

The Truth About Jesus

Colossians 1:15-22

“. . . It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed . . . ¹²Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.” Acts 4:10-12 (New International Version)

Colossians 1:15-22 provides **four truths about Jesus’ identity**.

- **Truth #1: JESUS IS GOD.**

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.
Colossians 1:15 (NIV)

He [Jesus] reflects the brightness of God’s glory and is the exact likeness of God’s own being, . . . Hebrews 1:3 (Good News Translation)

No one has ever seen God. The only Son, who is the same as God and is at the Father’s side, he has made him known. John 1:18 (GNT)

(See John 1:1-3, 14, 17-18; 5:10-23, 26; 8:58; 9:35; 10:30,38; 12:41; 14:8-9; 17:1-5)

“. . . Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father . . . John 14:9 (English Standard Version)

Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!” John 20:28 (NIV)

*Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad.”*⁵⁷*“You are not yet fifty years old,” the Jews said to him, “and you have seen Abraham!”*⁵⁸*“I tell you the truth,” Jesus answered, “before Abraham was born, I am!”*⁵⁹*At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds.* John 8:56-59 (NIV)

God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’ ” Exodus 3:14 (NIV)

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
John 3:16 (King James Version)

Begotten = *Monogenas* = one of a kind

Firstborn = *prototokos* = of first importance or rank

I will also appoint him my firstborn, the most exalted of the kings of the earth.
Psalm 89:27 (NIV)

- **Truth #2: JESUS IS SUPREME OVER ALL CREATION.**

For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. ¹⁷He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.
Colossians 1:16-17 (NIV)

Why Jesus is Supreme Over all Creation

- Jesus is the Creator.

Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. John 1:3 (NIV)

(God the Father as Creator: Genesis 1:1; Psalm 33:6, 9; Acts 4:24; Hebrews 11:3. God the Son as Creator: John 1:3; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Hebrews 1:2. God the Holy Spirit as Creator: Genesis 1:2; Job 33:4)

- Jesus existed before Creation.

Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. Psalm 90:2 (NIV)

- Jesus holds all things together.

- **Truth #3: JESUS IS THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH.**

And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.
Colossians 1:18 (NIV)

- **Truth #4: JESUS IS OUR RECONCILER.**

For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. ²¹Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. ²²But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation . . .

Colossians 1:19-22 (NIV)

Five Words Used to Describe Salvation in Christ

- Justification - The sinner stands before God guilty and condemned, but is declared righteous. (Romans 8:33)
- Redemption - The sinner stands before God as a slave, but is granted his freedom. (Romans 6:18-22)
- Forgiveness - The sinner stands before God as a debtor, but the debt is paid and forgotten. (Ephesians 1:7)
- Adoption - The sinner stands before God as a stranger, but is made a son. (Ephesians 1:5)
- Reconciliation - The sinner stands before God as an enemy, but becomes His friend. (Colossians 1:18)

How did reconciliation take place? Through the atoning death of Jesus Christ.

- Atonement = the work Christ did in His life and death to earn our salvation

This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 1 John 4:10 (NIV)