

Who is Jesus?

Matthew 16:13 When Jesus came into the **coasts of Caesarea Philippi**, he asked his disciples, saying, **Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?** 14 And they said, Some say that thou art **John the Baptist**: some, **Elias**; and others, **Jeremias**, or one of the **prophets**. 15 He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? 16 And Simon Peter answered and said, **Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God**. 17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

- Jesus is still in the land of the Gentiles
- He is surrounded by false religions, temples, etc
- Here in the middle of other gods He will ask the main question, do you know that I am God?

1. The first question Jesus asked? **13** When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, **Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?**

- a. Jesus refers to Himself as the Son of man
 - i. The term is used about 80 times in the New Testament
 - ii. The Jews knew that this title was reserved for the Messiah
 - iii. It emphasized His humanness
 - iv. It was used by Jesus to focus on His humiliation, submission, sacrifice, and substitutionary atonement
 - v. Jesus refers to Himself as the Messiah but has come to die not reign
- b. This question would seem arrogant coming from anyone else
 - i. We must realize that Jesus is God so the question is quite different now
 - ii. We also must realize that to truly be saved you will have to make a confession very similar to what Peter made in this passage

iii. We confess that He is Lord [Romans 10:9](#) That if thou shalt **confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus,** and shalt **believe in thine heart** that **God hath raised him from the dead,** thou shalt be saved. [10](#) For with the **heart man believeth** unto righteousness; and with the **mouth confession is made unto salvation.**

iv. We confess that He is the Christ [I John 2:22](#) Who is a liar but he that **denieth that Jesus is the Christ?** He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son. [23](#) Whosoever **denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father:** (but) he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also.

v. We know and confess that He is God come in the flesh [I John 4:1](#) Beloved, believe not every spirit, but **try**

the spirits whether they are of God:

because many false prophets are gone out into the

world. ² Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: **Every**

spirit that confesseth that Jesus

Christ is come in the flesh is of

God: ³ And every spirit that **confesseth not**

that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh

is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist,

whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even

now already is it in the world.

c. The highest compliments that they could pay ¹⁴ And they

said, Some say that thou art **John the Baptist:**

some, **Elias;** and others, **Jeremias,** or one of the

prophets.

i. John the Baptist had been the most popular preacher recently

1. God had used him like no one else in their day

2. He had the courage to do right no matter what others were saying or doing
 3. Was Jesus John the Baptist raised from the dead?
 4. After all He could work miracles that are impossible
 5. He had to be someone very special
- ii. Others thought He might be Elijah reincarnated.
1. He was considered the greatest Old Testament prophet
 2. He was going to be sent by God to come again before the end **Malachi 4:5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord:**
 3. Even today in many Jewish Passover celebrations they leave an empty chair for Elijah hoping he will come to announce the Messiah
 4. Jesus had the fire and intensity of Elijah
- iii. Others thought He might be Jeremiah
1. Jeremiah was the weeping prophet
 2. He was thought to have taken the Ark of the Covenant and the Altar of Incense and hidden them when the Babylonians attacked the legends said

3. He wept like Jeremiah over the people, their needs, their sins
 - iv. Others thought He might be one of the prophets come back again
 - v. They were willing to think very highly of Him but not to recognize Him as God, as the Messiah
 1. Many men have had this attitude about Jesus. Respecting Him but not believing in Him
 2. Pilate said that he found no fault in Jesus
 3. Napoleon said, "I know men, and Jesus was no mere man."
 4. When I was a kid they called Him Jesus Christ Superstar
 - d. The real question isn't what other people think of Jesus but what do you think of Him
2. Who do people say that Jesus is today
 - a. To many He is the central figure in Christianity
 - i. Most Christian denominations hold Him to be the Son of God
 - ii. Christians regard Jesus as the awaited Messiah

