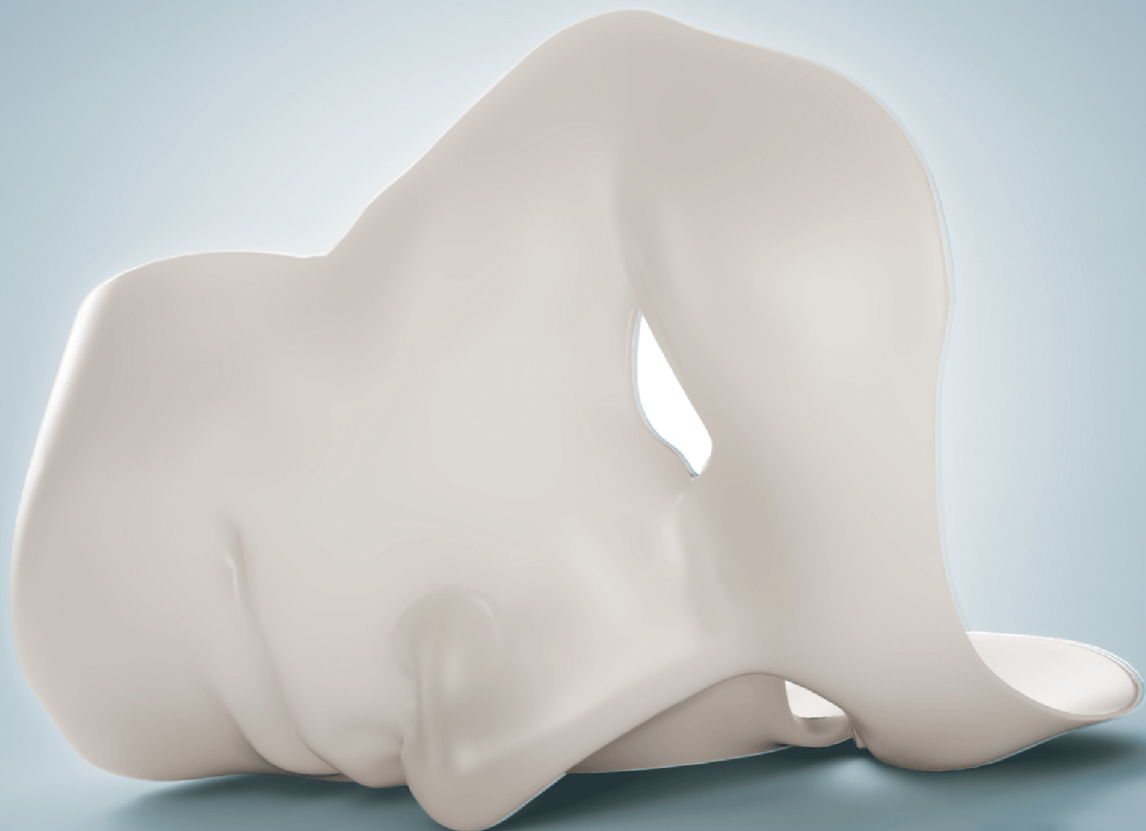


Jesus Unmasked

Study Guide

Teacher Edition



Jesus Unmasked: Teacher Discussion Guide

This discussion guide is a companion to the *Jesus Unmasked* resource available at www.Wretched.org.

By Todd Friel

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Message From Todd

The world never seems to tire of putting masks on Jesus Christ. Unbelievers and skeptics put on disguises that read: good teacher, great example, a philosopher, just a man, an enlightened guru, liberal, and an endless litany of unbiblical descriptions. Prepare to have these masks ripped off Jesus and see Him for who He truly is: the long expected Son of God.

You are going to see the real Jesus as you study Him throughout the Old Testament. You will also see the amazing continuity of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. We do not have two books that describe a rather crabby God in the Old Testament who got a little nicer in the New Testament. We have one book preeminently about one subject: Jesus Christ.

Jesus does not make His first entrance on the world's largest stage in the Gospel of Matthew. Jesus is first revealed in the Bible in Genesis 1:1, and He makes dramatic guest appearances in each and every book of the Old Testament (Luke 24:27). You are about to see that Jesus, unmasked, in every book in the Bible as you embark on a classic study of Typology (the study of types and shadows). When you are done, you will never read your Bible the same way again, and you will forever be convinced that Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man.



Using This Guide

This guide has been created to help you get the most out of the book *Jesus Unmasked*. Here are some suggestions on how to maximize your time with this study:

- Read the appropriate chapters in the book BEFORE each lesson. You will get the most out of this study if you dive into the book itself. It is suggested that participants have a copy of the book, *Jesus Unmasked*, prior to beginning the study.
- After reading the appropriate chapter(s), answer the questions found in this guide. Most questions will reference material found in the book (page numbers have been provided for your reference). However, there are some questions that require you to reference Strong's Concordance. Access to this may be found here: <https://biblehub.com/strongs.htm>.
- Some lessons may be completed quicker than others. If you are unable to get through a lesson in one sitting, don't worry. You will still get a lot out of the class. I promise.
- Pray before and after each class based on the Bible verses and content of the chapter(s) covered. If you have time, you will find it helpful to write out your prayers in advance. The more you load your prayers with Bible truths, the more powerful your prayers will be.

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Chapter 1 & 2

Who Is This Man?

"He performed miracles, wonder, and signs, as a man in right relationship to God...not as God. If He performed miracles because He was God, then they would be unattainable for us."

- Bill Johnson

Who Is This Man?

1. After reading pages 18 and 19 of *Jesus Unmasked*, what are the three things that made Jesus stand out in Israel?

ANSWER

- A. Illness obliterated
- B. His preaching
- C. How He taught what He taught

2. How were Jesus's healings different from a contemporary televangelist? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 18)

ANSWER

Jesus actually healed, totally and completely. He wasn't a charlatan.

3. Read Luke 4:40 (page 18, *Jesus Unmasked*), then look up Strong's Greek 770 and write out what you learn about the word "sick."

ANSWER

The Greek word is *astheneo*. It means weak, without strength, feeble, powerless. These were people with dire diseases who could not operate without help and assistance. They were truly, desperately sick.

4. Also from Luke 4:40, look up Strong's Greek 2323, and write out what you learn about the word "healing."

ANSWER

The Greek word is *therapeuo*. We get the English word "therapeutic" from it. It means to heal, to restore to health, to cure. This denotes the full and total cure of the disease. This wasn't just a fuzzy feeling of being slightly better. Jesus not only cured the profoundly sick, He cured all side effects and restored people to complete health.

5. Israel had not seen such miraculous healings since the Old Testament time of Elisha/Elijah. Upon seeing these healings, what should have been the response from the people of Israel?

ANSWER

The miracles themselves should have been proof that Jesus was certainly similar to the Old Testament prophets. Such miraculous events should have sent them scrambling to search the Scriptures.

6. Read page 18 of *Jesus Unmasked*. Jesus proclaimed to a paralyzed man that his sins were forgiven. (Luke 5:20) Why was this scandalous?

ANSWER

Because God alone can forgive sins. This was tantamount to Jesus proclaiming He was God. In Israel, this was blasphemy deserving of execution!

Not only did Jesus obliterate disease and infirmities and forgive sins, He also preached in a way that was a unique departure from how the Scribes were teaching and preaching.

7. On page 19 of *Jesus Unmasked*, read Matthew 7:28–29. The word “amazed” means more than what we think it means in current English. Look up Strong’s Greek 1605, *ekplesso*, and write down what you learn about this word.

ANSWER It means to be exceedingly struck in mind; to be astonished.

