

Jesus Christ: Who I AM
Scripture: Gospel of John

I. Searching for Jesus

A. How often have we seen the Magazine article or TV Show that CLAIMS to be SEARCHING for Jesus?

1. Peter Jennings searched (ABC news) and didn't find Him (until a few months ago)
2. The Jesus Seminar has been searching for Him for about 15 years and don't seem to find much of Him!
3. Beliefnet (website) as a Search for Jesus Going and you can get 3 essays a week for 8 weeks as well as a daily email of the sayings of Jesus!

B. Q: Has any of these highly visible searches found the real Jesus Christ, whose birth we celebrate today? A: NO! WHY NOT?

1. They refuse to look at the best source of information about Him and take it as true! - Bible
2. They refuse to involve anyone who has Spiritual sight necessary to study that source – a Christian!
3. WHY is THIS SO? BECAUSE – If you TRULY take the Bible for what it says – YOU WILL FIND
 - a) Jesus is GOD and Jesus SAID –
 - (1) MANKIND is IN SIN / HEADED to HELL
 - (2) NEEDS a SAVIOR / HE'S the ONLY SAVIOR
 - b) Men & Women DON'T WANT to FACE their SIN
 - (1) Don't want to ACKNOWLEDGE that God WILL JUDGE their LIFE and SEND them to HELL
 - (2) Don't want to GIVE UP that SIN and LIVE the WAY GOD DEMANDS!
 - (3) SO – EVEN THOUGH DRIVEN to be RELIGIOUS – they ALWAYS “AVOID” FINDING the real Jesus

(4) THEN – they can stay IN SIN and SUPPRESS the TRUTH about their CONDITION before GOD!

4. In business, a lot of planning and analysis is done
 - a) Scenarios, business cases, etc. are all done and compared, contrasted, analyzed
 - b) NO LEGITIMATE SCENARIO is ever left out!
 - c) So, why would all of these searches LEAVE OUT THE MOST LEGITIMATE SCENARIO of them all?
 - d) Which scenario is that?
 - e) The ONE that POINTS to the REAL JESUS and His REAL PURPOSE!
 - f) The ONE that TAKES the BIBLE for what IT SAYS about Jesus!

C. Bible is written by true witnesses of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ

1. They should be taken at their word
2. That the Biblical account of Jesus should be considered as REAL and AUTHENTIC – as it is written!

D. Let's let the Bible answer the question: Who is Jesus Christ?

1. And better yet – why don't we let Jesus Christ ANSWER FOR HIMSELF!
2. Let Him tell us "WHO I AM" from the 1st person point-of-view!

E. The Gospels record the historical life of Jesus and his ministry

1. Three (Matthew, Mark, Luke) are known as the SYNOPTIC gospels – they give a SYNOPSIS of His life
2. Fourth – John is special! – It was written for a very special purpose!

F. John's Purpose:

[Jn 20:30](#) Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; [31](#) but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

G. For all their searching, I've never seen one TV show or magazine article QUOTE THESE VERSES and EXAMINE John's PURPOSE!

1. John WROTE THIS BOOK – SO THAT YOU can SEE that Jesus is GOD – sent to save you from your Sin and GIVE you ETERNAL LIFE!
2. How did John “show” this? 20:30 – “signs”

H. What's a SIGN? Something that points to something!

1. What did the SIGNS that Jesus performed POINT to?
 - a) That He is God and that you CAN TRUST HIM to give you eternal life –
 - b) To go to Heaven and not hell!

I. Signs – How do you categorize “signs”?

[Jn 14:10](#) “Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works. [11](#) “Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works themselves.

1. A: Witnesses, Words and Works
2. = What Jesus SAID = CLAIMS
3. = What Jesus DID to BACK UP THOSE CLAIMS! – MIRACLES!
4. Jesus: If you don't believe My WORDS, then Believe Me BECAUSE of MY WORKS!
5. IOW – If you say you are GOD, you'd better show that you can do the things that ONLY GOD can do!

