



THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD

INTRODUCTION:

About 2,000 years ago a baby was born to a woman named Mary. This baby was named Jesus. Jesus was no ordinary baby. Mary was a virgin and she gave birth to Jesus by the Holy Spirit. His birth was a miracle. Mary did not choose a name for her baby. His name came from heaven. An angel told Joseph, who was to become Mary's husband, "You will give Him the name Jesus because He will save His people from the punishment of their sins" (Matthew 1:21 NLT). Jesus was also called by the name Immanuel which means "God with us" (Matthew 1:23). Jesus was God, come to earth as a man to save men from the punishment of sin.

HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT JESUS IS GOD?

One day everyone will have to admit that Jesus is Lord. "And everyone will say with his tongue that Jesus Christ is Lord" (Philippians 2:11 NLT). To claim Him as Lord of your life now is wise. If He is your Lord,

He will also be your Savior. If you wait until you are forced to call Him Lord, it will be too late. You will be punished for your sins.

Jesus has given us proof that He is the Lord God. He has proven it in many ways. These proofs are found in God's record of truth, the Bible. The first proof is Jesus' miraculous birth. The baby, called Jesus, was God come to earth as a man (I Timothy 3:16).

Jesus' ministry and its effects on men adds proof to the claim that Jesus is God. Napoleon Bonaparte, a famous French conqueror, recognized Jesus was more than a man. He said, "I tell you, I know men. Jesus was more than a man. Charlemagne, Alexander, and I have founded empires, but on what have we founded them? On force! Jesus has founded an empire greater in territorial extent, and vaster in significance, on love. I have inspired men so that they would die for me, but fancy a man dying for me nearly twenty centuries after I am dead, and yet that's what men are doing, the world over, for this man, Jesus of Nazareth."

Jesus' ministry was one of compassion and love for lost men. Jesus, speaking of Himself, said, "For the Son of Man came to look for and to save from the punishment of sin those who are lost" (Luke 19:10 NLT). Jesus' ministry to the lost included many miracles. He caused the lame to walk, opened the ears of the deaf, made the blind to see, and brought the dead back to life. Being God, Jesus could do anything. Some men began to understand that Jesus was God. Jesus asked His followers, "Who do you say that I am?" (Matthew 16:15 NLT). Peter answered that He was the promised Savior, the Son of God. Jesus was happy that they understood who He was. Jesus told Peter that no man had taught him this. "My Father in heaven has shown you this" (Matthew 16:17 NLT).

If you want to know who Jesus is, you need to ask God's Spirit to help you to understand. The Spirit will show you that Jesus was God come to earth as a man. He will show you through His Holy Writings and by speaking to your heart. The Holy Spirit which is the Spirit of Jesus will begin to minister to you, showing you the truth about Jesus.

When you believe that Jesus is God, you will be happy. Thomas, a follower of Jesus, did not believe Jesus had come back to life after cruel men had killed Jesus. However, Jesus did come back to life and He showed Himself to Thomas. When Thomas saw Jesus, he said, "My Lord and my God! Jesus said to him, Thomas, because you have seen Me, you believe. Those are happy who have never seen Me and yet believe!" (John 20:28-29 NLT).

Men who did not believe Jesus was God killed Him. They thought that this would prove He was not God. But you cannot kill God. Jesus took His Spirit out of His body and allowed His body to die. Only Jesus' body bled and died. The blood that Jesus shed was shed for us that we might have life. After three days Jesus returned His Spirit to His body, came out of His grave and proved He was God. Jesus is still alive today. He has returned to heaven and sent His Spirit back to live in our lives if we will believe in Him.

CONCLUSION:

The Bible clearly says there is only one Lord or God. "The greatest law is this, 'Listen, Jewish People, The Lord our God is one Lord!' (Mark 12:29 NLT). In order to be saved from the punishment of your sins, you must love the Lord God. "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength! This is the first law" (Mark 12:30 NLT).

When you understand that Jesus is the Lord God, then you should love Him with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. When you love

Jesus, you will show your love by obeying the gospel of Jesus Christ. The gospel, or good news, of Jesus Christ is repentance, baptism in Jesus' name, and receiving the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38). "But these are written so you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. When you put your trust in Him, you-will have life that lasts forever through His name" (John 20:31 NLT).