8. What did you learn about the behavior of Jesus among His followers? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 19)

ANSWER He was living and serving among the people of Israel, not keeping Himself distant and separate the way the Pharisees and Sadducees did. He was clearly a man who was markedly different in behavior and lifestyle.

Just as He was unforgettable during his ministry, so too was the last week of His life. Many could only ask, “Who was this man?”

As we begin to answer this question, you may be tempted to think you know all there is to know about Jesus. Our prayer is that your response will cause you to be *ekplesso*.

9. How did the Jews know a Messiah was coming? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 21)

ANSWER It was prophesied in the Old Testament.

10. On page 21 of *Jesus Unmasked*, what kind of Messiah were many waiting for?

ANSWER A political or military leader who would throw off the oppressive yoke of the Roman Empire.

It was clear that many of the Jews were seeking an end to their “here and now” oppression in the earthly realm, ignoring their much bigger need for the redemption of their souls from the bondage of the law and sin.

11. Based on the quality and quantity of Jesus’s miracles, why were the Jews confused about who Jesus was? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 21–22)

ANSWER Jesus didn’t act like a military general or political deliverer. People loved that He was healing their loved ones, and they longed for a political and military “healing” for their nation. They were blind to the true Messiah they desperately needed for their sick and dying souls. He didn’t fit their pre-conceived notion of what the Messiah was to be, ignoring the Biblical markers and signposts given in Scripture.

12. There were three questions asked of Jesus during His last two days on earth. What were they? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 22)

ANSWER

- A. Are you the Christ?**
- B. Are you the King of the Jews?**
- C. Are you not the Christ?**

It appears that a lack of knowledge of Old Testament prophecy was the greatest factor in the confusion about who Jesus was and what His mission was here on earth.

13. How do we know that the Old Testament books prophecy about Jesus? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 23–24)

ANSWER

In Luke 24: 13-27, we read about the risen Christ explaining “the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures” to the disciples on the road to Emmaus.

The life and ministry of Jesus Christ was described, defined, explained, and prophesied in the Old Testament. More than that, the entire thrust of the Old Testament led up to the unveiling of The Messiah.

14. How can we know that the Bible is true? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 24)

ANSWER

Because it is axiomatic, or self–proving.

15. How can we prove that God “lives in the Bible”? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 24)

ANSWER

When we peer into the contents of Scripture, we see profound brilliance that proves definitively that God wrote a book and Jesus is the leading character.

16. If the Bible were written over the course of 1500 years by forty different authors, what should we expect to see? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 25)

ANSWER

Complete chaos and disagreement. It would contradict itself.

17. Instead, we see a consistent and unmistakable theme. What is that theme? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 25)

ANSWER

Jesus

It is our prayer that this study will help you take the same walk as the disciples, on the road to Emmaus, as Jesus explained to them that the Old Testament was written about Him.

Chapter 3

Big, Fancy Words

"What was God doing before the divine creation? Was he preparing hell for people who asked such questions?"

- Stephen Hawking

Big, Fancy Words

In order to maximize our walk to Emmaus, we need to review some big theological terms.

1. What does Supralapsarianism mean? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 28)

ANSWER It is the order of God's thinking regarding the creation of the world based on Scriptural revelation. It tells you the purpose of your existence.

2. What are the three great philosophical questions that every philosopher and non-philosopher alike has pondered? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 28)

ANSWER

- A. Where did I come from?
- B. Why am I here?
- C. Where am I going when I die?

3. How does Supralapsarianism answer these questions? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 28)

ANSWER Based on Scripture, it tells us that God created the world knowing humans would sin in order to send His Son to redeem a people for Himself. Saving sinners was not an afterthought. It was God's eternal plan before He created the earth.

4. How is the Bible God's history book? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 28)

ANSWER It reveals the plan of redemption. Everything we read in the Bible is ultimately about God's plan to forgive rebels through Jesus Christ.

History doesn't happen overnight; it takes time. As hindsight observers, we tend to forget about time as we read the Bible. God chose to reveal his story over time and little by little.

5. What term from page 28 of *Jesus Unmasked* describes this slow progression of God's revealed plan?

ANSWER Progressive revelation

6. What clause in Galatians 4:4–5 best describes progressive revelation? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 29)

ANSWER "When the fullness of time came"

7. In Mark 1:15, we see a similar clause. What is it? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 29)

ANSWER “The time is fulfilled”

8. We know that the Old Testament progressively led to a culmination in Jesus. What does the New Testament point to? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 29)

ANSWER A climax in the future that involves us.

9. In order for God to progressively reveal His plan of salvation, he chose to use prophecy and typology. What is typology? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 30)

ANSWER The use of types and shadows. Types and Shadows are actual events that are fuzzy pictures of something else.

10. What does John 5:39 say about typology? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 30)

ANSWER That the Old Testament Scriptures actually testify about Jesus.

11. If shadows are not the real object, what are they? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 30)

ANSWER A shadowy representation of the real thing, not the object itself.

12. In the Old Testament, God shares accounts that are shadowy pictures (or types) of the real thing. The real thing is Jesus. These types can take different forms. List the forms of shadows in the Old Testament. (*Jesus Unmasked* page 30)

ANSWER Person, object, office, ceremony, structure, or event.

13. What are some examples of shadowy pictures of Jesus? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 30)

ANSWER Old Testament festivals and the Sabbath.

God did not choose to send Jesus right after man fell into sin. God chose to place Jesus in a historical context.

14. We see five elements that tie Jesus to history. What are they? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 31)

ANSWER

- A. Jesus has the history of a set-apart nation.**
- B. Jesus has the history of a religion.**
- C. Jesus has the history of a God who performed miracles.**
- D. Jesus has the foundation of a book.**
- E. Jesus is the fulfillment of dozens of prophecies predicting where He would be born and how He would live and die.**

15. Why is it important that Jesus was established in these five historical elements? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 31)

ANSWER

Because it anchors Jesus to 4,000 years of prophecies and expectations, and it eliminates the speculation that he was a madman.

As we continue in this study guide, you will begin to see the types and shadows—the fuzzy Old Testament pictures made clear in the person of Jesus Christ. May the amazing consistency and prophetic nature of the Bible help you to recognize the true, unmasked Jesus.

Chapter 4

Mask: Jesus Was Just a Man

"Jesus of Nazareth did not refer to himself as the Messiah, nor did he claim to be a divine being who descended to earth from heaven in order to die as a sacrifice for the sins of the world. These are claims that some people in the early church made about Jesus, not claims he made about himself."

- Jesus Seminar

Mask: Jesus Was Just a Man

INTRODUCTION

The evidence for Jesus's existence is undeniable. However, there are people who attempt to justify their denial of Jesus's divinity by putting a human mask on Him. This mask says that a man named Jesus actually walked the earth and was a notable citizen who made an impact on mankind in some way, but that Jesus is no more important than the next guy.

REMOVING THE MASK

The claim that Jesus was a mere mortal runs straight into the wall of Biblical truth. Jesus Himself set the record straight. Jesus insisted He was more than a mere man; he was the Redeemer promised in the Old Testament. The record of Jesus does not begin with the New Testament; He is announced in Genesis 3:15.

1. Based on Chapter 4 of *Jesus Unmasked*, would you say that the rescue mission of Jesus Christ was Plan A or Plan B? Explain.

