

The Messiah's Identity and Mission

Luke 9:18–22

And it happened, as He was alone praying, that His disciples joined Him, and He asked them, saying, “Who do the crowds say that I am?” So they answered and said, “John the Baptist, but some say Elijah; and others say that one of the old prophets has risen again.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered and said, “The Christ of God.” And He strictly warned and commanded them to tell this to no one, saying, “The Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.”

Main Point

Jesus is the suffering Messiah Who died and rose for your sins.

I. Introduction

A. Who is/was Jesus? This question has plagued people for the last 2000 years.

B. Some of the answers to this question:

1. Jehovah's Witnesses: “Unlike any other human, Jesus lived in heaven as a spirit person before he was born on earth. (John 8:23) He was God's first creation, and he helped in the creation of all other things. He is the only one created directly by Jehovah and is therefore appropriately called God's ‘only-begotten’ Son. (John 1:14)”¹
2. Some Atheists: “About a decade ago, however, I began to reexamine the evidence for the historicity of Jesus. I was astounded at what I didn't find. In this article, I would like to show how shaky the evidence is regarding the alleged existence of a would-be messiah named Jesus. I now feel it is more reasonable to suppose he never existed. It is easier to account for the facts of early Christian history if Jesus were a fiction than if he once were real.”²
3. Muslims: “Muslims believe in Jesus, peace be upon him, not as the son of God, but as one of God's greatest Prophets and Messengers. He is part of a chain of Prophets such as Abraham, Noah, David, Moses, and Muhammad peace be upon them all.... The Quran explains that Jesus, peace be upon him, did not die. It speaks of some people in his time who claimed to have killed him, but God denies this claim and explains that it was only made to appear as though they crucified him. And for their saying, “We have killed the Messiah, Jesus, the son of Mary, the Messenger of God.” In fact, they did not kill him, nor did they crucify him, but it appeared to them as if they did. Indeed, those who differ about him are in doubt about it. They have no

¹ <https://www.jw.org/en/library/books/good-news-from-god/who-is-jesus-christ/>

² <https://www.atheists.org/activism/resources/did-jesus-exist/>

knowledge of it, except the following of assumptions. Certainly, they did not kill him. Rather, God raised him up to Himself. God is Mighty and Wise (4: 157-158).”³

4. Progressive/Liberal “Christianity”: “Jesus did die on a cross, but not to save us from our sins. He did rise from the dead, but not by walking out of an empty tomb. He did not perform miracles, but he did heal peoples’ psychological wounds inflicted by massive oppression. His story got twisted.”⁴

C. Our answer to this question determines our eternal destiny.

II. Exposition

A. The Identity of the Messiah

1. What Others Say
 - a) John the Baptist
 - b) Elijah
 - c) Other Prophets
2. Who He Actually Is — *The Messiah*

B. The Mission of the Messiah

1. Suffer & die
2. Rise from the dead

III. Truths

- A. Jesus is the Son of God.
- B. Jesus came to propitiate the wrath of God.

What you believe about and do with Christ determines your eternal destiny. Paul summarized it succinctly:

But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Romans 10:8–13 (ESV)

³ <https://www.whyislam.org/know/>

⁴ <https://progressivechristianity.org/resource/the-story-of-jesus/>