.