

# Who is Jesus?

## For Biblical Christians, Jesus:

1. **Is God.** (Matt 1:23; Jn 1:1; Romans 9:5; Tit 2:11-14; Heb 1:8-11; 1Jn 5:20)
2. **Is eternal and supernatural.** (Gen. 1:26, 21:33; John 1:1-2; Phil 2:6; Col 1:15-20; Rev 1:8, 21:6 & 22:13)
3. **Is the Son of God the Father.** (Matt 3:17; Mark12:6; Luke 10:22; Jn 10:30)
4. **Is the second Person of the Trinity consisting of three co-equal Persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.** (Gen 1:26, 3:22 & 11:7; Isa 6:8; Matt 3:16-17, 28:19; John 1:1-3; 14-18-21; 1 John 5:7-8; Rev 1:9-11)
5. **Is the creator of everything ever created.** (John 1:1-3,10; Col. 1:16)
6. **Was conceived in the flesh as a child of the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Trinity.** (Matt 1:18; Luke 1:35)
7. **Was born of the Virgin Mary.** (Matt 1:18; Luke 2:15-17)
8. **Fulfilled hundreds of Old Testament prophecies with respect to the coming of the promised Messiah.** (Old Testaments books of Genesis, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Psalms, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Micah & Zechariah)
9. **Claimed that He himself was God.** (Mark 14: 61-62; Luke 22:70; Jn 5:16-18; 8:58-59, 10:30-33, 14:9-10 & 17:20-23; Rev 1:8, & 22:13)
10. **Is Omnipotent.**—all powerful. (Mt 28:18; Heb 1:3; Col 2:18; Rev 1:8)
11. **Is Omniscient.**—all knowing. (John 16:30; Col 2:2-3)
12. **Is Omnipresent.**—everywhere present. (Mt 18:20 & 28:20)
13. **Is Immutable.**—never changes. (Heb1:11-12 & 13:8)
14. **Was 100 % God and 100% man.** (Phil 2:5-8)
15. **Performed many miracles demonstrating his Deity and power over life, death, and nature.** (Jn 10:37-38 & the Gospels of Matt, Mark, Luke & Jn)
16. **Lived a sinless life.** (John 8:46; 2 Cor 5:20-21; Heb 7:26; 1 Peter 2:21-22)
17. **Has the authority to forgive sins.** (Mark 2:5-12; Luke 24:45-47; Acts 10:43)
18. **Predicted his own death.** (Matt16:21; Mark 8:31; Luke 9:21-22)
19. **Unjustly Crucified on the cross in order to redeem all mankind of their sins.** (Luke 23:39-43; 1 Cor 15:3; Gal 1:3; 1 Peter 3:18)
20. **Was resurrected from death to life in a physical body.** (John 20:19-20; Luke 24:36-43)
21. **Appeared to over 500 people in his resurrected, physical body over a 50 day period.** (1 Cor 15:3-7)
22. **Ascended bodily into heaven & sits at the right hand of God the Father, the first Person of the Trinity.** (Mark 16:19; Luke 24:51; Acts 1:9-11 & 7:56)
23. **Will return in his human body in his second coming.** (Acts 1:9-11)
24. **Is the only way of salvation based on one's belief in his sacrificial death on his Cross at Calvary.** (Jn 3:16, 5:39; Acts 4:12; 1 Thess 5:9-10)
25. **Is the only one who is empowered to prescribe the rewards of salvation for believers in Him.** (2 Cor 5:10; Col 3:23-24; 2 Timothy 4:8)
26. **Is the only one at the White Throne Judgment who is empowered to cast unbelievers in Him into the lake of fire, thereby destroying the Devil's kingdom.** (John 5:24-29; Rev 20:11-15)

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For true believers in Christ, these 26 listed doctrines all clearly point to Jesus as being the promised Messiah of the Old Testament. But which of these doctrines make up the foundation of Christianity? One might speculate that the forgiven thief on the cross only needed to believe in doctrines 19 and 24 for his salvation. Doctrines 19 and 24 are extremely important doctrines of the Christian church, but are they the foundational doctrines of who Jesus is? If they are not, which of these statements are, and what is the danger of not focusing on them first?

With regard to the foundation of Christianity, *The Handbook of Christian Apologetics* states that “the divinity of Jesus is the most distinctive Christian doctrine of all.” No other religion has a similar doctrine. Buddhists do not believe that Buddha was God. Muslims do not believe that Muhammad was God: To the Muslims, there is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is his prophet.”

