JESUS IS GOD IN THE FLESH

This is a major message of the Bible and the story of Jesus.

Most don’t really comprehend it.

But it is essential to the message about Jesus.

He was not just a good man.

He was not just a religious man.

He was not just a prophet or philosopher.

He was much more.

He claimed to be God in the flesh.

Now, others have claimed that, but he backs up his statements with evidence in the prophecies written about him hundreds of years in advance and by the miracles he performed.

As you will see even his enemies said he claimed to be God. There is no mistaking that he made that claim.

Today, many want to make him out to be LESS than he claimed to be. If he is, then you don’t have to believe much of anything he said and you certainly don’t need to believe in him and surrender yourself to him. And certainly he is not your savior or Lord.

Today many cults and religions do say that he was just;

A good man

A prophet

Another religious teacher

A son of God….but not God.

A man who is becoming a God.

But Christianity stands by the claim that Jesus was God in the flesh. He became a man to send us a message. He loves us and wants to save us from the mess this world is in; and he was willing to come and be a part of it and suffer at the hands of evil men in order to prove it.

In becoming a man God/Jesus also gave us a picture, or He revealed what He (God) is like; loving, sacrificing for those he loves, just, unselfish, giving, seeking the best for others, etc.

Read the following passages and see about these claims. At the end we will briefly talk about what it all means.

### John 1:1

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God**.

### John 1:14

14The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.**Cross references:** [John 1:14](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%201:14&version=NIV#en-NIV-26059) : [Gal 4:4; Php 2:7, 8; 1Ti 3:16; Heb 2:14; 1Jn 1:1, 2; 4:2](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Gal%204:4,%20Phil%202:7,%20Phil%202:8,%201Tim%203:16,%20Heb%202:14,%201John%201:1,%201John%201:2,%201John%204:2&version=NIV)

1. [John 1:14](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%201:14&version=NIV#en-NIV-26059) : [Ex 33:18; 40:34](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exod%2033:18,%20Exod%2040:34&version=NIV)
2. [John 1:14](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%201:14&version=NIV#en-NIV-26059) : [S Ro 3:24](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Rom%203:24&version=NIV)
3. [John 1:14](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%201:14&version=NIV#en-NIV-26059) : [Jn 14:6](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2014:6&version=NIV)

### John 1:18

18No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

### John 5:18

18For this reason they tried all the more to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

**John 8:58**

58“Very truly I tell you,” Jesus answered, “before Abraham was born, I am!”

### John 10:30

30I and the Father are one.”**Cross references:**

1. [John 10:30](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2010:30,33&version=NIV#en-NIV-26512) : [Dt 6:4; Jn 17:21-23](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deut%206:4,%20John%2017:21-John%2017:23&version=NIV)

**John 10:33**

33“We are not stoning you for any good work,” they replied, “but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God.”

### John 13:1

13“You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am.

### 14:6-11

6Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”

8Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.”

9Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? **Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.** How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? 10Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. 11Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me;

**John 20:2**

28Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

### Matthew 9:2,3,6

2Some men brought to him a paralyzed man, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the man, “Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven.”

3At this, some of the teachers of the law said to themselves, “This fellow is blaspheming!”

4Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, “Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts? 5Which is easier: to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk’? 6But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So he said to the paralyzed man, “Get up, take your mat and go home.”

### Luke 5:21

21The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, “Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?”**Cross references:**

1. [Luke 5:21](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%205:21&version=NIV#en-NIV-25129) : [Isa 43:25](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isa%2043:25&version=NIV)

### Romans 9:5

5Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of the Messiah, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen.

### Philippians 2:6

6Who, **being in very nature God**,
    did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

### Colossians 1:15

15The **Son is the image of the invisible God,** the firstborn over all creation.**Cross references:**

1. [Colossians 1:15](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians%201:15,19&version=NIV#en-NIV-29481) : [S Jn 14:9](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2014:9&version=NIV)
2. [Colossians 1:15](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians%201:15,19&version=NIV#en-NIV-29481) : [S Jn 1:18; 1Ti 1:17; Heb 11:27](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%201:18,%201Tim%201:17,%20Heb%2011:27&version=NIV)
3. [Colossians 1:15](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians%201:15,19&version=NIV#en-NIV-29481) : [S ver 18](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Col%201:18&version=NIV)

**Colossians 1:19**

19For God was pleased to have **all his fullness dwell in him**,

**Cross references:**

1. [Colossians 1:19](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians%201:15,19&version=NIV#en-NIV-29485) : [S Eph 1:5](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Eph%201:5&version=NIV)
2. [Colossians 1:19](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians%201:15,19&version=NIV#en-NIV-29485) : [S Jn 1:16](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%201:16&version=NIV)

### Colossians 2:9

9For **in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form**,

**Cross references:**

1. [Colossians 2:9](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians%202:9&version=NIV#en-NIV-29504) : [S Jn 1:16](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%201:16&version=NIV)

### Titus 2:13

13while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of **our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ,**

### Hebrews 1:3, 5,8,10

1 In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, 2but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. 3**The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word**. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. 4So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

5For to which of the angels did God ever say,

“You are my Son;
    today I have become your Father”[[a](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews%201:1-10&version=NIV" \l "fen-NIV-29969a" \o "See footnote a)]?

