

Ten Things You Need to Know About Jesus

1. Jesus is not a mythical figure. His life and death are recorded in historical documents.¹ While these documents are of historical interest, the principal reference about Jesus is the Bible, which is composed of the Old and New Testaments.
2. The coming of Jesus was foretold in the writings of Moses and the prophets in the Old Testament.² The Old Testament documents were authored centuries before the coming of Jesus, and were faithfully copied and preserved by the Jews.³
3. The life of Jesus and His teachings are recorded in four books of the New Testament, the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. These books focus exclusively on His ministry, which encompassed the last three years of His life.
4. Jesus was born to the virgin Mary. Mary found favor with God while she was engaged to be married to Joseph. Joseph was a descendant of King David. God sent Gabriel, His angel, to offer her the opportunity to be the mother of the Son of God, which she accepted.⁴ Mary was still a virgin when she conceived and gave birth to Jesus.⁵
5. Jesus existed before His birth. The apostle John⁶ tells us that Jesus is the Word; Jesus is God. John says, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being." John further explains, "And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth."
6. Jesus died to redeem mankind from death. His death was no accident or surprise.⁷ Every man and woman is guilty of breaking the laws of God, and are condemned to death.⁸ Jesus

¹ Mykytiuk, Lawrence (12/03/2016). Did Jesus Exist? Searching for Evidence Beyond the Bible. Bible History Daily. Biblical Archaeology Society. Bringing the Ancient World to Life. Retrieved January 1, 2017, from <http://biblicalarcheology.org>.

² Luke 24: 25-27.

³ Learn About the Scrolls (Biblical Manuscripts subsection of the Qumran Caves Scrolls). (January 1, 2017). The Leon Levy Dead Sea Scrolls Digital Library. Retrieved January 1, 2017 from <http://deadseascrolls.org.il>.

⁴ Luke 1: 26-35.

⁵ Matthew 1: 18-25.

⁶ John 1: 1-18.

⁷ Acts 2: 22-24.

⁸ Romans 3: 21-26.

came to suffer the penalty of death in our place so that we might have forgiveness of sin and eternal life.⁹ God extends His grace to every man or woman through faith in His Son, Jesus.^{10,11} Jesus is the only way to God.¹²

7. Jesus was betrayed by one of His apostles. He was arrested and tried by the religious authorities. He was found guilty of blasphemy because He claimed to be the Son of God. He was sentenced to death.¹³ The religious authorities turned Him over to Pontus Pilate. He was executed by crucifixion. He was resurrected from the dead on the third day. The resurrection of Jesus from the dead is the sign given by God that all men should repent for He will one day judge the world.¹⁴ Jesus now sits at the right hand of God.¹⁵

8. Jesus established His kingdom, the church, on the Day of Pentecost. His kingdom is not a physical kingdom; His kingdom is a spiritual kingdom.¹⁶ All believers are added to His kingdom, the church.

9. At the time of His departure, Jesus commissioned His apostles to go into all the world, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and teaching them to observe all that Jesus had commanded them.¹⁷ The commission of making disciples is passed to every generation of man; to every believer.

10. Jesus will return to earth at a time appointed by the Father.¹⁸ The dead in Christ will accompany Jesus to claim their spiritual bodies; those who are alive at His coming will be changed.¹⁹ Those who have rejected Jesus will be judged by God, and cast into the lake of fire with the Devil and his angels.²⁰ God will create a new heaven and new earth.²¹

⁹ Romans 6: 23.

¹⁰ Ephesians 2: 1-10.

¹¹ John 3: 16.

¹² John 14: 6.

¹³ Matthew 25: 63-66.

¹⁴ Acts 17: 30-31.

¹⁵ Hebrews 12: 1-2.

¹⁶ John 18: 33-37.

¹⁷ Matthew 28: 18-20.

¹⁸ Matthew 24: 36-51.

¹⁹ 1 Corinthians 15: 50-58.

²⁰ Revelation 19: 11-15.

²¹ Revelation 21: 1-4.