

Who Is Jesus: Part 1

The Chosen One

Matthew 16:13-16

Memory Verses: Hebrews 2:14-15

MANUSCRIPT

Introduction (Me, We, & the Struggle)

Who is Jesus? It's a pretty important question right? I mean, if there are over a Billion people on Earth who follow this guy and his teachings then shouldn't we know who he is? Maybe the Bible has some answers. Go ahead and turn over to **Matthew 16:13-15**. So who is Jesus? You may be a little like the people in this verse who think that Jesus is just another prophet, or just a good man with some good advice and sage wisdom. Or you may be like others who think he was a madman with delusions of grandeur. But who exactly was he and more importantly... who did he say he was? Today and over the next month we will be on an investigation through the Bible to see exactly who this Jesus guy is.

So let's follow the clues. Go back to the verse we just read in **Matthew 16 and start again in verse 15 and 16**. "but who do you say I am?". Peter replied... you are the Christ, the Son of the Living God." Peter calls Jesus the Christ... and Jesus affirms this title in verse **17**. So let's explore this... What is the Christ... and is Jesus him?

Well, I did some digging, and I found that the word Christ comes from the greek word Christos which literally means, "the anointed one," or in layman's terms, "the chosen one." This is getting good right? This is starting to sound like a fairytale or a movie where there is a prophecy about a world in peril and a chosen one who will come and save everyone. Is that what we are talking about here? Is Jesus like Anakin in Star Wars, who was the chosen one who would bring balance to the force? Or is Jesus like Neo in the Matrix who was the chosen one who would lead the human race to victory over the robots? If Jesus was the chosen one then what was he chosen to do?

Well, in order to answer that question we must go back... way back to the very first book of the Bible; Genesis. And since, I've read the story before I'll just sum it up. Maybe you are a little familiar with it as well. **Verse one begins; "in the beginning God created the heavens and the Earth."** So an all knowing, all powerful God created everything; the universe, the stars, the planets, the earth, the animals, plants, and humans. And he placed them in a garden called Eden. It was a perfect Utopia where the first humans; Adam & Eve, could live in absolute bliss, unabated by sickness, war, or evil. And God gave them free reign to do

whatever they wanted... except one thing. They were told that they could eat of all of the fruit of the garden except from this one tree; the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If they were to eat from this one tree then their perfect world would be lost and they would surely die. That's when the serpent entered the garden and tricked Adam & Eve into eating the fruit. There's a lot more to the story than that... but you'll just have to go back and read it for yourselves. In any case, because of Adam & Eve's sin mankind was cursed, the earth was cursed, and all of humanity was destined to die and spend eternity in a place or torment called hell. So now we have a situation that demands a savior.

Now we just need a prophecy or something. Well we're in luck... look with me at **Genesis 3:15**. One day there would be a seed, or child, born of a woman who would crush the serpent and free the world from the curse. This child that would one day come, the chosen one, would be referred to as the Christ. We get a bit more of the prophecy concerning the chosen one later on in the Bible in **Jeremiah 23:5-6**. Through the chosen one Israel will be saved, the world will be saved. And we will know him because he will be a king in the lineage of David.

So we have a world in need of saving... check. We have a prophecy of a chosen one that would save the world... check. Now the only thing left to do is to find out if Jesus is this chosen one. And I have a hypothesis...

Jesus Is The Only One Who Could Be The Chosen One.

Teaching (Expand on the Problem, God)

The first and most important thing we discover here is... **Jesus is the Chosen One Because He Crushed the Serpent**. The prophecy of the chosen one in **Genesis 3:15** specifically states that the chosen one will crush the head of the serpent... but only after having been wounded by the serpent himself. Does something like this take place with Jesus?

Well, there is a lot that happens between Genesis 3:15 and the time of Jesus that is very important to the prophecy of the Chosen one. One of the more critical things that takes place is the institution of the law and the sacrificial system. Since it would be a while before the chosen one would come on the scene, God made a stop gap, called the Law & Sacrifices, in order that people could still worship him and be saved from the curse. Long story short, if you could live according to the law you would be saved from the curse. But, since no one could live according to the law, everyone could bring sacrifices to the priests and those sacrifices would serve as substitutes for the penalty of death that mankind deserved.

This stop gap of the law and sacrifices was good enough for a time... but it was not perfect because it didn't actually change men's hearts, it merely covered their sins. It was an incomplete measure. Therefore in **Jeremiah 31:33-34** we see a new covenant, which would be complete,

made possible through the chosen one. **What the law and sacrifices were unable to do in changing a man's heart, the chosen one would be able to do by becoming the final sacrifice and crushing the serpent.**