Or again,

“I will be his Father,
    and he will be my Son”[[b](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews%201:1-10&version=NIV" \l "fen-NIV-29969b" \o "See footnote b)]?

6And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says,

“Let all God’s angels worship him.”[[c](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews%201:1-10&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29970c)]

7In speaking of the angels he says,

“He makes his angels spirits,
    and his servants flames of fire.”[[d](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews%201:1-10&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29971d)]

8But **about the Son he says**,

**“Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever;**    a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom.
9You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
    therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions
    by anointing you with the oil of joy.”[[e](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews%201:1-10&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29973e)]

10He also says,

**“In the beginning, Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth,
    and the heavens are the work of your hands.**

### I John 5:20

20We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true by being in his Son Jesus Christ. **He is the true God and eternal life.Cross references:**

1. [1 John 5:20](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=I%20John%205:20&version=NIV#en-NIV-30645) : [ver 5](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1John%205:5&version=NIV)
2. [1 John 5:20](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=I%20John%205:20&version=NIV#en-NIV-30645) : [Lk 24:45](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2024:45&version=NIV)
3. [1 John 5:20](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=I%20John%205:20&version=NIV#en-NIV-30645) : [Jn 17:3](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2017:3&version=NIV)
4. [1 John 5:20](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=I%20John%205:20&version=NIV#en-NIV-30645) : [ver 11; S Mt 25:46](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1John%205:11,%20Matt%2025:46&version=NIV)

### Jude 25

25to the **only God our Savior be glory**, majesty, power and authority, **through Jesus Christ our Lord,** before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.

### Galatians 1:6-11

6I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— 7which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ**. 8But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God’s curse! 9As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be under God’s curse!**

10Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.

11I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel I preached is not of human origin.

**Cross references:**

1. [Galatians 1:6](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians%201:6-11&version=NIV#en-NIV-29064) : [ver 15; S Ro 8:28](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Gal%201:15,%20Rom%208:28&version=NIV)
2. [Galatians 1:6](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians%201:6-11&version=NIV#en-NIV-29064) : [2Co 11:4](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2Cor%2011:4&version=NIV)
3. [Galatians 1:7](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians%201:6-11&version=NIV#en-NIV-29065) : [Ac 15:24; Gal 5:10](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts%2015:24,%20Gal%205:10&version=NIV)
4. [Galatians 1:7](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians%201:6-11&version=NIV#en-NIV-29065) : [Jer 23:16, 36](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jer%2023:16,%20Jer%2023:36&version=NIV)
5. [Galatians 1:8](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians%201:6-11&version=NIV#en-NIV-29066) : [ver 11, 16; 1Co 15:1; 2Co 11:4; Gal 2:2](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Gal%201:11,%20Gal%201:16,%201Cor%2015:1,%202Cor%2011:4,%20Gal%202:2&version=NIV)
6. [Galatians 1:8](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians%201:6-11&version=NIV#en-NIV-29066) : [Ro 9:3](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Rom%209:3&version=NIV)
7. [Galatians 1:9](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians%201:6-11&version=NIV#en-NIV-29067) : [Ro 16:17](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Rom%2016:17&version=NIV)
8. [Galatians 1:10](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians%201:6-11&version=NIV#en-NIV-29068) : [S Ro 2:29](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Rom%202:29&version=NIV)
9. [Galatians 1:11](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians%201:6-11&version=NIV#en-NIV-29069) : [1Co 15:1](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1Cor%2015:1&version=NIV)
10. [Galatians 1:11](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians%201:6-11&version=NIV#en-NIV-29069) : [S ver 8](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Gal%201:8&version=NIV)

**What does it all mean?**

God knew before creation what our need would be.

God knew before creation that our being created with free will would result in our sinning.

God knew before creation that His system of justice would call for punishment and consequences for sin.

God decided before creation that He would become ‘one of his own’, he would become a man himself and pay the punishment, suffer the consequences for all of man’s sins so that justice would be served and man could live free and in peace with God.

That is amazing, absolutely amazing.

What an incredible love.

God Himself thought of us, planned for us, chose us, came for us, died and suffered for us, saves us, adopts us, lives in us, helps us, and is preparing a place for us. One day he will come and take us to be with Him.

Revelation 21 describes a little of what it will be like.

1. Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. 2I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, **“Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 4‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’[[b](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+21&version=NIV" \l "fen-NIV-31058b" \o "See footnote b)] or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”**

5He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

6He said to me: **“It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. 7Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children**. *8But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.”*

What does it mean to you to know that the God who created the universe and this planet loved you enough to become a man and suffer, be rejected and be crucified to help and rescue you from a desperate situation?

Let’s do a little summary.

Before God created the heavens and earth he decided to create man.