ANSWER **Plan A. The Gospel has always been God's prearranged plan to bring Himself great glory by redeeming sinners.**

2. Why did man need redeeming? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 33–34)

ANSWER **Adam and Eve had free will in the perfect and sinless garden with only one rule, "Don't eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil." The devil schemed and tempted them to break God's law. Satan convinced them that God couldn't be trusted and He didn't want us to be equal with Him. Adam's willful rebellion against God ushered in sin, shame, guilt, and blaming. This sin destroyed man's relationship with God and placed us all under the wrath of an angry and righteous God.**

3. We see man's first attempt to rectify his situation by his own efforts. What did that look like? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 34)

ANSWER **Adam and Eve made clothing with fig leaves in an effort to cover their shame and sin.**

4. Was this man-made attempt to remedy their sinful situation acceptable to God?

ANSWER **No.**

5. Since man's attempt was not sufficient, what did God do? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 34)

ANSWER God shed the first blood ever and made Adam and Eve coverings from the sacrifice of an animal.

Substitutionary atonement is one of the pillars of the Jewish religion and is woven throughout the Old Testament. Substitutionary death was the heart of the sacrificial system instituted in the Mosaic covenant. God was giving a clear message: death always follows sin, and atonement for sin was not available without a blood sacrifice.

Because an animal cannot atone for the sins of humans, the sacrificed animal didn't actually atone for sin. It was a picture of the necessity of a perfect human substitute to take the place of sinners and bear God's wrath. The animal sacrifice was a foreshadowing of the perfect Lamb to come who would actually forgive sins.

6. God proclaimed a curse on all creation due to man's rebellion, but God also made a promise. What was it? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 34)

ANSWER God covered their naked bodies by sacrificing an animal that covered their shame. It was the first shadowy reference that a blood sacrifice was needed for the forgiveness of sins. He also promised that an offspring would crush the head of the serpent.

7. What is the name of this first Gospel promise? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 34)

ANSWER Proto-evangelium.

8. God offered good news immediately after He pronounced man's sentence. According to pages 34-35 in *Jesus Unmasked*, what are the five lessons to be learned from this?

ANSWER

- A. Sin is very serious.
- B. Because God is love, He has righteous anger toward sin.
- C. Man's efforts to appease the wrath of God are not sufficient.
- D. We need God to intervene and rescue us.
- E. We need a perfect blood sacrifice.

9. What do we learn about sacrifices when reading the historical account of Cain and Abel? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 35)

ANSWER God's "sacrifice of choice" is a blood-bearing animal and not grain or any other man-made offering.

10. Why was the sacrifice of Isaac suspended? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 36)

ANSWER Isaac was merely a shadow of a greater reality to come. The better son would be the lamb that God Himself provided.

11. We see another lamb slaughtered in Exodus 12. What did we learn about this lamb? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 37)

ANSWER

- A. The lamb was spotless.
- B. The lamb was to live with the family for a short time.
- C. The lamb could suffer no broken bones.
- D. The lamb sacrifice could remove the sting of physical death.

12. How does this correlate to Jesus? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 37)

ANSWER

- A. Jesus was spotless (sinless).
- B. Jesus dwelt with His people for a short time.
- C. Not a bone in His body was broken.
- D. The sacrifice of Jesus removed the sting of eternal, spiritual death.

13. How was Jesus a better lamb sacrifice? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 38)

ANSWER

- A. Jesus was not a victim; He was a volunteer.
- B. A lamb sacrifice could only "cover" sins; Jesus's sacrifice forgiven sins.
- C. The lambs were sacrificed every year; Jesus's sacrifice was once for all.

14. Why was all this shedding of blood necessary? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 38)

ANSWER According to Leviticus 17, atonement is in the blood, in the death of an animal as a substitute. This was a constant reminder to the Jewish people that blood was required for the covering of sins.

15. Why is the blood of a lamb insufficient to forgive sin? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 38)

ANSWER **Eternal sins against God require a sacrifice from God that only His Son could provide.**

So if the blood of bulls and goats are insufficient to forgive eternal sin, will God provide a better means? Read Jeremiah 31:34 and Isaiah 53:1–8. (*Jesus Unmasked* Page 38–39)

16. According to Jeremiah 31:34, the new covenant is different. What makes it different?

ANSWER **God will forgive and forget their sins!**

Let's take some time now to go deeper into Isaiah 53:1–9. This is the clearest revelation of Christ in the Old Testament. Sometimes it has been referred to as the gospel according to Isaiah.

Teacher/Leader, the following questions are not found in *Jesus Unmasked*. They are general Bible study questions.

17. How did Isaiah describe a man who was brutally killed?

ANSWER **Isaiah predicted a humble volunteer who would die for the sins of his people even though he had committed no sins. Isaiah's description of the Messiah was that of a Savior, not a warrior.**

18. Isaiah 53:2 is a stark contrast to the Jewish misconception of their promised Messiah. How?

ANSWER **This lowly Messiah was born unnoticed, possessing no stately royalty or splendid surroundings befitting a king. There was nothing about His appearance that attracted Jewish attention or appeared to make Him extraordinary. He was born from an ordinary and unremarkable family in a remote town and grew up in a city of small regard. This is not what the Jews were expecting from their Messiah.**

19. Do a word search on “despised” (Strong’s Hebrew 959) and “forsaken” (Strong’s Hebrew 2310) in Isaiah 53:3. In what ways did Jesus fulfill this prophecy?

ANSWER The Hebrew word for despised is *bä·zä'*, which means to be despised; to hold in contempt; to disdain; to scorn.

The Hebrew word for forsaken is *khä·däl'*, which means rejected or made destitute.

Jesus was despised and forsaken during his ministry when the Jews rejected his message, and in their treatment of him on Good Friday. *Forsaken* can also mean one from whom men held themselves aloof. We see this in the sparse followers who all but dwindled down to the apostles. (John 1:10–11, Mark 10:33–34, Heb. 3:7–13)

20. Who is Isaiah talking about in Isaiah 53:4?

ANSWER Jesus.

21. How does Acts 8:26–38 verify that Jesus is the suffering servant of Isaiah 53?

ANSWER In Acts 8, Phillip instructed the Ethiopian eunuch that Isaiah 53 was describing Jesus.

22. Isaiah 53:4 says, “Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.” What is he saying about the Jews?

ANSWER He is prophesying that the Jews would believe that Jesus’s crucifixion was God’s punishment for Jesus’s sins, not ours.

23. Read 2 Corinthians 5:21, Romans 4:15, and 1 Peter 2:22. Did Jesus sin?

ANSWER No. He was sinless. He was the perfect, unblemished lamb.

24. What does Isaiah 53:5 describe?

ANSWER Jesus’s crucifixion. It is clear that Jesus was dying in our place. His substitutionary atonement was for our salvation.

25. How does Isaiah 53:5 relate to 1 Peter 2:24?

ANSWER Peter's description of Jesus's work was an illusion to Isaiah's description of the purpose of the lamb's sufferings: to atone for sins.

26. How does the first part of Isaiah 53:6 describe unregenerate man's behavior?

ANSWER In our sinful state, we live in rebellion to the Shepherd, and we turn to our own independent living to fulfill our own lusts and desires, ignoring God.

27. What could God have done to us as a consequence for our transgressions and iniquities? What did he do instead? (Isaiah 53:6)

ANSWER Our sins, iniquities, and transgressions were against a high and holy God, and He could have instituted justice on us, but He punished Jesus instead. Jesus became our substitutionary atonement.

28. Do a word search on "oppressed" (Strong's Hebrew 5065) and "afflicted" (Strong's Hebrew 6031) from Isaiah 53:7, and write out what you learned.

ANSWER *Oppressed* is a picture of what taskmasters did to slaves, making their lives miserable and intolerable. Jesus was oppressed with ceaseless accusations and attempts to kill Him by Jewish leadership. *Afflicted* is to humiliate and bring low. Jesus was afflicted by the baseless contempt, shaming, mockery, and ridicule he suffered at the hands of His unbelieving brethren.

