

JESUS CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD (1)
Matthew 16:13-20

introduction:

1. **An unknown author described the most amazing Man Who ever lived:**

“He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in still another village where He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty. Then for three years he was an itinerant preacher. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family or owned a house. He didn’t go to college. He never visited a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place where He was born. He did none of the things one usually associates with greatness.

“He had no credentials but Himself. He was only thirty-three when the tide of public opinion turned against Him. His friends ran away. He was turned over to His enemies and went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. While He was dying, His executioners gambled for His clothing, the only property He had on earth.

“When He was dead, He was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend. Nineteen centuries have come and gone and today He is the central figure of the human race and the leader of mankind’s progress. All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man on this earth as much as that ONE SOLITARY LIFE.”

2. **No credible historian denies that Jesus of Nazareth is the most influential Person who has ever lived.**

- a. **All history in the Western world is marked from His birth.**
- b. **One third of the world’s population is regarded as under His sway.**
- c. **More books have been written about Him than anyone else in history.**
- d. **His teaching is the highest standard of behavior the world has ever known.**
- e. **He is revered as a Teacher, served as a Master, and worshipped as Deity two thousand years after His death.**
- f. **Untold numbers of His disciples have died rather than renounce Him.**
- g. **Innumerable millions have trusted their lives and eternal happiness to Him.**

3. **Such devotion can be explained in only one way: Jesus is what He claimed to be - the Christ, the Son of the living GOD (Matt. 16:16).**

Discussion:

I. MORE ATTACKS HAVE BEEN MADE ON CHRIST THAN ON ANY OTHER.

A. The leaders of the Jews rejected His claims and killed Him.

1. Herod sought to have Him killed in His infancy (Matt. 2).
2. The scribes accused Him of blasphemy (Matt. 9:1-8).
3. The Pharisees charged His miracles were done by the power of Satan (Matt. 12:22-30).
4. His neighbors tried to kill Him (Matt. 13:54-58; Luke 4:16-30).
5. One of His own disciples betrayed Him (Matt. 26:21-25).
6. The Jewish leaders pressured the Romans to crucify Him (Matt. 27:15-26).
7. They also bribed the guards to deny His resurrection (Matt. 28:11-15).

B. Muslims accept Christ as a prophet, but reject Him as Savior:

1. They flatly deny He is the Son of GOD:

“They say: ‘God has begotten a son.’ God forbid! Self sufficient is he.” (Quran, 10:68).

2. They also deny He was crucified:

“They denied the truth and uttered a monstrous falsehood against Mary. They declared: ‘We have put to death the Messiah, Jesus, the son of Mary, the apostle of God.’ They did not kill him, nor did they crucify him, they thought they did” (Quran, 4:157).

C. Attacks against Jesus and His claims have continued in recent times.

1. In 1835, David Strauss denied that the Jesus of the Gospels was the Jesus of history (Life of Jesus Critically Examined).
2. In 1906 Albert Schweitzer claimed Jesus as portrayed in the Bible never existed (Quest for the Historical Jesus).
3. The “Jesus Seminar” today claims “Jesus is grossly misquoted and misrepresented in the Gospels” (US News and World Report, Aug. 4, 1997, p. 55).
4. The Jesus Seminar teaches that “Jesus was a mortal man born of two human parents, who did not perform miracles, nor die as a substitute for sinners, nor rise bodily from the dead.”

II. WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH ABOUT JESUS OF NAZARETH?

A. He was promised in prophecy from the beginning.

- 1. He is “the Seed of the woman” who would bruise the head of the serpent {Satan} (Gen. 3:15).**
- 2. He is the Lawgiver like Moses (Deut. 18:15; Acts 3:22).**
- 3. He is Shiloh who came from the tribe of Judah (Gen. 49:10).**
- 4. He is the high priest after the order of Melchizedek (Gen. 14:18-20; Psa.110:4; Heb. 5:6,10).**
- 5. He is the Seed of David who would sit upon his throne (2 Sam. 7:12,13; Luke 1:32,33).**
- 6. He is the virgin born Son of GOD and Son of Man (Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:22, 23).**
- 7. He is the suffering Servant who died for our sins (Isa 53; 1 Pet. 2:24).**

B. He is GOD who became man in order to save man from sin.

- 1. He was in the beginning with GOD, was GOD, and made all things (John 1:1-3).**
- 2. He took upon Himself human flesh by means of the virgin birth so He could die for our sins (John 1:14).**

“Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the Devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage” (Heb. 2:14,15).

- 3. He triumphed over death and came forth from the grave.**

“GOD has fulfilled this for us their children, in that He has raised up Jesus, As it is written in the second Psalm: ‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.’ And that He raised Him from the dead, no more to return to corruption, He has spoken thus: ‘I will give you the sure mercies of David’” (Acts 13:33-35).

Conclusion:

- 1. All human history will come to an end when Christ comes again.**
- 2. The dead will be raised and all will be judged (Matt. 25:31-46; 2 Cor. 5:10).**
- 3. Only the faithful in Christ will be saved.**
- 4. Are you ready for Christ to return?**
- 5. We must believe in Him, repent of sins, confess Him before men, and be baptized into Him (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 8:37; Gal. 3:26, 27).**