J. Let Him tell us and SHOW US “WHO I AM”

K. IF you want to know the TRUTH about Jesus Christ, I’d suggest that you READ and REREAD the Gospel of John – Let John show you who Jesus is!

L. Let’s give you a head start on that this morning!

II. My Witnesses!

A. TODAY – Many who say that Jesus is NOT GOD

1. Just a good teacher / religious man!
2. BUT that’s not what the WITNESSES of His day say!
3. How is it that 2000 years later we can be so bold to ignore the witnesses?

B. Throughout John’s Gospel, John presents witness after witness to Jesus Christ as the Son of God.

1. And these witnesses AREN’T JUST the people who knew Him
2. God the Father WITNESSES to His SON
3. SCRIPTURE WITNESSES to Him!

C. Talk JUST about a FEW – then YOU go READ JOHN and LIST ALL the WITNESSES to Jesus Christ!

D. John’s Gospel begins with the first witness! John the Baptist

[Jn 1:6](#) There came a man sent from God, whose name was John. [7](#) He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him.

E. Before the FIRST Chapter of John ends MANY testify to Jesus as the Son of God!

[Jn 1:31](#) “I did not recognize Him, but so that He might be manifested to Israel, I came baptizing in water.” [32](#) John testified saying, “I have seen the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and He remained upon Him. [33](#) “I did not recognize Him, but He [GOD the Father] who sent me to baptize in water [said to me](#), ‘He upon whom you see

the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.' 34 "I myself have seen, and have testified that this is the Son of God." [= John the Baptist's personal testimony!]

1. God the Father, testifies that this is His Son!
2. SO - John the Baptist testifies that Jesus is the Savior – sent to save man from sin
3. Nathanael testifies too!

Jn 1:49 Nathanael answered Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel."

4. 3 others testify by becoming His disciples and following him!
5. ALL in the FIRST CHAPTER!

F. In the 5th Chapter, Jesus, Himself, TALKS about the WITNESSES to Him!

1. John 5:30-47 - Jesus talks about FOUR Critical Witnesses to Him
2. You see – Jesus said – IF I ALONE "TESTIFY" about ME, then you won't believe ME!
 - a) IN FACT – IT ALONE is NOT ENOUGH!
 - b) It NEEDS to have other witnesses SO THAT You KNOW that IT'S TRUE!
3. What are these FOUR witnesses?

a) John the BAPTIST –

Jn 5:33 "You have sent to John, and he has testified to the truth. 34 "But the testimony which I receive is not from man, but I say these things so that you may be saved. 35 "He was the lamp that was burning and was shining and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light.

(1) Sent by God to come BEFORE Jesus and TESTIFY that Jesus was coming!

(2) But John's NOT enough – He's just a man!

b) Jesus' WORKS (which we'll see in a minute)

[Jn 5:36](#) “But the testimony which I have is greater than *the testimony of John*; for the works which the Father has given Me to accomplish—the very works that I do—testify about Me, that the Father has sent Me.

(1) IF I do the THINGS that ONLY God can do,
THEN these things TESTIFY that I am GOD!

(2) We call these His “works”!

c) God the Father

[Jn 5:32](#) “There is another who testifies of Me, and I know that the testimony which He gives about Me is true...[Jn 5:37](#) “And the Father who sent Me, He has testified of Me.

(1) We saw God’s testimony in Chapter 1

(2) We will see God’s testimony again when He raises Jesus from the dead and takes Him directly to His right hand side!

d) Witness of Scripture

[Jn 5:39](#) “You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me;

(1) You just “THINK” you have eternal life!

(2) BUT if you honestly read Scripture – You’d SEE that SCRIPTURE TESTIFIES of ME!

(3) Jesus used the witness of Scripture to help two disciples on the road to Emmaus after His resurrection!

(4) These men couldn’t understand why Jesus had to die!

(5) They UNDERSTOOD the testimony of His WORDS and WORKS!

[Lk 24:19](#) And He said to them, “What things?” And they said to Him, “The things about Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word in the sight of God and all the people,

(6) But they DIDN'T UNDERSTAND the testimony of Scripture concerning Jesus

Lk 24:25 And He said to them, "O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! 26 "Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?" 27 Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.