29. How do we see Isaiah 53:7 in Matthew 26:62–63, Mark 15:4–5, Luke 23:9, and 1 Peter 1:23?

ANSWER Jesus was silent in the face of false accusations before Caiaphas, Pilate, and Herod. He knew Isaiah 53 and fulfilled it.

30. In Isaiah 53:8, the prophet asks a question: "Who considered that He was cut off out of the land of the living for the transgression of my people, to whom the stroke was due?" As you pondered this, what did you learn?

ANSWER The "Servant of the Lord" was despised, chastened, scourged, oppressed, and afflicted, yet he remained silent and ultimately was cut off out of the land of the living FOR THE TRANSGRESSIONS OF THE PEOPLE.

31. Isaiah 53:10 is the conclusion to the description of a murdered Messiah. It states that the Lord was "pleased to crush Him." Why did it please God to crush His Son?

- A. He is sadistic.
- B. To entertain the angels.
- C. To resolve the tension between the Father's love for his glory and his love for sinners.
- D. He did not love Jesus.

ANSWER

C. Redemptive history has two great conflicting themes: God's passion to display his glory and God's love for sinners who have rejected his glory. In Jesus' death, the two themes are resolved. The Father was pleased to crush His son to resolve the tension between the Father's love for His glory and His love for sinners. God's pleasure is not in the suffering of the Son, but in the great success of what the Son would accomplish in his dying. Jesus said, "I lay down my life for the sheep . . . For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life, that I may take it again" (John 10:15,17). And He prayed, " I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do" (John 17:4).

Consider all that you have just studied.

1. Blood was instituted as the needed sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins in the opening chapters of the Bible.
2. Lamb sacrifices were merely a picture of the need for God to provide a better lamb sacrifice.
3. A perfect, sinless, divine representative for humans was the only sufficient sacrifice that could appease the wrath of God for sinful man.
4. There were multiple examples of lamb sacrifices for the covering of sins (Abel, Isaac, Passover, the Mosaic sacrificial system).
5. Isaiah 53 predicts the suffering of Jesus in great detail 700 years before Jesus lived.

So, do you agree that Jesus was just a good man?

Chapter 5

Jesus Didn't Exist

"There are clearly good reasons to doubt Jesus' historical existence - if not to think it outright improbable."

- Raphael Lataster

There Was No Jesus, There Is No God

Mask: Jesus Didn't Exist

INTRODUCTION

Despite mountains of evidence to the contrary, some atheists actually claim that Jesus never existed. Even *The Washington Post* ran this headline: “Did historical Jesus really exist? The evidence just doesn’t add up.”

As we study the scarlet thread in the New Testament, ask yourself the question: Could the story of Jesus really be a man-made fabrication?

REMOVING THE MASK

1. In Chapter 5 of *Jesus Unmasked*, we see John the Baptist make a proclamation about Jesus. What was it? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 41)

ANSWER Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

2. Why is this important? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 42)

ANSWER This is the New Testament continuation of the scarlet thread that ran through the Old Testament. Jesus is the better New Testament Lamb who would be sacrificed one time for the complete forgiveness of sins. Suddenly, the fuzzy shadows of the Old Testament are revealed clearly in Jesus Christ.

3. During the Passover meal, the Jews would eat an unblemished lamb and drink wine four different times. The third cup of wine was a toast to the lamb whose blood had been shed that day for the covering of their sins. During Jesus’s last Passover meal, what did Jesus say about the lamb and this third cup of wine? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 43)

ANSWER Jesus proclaimed that the bread represented His body, and the wine represented His blood. The cup is the initiation of the new covenant in His blood. He proclaimed that, going forward, the remembrance meal for the new covenant would celebrate His body and His blood, not the body and blood of a lamb. He was basically proclaiming, “Don’t toast the lambs that could merely cover sins, toast Me, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.”

4. What was Jesus initiating at His last Passover meal? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 43)

ANSWER He was initiating the New Covenant which He was about to fulfill, and also a new memorial meal, the Lord's Supper to replace the Passover Meal.

5. Read the following: Mark 10:45, 1 Timothy 2:5–6, Ephesians 1:7, 1 John 4:9–10, and Romans 3:23–24. What does Jesus's body and blood represent?

ANSWER His body and blood represent the death penalty needed to pay the ransom to release us from the bondage of sin and Satan. He was the perfect, spotless Lamb that paid the price we could not pay for our redemption.

6. Read Hebrews 9:11–15 and page 43 of *Jesus Unmasked*. What do we learn about Jesus in these verses? Write your insights below.

ANSWER Jesus is our High Priest who is mediating the New Covenant. He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle; He entered that greater tabernacle through His own blood. He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. His blood will forgive sins and cleanse our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

7. What will the lamb be doing in the future? (*Jesus Unmasked*, pages 44–49)

ANSWER When Jesus returns, He will judge the world in righteousness. For those whose names are securely written in the Lamb's Book of Life, we will be taken to heaven. Jesus is the temple and the source of light in heaven (Rev. 21:21–27), and He is the Lamb who sits on the throne in heaven who will receive the praises of His people and the hosts of heaven.

Jesus is not a mere man. Jesus is the “he” of Genesis 3:15, the perfect blood sacrifice greater than all the memorial lambs of every Passover. He is the source of forgiveness and righteousness promised by Jeremiah.

With this in mind, answer the following questions:

Was Jesus a mere mortal, or was He a divine sacrifice for the sins of His people?

How could a mere mortal fulfill all of these prophecies?

8. As we have seen in the scarlet thread of history, Jesus is not only the lamb that takes away the sin of the world; He is the fulfillment of the Jewish religion, the promised blessing of the Abrahamic covenant, and the eternal Lamb of Revelation. Can one honestly say that this was a story concocted by man?

ANSWER No.

Do you think the critic who claims Jesus didn't exist is actually a biblical scholar? Atheist Bart Ehrman admits this in his book, *Did Jesus Exist?*

I should say at the outset that none of this (skeptical) literature is written by scholars trained in New Testament or early Christian studies teaching at the major, or even the minor, accredited theological seminaries, divinity schools, universities, or colleges of North America or Europe (or anywhere else in the world). Of the thousands of scholars of early Christianity who do teach at such schools, none of them, to my knowledge, has any doubts that Jesus existed. But a whole body of literature out there, some of it highly intelligent and well informed, makes this case.

That pretty much sums it up.

FURTHER STUDY

9. Jesus is the perfect God-man: 100% God, 100% man. Jesus was not a 50/50 mix. Why is this formula crucial?

ANSWER For our sins to be forgiven, we needed a fully human representative. In order for God's wrath to be satisfied, we needed a full God sacrifice. For the historic orthodox understanding of the hypostatic union of Jesus, Google "Chalcedonian Creed."

10. Can the fallen devils be forgiven? Why or why not?

ANSWER No, because they do not have a representative who died for them.

Chapter 6

Jesus Is My Bellhop

"Poverty is from the devil. God wants all Christians prosperous."
- Benny Hinn

Jesus Is My Bellhop

INTRODUCTION

The prosperity wolves rule most Christian cable TV networks. Their pitch? You say it, and Jesus will do it. Talk about the tail wagging the dog. Nevertheless, this mask is firmly in place in the minds of millions. Does this understanding of Jesus hold up?

REMOVING THE MASK

1. Chapter 6 of *Jesus Unmasked* begins by describing the extent and effect of sin on the earth. In your own words, describe what man's sinful state was like according to Genesis 6:5–6.

