

# Who Is Jesus?

## Coming King

For some, the importance of Jesus of Nazareth is historical; he lived and died. And once Paul, the greatest PR man in history, got a hold of his story, started a movement that has changed the world. For those who follow him though, his impact transcends history; yes he lived and died, but he also rose from the dead, ascended into heaven and is returning to earth one day. For us, **Jesus is the coming king**.

Jesus' life and ministry was rooted in the Jewish tradition. This notion of a coming king is rooted in their scriptures, a person called the Messiah, who they believed would come and be a new wise King over a new Kingdom, the Kingdom of God (Jeremiah 23:5). This longing came from the desire for political freedom from the captivity and exile that Israel had often experienced. Israel expected a political King, a king who would have the government on his shoulders (Isaiah 9:6).

Jesus claimed to be this Messiah (John 4:26), but ultimately did not fulfill the Jews' expectations, due to his death, which ended any hopes for a political revolution. How could a mighty God, one who would be "the glory of your people Israel," (Luke 2:32) die? For many, the hopes of Jesus as Messiah died with him.

However, for those who follow him, Jesus' work was not finished on the cross, but rather his death and resurrection are merely the beginning of Jesus' act of restoring a broken world.

The first interaction of Jesus after he rose from the dead shows this tension clearly. In Acts 1, the disciples ask the risen Lord if he will now restore the kingdom to Israel. Jesus responds by saying "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:7-8) Jesus' words here show that even when hopes of a political revolution were renewed, his Kingdom will be different than expected, and his reign is global; to the ends of the earth. Daniel 7:14 speaks to this further, "All nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed."

So how will Jesus come and reign again?

Jesus was born fully God, and fully man. As the creator of the world (John 1:3) Jesus became flesh, and returned to the physical realities of earth as its King and ruler. His work on the cross allows for the forgiveness of sins, so that fallen human beings can have a relationship with the perfect God, but his work of redemption and restoration is not complete. He is not merely a savior in the past, his return is imminent.

Throughout his recorded words, 17 times Jesus speaks of his second coming. (For a full list and more see [jesusiscoming.com/scripture.htm](http://jesusiscoming.com/scripture.htm)) He says, "For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man," (Matthew 24:27) and that we must keep watch, "because you do not know on what day your Lord will come" (24:42). Jesus has referred to himself as the Son of Man, and he was already standing before them in the flesh, so he must be talking about a time when he will come again, with greater notice than his entrance as a humble King. This time he will come as a triumphant King, "coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory" (24:30).

The implications for this coming are profound. In Matthew 25, immediately after the verses where Jesus talks about this second coming, he spells out its implications. He tells a parable, or a story with a teaching, of ten young girls waiting for a groom, so that they can go to a wedding party. They waited outside, and 5 wise girls took their lamps with oil, while the foolish ones did not bring oil. They fell asleep waiting, and when he finally came, those who had oil turned on their lamps and followed the man to the party, while those who were not prepared, and did not bring oil stayed in darkness. Jesus ends this parable by telling those who follow him in expectation to "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming." This waiting "teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope - the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all unrighteousness" (Titus 2:12).

Jesus has risen from the grave and is sitting on his throne in Heaven! But he will return to this world to complete the work of restoration, not merely in a spiritual way, but in a physical manifestation of his glory. Even if we have not seen Jesus, all will see him as King over all in the last days. And at the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord (Philippians 2:10-11). This day is coming - will you be found waiting with eager anticipation or with ignorance and dread?

**-Trent Fuenmayor '12**