

# Who Is Jesus?

Joe Slater

When the Lone Ranger rode away after defeating the bad guys, invariably someone would ask, “Who was that masked man?” Jesus wore no mask, but due to His unique teaching and behavior, people asked Him who He was.

*Are You the Coming One?* (Matthew 11:3; Luke 7:19, 20). The imprisoned John the immerser sent messengers to Jesus with this question. The “coming one” refers to the one the prophets foretold (i.e. the Messiah). Rather than give a straight “yes or no” answer, Jesus told the messengers, “Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: The blind receive their sight and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them” (Matthew 11:4, 5). These were things that the prophets foretold that Messiah would do. Yes, Jesus was the One that the prophets said was coming.

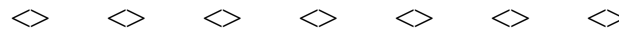
*Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?* (Mark 14:61). Seeking to condemn Him, the High Priest posed this question at Jesus’ first trial before the Sanhedrin. “Christ” (Messiah) means “anointed one.” In ancient times, oil was poured upon one’s head when he was set into office as a prophet, priest, or king. Jesus is all three. “Son of the Blessed” is equal to “Son of God,” which will be covered in the following paragraph. In answer to this two-pronged question, Jesus answered clearly: “I am” (Mark 14:62).

*Are You then the Son of God?* (Luke 22:70). Again it was the High Priest who confronted Jesus with this question (see Matthew 26:63). Just as “Son of Man” focused on Jesus’ humanity, “Son of God” focused on His Deity (i.e. that He is God). All men are

generically “sons of God” in that they are made in His image. But Jesus is the “Son of God” in a unique way. By His very nature, He is Deity. Jesus’ answer, “Ye say that I am” (Luke 22:70 KJV), certainly did not reflect what the Sanhedrin believed. Rather, it was a polite way of saying, “Yes.”

*Are You the King of the Jews?* (Luke 23:3; Matthew 27:11; Mark 15:2; John 18:33, 37). This time it was Pilate questioning Jesus. The governor was thinking of a political king. Jesus’ kingdom, however, “is not of this world” (John 18:36). He rules not over biological Jews, but over the true Jews described in Romans 2:28, 29). He answered the governor, “Thou sayest it” (Luke 23:4 KJV). Jesus was not stating Pilate’s view of Him, but giving a polite affirmative, just as He had done before the Sanhedrin.

Jesus is the One the prophets foretold. He is the Christ. He is the Son of God. And He is the King of the Jews. “A wonderful Savior is Jesus my Lord!”



## What People Think of the Bible

**Patrick Henry: “The Bible is worth all other books which have ever been printed.”**

**Lord Tennyson: “Bible reading is an education in itself.”**

**Dwight L. Moody: “The Bible will keep you from sin; and sin will keep you from the Bible.”**

**Mark Twain: “Most people are bothered by those passages of Scripture they do not understand; but the passages that bother me are those I do understand.”**

**Ronald Reagan: “Within the covers of the Bible are the answers for all the problems men face.”**

# Not Too Bad

**“Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool” (Isaiah 1:18).**

If we read II Kings chapter 21, we learn what kind of person King Manasseh of Judah was. He did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord. He built up the high places, he reared up altars to Baal, he made an Asherah (female counterpart to Baal), and he worshiped all the host of heaven and served them. Furthermore, he built altars to false gods in the house of the Lord, and he made his son to pass through the fire and practiced sorcery. God says he seduced the Israelites to sin more than all the foreign nations that God had destroyed.

After reading about how wicked Manasseh was, one might think that surely there is no place in heaven for this king. But as Paul Harvey used to say, we need to know “the rest of the story.” We can read the end of Manasseh’s story in II Chronicles 33. Verse 11 tells us that Manasseh and the people would not repent, so God sent the king of Assyria, who bound Manasseh in chains and took him to Babylon.

What did Manasseh do? He humbled himself before God and prayed to Him. God heard his supplication and brought him again to Jerusalem. In Jerusalem, Manasseh tore down all the altars to idols and built up the altar of the Lord, where he offered sacrifices to God. He truly repented and turned back to God.

When we sin, we may think we are too bad for God to forgive. However, it is just not so. John reminds us in I John 1:9, *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”* God is always looking for His people to come back to Him, and He is more than willing to forgive us.

--Donna Richmond Wittlif (Denver, CO)