Unlike the Muslims and the Buddhists, Christians believe—or should believe—that Jesus is God. Let’s study some verses in the Bible that authenticate that Doctrines 1 and 9 are true—that Jesus is God and that Jesus claimed to be God:

## Bible Verses for Doctrine 1

Matthew 1:23—**All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the Prophet [See Isaiah 7:14]: “The virgin will be with child and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”—which means, “God with us.”**

John 1:1—**“In the beginning was the Word [Jesus], and the Word was with God and the Word was God.”**

Romans 9:5—**Theirs [The people of Israel] are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of Christ, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen.**

Titus 2:11-14—**For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say “no” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and live self controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearance of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.**

Hebrews 1:8-11—**But about the Son, he [God the Father] says, “Your throne, O God will last forever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy. He also says, “In the beginning, O Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you remain; they will wear out like a garment. [See Psalm 2: 7-9 & 45:6-7]**

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1 John 5:20—**We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true—even in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.**

## Bible Verses For Doctrine 9

Mark 14:61-62—**The High Priest asked him [Jesus], “Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?”**

**“I am,” said Jesus. “And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.”**

Luke 22:70—**They all asked, “Are you then the Son of God?” He replied, “You are right in saying I am.”**

John 5:16-18—**So because Jesus was doing these things [healing the blind, the lame, and the paralyzed] on the Sabbath, the Jews persecuted him. Jesus said to them. “My father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working.” For this reason the Jews tried all the harder to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father making him equal with God.**

John 8:58-59—**“I tell you the truth,” Jesus answered, “Before Abraham was born, I am!” At this, they picked up stones to stone him...**

John 10:30-33—**“I and the Father are one.” Again the Jews picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus said to them, “I have shown you many great miracles from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?”**

**“We are not stoning you for any of these,” replied the Jews, “but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God.”**

John 14: 9-10—**Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father?’ Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.”**

John 17:20-23—**“My prayer [to God the Father] is not for them [believers] alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and You in me. May they be brought to complete unity to**

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**let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as I have loved you.”**

Revelation 1:8—I am the Alpha and the Omega, says the Lord God [Jesus], “**who is, and who was, and is to come, the Almighty.**”

Revelation 22:13—“I [Jesus] **am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.**”

While one can understand why the Muslims and the Buddhists might question the deity of Jesus, why do other religious groups that state that they believe in Jesus for some portion of their salvation, deny that fact? Let’s go through these 26 doctrines—some with comments—once again to see how distorted Christianity can become without the foundational belief that Jesus is God.

## **For Biblical Christians, Jesus:**

1. **Is God.**—The Jehovah’s Witnesses believe that Christ was created as an angel, refutes Christ’s full deity, and believes that he was once Michael the Archangel. The Mormons believe that Jesus is a god of many gods, has not always existed, is the spiritual brother of Lucifer, and as the man Jesus, was married to multiple wives and sired children.
2. **Is eternal and supernatural.**—The Jehovah’s Witnesses and the Mormons both believe that Jesus is a created being and therefore cannot be an eternal and supernatural being.
3. **Is the Son of God the Father.**
4. **Is the second Person of the Trinity consisting of three co-equal Persons, the Father, the Son , and the Holy Spirit.**—The Jehovah’s Witnesses say that the concept of the Trinity is un-Biblical and a blasphemous teaching. They assert that the Holy Spirit is instead “God’s active force” and cannot be considered a “person” because God never gave the Holy Spirit a “personal” name. The Mormon’s Godhood consists of three separate and unequal gods. The Mormon’s second President, Brigham Young, said these words: “The Holy Spirit is not a personage having a tabernacle like the Father and the Son; but he is God’s messenger that diffuses his influence all through the works of the Almighty.”
5. **Is the creator of everything ever created.**—The Jehovah’s Witnesses believe that Jesus was God’s created being who was created to create everything else for him. Mormonism teaches that trillions of planets scattered through the cosmos are ruled by countless gods who were once human like us. They further believe that the planet earth was created as a place where the spirit children of those countless gods would be sent to take on mortal bodies and learn good from evil.
6. **Was conceived in the flesh as a child of the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Trinity.**—The Jehovah’s Witnesses believe that God the Father

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produced Jesus, and the Mormons believe that Jesus was physically conceived by the union of a mortal God the Father and the Virgin Mary.

