

RIVERSIDE QUARTERLY



 **RIVERSIDE**
Christian Assembly

Issue

15.

Spring 2026

**WHAT IS THE
PROOF
THAT JESUS IS THE
SON OF GOD?**

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**LUNATIC
LIAR
LORD**

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Welcome

The historic figure of Jesus Christ is widely acknowledged to be a Man like no other man. His achievements and legacy are impossible to match and even those who don't follow Him and His teaching recognise the sheer uniqueness of His Person. But the biblical revelation of Jesus Christ is fuller and greater than most people have even begun to reckon with. In this issue of the Riverside Quarterly we will explore some of the astonishing aspects of the most remarkable Person that has ever lived....

What we believe about...

The Centrality of Christ Forever

- **Before history:** He pre-existed eternally within the Godhead as the Son. One Person of three in perfect joy, righteousness and love. Father, Son and Spirit. (Jhn.17.5)
- **Before history:** He created all things. All things were created 'in Him' as the architect, 'through Him' as the agent and 'for Him' as the aim (Col.1.16)
- **In history:** He revealed God in different ways including coming to earth in the Old Testament in 'theophanies' that revealed God and His ways to mankind (Jhn.1.18)
- **In history:** He permanently took manhood, linking Himself forever with His creation and dying on the cross for all mankind to enable the forgiveness of their sins (1Tim.1.15)
- **In history:** He sends out witnesses to His gospel and grace so that the world may hear the good news and untold millions be saved from the consequences of sin (Mat.28.19-20)
- **In history:** He will come again to this world to judge the world for sin and reign in righteousness for 1,000 years (Rev.20.4)
- **After history:** He will eternally be the joy of His saved people and the glory of God in the new heaven and the new earth (Rev.21.23-24)

Whats on?

SUNDAY

- **9:30am** Breaking of Bread
Coffee @11:15am

**BIBLE
FOR
ALL**

11:30am

Creche available

- 4:00pm Bible Teaching
- 4:00pm Sunday School
(both Term Time)

MONDAY

- 10.00am Toddlers (Term Time)
- 8:00pm Prayer Meeting

WEDNESDAY

- 6:30pm Kids Club (P1-6)
- 6:30pm Youth Club (P7-S2)
(both Term Time)
- 8:00pm Bible Teaching

COMMUNITY LUNCH

2nd Friday of each month
12:30pm (exceptions apply,
see our social media for
reminders)

Christ is the key to the
PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

*"Who is the image
of the invisible God...*

*in Him all things were created...
all things have been created through*

*Him [in the past]
and for Him [in the future]...*

*And He is before all things,
And in Him all things hold together.*

[in the present]"



COLOSSIANS 1:15-17



WHAT IS THE PROOF THAT JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD?

THE CHRISTIAN POSITION IS THAT THERE WAS A MAN WHO LIVED ON EARTH WHO IS THE ALMIGHTY, ETERNAL CREATOR. IT IS QUITE A CLAIM. WHY SHOULD ANYONE BELIEVE IT?

BECAUSE OF THE EVIDENCE

There are three lines of evidence we will consider.

IT WAS PREDICTED BY THE PROPHETS

Throughout the Old Testament, promises and prophecies were given of a Saviour who was going to come.[1] These prophecies provide a comprehensive description of this Saviour, and there is only one person in the universe who matches the profile – Jesus of Nazareth.

But these prophets were clear that this Saviour would be none other than God Himself. Here's a sample of their statements:

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)

The child who was born at Bethlehem was the Son given by the Father. That baby was "Mighty God".

Then in Malachi 3:1 we read Yahweh's words:
"Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple, even the Messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight. Behold, He is coming," says the Lord of hosts.

John the Baptist was sent to prepare the way before God Himself.

Here is Zechariah 12:10:

And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.

God speaks of Himself as the one who would be pierced.

If Jesus did what the prophets said He would do, that's a good reason to believe He is who the prophets said He would be.

IT WAS CLAIMED BY THE CHRIST

The Lord Jesus made claims to be equal with God Himself. He did it explicitly and implicitly.

He explicitly claimed deity when He said, "Before Abraham was, I AM" (John 8:58), or when challenged by the high priest at His trial:

Again the high priest asked Him, saying to Him, "Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?" Jesus said, "I am. And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven." (Mark 14:61-62)

The Lord claimed to be the Son of God, the divine Son of Man of Daniel 7:13-14, the Lord of Psalm 110:1 who shares God's throne, and the One who comes on the clouds of heaven – something God does (Psalm 104:3). The high priest got the point, and condemned Christ for blasphemy. The Lord did nothing to clarify or correct the high priest's understanding. No clarification or correction was needed – the man on trial for His life was claiming deity.

