

JESUS CHRIST THE SON OF GOD

When Adam and Eve sinned, God punished them. He also promised them that he would eventually remove the curse of sin. God promised, in the Old Testament, that he would do this through his son, Jesus Christ. He said that Jesus would take away the sins of all men and women who believed in him as their saviour. Jesus was both the son of Mary and the Son of God. When it was the right time in God's plan for Jesus to be born, he sent his angel to talk to Mary and to tell her that she was to have a baby boy. She was told that she must call him Jesus which means 'God is salvation'. The angel also told her about the great work that Jesus would do.

Matthew 1:18

'This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: 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.

Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.'

Jesus did not exist before this. He did not come down from heaven and change his form to become a little baby. He grew in Mary's womb and was born just like any other child. Psalm 22 tells us about his birth.

Psalm 22:9-10

'Yet you brought me out of the womb; you made me trust in you even at my mother's breast.

From birth I was cast upon you; from my mother's womb you have been my God.

Mary was also told that her son would be the great king who would rule over Israel, just as God had promised to David. Through Jesus all the promises about the kingdom of God on earth would be fulfilled.

Luke 1:30-33

'But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour with God.

You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus.

He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; his kingdom will never end."

When Jesus was born, all the angels in heaven sang songs of praise to God because he had remembered his promises.

Luke 2:13-14

'Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favour rests."

From his father, Almighty God, Jesus inherited an understanding of God's ways. He grew up with a desire to be like his father and to obey him. From his mother, Mary, Jesus inherited a nature just like ours. He was tempted to do wrong but, unlike us, he never gave in to temptation.

Hebrews 4:15

'For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathise with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin.'

It is a great blessing that Jesus understands all of our problems and temptations. He can do this because he was tempted himself. We should praise and honour him because he never gave in to temptation, even though it cost him his life.

God gave Jesus a great work to do. He had to show people what God is like. He did not show people what God looked like. He showed them what the character of God is like. He did this by the way he behaved and spoke to people. He always spoke God's words, never his own.

To help him in his work, God gave him great power to work miracles, to feed and to heal people. The Bible calls this the Holy Spirit power. Jesus never misused this power; he only used it to do the work of God. Some people said that Jesus claimed to be equal with God because of the work he did. Jesus always denied this. He explained that everything he did came from God.

John 5:17-20

'Jesus said to them, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working."

For this reason the Jews tried all the harder to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

Jesus gave them this answer: "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.

For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, to your amazement he will show him even greater things than these.'

The Sabbath was the name the Jews gave to Saturday. It means 'rest'. It was the day each week when they did no work. They were supposed to worship God on the Sabbath. Jesus worshipped God every day by obeying his laws and speaking his words. He worked on the Sabbath also because he did the work of God.

Jesus was so close to his father that he said that 'I and my father are one'. They were in complete agreement about what work needed to be done and how to do it. Jesus understood all the thoughts of his father. His own thoughts and desires never got in the way of what God asked of him.

John 5:22-27

'Moreover, the Father judges no-one, but has entrusted all judgement to the Son, that all may honour the Son just as they honour the Father. He who does not honour the Son does not honour the Father, who sent him.

"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.

I tell you the truth, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live.

For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son to have life in himself.

And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man.'

God has now given him the authority to judge the world. This will happen when Jesus returns to the earth. He will reign as king over God's kingdom. When he returns he will come with great power and glory. No one will doubt any more that he is the Son of God.

It will be too late then to change your mind about him. When Jesus returns, he will reject all those who have rejected him. He will accept all those who have accepted him as the Son of God and followed his teaching. These are the people who will be with Jesus in his kingdom forever.

Questions

- 1 What does the name Jesus mean?
- 2 Who was the father of Jesus?
- 3 Who was the mother of Jesus?
- 4 What did the angels do at the birth of Jesus?
- 5 God gave Jesus a special power, what was it called?
- 6 When will Jesus judge the earth?