

Who Do You Say I Am?

Who really is Jesus?

Religions around the world all have beliefs about who Jesus was. In Islam, Jesus is revered as a prophet. He was born of a virgin and did miracles. They even believe He ascended into heaven and will one day return. Bahai (a religion founded out of Islamic roots in the 19th century) says Jesus came from God. He was born of a virgin, a wise teacher, divine in human nature, a miracle worker, crucified, and resurrected. Hindus believe Jesus was a holy man, a saint, a wise teacher, a miracle worker, and even a god. Buddhists claim Jesus was an enlightened man, a wise teacher, and a holy man. The New Age movement believers are willing to entertain the teachings of Jesus, yet claim we can reach the same status as Jesus, which is godhood, by doing enough good works and living in the right way.

How is it a Jewish man, born two thousand years ago, has permeated all these religions? Each of these religions take a stance on who this man was. Yet, each one denies that He was the only Savior of the world.

In Jesus' day, the question was posed as well from Jesus to His disciples, *"Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven"* (Matthew 16:13b–17).

Christians also make another distinction from these other world religions — we claim Jesus still is. He did not just live on this earth as a wise teacher, miracle worker, and saint. We believe He is still at work.

We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek (Hebrews 6:19–20).

We meet Him at the altar in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. He is present with us in the bread and wine, offering us the gift of forgiveness (1 Corinthians 11:24–25). Which leaves us with the question, "Who do you say Jesus is?"

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