Again, He explicitly claimed deity when He linked Himself with the Father and Holy Spirit, saying They share the one divine name (Matthew 28:19).

He implicitly claimed deity by claiming:

- To forgive sins (Mark 2:5-12; Luke 7:36-50);
- To speak with His own divine authority. The Lord never said what the prophets so often said, "Thus says the Lord . . ." Instead, He said, "I say to you . . ." He referred to no one beyond Himself for His authority;
- To be present when two or three gather in His name (Matthew 18:20);
- To be the one who had appealed to Jerusalem down through her history, and saying He is the one under whose wings shelter is found (Matthew 23:37);
- To be with His disciples as they went throughout all nations until the end of the age (Matthew 28:20).

The record is clear. As another has said, "Jesus walked the earth like He owned the place." He claimed deity, and I believe Him. You might say it's unbelievable, but I would say the alternatives are unbelievable. The alternatives are that He was a liar or a lunatic.

IT WAS ANNOUNCED BY THE APOSTLES

Another reason I believe Jesus is God is because those who knew Him best believed He was. The first Christians proclaimed that Jesus was:

- The Originator of life (Acts 3:15);
- The Lord of glory (1 Corinthians 2:8; James 2:1);
- Our God and Saviour (Titus 2:13; 2 Peter 1:1);
- The true God (1 John 5:20);
- My Lord and my God (John 20:28);
- Yahweh (e.g., 1 Peter 2:3 with Psalm 34:8; Romans 10:13 with Joel 2:32).

They prayed to Him (e.g., Acts 1:24-25; Revelation 22:20), sang praises to Him (Ephesians 5:19); proclaimed Him worthy of worship (Hebrews 1:6). They treated Him like He was God.

These first Christians were God-fearing Jews. There is no way they ever would have honoured a man as God unless there was overwhelming evidence that He really was.

These are three strong lines of evidence that Jesus is God.

BUT THERE IS ANOTHER REASON I BELIEVE IT BECAUSE OF THE EXPERIENCE

There are many messages that present a merely human Jesus (e.g., Islam), and some that present a mighty angel Jesus (e.g., Jehovah's Witnesses). But these versions of Jesus have no life-transforming power. Those versions of Jesus haven't brought the believers into a real relationship with God.

The Jesus of the Bible – the one "*who is over all, the eternally blessed God*" (Romans 9:5) – is the one who is setting people free. Believers in that Jesus are the ones who are born again and brought to God. Those other Christs have no power because they don't exist.

Salvation can only be found in the real Christ. That's why He said, "if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins" (John 8:24).

Accept no imitations. Make sure you have the real Saviour.

"And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life." (1 John 5:20)



CHRIST:

BEFORE TIME

"He is before all things" declares the bible (Col.1:17)

Christ said "Before Abraham was, I AM" referring to His eternal existence (Joh.8:58)

"In the beginning was the Word" states that He was there at the start! (Joh.1.1)

OLD TESTAMENT

Christ comes into the experience of humanity in numerous direct ways including:

- as the Angel (Messenger) of the Lord (Gen.16,18,22 & Exo.2)
- as the Commander of the Lord's army (Jos.5)
- as the fourth Person in the fiery furnace (Dan.3)

FIRST COMING

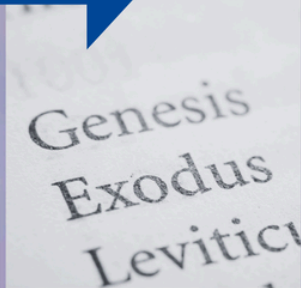
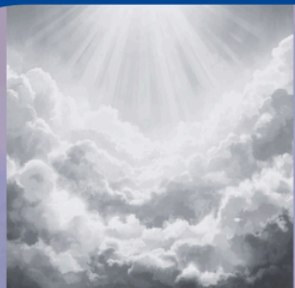
Christ became a Man, always to be a Man, through incarnation. (Joh.1.14)

"He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him." (Act.10.38)

He revealed God perfectly and uniquely; "he that has seen Me has seen the Father" (Joh.14.9)

FROM ETERNITY PAST

FOR EVER



From Eternity To Eternity



REDEMPTION

He came to die for sinners: "the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." (Mar.10.45)

"Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." (1Tim.1.15)

"Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God" (1Pet.3.18)

TODAY

He sent His followers out to preach the good news to the world:

