

# Jesus In The Gospel Of John - Who Is Jesus?

Sunday AM 09/30/18

## Introduction:

In the movie “Butch Cassidy and the Sun Dance Kid” there is the line “Who are those guys?” During the ministry of Jesus the Jews were asking much the same question, “Who is this man?” He is a carpenter’s son, a man from Nazarene, a sinner, etc.

John gives us the purpose of his writing at the end, *John 20.31*. Why is the Gospel of John relevant today? There are various views concerning Jesus today.

Atheist may say Jesus was a deceiver and lunatic.

Jews say he was Mary’s son.

Islam says he was a prophet but not the prophet, inferior to Muhammad.

New Age says he was a moral teacher

Jehovah Witnesses says he is a lesser god, created when he was born.

What do the Millennials say? “Millennials are the only generation among whom fewer than half believe Jesus was God (48%). About one-third of young adults (35%) say instead that Jesus was merely a religious or spiritual leader, while 17 percent aren’t sure what he was.”

[Http://www.barna.com/research/what-do-americans-believe-about-jesus-5-popular-beliefs](http://www.barna.com/research/what-do-americans-believe-about-jesus-5-popular-beliefs)

John's writing is telling us who Jesus was and is today.

**I) In The Beginning**

**A) Comparison of *John 1.1-3* with *Genesis 1.1*.**

1. Creation had a beginning.
2. Jesus existed before creation, He existed before His physical birth. *John 8.58*.
3. In His prayer recorded in *John 17* Jesus tells us of His pre-existence, *John 17.4-5, 24*.

**B) The word and God in both *Genesis 1* and *John 1*.**

1. We see God (Elohim) is plural in *Genesis 1.26-27* when the words "us" and "our" is used.
2. *John 1* uses two key words: God and the Word.
  - a. The Word is a person, He became flesh, *John 1.14*.
  - b. The Word was with God (Jehovah, the Father).

**C) The Word was God. Possessed the attributes of deity.**

1. This distinguishes the Word from any and every created being.
2. There are only two choices when it comes to creation. Either it existed before the creation or it was a result of creation.

3. The attributes of deity: Eternal, All powerful, ever present, all knowing.
4. John in his writing is claiming Jesus possessed those attributes.

## II) **The “Word”**

### A) **In Him was life**

1. Creation- all living creatures were created. Physical life only possible through creation.
2. But Jesus came to give mankind everlasting life, *John 4.14.*

### B) **The “light” *John 8.12***

1. Light is essential to life.
2. It illuminates and reveals.
3. In His life Jesus shows us how to obtain eternal life.

### C) **Light verses darkness.**

1. Man did not accept the light. Why?
  - a. Some loved darkness more than light, *John 3.19-20*
  - b. Some were afraid of what others thought, *John 7.13.*
  - c. Some were misinformed of the facts, *John 7.40-43.*

- d. Some were hardened by their traditions.
- e. Some loved the praise of men more than God, *John 12.42-43*.

### III) The Role of John the Immerser

#### A) He was selected by God, *Isaiah 40.3*.

- 1. Read of John's birth, *Luke 1.17*.
- 2. To bear witness to the light, *John 1.23*.

#### B) The emphasis remains on Jesus

- 1. He came to reveal, to shine, to all mankind.

### IV) The Two Reactions, *John 1.10-11, 12-13*

#### A) Some rejected Him

- 1. The Jews persecuted and had Him killed.
- 2. Usually that equates to failure and disgrace.

#### B) "But"

- 1. As many as received Him- accepted Him. Accepted who He was, Accepted His word, Accepted His blood.
- 2. Became children of God, *Romans 8.14-16*.
- 3. Believe in His name, *John 8.24*. Name is used for the whole person.
- 4. Were born of God. Not by:

- a. Blood- not by physical lineage
  - b. The will of the flesh, some believe this refers to the lust of the flesh.
  - c. The will of man- the Jews rejected Him and had Him killed.
5. The will of God- the miraculous birth.<sup>2</sup>

**Conclusion:**

**Who do you say Jesus is? A fraud? A good man? A prophet? Of the “Word of God.”**