ANSWER This wasn't a culture with a few really bad people sprinkled in with the rest of the population. This was a culture whose sin, depravity, evil, and wickedness ran rampant over the face of the earth. It was a dark time with no grace, mercy, or kindness to be found.

2. What do we learn about our natures from Genesis 6:5? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 52)

ANSWER We are wretched sinners and totally depraved.

3. What does it mean that God was "sorry" he had made man on the earth? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 52)

ANSWER God was grieved over the pervasive sin He saw on the earth. He was grieved, or sorrowful, by the sin of mankind toward each other. This does not mean God made a mistake in creating us; it is simply an anthropomorphic term used for us to understand how God felt about our wickedness.

4. What does it mean that God has emotions, but He's not emotional? (*Jesus Unmasked* pages 52–53)

ANSWER God has settled, pre-ordained emotions; He is not ruled by emotions. God is not careening from one emotion to the next. He is impassible (without passions).

5. On page 53 of *Jesus Unmasked*, we are given a fuller description of sin. What is it?

ANSWER Sin is everything contrary to God and His nature. God is the standard of perfection. He is the Law, which is a reflection of His character. Just as there is no evil or wickedness in God, there is no good in Satan. Sin is the very opposite of the nature of God.

6. What is man's natural state and why? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 54)

ANSWER Sinners who sin because we possess a sin nature.

7. Looking at the list at the bottom of page 54 of *Jesus Unmasked*, are you convinced of your sin nature? If not, why not?

ANSWER Every intent of our hearts is bent toward sin from the moment of our birth. Review the ten commandments if necessary to see how frequently you break God's laws.

8. What is the reward for our sinful actions? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 55)

ANSWER Hell: eternal, conscious torment.

9. Why is Hell a just judgment for sin? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 55)

ANSWER Because sins are committed against the perfect Creator of the universe. God is eternal and infinitely great, powerful, holy, righteous, and good. The penalty for crimes against Him demands an eternal and infinitely awful punishment. It is not the spectacular nature of our sin per se, but the One against whom the sin is committed.

10. What is natural man's inclination toward God? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 56)

ANSWER Natural man's inclination is not neutral toward our Maker. We are haters of God and He is our enemy. (Romans 8:7–8, John 3:20, James 4:4, John 15:18, 23–25)

11. What is God's response to our natural inclination? (Romans 2:5–11; *Jesus Unmasked* page 57)

ANSWER God is just and holy, and He cannot overlook sin and our sinful nature. God's just nature demands punishment for evil.

12. In today's culture, to judge is to be mean. Why does God judge? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 57)

ANSWER Because His holy nature and love of righteousness demands it.

13. How does our legal system mirror God's? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 57–58)

ANSWER We have laws, courts, and punishment because God has laws, a court, and punishment. We love and seek after justice because God does first.

14. We must give an answer to God for our willful rebellion against Him. Do sinners have a chance of receiving leniency?

ANSWER No, God must punish lawbreakers.

15. Thankfully, we are introduced to another attribute of God that gives us hope. What is it? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 58)

ANSWER Love. Notice, God IS love—it is one of His attributes. He doesn't simply love; He actually *is* love. He is the source of love.

16. Look up 1 John 4:8. What type of love is God?

ANSWER Agape.

17. Do a word study on *agape* (Strong's Greek 26), and write out the definition.

ANSWER Affection or benevolence, good will, charity, unqualified and unselfish love; it is a love that willingly gives whether it is reciprocated or not. It is a love that is extended to enemies and prays for its persecutors. This is a self-sacrificing love.

18. What is the difference between being valuable and being valued? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 58–59)

ANSWER Being loved because we are valuable is a love based on a trait we possess. If that trait is lost or recedes in value, the love assigned to that person fades or is lost. However, being valued means God loves us based on His immutable love. Being valued is not based on the object, but the value that someone places on the object. God places His special love on us despite what we are worth.

God is perfect and can't turn a blind eye to sin, yet He loves us and seeks to save us. God's attributes of love and justice collide and are reconciled at the cross. Thousands of years before the cross, the Bible records another collision of justice and mercy: Noah's ark (Genesis 6:7-14). The ark is a shadowy picture of Jesus Christ.

19. What were the two things God commanded Noah to do to escape His wrath? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 60)

ANSWER

- A. Build an ark to provide an escape from the waters of judgement.**
- B. Preach repentance to the “continually evil” sinners.**

20. How long did Noah preach repentance? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 60)

ANSWER

120 years

21. Do you see God's long-suffering and patience in this? Would you have that much patience with people who hate you?

ANSWER

Yes. No.

22. How many people were converted by Noah's preaching? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 60)

ANSWER

Zero.

23. When the time came, God gathered Noah's family and the animals into the Ark and closed the door behind them. Can you think of ways that the Ark and God's provision of rescue is a Christ type? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 61)

ANSWER

God saved those who believed in Him. God provided the Ark for Noah and his family the same way God provides Christ for sinners. God judged the world in righteousness and showed mercy just as He does now through Christ. Those who were in the ark were spared from death; those who are in Jesus are spared from eternal destruction. The ark saved. Jesus saves (1 Peter 3:18-22).

Teacher/Leader, the following question is not found in *Jesus Unmasked*. It is a general Bible study question.

24. Do you realize there are three arks in the Old Testament that provided or symbolized safety, protection, and rescue? Name the three arks.

ANSWER

- A. Noah's ark kept Noah and his family safe from God's judgment.**
- B. The ark of bulrushes Moses's mother made for him when he was a baby that hid him from Pharaoh's murderous decree.**
- C. The ark of the Covenant over which sat the mercy seat and the sprinkled blood of a lamb for the covering of sins.**

Noah's ark was covered with pitch inside and out (Genesis 6:14). This made the ark waterproof.

25. What is the Hebrew word for "pitch," and what is its meaning? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 61)

ANSWER

***Kaphar*. It means to cover, purge, make atonement, and make reconciliation.**

The one exception to the seventy uses of *Kaphar* in Scripture is used in Genesis 6. Sixty nine times *kaphar* means atonement, but in Genesis it was used to refer to the substance which covers the ark inside and out. *Kaphar* is the word to describe the pitch used on the ark to keep out the waters of judgment; in other words, the pitch was an atonement.

26. What is the New Testament translation for pitch? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 61)

ANSWER

Propitiation.

27. What does 1 John 2:1–2 say about propitiation?

ANSWER

That Jesus Christ is our propitiation for sins. Jesus is the pitch that saves us from God's judgment.

28. How did Noah, his family, and the animals enter the boat? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 62)

ANSWER

Through one door.

29. Do you recall anything else in the Old Testament that had only one door? (Exodus 26:36–37)

ANSWER The Tabernacle.

30. What significance does “one door” hold? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 62)

ANSWER There is only one entrance into eternal salvation and communion with God, through Jesus (John 10:9). God determined that Jesus is the only door; we cannot build or create a different door.

31. Will sincerity or devotion to another door help on the Day of Judgment? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 62)

ANSWER No. There is only one door that God has provided for eternal salvation: Jesus Christ.

In this chapter, we began by looking at the bellhop mask of Jesus who is always available to answer our every whim and fancy. Instead, we have seen that Jesus is the ark of our salvation and our propitiation who appeases the wrath of God and saves us from the judgment to come. Jesus is also the only door that we must enter if we will be saved. Does that sound like a hotel bellhop waiting to fulfill our fickle fancies?

Chapter 7

Jesus Is My Vending Machine

"God wants us to prosper financially, to have plenty of money, to fulfill the destiny He has laid out for us."

