



JOURNEY BASICS: MESSIAH

WHAT DOES PLUM CREEK BELIEVE ABOUT JESUS?

Jesus Christ is the second person of the Trinity, the eternal Son of God. The Scripture declares his virgin birth (Matt. 1:18-23); His sinless life (Heb. 7:26 & I Pet. 2:22 & I John 3:4,5); His miracles (Acts 2:22 & 10:37-38); His substitutionary death on the cross (II Cor. 5:21 & I Pet. 2:24 & I Cor. 15:4); His bodily resurrection from the dead (Matt. 28:1-6 & I Cor. 15:4); His exaltation to the right hand of God (Acts 1:9,11 & Phil. 2:9-11).
 -From PCCC Statement of Faith

DEFEATER BELIEF

I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: "I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God." That is the one thing we must not say. A man who said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic - on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg - or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.
 - C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity

Have you heard these descriptions of Jesus before?

- The Jesus of the Bible never really lived
- Jesus never claimed to be God
- The virgin birth, miracles, resurrection are all myths
- Jesus was just a great moral teacher, he was not the Son of God

The Biblical response: Jesus is fully man and fully God

What evidence do we have of Jesus' full humanity?

* If you choose to read only one, read the first reference. It is a primary evidence.

Jesus was born of a human mother: Luke 1:26-38; Matthew 1:18, 24-25; John 1:14

Jesus had a human body: Luke 2:7, 40, 52; Matthew 4:2; Luke 23:46; John 4:6 and 19:28;

Jesus had a human mind: Luke 2:52; Mark 13:32 and Hebrews 5:8

Jesus had a human soul and human emotions: John 12:27; Matthew 8:10; John 11:35; John 13:21; Hebrews 4:15 and 5:7

People he came into contact with considered him a man: John 7:1-13 and Matthew 13:53-58

Journal what you think are the strongest validations of Jesus' full humanity.

What evidence do we have that Jesus was fully God?

Jesus possessed attributes of God. * If you choose to read only one, read the first reference. It is a primary evidence.

Omnipotence	The doctrine that God is all-powerful. (Matthew 8:26-27; 14:19; John 2:1-11)
Pre-Existence	(John 17:5; 1:15, 30; 3:13; 6:62; 16:28; Revelation 13:8)
Eternality	(Revelation 22:13; John 8:58)
Omniscience	The doctrine that God is all-knowing. (John 21:17; Mark 2:8; John 1:48; 2:25; 6:64; 16:30)
Omnipresence	The doctrine that God is present everywhere. (Matthew 18:20; 28:20)
Sovereignty	God's exercise of power over His creation. (Colossians 1:15-17; Ephesians 1:9-12; Philippians 2:9-11; Matthew 5:22; 8:26-27; 11:25-27; Mark 2:5-7; John 3:36)
Immortality	(John 2:19-22; 10:17-18; I Timothy 6:16; Hebrews 7:16)
Worshiped	(Philippians 2:9-11; Matthew 2:11; 14:33; 15:25; 28:9, 17; John 9:38; Hebrews 1:6; Revelation 5:12-13)

Journal what you think are the strongest validations that Jesus was fully God.

Read this statement from the Early Church regarding Christ's Incarnation:

Incarnation The act of God the Son where he took upon himself a human nature.

We, then, following the holy Fathers, all with one consent, teach men to confess one and the same Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, the same perfect in Godhead and also perfect in manhood; truly God and truly man, of a reasonable [rational] soul and body; consubstantial [co-essential] with the Father according to the Godhead, and consubstantial with us according to the Manhood; in all things like unto us, without sin; begotten before all ages of the Father according to the Godhead, and in these latter days, for us and for our salvation, born of the Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, according to the Manhood; one and the same Christ, Son, Lord, Only-begotten, to be acknowledged in two natures, in confusedly, unchangeably, indivisibly, inseparably; the distinction of natures being by no means taken away by the union, but rather the property of each nature being preserved, and concurring in one Person and one Subsistence, not parted or divided into two persons, but one and the same Son, and only begotten, God the Word, the Lord Jesus Christ; as the prophets from the beginning [have declared] concerning Him, and the Lord Jesus Christ Himself has taught us, and the Creed of the holy Fathers has been handed down to us.

Chalcedonian Definition (Church Council held in Chalcedon near modern day Istanbul in 451 AD)

Journal why it would be important that Jesus was both fully man and fully God?

Why did Jesus come to earth?

Before we answer that question it is important to revisit God's nature and humanity's predicament.

In your journal, write "God is..." twice.

Now read I John 4:8. What is the predominate attribute of God in this verse?

Write that attribute next to "God is..." in your journal.

Next read I Peter 1:15-16. What is the predominate attribute of God in these verses?

Write that attribute next to the other "God is..." in your journal.

These verses remind us God is infinitely loving and God is perfectly holy. In "The Fall of Man" worksheet you worked through Genesis 3:8-11 where we saw these ramifications of the Fall:

- Man Is Separated from God.
- Man Is Separated from Himself.
- Man Is Separated from Fellow Man.
- Man Is Separated from Nature.
- Nature Is Separated from Nature.

Read Romans 3:23 and Romans 6:23.

Journal the answer, "Who has sinned?" and "What is the consequence of sin?"

Why did Jesus come to earth? To die for our sins.

