

THE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST

Man is incapable of fully understanding God. God is holy and man is sinful. To bridge the gap between God and man, God took the form of a man in Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ is “the image of the invisible God. . . . For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him” (Colossians 1:15,19).

To be the complete expression of God, Christ had to be God. To be seen and understood by man, he had to be human. Jesus Christ has a dual nature—he is the God-man.

In order to begin understanding Jesus Christ, it is necessary to explore *his deity* and *his humanity*.

THE DEITY OF JESUS CHRIST

Some speak of Jesus Christ as a great man. To some he was the founder of a new religion. Others consider him a prophet. But Jesus himself claimed that he was God. If this claim were not true, he could not be called even a good man, but would be an imposter and a liar.

The writer of Hebrews discusses Christ's deity in chapter 1. Read this chapter before answering questions 1–4.

1. Jesus' superiority to the angels is shown by:
Verses 4-5 _____

- Verse 6 _____

Verses 13-14 _____

2. Look again at Hebrews 1:8-12. In the blank next to each statement below, write the number of the verse that brings out the truth stated.

Jesus is the Creator _____
Jesus is unchangeable _____
Jesus is eternal _____
Jesus is righteous _____

3. What's one fact about Jesus mentioned in Hebrews 1:3 that enables him to reveal God? (There is more than one fact given in this verse.) _____

4. How does God address Jesus in Hebrews 1:8? _____

- In Hebrews 1:10? _____
5. What did Jesus claim for himself? *John 10: 28-30* _____

6. While on earth, Jesus performed many miracles which clearly demonstrated his divine power. From the following verses in Matthew 8, list the ways Jesus showed supernatural power.
Verse 3 _____
Verses 6, 13 _____
Verses 16-17 _____
Verses 23-27 _____

7. What did Jesus do in John 11:39-44 that revealed his unique power?

8. After observing Jesus' life, power, and preaching, what did Peter conclude about him? *Matthew 16:13-16*

9. The chart on pages 14-15 illustrates how Jesus fulfilled prophecy. How do the verses in this chart influence your concept of who Jesus is?

10. Review questions 1-9. Give three reasons why you believe Jesus Christ is God.

THE HUMANITY OF JESUS CHRIST

11. How is Jesus' humanity seen in the following situations?

John 4:6 _____

John 4:7 _____

John 11:35 _____

PROPHECIES ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

Fulfilled prophecy helps verify the fact that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Looking at prophecies which preceded Jesus by hundreds of years and seeing how Jesus fulfilled them

in every detail reveals the authenticity of his claims. The chart below is a brief list of some of the prophecies made concerning the Christ and how Jesus fulfilled them.

TOPIC	PROPHECY	FULFILLMENT
Place of birth	"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times" (Micah 5:2), 700 BC.	"Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea" (Matthew 2:1).
Born of a virgin	"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14), 700 BC.	"His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 1:18).
His triumphal entry	"Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey" (Zechariah 9:9), 500 BC.	"They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, 'Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the King of Israel!' Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it" (John 12:13-14).

12. Matthew 4:1-11 is the account of a series of temptations Jesus faced.

a. In each of his three answers to Satan, Jesus used the same phrase.

What is it? _____

What does it mean? _____

b. Draw lines to connect the verses in Matthew 4 with the corresponding verses in Deuteronomy.

- | | |
|--------------|------------------|
| Matthew 4:4 | Deuteronomy 6:13 |
| Matthew 4:7 | Deuteronomy 6:16 |
| Matthew 4:10 | Deuteronomy 8:3 |

c. What is one temptation you often face? _____

d. How can you follow Jesus' example and arm yourself against this temptation? _____

Take time right now to pray:

- Thank God that he understands what it is to be tempted.
- Ask him for help to overcome this temptation.
- When you fail, be sure to claim his promise: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).
- Thank him for his mercy.

13. What has Jesus experienced that is common to man?
Hebrews 2:10

14. How does Jesus address believers? Why isn't he ashamed to address them this way? *Hebrews 2:11*

<p>“Even my close friend, whom I trusted, he who shared my bread, has lifted up his heel against me” (Psalm 41:9), 1000 BC.</p>	<p>“He was despised and rejected by men . . . Like one from whom men hide their faces . . . he was despised, and we esteemed him not” (Isaiah 53:3), 700 BC.</p>
<p>“Then Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Jesus to them” (Mark 14:10).</p>	<p>“He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him” (John 1:11).</p>
<p>“Two robbers were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left” (Matthew 27:38).</p>	<p>“Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side” (John 20:27).</p>
<p>Crucified with sinners</p>	<p>“They have pierced my hands and my feet” (Psalm 22:16), 1000 BC.</p>
<p>Hands and feet pierced</p>	<p>“You will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay” (Psalm 16:10), 1000 BC.</p>
<p>His resurrection</p>	<p>“He was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight” (Acts 1:9).</p>
<p>His ascension</p>	<p>“You ascended on high” (Psalm 68:18), 1000 BC.</p>

15. What are some results of Jesus' becoming a man?
Hebrews 2:14-15

Remember These Points

- Jesus Christ is the perfect image of God. As God, he has authority over the earth.
- Jesus was human too. Many of his experiences were similar to those you have today. He suffered and was tempted. Though he never yielded, this allows him to understand when you are tempted. When you fail, he forgives as you confess your sins to him.