- Joel Olsteen

Jesus Is My Vending Machine

INTRODUCTION

While “Name it and claim it” teachers would never claim that Jesus is a cosmic vending machine, that is the mask they place on Jesus when they claim He will fill all our physical and financial requests. While God most certainly provides everything we own, the gospel is a far grander offer. As we study more, ask yourself, “Was God’s plan of salvation about spiritual prosperity or financial prosperity?”

REMOVING THE MASK

1. What is the Promised Land? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 66)

ANSWER The land promised by God to Abraham in Genesis 12, 15, and 17. He gave them the deed for this parcel of property for eternity. God entered into this covenant as His own surety, and He is the one who has kept that promise since then.

2. Have the Jews always inhabited the land?

ANSWER No. The Canaanites occupied the land before God promised it to Abraham. The Jews were taken into captivity to a foreign land multiple times. After the Babylonian Captivity, they returned to the Promised Land until 135 A.D., when the Romans dispersed them.

3. What is the significance of 1948?

ANSWER It was the year the Promised Land was given back to the Jews. They had been sojourners in foreign lands for 1800 years as a dispersed people.

4. Why is the Jewish nation a supernatural proof that God exists?

ANSWER Because most nations that did not have a homeland ceased to exist after only a few generations. The fact that the Jews remained a people for 1800 years is a miracle. God had promised Abraham there would always be a land, a nation, and a seed.

5. On page 67 of *Jesus Unmasked*, how did the Jewish people behave during their march to the Promised Land?

ANSWER The Jews had a tendency to complain about their circumstances and lacked faith that God would indeed bring them to the Promised Land.

Read Exodus 15:22–26, and answer the following questions:

The Children of Israel had just left the shores of the Red Sea after much jubilation and singing to God who delivered them from death and Pharaoh. Upon leaving the Red Sea, they sojourned three days into the wilderness without water.

It is here at Marah that they had bitter water to drink and began to grumble to Moses. This was the first trial they faced, having quickly forgotten the manifold miracles God performed and how He was their God!

6. What did God provide for them?

ANSWER The Lord showed Moses a tree which Moses threw into the waters, and the waters became sweet.

7. What do we learn about God in verse 26?

ANSWER He made a statute and an ordinance with them. He promised them that if they were faithful and obedient to the Lord and His commandments and kept His statutes, then none of the disease that He put on the Egyptians would be brought upon them.

8. Was this before or after Mt. Sinai?

ANSWER Before.

9. What might God have been doing with this trial and admonishment?

ANSWER He may have been preparing them to accept the coming Mosaic Law and its ordinances.

10. God had freed them from the harsh treatment from the cruel taskmasters of Egypt, yet He wanted them to know they were not their own masters. The Jews were the possession of God. He was revealing to them what He expected of them. What did God call Himself in verse 26?

ANSWER I am the Lord who heals you.

11. Why was this important?

ANSWER He was not only the God who provided, but who cared enough to reveal his statutes so they would live in a way that would avoid disease; He was the one they were to look to for all their physical needs.

12. Soon after their encampment at Marah, the Children of Israel were in the wilderness of Sin. On page 68 of *Jesus Unmasked*, what common situation were they in again?

ANSWER No water.

13. What was their reaction this time?

- A. They sang Oceans seventeen times.
- B. They dug a well.
- C. They quarreled with Moses.
- D. They politely petitioned Moses to ask God to provide for them.

ANSWER C

This time around, the Children of Israel's complaints were more forceful and sinful. They were discontent and angry, distrustful of God. This was not a humble pleading, but a demanding accusation that revealed their lack of faith.

14. How does verse 3 shed light on their demands?

ANSWER They accused Moses of wanting to murder them. Their heated exchange with Moses gives an insight into the state of their heart towards God, whom Moses represented.

15. According to Moses in verse 4, how far did he fear this would go?

ANSWER He feared that their impatience, distrust, and unfaithfulness would result in his stoning.

16. What is the Hebrew word for "quarrel," and what is its meaning? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 68)

ANSWER *Meribah*, and it means to lodge a formal complaint.

17. What were the Children of Israel doing? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 68)

ANSWER Israel was filing a lawsuit against Moses.

18. Who was their lawsuit really against?

ANSWER God Himself.

19. God responded to their lawsuit and created a courtroom. In Exodus 17:6–8, we see God instructing Moses and the elders to stand before the accusers and serve as the judges and witnesses of this lawsuit. What role did Moses's rod play in the courtroom? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 68)

ANSWER The staff was Moses's symbol of authority to make judgments and pass sentences. It was the staff of judgment God gave Moses to execute justice with Pharaoh. A judge would use his rod to administer justice on the guilty criminal.

20. What was God submitting to when His presence was on the rock? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 68)

ANSWER He was submitting Himself to be punished by the very same rod.

21. In the Old Testament, the accused criminal would stand before God's representatives. Who is the accused criminal in our wilderness courtroom drama? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 69)

ANSWER God stood in the accused's docket before a human court.

As God stood there on the rock before Moses, the elders, and the accusers of Israel, the rock was struck, and life-giving water gushed from it for the people to drink.

22. God was identified with the rock by standing on it. God stood in the place of the accused and took the penalty they deserved. Who was the actual guilty party? Was God guilty? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 69)

ANSWER It is the people who were guilty of rebellion and distrust of God's faithfulness. Yet God bore the judgment and received the blow their rebellion deserved.

If God's chosen people were to be spared in the wilderness, God had to bear their punishment.

23. Who does Paul tell us in 1 Corinthians the rock was? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 70)

ANSWER **The rock was Christ!**

Jesus, the innocent, stands in the place of His guilty accusers that they might be found innocent.

24. What was the trial at Meribah really about? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 70)

ANSWER **It was a picture of the trial of Jesus Christ.**

25. This happened before the giving of the Mosaic Law at Mt. Sinai in Exodus 19–20. This was an example of God showing His people a picture of the gospel. He demonstrated that guilty people need Him to pay the fine for their law--breaking. God showed them a picture of His amazing grace. Did the Jews understand grace? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 70)

ANSWER **They failed to grasp grace and the gospel. They continually attempted to satisfy the justice of God through their self-righteous efforts.**

We started this chapter with the false and shallow claim by many (both Christians and non-Christians), believing that Jesus is their vending machine dispensing whatever a la carte item they desire. The study of Jesus, the rock in the wilderness, was a physical picture of our greater spiritual need.

Jesus volunteered to become sin that we might become the righteousness of God. That is a much greater role than a cosmic vending machine. We hope this study of the typology of Christ being the rock at Meribah equips you to share the truth that Christ does indeed supply and provide for our most dire need: salvation!

Chapter 8

Jesus Was a Dispenser of Morals

"He was a very good man; a great moral philosopher."

- Richard Dawkins

Jesus Was A Dispenser of Morals

INTRODUCTION

Countless atheists claim that Jesus was merely a good man who taught selflessness, love, charity, hugs, cuddles, rainbows, and anything else that is warm and fuzzy.

This classic, oft-heard claim is so overused that even Goodwill would throw it out. As we study the Living Water of the Bible, we will see that Jesus was far more than a teacher of morality.

REMOVING THE MASK

Read: John 4:7–26

Aside from the obvious cultural and religious taboos that Jesus was breaking (a man publicly speaking with a woman; a rabbi speaking with a woman/prostitute; a Jew speaking with a Samaritan; a Jew touching/drinking/using a Samaritan cup), there were theological and evangelistic goals Jesus sought to accomplish.

1. Jesus turned His request for physical water into her need for spiritual water. What did Jesus call Himself in this exchange?

ANSWER Living water.

2. What is the significance of living water? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 74 and Jeremiah 2:13, Zechariah 14:8, Isaiah 55:1)

ANSWER Living water was a picture of salvation/eternal life.