His plan was to create us with a free will.

He wanted to have a genuine, freely chosen relationship with us.

His hope was that in creating us we would CHOSE to love him.

He knew that in having a free will he was running the risk that we would reject him.

Rejection would be tantamount to justifiable condemnation or death.

While he saw no choice but to create us with free will, he planned for the eventual scenario that we would reject him.

The justice of rejection of the creator would bring condemnation.

Condemnation would bring the death penalty or eternal separation from the creator rejected.

His plan was not to send a representative to press his case against us and see us repent of the rejection.

His plan was not to have a bull die for us and free us of the charges.

His plan was not to send someone else to pay the penalty for us in order to free us.

His plan, incredulous as it seems, was to become a man himself, submit himself to even more rejection, ridicule, suffering and eventually death as his means of becoming a substitute for us, dying in our place, paying the penalty we deserved for rejecting him so we could be adopted by him, forgiven and chosen, to be part of his eternal family.

The only motivation he had for doing this was love.

This was unconditional love. We didn’t do anything ahead of time to deserve this.

Receiving the personal benefits of this conditional.

To be forgiven, to receive eternal life, to be raised from the dead one day are conditional upon my accepting all this.

God calls me to believe it. He has provided a remarkable record of what his plan is and how he has and is carrying it out for our benefit.

God calls me to repent or turn from having rejected him and trying to make someone or something else my god to declaring that He and only He is my God and that I surrender to him for life and eternity.

God calls me to confess that I believe in Him and that I have become his disciple.

God calls me to take the oath of allegiance through Christian baptism in order to enter this amazing covenant he offers us, This seals the offer. It is official. I am a son of God.

I then spend the rest of my life growing in that relationship with Jesus/God. His goal is that I go on growing and maturing, becoming more like Jesus in purpose, motivation and love.

One day I will either die and be with Him and/or he will come in his second promise visit to this planet and he will take ALL OF HIS CHILDREN to be with him for eternity in heaven.

He did all of that in order to save us from condemnation so we could like with Him forever.

Oh my gosh, if that we’re not true we would be facing eternal disaster.

But it IS true.

It is Good News.

And it is amazing.

We are loved.

We have an incredible future with God.

Let’s go and show him how much we appreciate what he has done for us.

### 1 John 2:15-17

### 15Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father[[a](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1John%202:15-17&version=NIV#fen-NIV-30566a)] is not in them. 16For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. 17The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

**Love God with all your heart and mind and soul, and love your neighbor as yourself.**

# God Leads a Pretty Sheltered Life!

At the end of time, billions of people were scattered on a great plain before God’s throne.  Some of the groups near the front talked heatedly – not with cringing shame, but with belligerence!

“How can God judge us?  How can He know about suffering?” snapped a joking brunette.  She jerked back a sleeve to reveal a tattooed number from a Nazi concentration camp.  “We endured terror, beatings, torture, death!”

In another group, a black man lowered his collar.  “What about this?”  he demanded, showing an ugly rope burn.  “Lynched for no crime but being black!  We suffocated in slave ships, been wrenched from loved ones, toiled till only death gave release!”

Far out across the plain were hundreds of such groups.  Each had a complaint against God for the evil and suffering He permitted in His world.  How lucky God was to live in heaven where all was sweetness and light, where there was no weeping, no fear, no hunger, no hatred.  Indeed, what did God know about what man had been forced to endure in this world?  “After all, God leads a pretty sheltered life,” they said.

So each group sent out a leader, chosen because he had suffered the most.  There was a Jew, a black man, an untouchable from India, an “illegitimate”, a person from Hiroshima, a woman disfigured by her husband, and one from a Siberian slave camp.  In the center of the plain they consulted with each other.  At last they were ready to present their case.  It was rather simple:  Before God would be qualified to be their judge; He must endure what they had endured.  Their decision was that God “should be sentenced to live on earth –as a man!”

But, because He was God, they set certain safeguards to be sure He could not use His diving powers to help Himself.

* Let Him be born a Jew.
* Let the legitimacy of His birth be doubted, so that none will know who His father is really.
* Let Him champion a cause so just, but so radical that it brings down upon Him the hate, condemnation, and eliminating efforts of every major traditional and established religious authority.
* Let Him try to describe what no man has ever seen, tasted, heard or smelled – let Him try to communicate God to men.
* Let Him be betrayed by His dearest friends.
* Let Him be indicted on false charges, tried before a prejudiced jury, and convicted by a cowardly judge.
* Let Him see what it is to be terribly alone and completely abandoned by every living thing.
* Let Him be tortured and let Him die!  Let Him die the most humiliating death – with common thieves.

As each leader announced his portion of the sentence, loud murmurs of approval went up from the great thong of people.  When the last had finished pronouncing sentence, there was a long silence.  No one uttered another word.  No one moved.  For suddenly all knew. . . God had already served His sentence.

Books to read;

Josh McDowell; More Than A Carpenter

 Jesus; a Biblical Defense of His Diety