

JESUS

Jesus of Nazareth is without question the most compelling and controversial figure in the history of the world. More books, songs, and works of art have been created about him than any other person. Every major field of study has been affected by his words, actions and teachings. Many people have said he is a good teacher, a great philosopher and even a prophet. But with all that has been said about him, we encourage you to read *his* words and find out what he has said about himself. We hope this short reference helps you in your search to find God and know the real Jesus.

I. Jesus said He was God

John 10:30-33 "I and the Father are one.' 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 14:8-9 "Philip said, 'Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.' 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'?'"

2. Jesus said He came from heaven

John 6:38, 41-42 "For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me . . .' At this the Jews began to grumble about him because he said, 'I am the bread that came down from heaven.' They said, 'Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I came down from heaven'?'

John 16:28 "I came from the Father and entered the world; now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father."

3. Jesus said He was sinless

John 8:46 "Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don't you believe me?"

4. Jesus forgave sin

Mark 2:5 "When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, 'Son, your sins are forgiven.""

Mark 2:7 "Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

5. Jesus said He was the only way to heaven

John 14:6 "Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'"

John 11:25 "Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies.'"

6. Jesus accepted worship as God

Matthew 14:33 "Then those who were in the boat worshiped him Jesus, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

John 9:38 "Then the man said, 'Lord Jesus, I believe,' and he worshiped him."

7. Jesus performed miracles including raising others and himself from the dead

Matthew 4:23 "Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people."

John 11:43, 44 "When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, 'Take off the grave clothes and let him go.'"

Luke 24:5-8 "In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, 'Why do you look for the living among the dead? He [Jesus] is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.' Then they remembered his words."

Throughout the history of the world there have been numerous people who claim to speak for God, but there has been a surprisingly short list of people who have actually claimed to be God. For example, such religious leaders as Buddha, Krishna, Muhammad, and Ghandi did not claim to be God. But, Jesus clearly and repeatedly said He was God, the only way to heaven and the only one worthy to be worshipped. That means he either is not a "good teacher" but a liar or a hoax. Or, he is who he said he is...Lord of all. We encourage you to put your trust in Him as savior, follow him as Lord and experience the kind of Life that only he can provide.