3. From *Jesus Unmasked*, what is the difference between water from broken cisterns and living water? (Page 74)

ANSWER Cisterns were man-made reservoirs to catch and store rainwater. Cisterns are deficient for three reasons:

- A. They leaked.
- B. The water that is captured and stored in them is often dirty.
- C. They contain a limited amount of water.

Conversely, living water is cool, refreshing, and limitless.

4. What was Jesus saying by alluding to the prophet Jeremiah? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 74)

ANSWER He was declaring, “Stop trying to quench your spiritual thirst with your broken, man-made efforts that cannot satisfy. Instead, come to Me for free, living water, and you will never thirst. You will never die.”

5. What was Jesus trying to communicate to the Samaritan woman by mentioning her past husbands? (John 4:17–18)

ANSWER He was helping her acknowledge her sin so she would see her need for living water.

6. The Samaritan woman asks what appears to be a complete non sequitur in an effort to change the subject. This is a typical response from sinners who would prefer to hide their sin rather than confront it. Do you think she was suggesting that her transgressions were forgiven because she pointed to her religious system?

ANSWER Yes, she may have.

7. In John 4:20, the woman at the well asks Jesus a worship question. Jesus's response to her temple location question begins to unfold the truth about his plan of redemption. Where does true worship begin?

ANSWER True worship will come out of a broken and contrite heart, not a designated location or a religious system. This is the fallen man's fallback position: to construct a means to make oneself right with God. Rather, God desires a contrite heart, not man-made efforts from broken cisterns.

8. John 4:25 indicates that Samaritans were looking forward to the Messiah. What did Jesus say in verse 26 that would clearly refute He was a good teacher/moral man?

ANSWER He is the long-awaited Messiah.

What kind of moral man would call himself living water offering eternal life? What kind of good teacher would call himself the Jewish Messiah?

9. By calling Himself the life-giving water *and* the Messiah, what was Jesus teaching us about the role of the Messiah?
- A. He was going to reclaim Israel.
 - B. He was going to make Israel great again.
 - C. He was going to provide eternal life.

ANSWER C

10. Would an ethicist make such claims about himself?

ANSWER No.

Read: John 7:37–38—referenced on Pages 74–75 in *Jesus Unmasked*.

This is another offer of living water made by Jesus, but this time in public at a key moment in His ministry. Jesus was attending the yearly observance of the Feast of Booths celebration. Read Leviticus 23:33–43.

11. What did this eight-day tent-dwelling festival symbolize?
- A. The exodus from Egypt.
 - B. God's provision for the Jews while they were in the wilderness.
 - C. God's protection of the Jews while they were in the wilderness.
 - D. All of the above.

ANSWER D

John notes that the eighth day of the festival is considered the “great day.” The Festival atmosphere continued to build to a pinnacle of excitement, escalating each day until it culminated on the eighth day.

During the last day of celebration, the High Priest would lead a procession to the pool of Siloam carrying empty jugs to retrieve water and parade back to the temple to pour the water onto the altar. The congregation would recite Isaiah 12:3 as the Priest entered the temple with the water. Read Isaiah 12:3.

12. Who was the prophet talking about? Who is the fulfillment of this prophecy?

ANSWER The Messiah. Jesus Christ.

This ceremony was ordained by God and was to remind Israel of God's provision of water in the wilderness. It was during this solemn ceremony that Jesus stood up and raised His voice.

Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink" (John 7:37).

13. There are three action words in this verse. What are they?

ANSWER Thirst, Come, Drink

14. "If anyone is thirsty..." Look up Strong's Greek 1372 for thirst, find its definition, and write it out below. Was Jesus speaking of a physical thirst or a spiritual thirst?

ANSWER The definition is used figuratively to mean the spiritual thirst of those who are said to feel their want of, and eager longing for, those things by which the soul is refreshed, supported, strengthened.

15. Jesus states: "If anyone is thirsty..." Would you agree that this is a prerequisite to coming unto Him before drinking?

ANSWER Yes.

Read Psalm 51:4, 17, Matthew 5:3, Luke 18:13–14, and 1 John 1:9.

16. Do you believe a person can be saved if they do not recognize their need for salvation?

ANSWER No. Jesus isn't interested in man's attempt to clean himself up. Nor is He interested in a closed heart seeking only a superficial relationship. Jesus seeks and responds to a broken and needy heart that recognizes their sin and need for salvation.

Sinners don't get saved until they recognize their spiritual need and thirst for relief. It isn't until a lost soul recognizes their inability to save themselves by their own merits, that they will then truly grasp, love, and honor salvation.

17. Read Matthew 23:25–27 and Matthew 15:1–14. Does Jesus's description of the Pharisees indicate they were self-righteous or thirsting for righteousness?

ANSWER The Pharisees were very self-righteous.

18. Read Mark 2:15–17, Luke 19:10, and Matthew 9:10–12. Why did these people come to Jesus?

ANSWER They came because they recognized their spiritual thirst.

19. This has very big implications for evangelism. Knowing that someone must “thirst for righteousness” before they will appreciate the Gospel, what should we tell unsaved people?
- A. God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life.
 - B. You have a God-shaped hole in your heart that only Jesus can fill.
 - C. All sin and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23).

ANSWER C. (To non-offensively learn how to help a sinner get thirsty, visit www.livingwaters.com.)

The second action word from John 7:37 is come ...” let him come to Me....”

20. To whom did Jesus say we must come?
- A. To anyone we choose.
 - B. To a temple or religious system.
 - C. Oprah.
 - D. Himself.

ANSWER D

21. To come to Jesus, we must leave something behind. Read Matthew 16:24, Romans 8:13, and Matthew 19:29. What does Jesus demand we leave behind?

ANSWER It requires a turning from our current path and pursuing Christ. It requires turning our backs on the world and abandoning its philosophical and religious systems in order to pursue Christ. We must leave sin behind and forsake what the world system says to pursue: money, fame, power, status, materialism, notoriety, and man’s praise. We are to set our eyes on glorifying and serving Christ.

The third action word from John 7:37 is “drink.”

22. Look up Strong’s Greek 4095 for the word “drink.” Write out the definition:

ANSWER Figuratively, to receive into the soul what serves to refresh, strengthen, and nourish it unto life eternal.

23. Belief in Christ is the true quench for the thirst of souls longing for peace, forgiveness, and right standing with the Lord. What did Jesus mean when He invited the parched sinner to drink?

ANSWER **This is to take Him to yourself. To believe in Him, trust Him, and submit to Him.**

Let's look at the second verse, verse 38, of John 7, and see what Jesus was saying.

"He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water'" (John 7:38).

24. This Scripture clarifies verse 37, so that to "come to Christ and drink" means to _____ in Him.

ANSWER **Believe.**

25. Read Jeremiah 2:13. What/who is the source of living water?

ANSWER **God.**

26. Was Jesus actually equating Himself with God?

ANSWER **Yes.**

The source of the water, Christ, will be in us, thus allowing us to have "living water." Read Isaiah 58:11.

Believers will go from being desperate seekers of the living water to the source of living water. That means out of us will flow life-giving water.

27. What could that mean? To whom are we to be sources of living water?

ANSWER **To lost sinners, when we share with them the Living Water. We can also pour out living water to those in the body of Christ.**

28. Read Proverbs 10:11. How does this correlate to John 7:38?

ANSWER **Out of our mouths will come living water.**

29. When our mouths have living water coming out of them, what are we talking about?

ANSWER The gospel.

30. Read Proverbs 4:23. How could this correlate to John 7:38?

ANSWER Out of our hearts will flow life-giving words. We are to guard our hearts and keep them submitted to Christ. If our hearts are filled with Him, our words will reflect it.

