

A weathered wooden cross is the central focus, set against a textured, greyish-brown background. The cross is made of two thick, rough-hewn wooden beams. The horizontal beam is positioned diagonally across the frame, while the vertical beam runs from the bottom towards the top right. The wood shows signs of age, with visible grain, knots, and some staining. A small, dark nail is visible on the left end of the horizontal beam. The title 'WHO IS JESUS?' is overlaid on the cross. 'WHO IS' is in a small, white, serif font, and 'JESUS?' is in a large, golden, serif font with a 3D effect.

WHO IS
JESUS?

E. SURESH THOMAS

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WHO IS
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Introduction

Who is Jesus?



The Bible is a historic book that records events from the creation of the universe to happenings at the end of the ages.

Genesis, the first book of the Bible, starts with the statement “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” God is Eternal, Omnipotent (all powerful), Omnipresent (present in all places at all times) and Omniscient (knows all things). He created everything by the Word of His mouth.

We further read how God created all that we see around us. He created the vegetation, the plants, the fish, the cattle, the beasts, the birds in the sky and all that is on the earth. The book of Genesis gives us an account of this creation. God as the Master Creator made provisions for the sustenance of mankind before He created man. Finally He created man and woman in His own image and placed them in a garden called Eden. He blessed them and commanded them to be fruitful and multiply. He asked them to rule over all His creation and cultivate and keep the garden.

They were free to eat any fruit in the garden but were forbidden to eat from “the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.” They were warned of the consequence of eating from this tree. They were told

that the day they ate from the tree they would die. Eve was tempted and deceived by Satan, the fallen angel who appeared in the form of a serpent. She ate the fruit and also shared it with her husband Adam.

As a result of this disobedience, which the Bible calls “sin,” death came. Death in the form of separation from God including physical death spread to all mankind. Satan, the enemy of God, temporarily succeeded in his plan to destroy God’s beautiful creation. Sin brought these terrible consequences but God promised a Savior.

God tells the serpent in Genesis 3:15 “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise Him on the heel.” Messiah (the Anointed One) will be born of the woman and He will one day crush the head of the serpent. In other words, He will destroy Satan and all he achieved through the fall of man.

The Bible says “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” (John 3:16). The Bible reveals that this God eternally exists in three persons: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Jesus, the Son of God, was born 2000 years ago in the land of Israel.

Many people have attempted to examine the uniqueness of Jesus Christ and countless books have been written on His life. The Bible makes many claims about Jesus and presents evidence for His life, death, and resurrection. We can’t ignore these things or take them lightly. A correct understanding of who Jesus Christ is and what He does changes our very destiny.

The objective of this study is to enable you to search the Holy Scriptures personally and come to a conclusion.

We need to discover truth by ourselves and the truth will set us free.

Chapter One

His Birth and Pre-Existence



Billions of people born on this planet live and die. What makes a person's birth unique? Can a person decide his or her time, place or family of birth? In this chapter we will examine the birth and origins of Jesus Christ to see in what ways He is different from all of us, as the Bible claims.

Insight: *The book of Isaiah is part of the ancient Jewish scriptures and was written 700 years before Jesus was born. In this book the prophet Isaiah predicted the birth, life, death, burial and resurrection of the coming Messiah.*

Discover:

Read the following verses from Isaiah 7:14 & 9:6-7.

- Mark all references to **the coming Messiah** including **child** and **son** with a cross: †. Marking the Bible text distinctively helps us to go slowly and focus on the key words.

Isaiah 7:14

14 “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.” (Note: Immanuel means “God with us.”)

Isaiah 9:6-7

6 *For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.*

7 *There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, on the throne of David and over His kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.*

Once again read Isaiah 9:6-7 and this time...

- Mark the words **government, throne, kingdom** and their pronouns with a crown .
- Circle every reference to **(time)** such as **eternal, no end, and then on and forevermore**.

Ponder on your own or Discuss in a group and then Write down your answers:

- What names and titles are given to the Son who will be born to the virgin?
- What words are used to describe the characteristics of His government and kingdom in Isaiah 9?
- How will this be accomplished? (Read Isaiah 9:7.)



Discover:

God had promised King David, the forefather of Jesus, that his kingdom would be an everlasting kingdom and never come to an end (2 Samuel 7:12-17).

According to what we read in Isaiah the Messiah born to a virgin will rule over David's kingdom forever.

Now we're going to read about the fulfillment of this prophecy. Jesus is born through a virgin named Mary. Luke, one of the four gospel writers in the New Testament, records this incident.

Let's read Luke 1:26-35, 2:1-11

- Mark all references to **Jesus** including **son, holy Child, child, firstborn son, Savior** and **Christ the Lord** with a cross †.

Luke 1:26-35

- 26 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth,
- 27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.
- 28 And coming in, he said to her, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."
- 29 But she was very perplexed at this statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation this was.
- 30 The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God.
- 31 "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus.
- 32 "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David;

- 33 and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end.”
- 34 Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?”
- 35 The angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God.”

Luke 2:1-11

1. Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth.
2. This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.
3. And everyone was on his way to register for the census, each to his own city.
4. Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David,
5. in order to register along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child.
6. While they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth.
7. And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.
8. In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night.

9. And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened.
10. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people;
11. for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Read Luke 1:26-35, 2:1-11 again and this time...

- Mark the words **throne**, **reign**, and **kingdom** with a crown .
- Circle every reference to time such as **forever** and **no end**.

Ponder on your own or Discuss in a group, and then Write down your answers:

- What do you learn from marking and observing Jesus?
- What do you learn about the scope of His Kingdom?
Observe the time references closely.