4. Those are just some of the Witnesses that John records!
 - a) Did you know that in the other Gospels, EVEN DEMONS and SATAN testify to Jesus as God?
 - b) Even the Jewish Leaders KNEW that He was the Son of God and put Him to death to get His Kingdom! (Matt 21:33-46)

G. IF you are UNWILLING to accept ALL the WITNESSES to the FACT that Jesus Christ is GOD and came to DIE for our SINS – THEN

1. You've CALLED all these men LIARS
2. You've CALLED Scripture a LIE
3. You've CALLED God the Father a liar
4. You've CALLED Jesus, Himself a liar.
5. You've put yourself ABOVE all of these – and based on what? You must be some kind of scholarly authority who is willing to go against God, Himself!

H. BUT IF you do not know who's BIRTH we celebrate today – AND want to know - , START by SEEING all of the WITNESSES to Jesus in the Gospel of John!

1. From God the Father
2. To all the disciples
3. To the Bible itself
4. AND to Christ's words themselves (witness to who He is)!...

III. My Words!

A. TWO WORDS say it all! Turn to John 8:56

1. Jesus REGULARLY debated with the Jewish Leaders of His day and
2. At the end of one debate about Abraham...
3. They were claiming to be disciples of Abraham – the great father of Israel

Jn 8:56 “Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw *it* and was glad.” 57 So the Jews said to Him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?” 58 Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am.” 59 Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple.

- a) To a Jew – this was UNBELIEVABLE!
- b) In our vernacular Jesus said – “I am God, I am eternal, Of course, I existed eternally before Abraham and so knew Abraham! I created Him!”

4. Phrase “I AM” goes all the way back to Exodus!
5. God called upon Moses to go to Pharaoh in Egypt
Ex 3:13 Then Moses said to God, “Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you.’ Now they may say to me, ‘What is His name?’ What shall I say to them?” 14 God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM”; and He said, “Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’ ” 15 God, furthermore, said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, ‘The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.’ This is My name forever, and this is My memorial-name to all generations.
6. “I AM” is a title used for God NEARLY 7000 TIMES in the OT!
7. Jews KNEW the OT and KNEW all about GOD!

8. The name "I AM" = YAHWEH, in Hebrew was SO SACRED to them that they would not pronounce it fully! – took out the vowels!
9. And – here Jesus stands and says "I AM"

B. This wasn't the ONLY TIME Jesus said this!

C. Not too long before this – He said it TWICE and tied it to BELIEVING in HIM for the FORGIVENESS of SIN!

Jn 8:24 "Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am *He*, you will die in your sins."

Jn 8:28 So Jesus said, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am *He*, and I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me.

D. John's Gospel is FAMOUS for Jesus' great "I AM" statements!

1. **John 6:35- I am the Bread of Life**
 - a) = source of spiritual life
2. **John 8:12 – I am the Light of the world**
 - a) = the one who brings the dark, dead soul of a man into the kingdom of light and truth
3. **John 8:58 – Before Abraham was, I am"**
 - a) = Claim to be eternal, creator, redeemer GOD, HIMSELF
 - b) = fully the God of the Scriptures
4. **John 10:4 – I am the Door to the Sheepfold**
 - a) = no one comes to God but through Me
 - b) = I protect My Sheep!
5. **John 10:11 – I am the Good Shepherd**
6. **John 11:25 – I am the Resurrection and the Life**
7. **John 14:6 – I am the Way, the Truth and the Life**

E. Jesus Told the woman at the well (John 4) that He is the Messiah

[Jn 4:25](#) The woman said to Him, “I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us.” [26](#) Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am *He*.”

a) Literally = “I AM, the one speaking to you!”

F. Over and Over and over again – Jesus Testified that He was God!

1. Stated He was equal with God
2. Stated that He and God the Father were in perfect communion of their wills.
3. Stated that He was from Heaven and would return to Heaven
4. Over and over and over

G. In fact, in John 5 after healing the paralytic and claiming to work on the Sabbath as God works on the Sabbath, John records:

[Jn 5:18](#) For this reason therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.

