

LESSON 4 Jesus Christ

“Yes, of course I believe in Jesus Christ,” said my new friend. “He was a great prophet, a man sent from God who gave us many teachings that we should follow.”

“That’s wonderful,” I replied, “but it’s not enough. You must not only believe that he was a great prophet, but that He is God. You must know Him as divine, as a Savior.”

This was difficult for my friend to accept. He had learned some things about Jesus but had never established communion with Him through reading His Word or through prayer. It was hard for him to believe that all people are sinners, or that there is an escape from sin.

He asked me many questions that day. Who is Jesus? How can He be human and divine at the same time? If He died, why do Christians say He is living? What is He doing now?

The best answers that I could find were in the Bible, the Word of God. In this lesson we will look at those same questions and find the answers that my friend wanted to know.

The Plan

- A. His Person
- B. His Purpose
- C. His Return

The Goals

1. Explain who Jesus is.
2. State the purpose of Jesus' first coming and His future return.
3. Indicate events that will occur at the time of the Rapture.

A. HIS PERSON

Goal 1. Explain who Jesus is.

Jesus Christ is the visible manifestation of God to humanity. He chose to become like men so that we would be able to understand Him better and learn His plan of salvation for us. This choosing to become like a man meant that Jesus would have two natures in One Person, both human and divine. Romans 1:3–4 says,

The gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.

To have a human nature, Jesus was born of a virgin named Mary.

The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his

father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end.” (Luke 1:30–33)

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)

Who is this Father mentioned in John 1:14? God is the Father of Jesus. Second Peter 1:17 tells us,

For he [Jesus] received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

The name “Jesus Christ” also tells us of His divinity. When the angel said that the baby’s name would be Jesus, it was for a very special reason. Jesus means *Savior*. Matthew 1:21 says, “She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

The name *Christ* has a special meaning too. It means “the anointed one” or “the Messiah.” Many years ago when a man was chosen to be king, oil was poured over his head as part of the ceremony. This pouring on of oil was called “anointing.” To call the Lord “Christ” or “the anointed one” meant that He was royalty. Messiah was the name the Jews gave to the king and deliverer for whom they waited. Simon Peter recognized Him as king and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Matthew 16:16).

Application

1 The sentences on the right are descriptive of Jesus. Read the Scriptures on the left. Then place the number of the description in front of each verse.

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| ... a Philippians 2:7 | 1) God is His Father. |
| ... b John 10:17 | 2) He was born of a woman. |
| ... c Philippians 2:6 | 3) He is the Savior. |
| ... d Galatians 4:4 | 4) He became like us. |
| ... e Acts 4:12 | 5) He is divine and has the nature of God. |



B. HIS PURPOSE

Goal 2. State the purpose of Jesus' first coming and His future return.

Jesus came into the world to save humans from sin. Luke 19:10 says, "The Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost." There was only one way He could save us—by giving His life.

The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. (Mark 10:45)

This is a wonderful promise to all humankind. But why did Jesus have to die to ransom or redeem us? If we remember the story of Adam and Eve, we will recall that God had told them that sin is followed by death. God cannot go against His own judgment against sin. If there is sin, someone has to die. So Jesus Christ came to die in the sinner's place. No one else could do it because He was the only one who could conquer death.

Yet it was not easy—even for our Lord. He who had been sitting on His throne with angels to carry out every command, and who had created the universe and humanity, became a

servant. He permitted His creation to hurt Him, despise Him, and crucify Him on the cross of Calvary that they might be saved. First Peter 1:18–19 reads:

You know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

Are all people now saved since Jesus died for them? No, God never took away the privilege of choice. Each person still has to make his or her own decision to accept Jesus as personal Savior. Jesus said to His followers:

“Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.” (Mark 16:15–16)

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.” (John 3:16–18)

Jesus died for us. There would have been no hope of salvation for humanity, however, if He had remained in the grave.

Many religions have built shrines at the tombs of their leaders. Inside are the revered bones of their dead. But the tomb of Jesus is empty because of the miracle that took place three days after His crucifixion. Jesus rose from the dead and was seen many times after His resurrection.

He was buried, . . . he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and . . . he

appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. (1 Corinthians 15:4–7)

Jesus' resurrection is one evidence that points to His being the Son of God. Romans 1:4 says that Jesus Christ was shown with great power to be the Son of God by being raised from death.

After He showed himself to many people and spoke words of encouragement to them, He ascended into heaven. This, also, was no secret because He ascended while His disciples were watching.

When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. (Luke 24:50–51)

What is Jesus doing now? When He ascended He took His place at the right hand of His Father. He talks to His Father about our needs. Let us look at three verses that tell what He is doing now.

We do have such a high priest, who sat down at the right of the throne of the Majesty in heaven. (Hebrews 8:1)

If anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. (1 John 2:1)

Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. (Hebrews 7:25)

How wonderful that the costly price has been paid for our redemption! After dying on the Cross, rising from the grave, and ascending to be with His Father, Jesus does not forget us. He is interested in us every day and will help us as we allow Him.

Application

2 Circle the letter in front of each TRUE completion for the following statement. Jesus Christ died on the Cross to

- a) redeem us.
- b) take our place in the death we deserve.
- c) provide salvation for everyone who believes in Him as Savior.
- d) to give us eternal life

3 Read Luke 24:46–47. Verse 46 tells of Jesus’ crucifixion and resurrection. Verse 47 tells us why He had to die and rise again. What is the reason that verse 47 gives?

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4 According to the Scripture, Jesus is now

- a) concerning himself with other creations.
- b) pleading with the Father about our needs.
- c) deciding who will have eternal life and who will not.



C. HIS RETURN

Goal 3. Indicate events that will occur at the time of the Rapture.

Jesus Christ will return to earth again. We call this His Second Coming. The Bible tells us that before this takes place His church (all who have ever believed on Him) will be caught up to meet Him in the air. This is called the Rapture. Sometime after the Rapture, Jesus will come to earth again and establish His kingdom.

Believers look forward to the Rapture because then we will be caught up to meet the Lord and to be with Him forever. Acts 1:11 says, ““This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into

heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.” First Thessalonians 4:16–17 also states:

The Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

Application

5 Circle the letter in front of the true statements.

- a) Jesus will come back to earth again.
- b) The *Second Coming* is the same as the *Rapture*.
- c) The earthly kingdom of the Lord is established at the Rapture.
- d) All those who believe in Christ will meet Him in the air.

6 Read 1 Thessalonians 4:16–17 again. State at least five events that will happen when the Rapture takes place.

- a)
- b)
- c)
- d)
- e)



Check Your Answers

- 1**
- a** 4) He became like us.
 - b** 1) God is His Father.
 - c** 5) He is divine and has the nature of God.
 - d** 2) He was born of a woman.
 - e** 3) He is the Savior.
- 4** **b)** pleading with the Father about our needs.
- 2** You should circle all the completions. They all are TRUE.
- 5**
- a** Jesus will come back to earth again.
 - d** All those who believe in Christ will meet Him in the air.
- 3** That in His name repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached to all nations
- 6** You could write any five of the following:
- a)** a shout of command
 - b)** sound of God's trumpet
 - c)** Lord comes down
 - d)** dead in Christ shall rise
 - e)** living believers shall rise
 - f)** we will meet the Lord in the air
 - g)** be eternally with the Lord

