

WHO WAS JESUS OF NAZARETH?

Scripture: John 1:1-4, 14

Introduction

The Bible gives clear insight into this, the central figure of history. Jesus of Nazareth was with God and was God in the beginning, he was born of a virgin in Bethlehem of Judea, and became the Savior of the world by his sacrifice on the cross at Calvary.

I. His history

John 1:1-4 NIV In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of man.

- A. Jesus Christ preexisted his birth
 - 1. He was with God in the beginning
 - 2. He was God from the beginning
- B. Jesus Christ was the agent of creation
 - 1. He was the Word that spoke the world into existence
 - 2. He is the force that holds creation together

Colossians 1:17 KJV *And he is before all things, and* by him all things consist.

II. His birth

John 1:14 NIV The Word became flesh and lived for a while among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

- A. He was born of a virgin according to the Scripture

Isaiah 7:14 NIV Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

- B. He was Immanuel -- God with us
 - 1. God in the form of man

- 2. God living with man

III. His purpose

John 3:16 NIV For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

- A. Men had no means to be saved from their sins
- B. God's love provided a way of salvation
- C. Jesus Christ of Nazareth became our sacrifice for sin
- D. Through Jesus, we can have fellowship with God