

Who did men say He was?

1. John the Baptist taught He was “One who is mightier than I,” but later sent his disciples to evaluate Jesus’ true identity.

Mark 1:8

2. His family thought he was delusional, insane, out of touch with reality.

Mark 3:21

3. The religious leaders thought Jesus was demon possessed.

Mark 3:22

4. The political leadership (Herod) conjectured Jesus was John the Baptist risen from the dead.

Mark 6:14

5. The general population was divided in their opinion; some thinking Jesus to be Elijah or a prophet like those in Old Testament times.

Mark 6:15

6. The crowds that followed him perceived him to be a great teacher (Mark 1:22) and a worker of miracles.

Mark 2:12

Who did men say He is today?

1. “Muhammad described Jesus as a virgin born, miracle working Messiah, who would return in the last days to establish peace throughout the world.” But he also taught not to call the Messiah more than a man and that he could not die for sin.

The Message of the Prophets: Mohammad and the Messiah p.13-17

2. Christian Science teaches Jesus was a human and “Christ” a divine idea.

SH. 473:15-16

3. Jehovah Witness teaches Jesus is Michael the Arch Angel, God’s first great creation and the brother of Satan.

The Truth Shall Make You Free p.49

4. Mormons teach Jesus is one god in a pantheon of gods. “As man is God once was; as God is man may become.”

The Articles of Faith p.430

5. Spirituals teach Jesus is an advanced medium.

Spiritual Telegraph No. 37

6. Dan Brown teaches that Jesus was married to the goddess Mary Magdalene and had offspring from her. He teaches the New Testament documents are a cover-up and conspiracy to hide this information.

The DaVinci Code

7. The Jesus Seminar – a group of liberal “scholars” say the Jesus of the New Testament is a myth developed by the disciples after the fact to perpetuate their movement.

Time, April 8, 1996

Uncovering the secrets of Jesus' true identity:

¹ The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, ² who testifies to everything he saw – that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. ³ Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.

Revelation 1:1 – 3 (NIV)

- The Context of “The Revelation”
- The Timing of “The Revelation”
- The Content of “The Revelation”

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is Jesus' true identity so important?
2. Who did Jesus claim to be? Consider reading the gospel of John this week to look for the answer.
3. On what basis can we evaluate these multiple “truth claims” concerning Jesus' identity?