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." (Mat.28.18-20)

"You will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Act1.8)

HIS RETURN

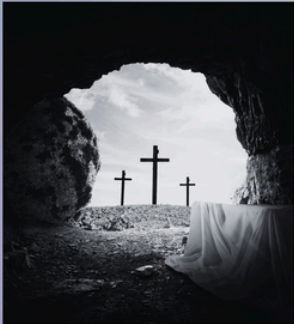
Christ will return to judge the world:

"Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and his kingdom." (2Tim.4.1)

And to reign in righteousness: "He [God] has set a day when He will judge the world with justice by the Man He has appointed." (Act.17.30-31)

AND EVER

TO ETERNITY FUTURE





Scan the QR codes to watch these
Joel answer questions about

What we mean when we call Jesus the 'Son of God'



[click here](#)



It's so important because understanding the Christian message means understanding who Jesus Christ is. He is the message. If we understand Him, we understand what God wants us to know.

There are only two responses. Either you reject Him, scorn Him as a liar and blasphemer, or you accept that what He said is true.

And you know, sometimes in life you're longing for God to be more visible...
But actually, in the Lord Jesus – the Son of God – God has made Himself visible.



videos of podcast hosts Stephen and Jesus Christ and who He is.



click here

'The Christ': How Jesus fulfilled the hope of ancient Israel



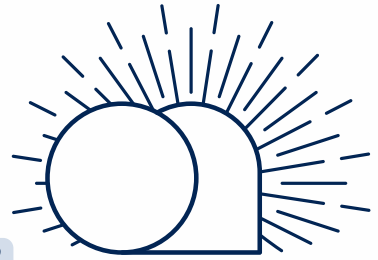
Jesus doesn't just emerge on the scene without warning. His coming is anticipated all throughout the Bible. Actually, there have been things that have been pointing towards this right from the very beginning... God makes a promise that there will be a seed, a descendant of the woman, who will crush the head of the serpent.

...And this is a challenge for everyone. I suppose we're all looking for a Saviour. Life feels empty and barren and meaningless. We're all looking for something, someone to lift us out of that.



What the Bible says about the resurrection from the dead

There are many references to the resurrection in the Bible, however we have outlined five below, with some comments to help understand them. .



1 “Your dead shall live, their bodies shall rise”

Isaiah 26: 19

This was written 700 years before Christ, indicating that the truth of the resurrection is a **consistent theme** throughout the Bible

2 Jesus said.., “I am the Resurrection and the Life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live”

John 11: 25

Jesus claimed that eternal life was to be found through believing in Him. This means there is new, spiritual life from that moment, followed by a **physical resurrection** to eternal life.

3 “And you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses.”

Acts 3: 15

The people who crucified Christ thought they were doing away with Him. However, God raised Him from the dead, and this was **witnessed by many people**, who saw him alive.

4 “And was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by His resurrection from the dead.”

Romans 1: 4

The fact Christ rose from the dead is evidence that He is who He said He was – the **Son of God**.

5 “An hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear His voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.”

John 5: 28-29

The Bible teaches that actually all will be raised from the dead, to go to one of two destinations – heaven, or hell. This underlines the necessity to get right with God, by **repenting of sin, and turning in faith and belief to Christ**.

“YOU MUST MAKE YOUR CHOICE.”

Either this Man (Jesus) was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse.

C.S. Lewis

EITHER



His claims were
FALSE



His claims were
TRUE



He **DID NOT KNOW**
His claims were
false



He **KNEW** His
claims were false



He was sincerely
DELUDED



He made a
DELIBERATE
misrepresentation



He was a
LUNATIC



He was a
LIAR



He is
LORD



You can
ACCEPT



You can
REJECT

LUNATIC LIAR LORD

WHAT CAN WE DO FOR YOU?

Get in touch if you would like

- a free Bible
- a study course
- to find out more

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Visit our website where you can



Contact us



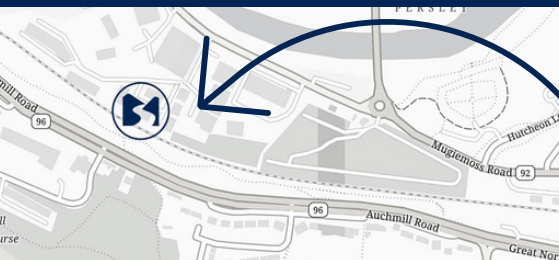
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Christian Assembly

Unit 20
Spire Business Park
Mugiemoss Road
AB21 9BG



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