

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?

Introduction: A powerful proclamation “Then” and “Now”

27 Jesus and His disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way He asked them, “Who do people say I am?”

28 They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.”

29 “But what about you?” He asked. “Who do you say I am?” Peter answered, “You are the Christ.”

30 Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about Him.

Mark 8:27-30 (NIV)

- Peter’s confession was based on less than 3 years of observation, teaching, and living with Jesus.
- How would John answer this question some 60 years later to strengthen a persecuted church, where Jesus’ identity and their lives were under attack?

The Answer = John's Revelation of Jesus:

John,

To the seven churches in the province of Asia:

Grace and peace to you,

- *from Him who is, and who was, and who is to come,*
- *and from the seven spirits before His throne,*
- *and from Jesus Christ, who is*

*the Faithful Witness
the First Born from the dead
and the Ruler of the kings of the earth*

To Him (Jesus)

*who **loves us**,
and has **freed us** from our sin by His blood,
and has **made us** to be a kingdom and priests*

to

serve His God and Father –

To Him (Jesus)

be glory and power forever and ever! Amen.

Revelation 1:4-6 (NIV)

⁷ *LOOK, HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. So it shall be! Amen.*

⁸ *"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."*

Revelation 1:7-8 (NIV)

5 Questions “This” Jesus is asking you today:

1. Have you **RECEIVED** My grace and are you **ENJOYING** My peace? (v.4)
 - Ephesians 2:8-9
 - John 16:33

2. Do you **BELIEVE** My testimony about My Word, My Father, Myself, and My love for you? (v.5)
 - John 1:14-18
 - John 14:9
 - John 3:16

3. Will you **FOLLOW** Me even when it means the death of your agenda, selfish desires, and physical life? (v.5)
 - John 12:24
 - 1 Corinthians 15:20-26

4. Are you **SERVING** My God and My Father in your heart and life 24/7, 365 days a year? (v.6)
 - 1 Peter 2:9
 - Matthew 6:33

5. Are you **READY** to stand before Me and give an account of your life when I return? (v.7)
 - Philippians 2:9-11
 - Hebrews 4:12-13

Application / Discussion Questions:

When we say the word “Jesus,” something comes to our mind about who He is and what He is like. Let’s compare our internal concept with the Jesus of Scripture.

1. How does the “unveiled Jesus” of Revelation Chapter 1 differ from what came to your mind when you heard the word “Jesus”?
2. What is most encouraging and comforting about the Jesus of Revelation Chapter 1? Why?
3. What is most alarming or convicting about the Jesus of Revelation Chapter 1? Why?
4. Take a few moments and briefly answer each of the “**5 questions Jesus wants to ask you**” on the previous page.
5. What specific action step of faith/obedience do you need to take to enjoy and receive all the grace and peace God has for you?

Introduction: Selective Listening “Then” and “Now”

27 Jesus and His disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way He asked them, “Who do people say I am?”

28 They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.”

29 “But what about you?” He asked. “Who do you say I am?” Peter answered, “You are the Christ.”

30 Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about Him.

31 He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the Law, and that He must be killed and after three days rise again.

32 He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him.

33 But when Jesus turned and looked at His disciples, He rebuked Peter. “Out of My sight, Satan!” He said. “You do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men.”

Mark 8:27-33 (NIV)

- Peter only got it ½ right.
- What did Peter miss?

The promised Messiah - a coin with 2 sides:

1. A Political Ruler, King, and Deliverer

- Born of a virgin Isaiah 7:14
- From the throne of David Psalm 2, Isaiah 11:10
- The Prince of Peace Isaiah 9:6
- The political Ruler forever Isaiah 9:7

2. A Suffering Servant, A Sacrifice for Sin

- Born of a virgin Isaiah 7:14
- From the throne of David Psalm 2, Isaiah 11:10
- Pierced for our transgressions Isaiah 53:5-6
- Exalted to the highest place Isaiah 53:11-12

The Messiah fulfills both prophecies:

Revelation 19:11-16 (NIV)

His first Advent (coming) was as a suffering servant to pay for our sin; His second coming will be as Righteous Ruler; the King of the universe who will rule with justice and establish peace forever.