- b. To nearly all modern scholars of antiquity He did exist historically
 - i. There is however little agreement on the historical reliability of the gospels
 - ii. They are not sure that the Jesus of the Bible closely resembles the historical Jesus
 - iii. They agree He was a Jewish rabbi from Galilee
- c. He was a great leader, a social reformer
- d. In Islam Jesus was one of God's important prophets
 - i. The Muslims agree that He brought Scripture
 - ii. That He was born of a virgin
 - iii. But for them He was not the Son of God
 - iv. He was not crucified.
 - v. They say that He did not fulfill the Messianic prophecies
- e. To millions He is unknown of, they have never heard His story

3. The second question He asked? **15 He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?**

- a. Others had confessed their faith before

- i. Nathanael confessed Him as the Son of God [John 1:49](#)
[Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel.](#)
 - ii. The disciples had confessed after He stilled the storm
[Matthew 14:33](#) [Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God.](#)
 - iii. Peter had confessed Him after His sermon on the Bread of Life [John 6:68](#) [Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.](#)
- b. This confess was different. It was not an emotional response. It was not after being rescued, or seeing a miracle
 - c. This confession came from a man that had studied, been taught of God and came from a sincere heart
 - d. This was no flippant, tv contestant answer
 - e. It was a man who had seen, heard, listened, believed and was making His profession of faith
 - f. Most importantly Jesus accepted this confession and moved on to teach them new truth

- g. This question had been a personal question. Who do you say that I am?
 - i. Jesus no longer is asking what others think
 - ii. He is not asking what they had heard
 - iii. He wants to know what they believe in their heart
 - iv. Christianity is not about knowing about Jesus but rather knowing Him

4. Peter's answer **16 And Simon Peter answered and said, **Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.****

- a. Peter recognized that Jesus was the Christ
 - i. Christ is Greek word for Messiah in the Hebrew
 - ii. Christ or Messiah speaks of the deliverer of Israel
 - iii. The sent one from God
 - iv. The anointed one
 - v. The coming High Priest, King, Prophet, and Savior
- b. He also confessed that Jesus was the Son of the living God
 - i. That means the creator of the universe
 - ii. The true and real God

iii. Peter understood that Jesus was God in human flesh

iv. Son gives the idea of oneness in essence, the very nature of His Father

c. Peter had seen and learned that Jesus was God in human flesh

d. He knew that Jesus was far more than just a man, a prophet, or John the Baptist

e. He had learned the truth

f. He had believed the truth

g. He had committed His life to that truth

5. Jesus response to Peter's answer **17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.**

a. Peter was blessed because He knew, understood, and believed Jesus to be who He is

i. Peter was confessing that Jesus was His Lord and Savior

I John 4:14 And we have seen and do testify that the

Father sent the Son to be the

Saviour of the world. ¹⁵ Whosoever shall
**confess that Jesus is the Son of
God, God dwelleth in him, and he
in God.**

- ii. Blessed with every spiritual blessing [Ephesians 1:3](#)
Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who hath **blessed us with all spiritual
blessings in heavenly places in
Christ:** ⁴ According as he hath **chosen us in
him** before the foundation of the world, that we
should **be holy and without blame
before him in love:** ⁵ Having predestinated
us unto the **adoption of children** by Jesus
Christ to himself, according to the **good pleasure
of his will,** ⁶ To the **praise of the glory**

**of his grace, wherein he hath made us
accepted in the beloved.**

- b. There was no way Peter learned these truths from a human being
- c. It was God who had shown Peter this
 - i. It is always the work of the Holy Spirit that convicts us of our sin and shows us the need of a Savior
 - ii. It is God that shows us Jesus lifted up
 - iii. It God that loves us before we ever love Him
 - iv. It is God that saves us
- d. Would you remember that it was Jesus who had taught them all of this
- e. That is God in human flesh showing Peter what to believe
 - i. Jesus had come to fulfill the law and the prophets
 - ii. Jesus said that people would address Him as Lord
 - iii. He told them that He was the living bread
 - iv. He told them He was the door through which one had to go to be saved
- f. Have you seen your sinful condition?
 - i. Have you realized that you are in trouble unless God does something

- ii. Have you realized that the God of Heaven loves you?
- iii. Are you ready to look to Him and be saved?
- iv. Will you decide now to believe Him, to confess Him, and to receive the free gift of God in Christ Jesus
- g. Has God done a work in your heart and life because only God can save?