Now, skip ahead to the time of Jesus. He is born to a virgin – which consequentially fulfills other prophecy concerning the chosen one. In all, Jesus fulfills over 300 specific prophecies concerning the chosen one. He grows in wisdom and stature and begins his earthly ministry at age 30 where he does around 35 specific miracles that adds proof that he is the chosen one. And finally at age 33 he is captured by the Jewish elite and the Romans and is crucified on a cross where he dies. Some may say... big deal... he died... all men die, how does that prove that he is the Christ? Well, look at what **Hebrews 2:14-15** says concerning his death. This is huge, and confirms that Jesus was the chosen one. Through his death he destroyed the devil (the serpent). Through his death he delivered (saved) everyone, who through the fear of death and hell were made slaves to fear. He also became the final sacrifice by which we our sin is atoned for. He died in our place, crushed the serpent and saved the world from the curse... He is the chosen one. But then, like icing on the cake, he rose again revealing that death couldn't defeat him and can't defeat us either. It is simple... **Jesus is the Only One Who Could Be The Chosen One.**

But secondly... **Jesus is the Chosen One Because He Is The Heir of David.** As we saw in **Jeremiah 23:5-6** the chosen one must be an heir of David's throne. So let's check out Jesus' lineage. Fortunately we have two of them in **Matthew 1** & in **Luke 3**. And guess what? Even though there are some differences in the genealogies, both of these link Jesus to David. Now, the reason for two different genealogies is unclear but most would agree that most likely one is Jesus' lineage through Mary's line and one is through Joseph's line. Regardless, here is a historical lineage linking Jesus to king David, making him the legitimate physical heir to the throne and thus a possible chosen one.

The only thing missing is Jesus being affirmed as the king and ruling as the king. So, is Jesus affirmed as King? In **John 19:19-22** Pilate proclaims Jesus as “King of the Jews” and stands behind the title when it is challenged. He is in some way affirmed by the authority of the land as the King of the Jews although not affirmed by his own people. But, also in **John 18:36** we see Jesus tell Pilate that his kingdom is not of this world. So Jesus isn't actually looking to fulfill this part of the prophecy just yet. Jesus is the king of the universe and of heaven. He didn't come to be a physical king for that particular time... he came to be a king of a spiritual kingdom. But, one day, he will be the king of the entire earth as well. In **Rev 19** he will come as a conquering king to

reclaim the world. In **Rev 21** he will sit on the throne of a new heaven and a new earth fulfilling the prophecy of the chosen one, once and for all. **As the rightful king in the lineage of David, Jesus rules over his spiritual kingdom and will one day rule over a new earthly kingdom. Jesus is the Only One Who Could Be The Chosen One.**

Lastly... **Jesus is the Chosen One And He Died To Prove It.** Let's look at another passage where Jesus is on trial before the Jewish leadership **Matthew 26:62-66**. Jesus, knowing he will die if he tells the truth, he tells them clearly that he is the Christ.

Now, let's examine the psychology of such a situation. If Jesus was merely a liar who was claiming to be the Chosen One, surely he would come clean when faced with the prospect of torture and death. So he surely wasn't a liar. Jesus clearly was telling the truth because it cost him his life.

Well, you may rebuttal... perhaps he was a deranged lunatic who wasn't the Chosen One but truly thought he was. This is one of the most popular accusations levied against Jesus. He was either a liar or a lunatic. Well let's examine that for a second. Throughout the entire Bible and other historical documents Jesus is presented as a very lucid, capable, and wise person. His character is constant and his demeanor solid. Never, could anyone accuse Jesus of not being of sound mind, except when he claims to be the Chosen One. Also, even his greatest detractors would still claim that his proverbs, parables, sayings, and advice were very wise. I don't know how else to say this... but crazy people are not wise. C.S. Lewis is famous for making this argument called the Trilemma (yeah, they gave it a name). In his own words; “**A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell... 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**” He said he was the Christ... and he died to prove it.

But don't get me wrong... he didn't die just to prove he was who he said he was. The bottom line is this... he had to die – it was the job of the chosen one to lay his life down as a substitution for those of us who stood condemned because of sin. If he didn't die, his claims would have fell short... if he didn't rise from the dead his claims would still be disputed. But he died and he rose and he is the chosen one. **Jesus is the Only One Who Could Be The Chosen One**

Application (Resolution, You)

There is no other person who has ever lived who did all that Jesus did to fulfill the prophecy of the Chosen One; the Christ. If Jesus isn't the Christ then there is no Christ. Fortunately, there is, and Jesus is he. He has

taken the punishment that we should have taken. He has died the death that we should have died. He has crushed the head of the serpent lifting the curse. He has risen again giving us a new life. And one day he will sit on the throne of David over heaven and earth as the king of kings and Lord of Lords.

Conclusion

So where does that leave you? If Jesus is the Chosen One, then the only question left is this... do you believe it? With all that has been presented today... do you believe that Jesus is the Christ; the Chosen One? You see the only way to become a part of his kingdom is to put your belief in him, to put your faith in him and trust in him as the Christ. Is he a liar who merely claimed to be the chosen one? Or was he a lunatic who truly thought he was the chosen one but was crazy? Or was he the true heir of David, and the substitutionary lamb of God who was killed to take away our sins and lift the curse of sin from mankind? To answer yes, takes faith. But to say no, also means disavowing all we've shown you today and that also takes faith. Are you willing to put your faith in Jesus as the Chosen One? So... **Who do you Say that He is...**