- 11 I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice He judges and makes war.*
- 12 His eyes are like blazing fire, and on His head are many crowns. He has a name written on Him that no one knows but He Himself.*
- 13 He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and His name is the Word of God.*
- 14 The armies of heaven were following Him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean.*
- 15 Out of His mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter. He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty.*
- 16 On His robe and on His thigh He has this name written:
KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.*

What we can't afford to miss:

1. Peter was 100% right in his declaration of Jesus' identity, and 100% wrong on Jesus' direction for his life.
 - **Why?** Selective listening and personal agenda.
 - **Application:** We cannot declare our love for Jesus and “selectively choose” which aspects of His Lordship over our lives we will obey.
2. When we separate the person of Jesus from the purpose of Jesus for our lives, we deceive ourselves and destroy His reputation.

Application / Discussion:

1. Which Jesus are you worshipping?
2. Are you asking Jesus to fulfill your agenda or are you seeking to fulfill His?
3. What is His purpose for your life?
4. What “next step” of faith / obedience would following Him look like?

Introduction: What would it be like to meet the risen Jesus today?

- Not the Jesus who lived among us.
- Not the Jesus who died on the cross.
- But the resurrected Jesus who is alive today.
- What if you didn't have to "imagine?"

The historical setting:

⁹ I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

¹⁰ On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet,

¹¹ which said: "Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea."

Revelation 1:9-11 (NIV)

The “unveiling” of the resurrected Jesus:

- ¹² *I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands,*
- ¹³ *and among the lampstands was someone “like a son of man,” dressed in a robe reaching down to His feet and with a golden sash around His chest.*
- ¹⁴ *His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes were like blazing fire.*
- ¹⁵ *His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of rushing waters.*
- ¹⁶ *In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.*

Revelation 1:12-16 (NIV)

Who does Jesus say that He is? – a picture of the risen Christ

1. General Appearance – “Son of Man” – I AM the Messiah, the Son of God and “Son of Man” the sovereign Ruler of all people, and nations and men of every language will worship Me.
Daniel 7:13-14
2. His Dress – “Robe/Golden Sash” – I AM the greatly honored One who exercises all authority and judgment as the once-and-for-all High Priest, Judge-King, and Prophet-Messenger of God.
Hebrews 5:5-10

3. His Head and Hair – “White as Wool” – I AM the Holy, Eternal One who is before all things, the all-wise, all-knowing God of time and eternity.

Daniel 7:9

4. His Eyes – “Blazing Fire” – I AM the Righteous Judge of all the earth, whose judgment is just because I see all things as they really are, not as they appear to be.

Revelation 2:18-20

5. His Feet – “Bronze Glowing” – I AM the all-powerful Judge, who will judge all creatures (visible and invisible) and trample the wicked under My feet.

Revelation 20:11-15

6. His Voice – “Many Waters” – I AM the One who spoke the world into existence out of nothing and upholds it by the Word of My power.

Hebrews 11:3, Colossians 1:16-17

7. His Right Hand – “The Stars” – I AM the Good Shepherd who will protect and provide for My bride, the Church, and protect My messengers (angels) by My great power and strength.

John 10:25-28

8. His Mouth – “Two-edged Sword” – I AM the Word made flesh who dwelt among you and explained the Father (full of truth and grace) and it is by My Word that I now judge you, My people (Hebrews 4:12-13), and by My Word destroy My enemies.

Revelation 19:19-21

9. His Face – “As Sun Shining” - I AM the radiant, brilliant, glorified second Person of the Godhead, who did not consider it robbery to “veil” My glory for a season on the earth to purchase people from every tribe, nation, and tongue to spend eternity with Me forever.

Philippians 2:6-11

John’s response to Jesus in His glory:

*¹⁷ When I saw Him, I fell at His feet as though dead. Then He placed His right hand on me and said: “**Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last**.”*

¹⁸ I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.”

Revelation 1:17-18 (NIV)

Life’s Biggest Question:

Since we don’t have to imagine...

How will you respond to the living, resurrected Christ who says, “Do not be afraid, I am alive forever. I hold the keys to death and Hades.”?