- According to Luke 1:34 what was Mary's concern? How did the angel answer her concern?
- In what ways is Jesus unique compared to us?
- Note the fulfillment of the predictions of Isaiah 7:14 & 9:6-7 which you read in the earlier portion. What's been fulfilled and what remains?



Let's read further to see what Scripture has to say about this Messiah.

Discover:

Read John 1:1-3, 14-17 and Colossians 1:13-17 and ...

- Mark all references to Jesus including **Word, only begotten**, and **Son** with a cross: †.
- Circle every reference to **(time)** like **beginning, after, firstborn**, and **before**.

John 1:1-3, 14-17

- 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- 2 He was in the beginning with God.
- 3 All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.
- 14 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.
- 15 John testified about Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.'"
- 16 For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.
- 17 For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.

Colossians 1:13-17

13 For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,

14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

16 For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.

17 He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

Ponder on your own or Discuss in a group and then Write down your answers:

- What do you learn from marking the references to Jesus?
- According to John 1:3 who is the Creator of all things?
- We read in John 1:14 that the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. Whom does this refer to?

- Who is the image of the invisible God?
- How and why were things in heaven and earth created?
- According to Colossians 1:17 who is holding the whole universe together?

Insight: *“Firstborn” is not equivalent to “first created.” While Jesus had a human nature, His divine nature was never created; as John says it was “in the beginning,” “with God,” and “was God.”*

In the incident that follows Jesus is talking to the Jews. Abraham, the forefather of the Jews, lived and died about two thousand years before Jesus was born.

Discover:

Read John 8:54-59 and mark...

- Every reference to Abraham with a big **A**.
- All references to **Jesus** including all pronouns with a cross: †.

John 8:54-59

- 54 Jesus answered, “If I glorify Myself, My glory is nothing; it is My Father who glorifies Me, of whom you say, ‘He is our God’;
- 55 and you have not come to know Him, but I know Him; and if I say that I do not know Him, I will be a liar like you, but I do know Him and keep His word.
- 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.

Insight: “I am” is the name God used when He introduced Himself to Moses at the burning bush. Moses, who lived about 1400 years before Jesus Christ, was used by God to deliver Israel out of the slavery in Egypt. By introducing Himself as “I am” Jesus was identifying Himself with the God who appeared to Moses in the burning bush.

Ponder on your own or Discuss in a group and then Write down your answers:

- What was Jesus claiming in these verses? What was He revealing about Himself?
- How did the Jews object to Jesus' claims?
- How did Jesus respond to their objection?
- What do you think provoked the Jews to "pick up stones to throw at Him" according to verse 59?



Discover:

Read Hebrews 1:1-3, 10-12 and

- Mark all references to **Jesus** including **Son** and **LORD** with a cross: †.
- Triangle every reference to God the Father, including all pronouns.

Hebrews 1:1-3, 10-12

- 1 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways,
- 2 in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.
- 3 And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,
- 10 And, “YOU, LORD, IN THE BEGINNING LAID THE FOUNDATION OF THE EARTH, AND THE HEAVENS ARE THE WORKS OF YOUR HANDS;
- 11 THEY WILL PERISH, BUT YOU REMAIN; AND THEY ALL WILL BECOME OLD LIKE A GARMENT,
- 12 AND LIKE A MANTLE YOU WILL ROLL THEM UP; LIKE A GARMENT THEY WILL ALSO BE CHANGED. BUT YOU ARE THE SAME, AND YOUR YEARS WILL NOT COME TO AN END.”

Ponder on your own or Discuss in a group and then Write down your answers:

- How did God speak to the fathers (ancestors) in the past?
How does He speak to us now?
- What do you learn about Jesus from these verses?
- Where was Jesus when God made the world?

- Who is upholding all things and how?
- Where is Jesus now?
- Who laid the foundation of the earth and by whose hands were the heavens made?
- What will the Lord do with the earth and the heavens?



Further Insight: *An “heir” is normally a person legally entitled to the property or rank of a predecessor on that person’s death. Here, however, God appointing Jesus heir of all things is connected to the fact that God made all things through Him. Obviously God does not die and leave an inheritance to His Son. These verses also teach that Jesus upholds all things by the Word of His power and that He made purification of sins and sat down at the right hand of the Father. We will learn more about Jesus’ person and work in the following chapters.*

Discover:

Read John 17:1-5 and mark...

- All references to **Jesus** including **Son** with a cross: †.
- Triangle every reference to God the Father, including all pronouns.

John 17:1-5

- 1 Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You,
- 2 even as You gave Him authority over all flesh, that to all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life.
- 3 “This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.
- 4 “I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do.

5 “Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.”

Ponder on your own or Discuss in a group and then Write your answers below:

- What do you learn about Jesus from these verses?
- What do you learn about God the Father?
- In verse two what does Jesus say He had, who gave it to Him and what will He do with it?
- In verse three what did Jesus say “is” eternal life?

- What did Jesus claim about Himself in verse 5? Do you see how this matches with what we learned about Jesus earlier?

Let's Summarise

In this chapter we saw that Jesus is the Son of God and is called “Immanuel” (“God with us”). We saw that the future government will be on Jesus’ shoulders. His name “will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of peace.” There will be no end to the increase of Jesus’ government and peace. His kingdom will be just and righteous. He will rule the earth forever and ever. We also saw that in the beginning the Word that became flesh was with God and all things came into being through Him. “All things” refers to created subjects. He is glorious and full of grace and truth.

Jesus is the image of the invisible God and preeminent in all of God’s creation. All things in heaven and earth, visible and invisible are created through Jesus and for Jesus. He is before all things and in Him all things in the universe hold together. Jesus laid the foundations of the heavens and the earth. The millions of stars and galaxies in the universe are the work of His hands and one day He will roll them up. We will be reading more of this especially in the last chapter titled **His Second Coming**.

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