H. Many today say Jesus NEVER CLAIMED to BE GOD! WRONG!

1. The Gospels record that He did – very clearly
2. The Jews KNEW that He did and wanted to stone Him for being a blasphemer!
3. The Bible Shows NO CONFUSION over WHO JESUS CLAIMED to BE!
4. He told the Jews – EVERYTHING that YOU KNOW ABOUT GOD – I AM – BECAUSE I AM GOD!

<i>IV. My Works: Jesus' Miracles!</i>
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A. John records MANY miracles of Jesus!

1. John 2 – Turns water into wine

Jn 2:7 Jesus said to them, “Fill the waterpots with water.” So they filled them up to the brim. 8 And He said to them, “Draw *some* out now and take it to the headwaiter.” So they took it *to him*. 9 When the headwaiter tasted the water which had become wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the headwaiter called the bridegroom, 10 and said to him, “Every man serves the good wine first, and when *the people* have drunk freely, *then he* serves the poorer wine; *but* you have kept the good wine until now.” 11 This beginning of His signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory, and His disciples believed in Him.

a) NOTE: right after the first miracle John TELLS us EXACTLY what the miracles are for!

(1) “manifested His glory” = SHOWED that HE IS GOD

(2) “disciples believed” = they SAW that He was God and believed!

2. John 4 – Heals the Nobleman’s son from 20mi away

Jn 4:46 Therefore He came again to Cana of Galilee where He had made the water wine. [IOW – where everyone had now heard about the miracle!] And there was a royal official whose son was sick at Capernaum. 47 When he heard that Jesus had come out of Judea into Galilee, he went to Him and was imploring *Him* to come down and heal his son; for he was at the point of death. 48 So Jesus said to him, “Unless you *people* see signs and wonders, you *simply* will not believe.” [Jesus knew what it took to make some believe that He is God] 49 The royal official said to Him, “Sir, come down before my child dies.” 50 Jesus said to him, “Go; your son lives.” The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and started off. 51 As he was now going down, *his* slaves met him, saying that his son was living. 52 So he inquired of them the hour when he began to get better. Then they said to

him, “Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him.”
53 So the father knew that *it was* at that hour in which Jesus said to him, “Your son lives”; and he himself believed and his whole household. 54 This is again a second sign that Jesus performed when He had come out of Judea into Galilee.

3. John 5 – Heals a paralytic of 38 years

- a) Simply commanded the man to pick up his pallet and walk (Jn 5:8)!

4. John 6 – Feeds about 15,000 from a few loaves and fishes

Jn 6:9 “There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are these for so many people?” 10 Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand. 11 Jesus then took the loaves, and having given thanks, He distributed to those who were seated; likewise also of the fish as much as they wanted. 12 When they were filled, He said to His disciples, “Gather up the leftover fragments so that nothing will be lost.” 13 So they gathered them up, and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves which were left over by those who had eaten. 14 Therefore when the people saw the sign which He had performed, they said, “This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world.”

- a) Did they deny the miracle? NO!
- b) They acknowledged it!

5. John 6 – Walks on Water and instantly transports disciples, boat and himself to shore!

6. John 9 – Gives sight to the Man blind from birth

7. John 11 – Raises Lazarus from the dead!

- a) Simply commanded “Lazarus, come forth” and a man dead for 4 days rose and walked out of the tomb!

b) Remember- He had just finished claiming that He “is the resurrection and the life” -- NOW – HE proved it!

