

## **I AM the Truth: The Perfect Prophet**

**Truth** is perfect information about reality. There's a fundamental rule of logic called the **principle of analogy**. In a nut-shell it says that you can't give something away unless you actually have it yourself. The importance of this idea is pretty hard to overstate. It goes like this: life must come from **Life**; love must come from **Love**; beauty must come from **Beauty**; order must come from **Order**; goodness must come from the **Good**; and last but not least – truth must come from the **Truth**.

As the one Perfect-Being who lacks nothing, God Is the ultimate **Source** of every fundamental feature of being. Need an analogy? Water runs downhill to the sea (gravity). Energy travels from hot objects to cold ones (thermodynamics). Information comes from intelligence (reason). All reality has this flow, and from it we can infer a Headwaters. Of course this Source has to be higher up and further back than everyone who's "only human." We seek the **Logos** that unites perfect meaning to its perfect purpose. The **Christ** is the **Prophet** who reveals Perfection's purpose. As God and Man, He embodies Perfection's Purpose. That's why Jesus said: "**I AM the Truth**."

## **I AM the Life: The Perfect King**

Since the **Christ** Is the Image of the invisible God (Col. 1:15), and that Image Is the Source of human-meaning (Gen. 1:27) – there is no human lack that He cannot fill with Himself. **HE IS** Humanity. In Him, our comparisons, strivings, divisions, and prejudices vanish. Our lack is exhausted in His Perfection. It is His very Nature to be One with God. In His Perfect-Unity, He has the power to make us one with God and each other (Jn 17; Gal. 3:26-28). Life in perfect community is the essence of God's Kingdom. The **Christ** is the **King** who unites God to us – us to God – and each of us to one another in perfection. That's why Jesus said: "**I AM the Life**."

### **What's In a Name?**

The **Christ** Is the Perfect Priest, Prophet, and King. **HE IS** the **God-Man**. Peter insisted that there is just one **Name** given under heaven by which we must be saved – Jesus Christ of Nazareth (Acts 4:5-12). The Name "Jesus" is a transliteration of the Hebrew Name meaning "**I AM Salvation**." His Message is His Name. A **Christian** is someone who recognizes Jesus Christ for who **HE IS**, and then receives Him as their own Priest, Prophet, & King. **HE IS** their salvation. Is He yours?

### **Is Jesus Your Christ?**

Matthew 5:48 – John 14:6 – Acts 4:5-12

## **What Is a Christian?**



**Most American adults identify as Christian. A recent study from Pew Research has the number at about two-thirds. But what do we really mean by "Christian?" Does it mean caring about the poor and promoting social justice? Or being basically moral and trying to do a little more good than bad? Or does it mean following Jesus as the Christ? The question is...**

### **What Does "**Christ**" Mean?**

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## "Who Do You Say **I AM**?"

The term "**Christian**" originated in first-century Antioch. It means "little-christs" and was just a convenient way to describe people who had radically changed upon following Jesus. These early believers were taught by Jesus' Apostles, those who followed Jesus from the beginning of His public ministry, saw Him risen, and were empowered by the Holy Spirit to record Jesus' teachings, and share them with others. The Apostles didn't just believe that Jesus was risen. They knew He was as an empirical **fact**. It was doing science that finally compelled doubting Thomas to recognize Jesus for Who **HE IS** and exclaim "My Lord and my God!"

Being a Christian doesn't start with living morally, reading the Bible, correcting our bad habits, or going to church. These are important, but they follow in the cart behind the proverbial horse. The real power to be Christian comes from the Name, Nature, and Ministry of Jesus Christ Himself. When Jesus asked His disciples "Who do you say I AM?" Peter answered: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" When He asks you the same question – what will **you** say?

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## Priest + Prophet + King = **Christ**

It's impossible to understand what Christ means apart from the Hebrew context from which it comes. "**Christ**" is from a Greek word that shares meaning with "**Messiah**," a Hebrew term meaning "Anointed-One."

Jesus Is first of all Israel's Messiah. Many dispute this. Still, Jesus being the Messiah is certain if He really rose from the dead, which is historically very certain. The resurrection is the best evidence that Jesus Is Who He claims to be – and He claims to be Israel's Messiah (Mark 14:60-62; John 4:25-26).

God chose Israel as the human means by which He would reveal Himself to the whole world. This was accomplished through three ministries. The **priest** spoke to God on behalf of the people. The **prophet** spoke to the people on behalf of God. And the **king** led the nation in unity under God. The Hebrews looked forward to a day (and many still do) when the three ministries would unite in the Perfect-Servant of God – the **Messiah**. The Messiah Is at once the ultimate deliverer of God's Word (the **Prophet**), the final perfecter of humanity before God (the **Priest**), and the ruler of God's united Kingdom (the **King**). That's what "**Christ**" means.

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## **I AM** the Way: The Perfect Priest

Prior to Jesus, most of those tasked with carrying out these ministries didn't excel. After all, they were "only human" – that is, not human enough. They couldn't fix in others what was broken in them. They had the same basic problem that we do. They **lacked** perfection. The term used to represent this state of affairs is "**sin**" – an archery term that means "to miss." Sin is a problem for all who are "only human."

Of course, sin demands a really specific solution – a **Perfect** one. We can't fix in others what is broken in ourselves. So, combining all our imperfections cannot result in perfection someday. That's why **humanism** is a logical non-starter.

There's only one possible solution. We need the **Perfect-Human** to fix all that is broken in us with what Is Perfect in Him. This is the Priest-ministry of the Christ. He gave Himself to bridge the infinite gap between human brokenness and God's Perfection. Naturally, in order to do this He has to be God – and a Man. Hence, the **Christ** is the Priest who represents us in Perfection before God. That's why Jesus said: "**I AM the Way**."