God's perfect justice demands that sin must be punished. If sin against a holy God is not punished, then God ceases to be just. Jesus' death was necessary because the penalty for sin had to be paid. This could only be done through a sacrifice. Because God is infinitely loving, He provided a way out. He sent Jesus to earth to pay the death penalty for us. Jesus was our sacrifice, dying on our behalf as our substitute. In theological terms, this is referred to as the Substitutionary Atonement. We were the ones who deserved to die, but Jesus took the "hit" for us.

Substitutionary Atonement The work Christ did in his life and death – on our behalf - to earn our salvation.

If God were not *just*, there would be no *demand* for his Son to suffer and die. And if God were not *loving*, there would be no *willingness* for his Son to suffer and die. But God is both just and loving. Therefore his love is willing to meet the demands of his justice.
- John Piper, Fifty Reasons Why Jesus Came to Die

Four Aspects of the Atonement

Sinful humanities needs	How our needs are met in Christ
1. We deserve to die as the penalty for sin	1. Christ died as a sacrifice for us (Romans 5:8; Hebrews 9:26)
2. We deserve to bear God's wrath against sin	2. Christ bore God's wrath for us (I John 4:10)
3. We are separated from God by our sins	3. Christ provided reconciliation to bring us back into fellowship with God (2 Corinthians 5:18-19)
4. We are in bondage to sin and to the kingdom of Satan	4. Christ has delivered us from bondage to the guilt of sin and from bondage to its ruling power in our lives (Romans 6:11, 14; Colossians 1:13; Hebrews 2:15)

Read the most famous verse in the Bible - John 3:16.

In light of what you've been reading, journal what this verse means to you and to those you love.

What about the resurrection?

I claim to be an historian. My approach to Classics is historical. And I tell you that the evidence for the life, the death, and the resurrection of Christ is better authenticated than most of the facts of ancient history . . .

~ E. M. Blaiklock, Professor of Classics, Auckland University

After more than 700 hours of studying this subject, I have come to the conclusion that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is either one of the most wicked, vicious, heartless hoaxes ever foisted on the minds of human beings--or it is the most remarkable fact of history.
~ J. McDowell, author and speaker

The Bodily Resurrection of Jesus Christ is an historically established fact. It is recorded by New Testament eyewitnesses and religious historians including, Josephus Ignatius and Tertullian (McDowell, p. 192-194). The empty tomb is proof of this fact (Matthew 28:1-6). There were also over 500 people who saw Jesus after He rose from the dead (Luke 24:13-40, I Corinthians 15:6-7).

Bodily Resurrection A physical rising from the dead into a new kind of life not subject to sickness, aging, deterioration or death.

Christ's resurrection from the dead is the foundation on which the entire Christian faith is built. If Christ has not been raised then our faith in Him is futile (I Corinthians 15:17). The resurrection sets Christianity apart from every other religion. Every other founder of a religion is dead or dying. Christ is alive! (I Corinthians 15:20)

One of the most telling proofs of Christ's resurrection is the testimony of the early Christians. We must ask ourselves: What caused them to go everywhere telling the message of the risen Christ? And, as a reward for their efforts, they were beaten, stoned to death, thrown to the lions, tortured and crucified. Yet, they laid down their lives as the ultimate proof of their complete confidence in the truth of their message

Read I Corinthians 15:1-19.

Journal why the resurrection is so important to our faith.

What is Jesus doing now?

Read Luke 24:50-53 and Acts 1:9-11

After appearing to his disciples several times after his resurrection, Jesus Christ ascended to heaven. He continues to reside in heaven, in his glorified human body, as the Ascension is designed to teach.

Ascension The rising of Jesus from the earth into heaven forty days after his resurrection.

Read:

Hebrews 1:3, 4:14-16, 8:1-2 and I Peter 3:22 He is now seated at the right hand of Almighty God. He is our high priest who has offered himself as the perfect gift and sacrifice for our sins, who is able to sympathize with us in our weaknesses, and who graces us with mercy in our time of need.

Romans 8:33-34 and Hebrews 7:25 He continues to intercede for us.

I John 2:1 He is our advocate before the Father if we sin.

Journal what you are thankful for regarding Jesus' present ministry.

THE BIG IDEAS

- Jesus is fully God and now fully human forever.
- Jesus died a substitutionary death for sinners.
- Jesus is our High Priest, Advocate and Intercessor before the Father.

Special Terms

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Omniscience	The doctrine that God is all-knowing.
Omnipresence	The doctrine that God is present everywhere.
Sovereignty	God's exercise of power over His creation.
Incarnation	The act of God the Son where he took upon himself a human nature.
Substitutionary Atonement	The work Christ did in his life and death – on our behalf - to earn our salvation.
Bodily Resurrection	A physical rising from the dead into a new kind of life not subject to sickness, aging, deterioration or death.
Ascension	The rising of Jesus from the earth into heaven forty days after his resurrection.

Sources: Answers to Tough Questions Skeptics Ask About the Christian Faith, J. McDowell and D. Stewart; Jesus: A Biblical Defense of His Deity, J. McDowell and B. Larson; Systematic Theology, W. Grudem; Bible Instruction Course, E. Bender and J. Forstrom.

THE BIG IDEAS

Who is Jesus?

He is the _____ - _____.

He is fully _____.

He is fully _____.

Why did Jesus come to earth?

To _____ for our _____ (a substitutionary death).

**Substitutionary* _____.

What is Jesus doing now?

He is seated in _____ (Right Hand of the Father)

He is our _____.

He is our _____.

Is Jesus the only way to God?

Christ _____ qualifies as _____.

Christ _____ is _____.

The Gospel _____ be _____ for people to come into a saving relationship with the Almighty God.