7. **Was born of the Virgin Mary.**
8. **Fulfilled hundreds of Old Testament prophecies with respect to the coming of the promised Messiah.** One Biblical investigating group claims that they have found 1,093 Old Testament prophecies that Jesus has fulfilled as the Messiah. (See:<http://biblia.com/jesusbible/prophecies.htm>)
9. **Claimed that He himself was God.** The Jehovah's Witnesses argue that, as a created being, Jesus can't claim the full deity of God, while the Mormons believe that Jesus is a god of many gods.
10. **Is Omnipotent.** The Jehovah's Witnesses and the Mormons believe that Jesus is inferior to the Father.
11. **Is Omniscient.**
12. **Is Omnipresent.**
13. **Is Immutable.** The Jehovah's Witnesses believe that in his pre-human state, Jesus was the archangel Michael.
14. **Was 100 % God and 100% man.**
15. **Performed many miracles demonstrating his Deity and power over life, death, and nature.**—Surely the performance of twenty-three recorded healing miracles involving thirty-five different individuals, the nine times he demonstrated his power over nature which involved over nine thousand people, and the raising up of three people from the dead, proves the deity of Jesus. Not only are these miracles recorded in the Bible, there is also independent, multiple attestation to the authenticity of the majority of those supernatural events.  
Included in those miracles were three persons raised up from the dead, namely:
  - A. The ruler's daughter, Jairus—Matthew 9:18-19, 23-25, Mark 5:22-24, 38-42 & Luke 8:41-42, 49-56
  - B. Widow's son at Nain—Luke 7:11-15
  - C. Lazarus—John—11:1-44
16. **Lived a sinless life.**—Mormon apostle, Bruce R. McConkie wrote these words; "The Lord Jesus worked out his own salvation while in his mortal probation." And the Mormon's sixth President wrote these words: "Without doubt, Jesus came into this world subject to the same condition as required of us. He forgot everything and had to grow from grace to grace."
17. **Has the authority to forgive sins.**
18. **Predicted his own death.**—Who else but God could predict the exact location and details of his own death and resurrection?  
Matthew 16:21 says, **From that time on, Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.**

In this verse, Jesus foretold of the place that he would suffer, described who his enemies were, outlined their insatiable malice towards him where nothing less than his death would satisfy them, suffered and died for us, and was raised back

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to life on the third day. All of these things came true exactly as Jesus had predicted.

19. **Was unjustly crucified on the Cross in order to redeem all mankind of their sins.**—The Jehovah's Witnesses say that Jesus' death on the cross was to rescue mankind from the consequences of Adam's sin only. The third Article of Faith of the Mormon Church says: "We believe that through the atonement of Jesus Christ, all mankind may be saved by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel." Faith plus works instead of faith alone!
20. **Was resurrected from death to life in a physical body.**—The Jehovah's Witnesses believe that Jesus was resurrected as the Archangel Michael with a spiritual body instead of a physical one because he did not take up that body in which he had been killed as a human sacrifice to God.
21. **Appeared to over 500 people in his resurrected, physical body over a 50 day period.**
22. **Ascended bodily into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father, the first Person of the Trinity.**
23. **Will return in his human body in his second coming.** The Jehovah's Witnesses believe that Jesus will descend from heaven with the voice of an Archangel thus proving that he is Michael the Archangel.
24. **Is the only way of salvation based solely on one's belief in his sacrificial death on his Cross at Calvary.**—John 3:16 plainly says, "**For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him [Jesus] should not perish, but have eternal life.**" The Jehovah's Witnesses have four requirements for salvation: A. Take in the knowledge by studying the Bible with the aid of the Watchtower Publications. B. Obey the laws of God and the laws of the Watchtower Society. C. Be baptized into the Watchtower Organization. C. Publish the good news of the Watchtower Society from door to door. The Mormons believe in two types of salvation—universal and individual. In universal salvation, everyone who ever lived, regardless of his beliefs or worldly actions is assured of being saved and will spend their immortality in one of the two lowest kingdoms of the Mormon's three-tiered heaven. Those assigned to those two kingdoms will live in an unmarried state and be subservient to those people in the highest kingdom who, during their lifetime, supplemented the Grace of Jesus Christ with faith, repentance, baptism, obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel, and who received the Holy Ghost, and were married and sealed in a Mormon temple. Those who obtain that highest kingdom will enjoy the family unit for eternity and become gods themselves. They believe that Jesus' shed blood is insufficient for man's salvation without the added performance of works and/or the shedding of one's personal blood. The Mormon's *Journal of Discourses* makes this last statement very clear: "There is not a man or woman, who violates the covenants made with their God that will not be required to pay the debt. The blood of Christ will never wipe that out, your own blood must atone for it." By the way, the Jehovah's Witnesses believe that the only people that will be in Heaven will be Jehovah's Witnesses.

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25. **Is the only one who is empowered to prescribe the rewards of salvation for believers in Him.**
26. **Is the only one at the White Throne Judgment who is empowered to cast unbelievers in Him into the lake of fire, thereby destroying the Devil's kingdom.** Since the Jehovah's Witnesses believe that the unrighteous cease to exist when they die, and since the Mormons believe that everyone who ever lived, regardless of their beliefs or worldly actions is assured of eventually being saved, it would appear that only Lucifer and his trusted angels will be eternally condemned to Hell. That, of course, brings into question as to why the Holy Bible repeatedly warns all mankind that Hell is the place for eternal punishment for the damned?