8. John 20 – He Himself rises from the dead

9. John 21 – Puts Fish into the nets of His Disciples!

10. AND – He did one other miracle – He forgave Sin!

- a) Only God can forgive Sin – and the Jews knew it!
- b) Many places in the Gospels, Jesus directly, openly and freely forgave sins!
- c) In John –Just to name a few obvious ones...
- d) Woman at the well (John 4)
- e) Paralytic (John 5),
- f) Woman caught in adultery (John 8)
- g) Blind man of John 9

B. What do all of these MIRACLES do?

- 1. A: SHOW that Jesus is WHO HE CLAIMS to BE!
- 2. Many of His Miracles were followed by His Claims
 - a) IOW- He “EARNED” the right to make Claims by first performing Miracles! E.G.
 - (1)John 5 and the Paralytic
 - (2)John 6 and the feeding of the 5000
- 3. His Miracles BACK HIS CLAIM that - He is the CREATOR GOD, “I AM”
 - a) He has control over all created things
 - b) He creates wine out of nothing
 - c) He creates a healthy, working body out of one paralyzed for 38 years!
 - d) He walks on water, moves things instantly and defies what we call “the laws of nature’
 - e) He PUTS LIFE ITSELF back into a LIFELESS BODY! → Both Lazarus’ AND HIS!
- 4. He is the REDEEMER GOD, “I AM” – as He forgives sin and defeats death! = HE is GOD!

V. So what does it all mean?

A. WITNESS, WORDS, WORKS – WHY, why, why?

B. IF you've been listening you've been hearing

1. Jesus is the Son of God, He is GOD, HIMSELF.
2. If you believe in Jesus Christ, you can have eternal life
3. Jesus has claimed / shown POWER over SIN and DEATH
4. In fact, Jesus was RAISED from the DEAD!

C. The witnesses, the words, the works all PROVE that Jesus CHRIST is ALL THAT the BIBLE says HE is

D. So, what does it all mean?

E. Why do we celebrate His birth today?

F. John told us one more thing

[Jn 3:16](#) "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

1. God "[gave His only begotten Son](#)" – His birth is when God began to give us His Son – His Birth
2. v.16 also PULLS together why He came
3. SO that by Believing in HIM
 - a) We "[SHALL NOT PERISH](#)"
 - b) But "[HAVE ETERNAL LIFE](#)"

G. Perish? Who's gonna perish?

1. A: Anyone who doesn't "[believe in Him](#)"

H. What does Perish mean? A: eternity in hell punished for our sin!

1. That verse I just read came in a context of Jesus talking to a man named Nicodemus
2. Jesus tells Nicodemus that we must turn to Him and His death/resurrection to be saved from the INEVITABLE death that we face for our sins.
3. The Jews KNEW SIN and it's PUNISHMENT well.

4. It seems our society doesn't.
5. But the fact is – we are sinners ETERNALLY separated from GOD
 - a) And the payment for our Sin is ETERNAL DEATH
 - b) God is too pure and holy to Tolerate sin.
 - c) God “gave His only Begotten Son” because the ONLY SOLUTION for our sin was to have Jesus Christ DIE and pay our penalty
 - d) When we ACCEPT his payment as our payment – by acknowledging that we deserve eternal death and accepting His offer to be our substitute
 - e) Then we “believe in Him, shall not perish, but have eternal life”.

I. In this short time, I can't answer ALL the questions that you now have about Jesus Christ.

1. But I will help you if you come to me and ask
2. And if you're willing to read - God will help you through John's Gospel (and the rest of the Bible)
3. IF you truly want to have eternal life and be saved from your sin.

J. I've shared with you THREE WAYS that John's Gospel SHOWS that Jesus is God and is the only way to save you from your sin!

1. Witnesses
2. Words
3. Works

K. Did you know that there FOUR types of UNBELIEF and THREE of them Correspond to those three?

1. **WITNESS** – For some it takes hearing someone witness to the truth about Jesus and then they are willing to believe
2. **WORDS** – For some, hearing what Jesus said is what brings them to belief in Jesus as Lord and Savior

3. **WORKS** – For some, they know the words of Jesus, but His works CONFIRM who He is and this brings a person to belief in Him!

L. I said that there was a fourth form of Unbelief, didn't I? I call that one – the WORLD'S UNBELIEF

1. That's the unbelief that refuses to come to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior
2. My prayer is that if you haven't come to Him, that what you heard today will move you to BELIEF in HIM
3. Why? Just like John said – so that you may have eternal life in heaven with Him!

M. What do we celebrate today? The birth of the GREAT "I AM" who made eternal life a reality for us!