

## Jesus of Nazareth: Who Is He?

Jesus of Nazareth: Who is he?  
Who is this one who was born in Bethlehem?  
Who is this one who was transfigured on the mount?

He is the seed of Abraham.  
He is the descendant of David.  
He is the one the prophets foretold would come.  
He is Immanuel—God with us.

Angels sang at his birth.  
Shepherds were invited to visit.  
Wise men from the east came to worship.  
The Word had become flesh and dwelt among us.

He was in the beginning with the Father.  
Through him all things were created.  
He is the King of the Jews.  
He is the Messiah of Israel.  
He is the Lord of the Nations.  
He is the Savior of the world.

Have you ever met him? Would you like to?

He went through all the towns and villages of Israel.  
He said the Kingdom of God had come.  
The kingdom had come, because the King had come.  
His hearers said he spoke with authority.  
They had never seen anything like this.  
He healed the sick; he cast out demons; he raised the dead.  
He saved others; himself he could not save.

He is the Alpha and Omega.  
He is the beginning and the end.  
He is the first and the last.  
He is the fairest of ten thousand.  
He is the bright and morning star.  
He is the Lion of the tribe of Judah.  
What words can describe him?  
He who has seen him has seen the Father.

Have you seen him? Would you like to?

The crowd cried out: "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"  
A few days later the crowd cried out: "Crucify him!"  
Pilate said, "Why? What evil has he done?"

The crowd of voices cried out: "Crucify him!"  
Pilate said, "Shall I crucify your king?"  
The Jewish leaders said, "We have no king but Caesar."

Pilate washed his hands.  
He delivered him over to be crucified.  
The Roman soldiers stripped him, and abused him.  
And when he was nailed to the cross, there was a sign put above the cross:  
"This is Jesus of Nazareth, the king of the Jews."  
The crowds passed before the cross and mocked him:  
"He saved others; he cannot save himself."  
But a criminal, who was crucified beside him, believed.  
So did a Roman centurion.  
He saw the darkness.  
He saw the earthquake.  
The veil of the temple was rent in two.  
And the Roman centurion, looking into the face of Jesus, said,  
"Surely this man was the Son of God."

Have you become his disciple? Would you like to?

He is the Master Teacher.  
In him is all the fulness of wisdom and knowledge.  
He is the healer—he heals people on the inside.  
He transforms them into his own likeness.  
He is building his Church.  
And the gates of hell will not prevail against it.  
One day he will return to a Church that is healed, mature and united.

The grave could not hold him.  
He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven.  
He sits today at the right hand of the Father.  
But he will return to earth again.  
Every eye will see him.  
Every knee will bow.  
Every tongue will confess.

Have you ever confessed him? Would you like to?

Who is this Jesus?  
He was born in poverty.  
He had no government, no army, no organization.  
Yet he changed the course of history.  
His kingdom keeps spreading throughout the earth,  
into every language, every culture, every country.  
Nothing can stop it.

When he rose, he did not appear to the Jewish leaders.

He did not appear to Pilate.  
He appeared to Mary in the garden.  
He appeared to the disciples in Galilee.  
He appeared to two who were walking along the road to Emmaus.  
They said later, "Did not our hearts burn within us when he spoke to us!"  
They knew him in the breaking of the bread.

He appeared to Thomas. He said,  
"Thomas, put forth your finger, and see the print of the nails in my hands,  
and put your hand into my side, and be not faithless, but believing."  
And Thomas fell before him and said, "My Lord and my God."  
Jesus said to Thomas, "Because you have seen, you have believed.  
Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

And many other signs did Jesus in the presence of his disciples  
that are not written in this book.  
But these are written,  
that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,  
and that believing, you might have life in his name.

Have you believed in him? Would you like to?

Let us pray:

Jesus is here.  
Say something to him.