

YOU CAN BELIEVE . . .

IN JESUS

You cannot read the Bible without realizing that its central character is Jesus Christ. The Old Testament promises that a Messiah or Saviour will come; while the New Testament tells us that He has come.

Did you know that if you read a

different book on the life of Christ each week it would take more than a hundred years to read all that have been written? In our lesson today we are not so concerned with what other people have said about Jesus; we want to discover what the Bible says about Him.



What question did Jesus once ask some Jewish leaders? Matthew 22:42

What answer would you give if asked that question today?

How does the Bible answer it? John 3:16.

It is very important for us to recognize that Jesus Christ was not just an ordinary person - He was the Son of God. In fact following His baptism in the river Jordan a voice from heaven declared: ‘ “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.” ’ Matthew 3:17.

A continued study of the Scriptures, seeking an answer to the above question, will lead us to another tremendous thought. You will find it in John 10:30

The Christian believes that Jesus was not only the Son of God but actually equal with God and should be called God. In Philippians 2:5, 6

(KJV) Paul says: 'Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: who being in the form of God thought it not robbery to be equal with God.'

It is not only Jesus who says this of Himself. It is also God the Father's statement of truth. See Hebrews 1:8.

The story of Jesus does not begin with the virgin birth and what we call the first Christmas. Just a little while before He died Jesus was talking to His Father in the Garden of Gethsemane. The prayer is recorded in John 17. What new fact can you find in verse 5?

Jesus Christ lived with God the Father in heaven before this world was even created.

The prophet Micah, who lived seven hundred years before Jesus was born, tells us two things of interest. Read Micah 5:2 and discover:

1. Where Jesus was to be born?

2. How long had He previously lived in heaven?

(see footnote in your Bible for explanation of 'ancient times').

Keep going back as far in time as you can and you will always find Jesus there.

Let's consider another fact about Jesus. What does Paul, in Colossians 1:15-17 say Jesus did?

The Bible makes it plain that the three members of the Godhead engaged in creation but Jesus was the One who actually created all things. Just think about your favourite flower or animal - Jesus made it. Just think about your children, your husband, wife, girlfriend or boy-friend - Jesus gave them life. From the largest sun, down to the smallest insect, everything was created by Him. He painted the butterfly's wings; gave the flowers their perfume; the birds their song.

Yet this great Creator, Designer, Artist, actually agreed to leave heaven and be born as a baby in this world. Read Philippians 2:5-8 and Isaiah 7:14

What does the word Immanuel mean? Matthew 1:23

This is something beyond our understanding. We call it the mystery of the incarnation. Even though we

do not see how it could happen let's be grateful that it did. Just how thankful we should be we will see in a minute.

When Jesus had been born into this world, He grew up like any other child to adulthood, facing all the temptations and frustrations that are common to man, yet He was able to claim never to have sinned or done wrong. Read John 8:46 and John 15:10. He is the only One to have lived on this earth who could make such a claim to sinlessness.

This leads to the most amazing fact of all as revealed in the Bible. Jesus died for our sins. He willingly and gladly paid off all our sin debts.

In what 'currency' was the price paid? 1 Peter 1:18, 19

This is wonderful news. By sinning we had rebelled against God and become His enemies, but being the kind of God He is, He still loved us. He wanted to make it possible for us to be forgiven so that we could be friends with Him again. God's justice would not let Him overlook sin, but His love enabled Him to forgive the sinner.

What is the wages of sin? Romans 6:23.

Every sin has to be paid for and if

the sinner was going to be forgiven. One equal with God Himself would have to die in the sinner's place. In Romans 5:8 Paul puts it this way: 'But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.' Calvary reveals just how much we are loved and wanted by God.

However, the death of Jesus on the cross was not the end of His story. Read Luke 24:1-7. Jesus demonstrated that He had power even over death. This is great news for the Christian. He does not have to fear death; his Saviour is mightier than the grave. We will study about this in more detail in another lesson, but notice what Paul says in 1 Corinthians 15:12-22

Where did Jesus go after His resurrection? Luke 24:50, 51

What is He now doing there?
Hebrews 4:14-16

Jesus went back to heaven to represent us there. We know that we have Someone there who understands our problems, our fears, our temptations - Someone that we know and who has been seen. We have a Friend in the highest court in the universe willing to dispense mercy and grace to help us in our time of need. Isn't that good news?

Finally every true child of God is going to see Jesus again and live with Him for ever. In fact Jesus is even now preparing a home for those who love and serve Him. Read the promise in John 14:1-3.

In this Bible lesson we have only managed to give you a brief look at what the Bible says about Jesus. In future lessons we shall restudy many of these points and give more Bible passages that will fill in the details and complete the picture.

What has impressed you most in this lesson?

We hope you appreciate just how wonderful a Saviour you have. Will you make Him a close Friend by thinking about what you are studying and by spending time each day talking to Him?

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____