The next question that needs to be asked is how can such essential Christian doctrines become so distorted? Most, if not all, errant Biblical teaching related to these 26 listed essential Christian doctrines begins with the same falsehood—that Jesus Christ is not God. It all starts with a religious movement which claims the backing of Christ but instead distorts the essential foundational doctrines of that teaching. These religious movements are called cults and generally have one thing in common. They will acknowledge that Jesus was a good man, a Jewish teacher, a prophet, a philosopher, a social worker, a psychologist, a reformer, a sage, a magician, a healer, the created son of God, or a god of many gods, but not God, himself.

How does such a religious movement do such a thing? The following is a single example utilizing John 1:1—just one of hundreds of other distortions—as to how the Jehovah's Witnesses have attempted to do just that:

John 1:1 says **“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God.”** It is a widely accepted fact that “the Word” is an idiom (a language expression having a meaning other than the conjoined meaning of its elements) meaning “Jesus the Christ” that John alone used many times in his Gospel. John, in this verse, is saying that Jesus was in the beginning (eternal), that Jesus was with God the Father from eternity, and that Jesus was God himself. The Jehovah's Witnesses changed the meaning of that verse by adding one single letter—the letter “a,” which altered John 1:1 to read, **“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was 'a' God.”** The insertion of that one letter was meant to put the suspicion on the full deity of Jesus Christ and limit his role to salvation from Adam's sin only, and not for the sins of all mankind.

Now I ask again, which of these 26 statements are essential to a true believer in Jesus Christ? Two cults, the Jehovah's Witnesses and the Mormons, having collective memberships of over 15 million members—in one way or another—treat Statements 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 13, 16, 19, 20, 23, 24, and 26 as being un-Biblical and/or blasphemous teachings.

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Shortly before his own death on his cross, the forgiven thief said these words recorded in Luke 23:42: **“Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”**

That fervent request from a repentant robber was sufficient enough for Jesus to answer him with these glorious words in Luke 23:43: **“I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.”** *The New Scofield Reference Bible* footnote for this verse reads, “One thief was saved, so that none needs to despair; but only one, so that none may presume.”

That thief somehow believed that the Jesus who hung on the adjoining cross had the power to forgive his sin—as only God can do—and clearly understood that he was about to descend into an eternal place of damnation—Hell—without Jesus’ intervention. Any group that undermines the essential doctrines of the Holy Bible regarding who Jesus is, and teaches that everyone—regardless of how unrepentant they are—will ultimately be saved and/or will eternally cease to exist upon their deaths, is truly a group to be avoided.

Doctrines 1 and 9—Jesus is God and Jesus claimed to be God—represent the solid and eternal foundation for the other 24. Instead of the Jehovah’s Witnesses and Mormons pounding on our doors, we need to be pounding on theirs!

### **Additional Distorted Bible Verses**

As written Bible verse: Luke 23:43: **“I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.”** (The repentant thief on the cross is in paradise today.)

J. W. distorted Bible verse: Luke 23:43: **“I tell you the truth today, you will be with me in paradise.”** (The repentant thief on the cross is not yet in paradise.)

As written Bible verse: 1Timothy 2:5-6: **For there is one God and one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men...** (Jesus is the mediator between God and all mankind.)

J.W. distorted Bible verse: 1Timothy 2:5-6: **For there is one God and one mediator between God and man the man, Christ Jesus, who gave himself a corresponding ransom for all men...** (Jesus’ death on the cross was to rescue mankind from the consequences of Adam’s sin only; therefore his death on the cross is insufficient for all mankind. Salvation for the Jehovah’s Witnesses is based on faith in Jesus plus works as prescribed by their organization.)

Also note that the words **“only begotten Son”** and **“firstborn Son”** that the Jehovah’s Witnesses use to demonstrate that Jesus was a created being are more accurately translated as **“only blessed and favored Son”** (as applied to



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Isaac who was not Abraham's only son), and "**preeminent and supreme Son.**" (as applied to David who's birth was preceded by many brothers.)

Lest this study be accused of bashing only the Jehovah's Witnesses, one needs to realize that although the Mormons have not distorted the Holy Bible, they say that the King James Version of the Bible is accurate only as interpreted by the Mormon Church and that this Bible must be supplemented by three other Books, *The Book of Mormon*, *Doctrines and Covenants*, and *The Pearl of Great Price*. They further claim that Mormonism is the only true church on the face of the earth, with all other denominations being an abomination to God.

The Jehovah's Witnesses and the Mormons both refuse to accept foundational Doctrines 1 and 9, with the unquestioning approval of millions of their dedicated followers. Bill O'Reilly made this recent comment about Christians worried about Mitt Romney running for the Presidency of the United States: "Why are Christians so concerned about a Mormon running for public office? Mormons are Christians too."

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