31. Word of Faith preachers teach that our words have the power to create reality. Do we see any hint in these verses that our words have the power to create prosperity or good health?

ANSWER No.

Lastly, read Isaiah 55:1–2. (*Jesus Unmasked* Page 76)

32. When Jesus cried out in the temple, do you think those who knew Scripture would have been excited to see this prophecy fulfilled? Why didn't they connect the dots? What kept the Jews from rushing to Him at His proclamation? We see in the Gospel of John that many of His followers quit following Him as His "I Am" statements became more and more exclusive. Why is that?

ANSWER It was a bold proclamation demanding complete humility and surrender of work righteousness. He told them to seek HIM alone for their salvation and not rest in a religious system or their own works. Jesus's hearers preferred works over grace.

33. What did Isaiah tell the work-righteous Jews to do in Isaiah 55:6–7? (*Jesus Unmasked* Page 76)

ANSWER Seek the Lord, call upon Him, forsake your sinful ways, return to the Lord, He will have compassion, and abundantly pardon.

Jesus is the One who provides our abundant pardon. Being a mere dispenser of morals would be a considerable demotion.

Chapter 9

Jesus Was a Good Teacher

"To Jews, whatever wonderful teacher and storyteller Jesus may have been, he was just a human, not the son of God."

- Dr. Lawrence J. Epstein

Jesus Was A Good Teacher

INTRODUCTION

There are over fifty references in the New Testament that identify Jesus as a teacher (Matthew 4:23, 5:2, 7:28–29, 23:8; Mark 4:2, 6:34; Luke 4:15, 5:3; John 3:2, 7:14, 8:2). Jesus even called Himself a teacher (John 13:13).

These verses cannot and should not be ignored, but to simply call Jesus a good teacher is to be reductionist in the extreme. If you were to describe George Washington, Elvis Presley, and Richard Nixon, would you use any of the following descriptions?

- George Washington was a good horseman.
- Elvis loved peanut butter and banana sandwiches.
- Richard Nixon sweated a lot on TV.

While none of those descriptions are wrong, per se, they hardly capture the essence of each man. Of course Jesus was a good teacher; He is God, and God is the best teacher, but we must not put a mask on Jesus that merely says, “Good teacher.”

REMOVING THE MASK

1. Do a search for the word “teacher” (Strong’s Greek 1320) from John 13:13, and write out the definition.

ANSWER Strong’s Greek 1320, *didaskalos*, one who teaches concerning the things of God and the duties of man.

2. According to this definition, what did Jesus teach?
 - A. How to be a socialist
 - B. The benefits of vegetarianism
 - C. Global warming
 - D. The ways of God and the duties of man

ANSWER D

3. Chapters 8 and 9 of *Jesus Unmasked* describe attributes of Jesus that clearly go beyond what a merely good teacher would say or do, and points to His deity. In this chapter, who did you learn is the provider of all things? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 80)

ANSWER God is the sovereign provider of everything that we have. (Psalm 145:15)

4. What does our complaining and lack of contentment say to God? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 80)

ANSWER Our complaints tell God that we think He's doing a lousy job providing for us, that He doesn't know what He's doing, that He should do more for us, and that we could provide better for ourselves than He does. All of this is insulting and blasphemous.

In this chapter, we see the Jewish people grumbling in the wilderness, complaining for want, and preferring their lives as abused slaves rather than being the free people of God.

5. What attributes of God were mentioned in this chapter? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 81)

ANSWER Patient, long-suffering, kind, merciful, gracious, and giving.

Read John 6:1-14 and 26-40.

6. This event happened after Jesus fed 5000 men, plus women and children. The followers of Jesus were looking for Him to continually supply daily physical bread just as they errantly believed Moses provided bread for their fathers in the desert. What were the followers of Jesus challenging Him to do in verses 30-31? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 81)

ANSWER Perform a miracle greater than Moses did in the wilderness. Apparently the feeding of 5,000 the day before was not enough to convince them of His deity.

7. The children of Israel were making some wrong assertions in their request to Jesus. Who did they believe supplied the Manna?

ANSWER Moses.

8. Who really supplied the Manna?

ANSWER God

9. In calling God "My Father," what was Jesus saying? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 82; John 6:32-35)

ANSWER He was identifying Himself as God.

10. To what historical reality did Jesus equate Himself? (*Jesus Unmasked* Page 82)

ANSWER He called Himself the Bread of Life, claiming that manna was a picture of Him.

11. Manna satisfies our physical hunger, what hunger does Jesus satisfy? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 82)

ANSWER Jesus satisfies our spiritual need.

12. How long does physical bread satisfy us? (John 6:27)

ANSWER A few hours.

13. How long does Jesus satisfy our spiritual hunger? (John 6:32–37)

ANSWER Eternity.

14. How often do we need to consume physical bread?

ANSWER Daily.

15. How often do we need to satisfy our spiritual hunger?

ANSWER Salvation is a one-time event. Justification happens one time; sanctification is a life-long process.

16. What kind of person will have their hunger satisfied?

ANSWER Those who come to Him hungry and seeking the bread of life.

17. Look up Strong's Greek 2222 for the definition of "life" in John 6:33.

ANSWER It is *zoe* (spiritual life), notice it is not *bios* (physical life).

18. What kind of person is spiritually hungry?

ANSWER One who consumes the food that doesn't satisfy: the world, sin, flesh, and self-righteousness. The person who doesn't hunger for the things of God will never hunger for or be satisfied with the Bread of Life! The spiritually hungry are those who recognize their sin and need for a Savior.

19. Read Matthew 5:6. What causes a person to hunger?

ANSWER Once a person is broken over sin, awakened to their lost condition, and acknowledges the need for God and forgiveness. Then they cry out for spiritual life-giving food. The only food that satisfies that hunger is Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life. This is similar to those who thirst.

20. What did you learn about the action word "come" from earlier in this chapter?

ANSWER It requires a turning from one's current path, turning your back on the world and abandoning its philosophical and religious systems to pursue Christ.

21. In order not to hunger, what must you do with bread?

ANSWER Eat it, take it in.

22. How does one eat of the Bread of Life?

ANSWER Repent and trust in Christ. We "eat His body" when we believe that the Son of God died as a payment for our sins. When you believe that His perfect life and His finished work on the cross is payment to save us from death, then you have "eaten" or "taken in" Jesus Christ.

23. We too, like the wandering Jews, are consistent complainers. How does God see our grumbling? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 83)

ANSWER Our complaining really is an insult and an offense to God, who continuously provides for our physical and spiritual needs, in spite of our complaining. What a great God!

Read John 6:47–51.

24. What ultimately happened to those who ate the manna in the wilderness?

ANSWER **Physical death.**

25. What will happen to those who eat the true bread from heaven?

ANSWER **Eternal life.**

26. What bread is to our bodies, Jesus is to our souls. Unbelievers put a mask on Jesus that reads, “good teacher.” Can you think of two reasons that mask is trite?

ANSWER

- A. Jesus was not a good teacher; He was the best teacher ever.**
- B. To reduce Jesus’s provision as the Bread of Life to a mere good teacher is to not understand His mission and accomplishments.**

27. Jesus claimed that just as eating and drinking are needed for physical life to be sustained, so believing in him and his atoning work would be necessary for eternal life. Why would a man who was just a good teacher demand total allegiance and submission this way?

ANSWER **He wouldn’t.**

28. Would a mere good teacher or moral man proclaim he is the way to eternal life?

ANSWER **No.**

29. Would a good teacher lie or invent something that doesn’t exist, even for the most “righteous” of reasons?

ANSWER **No.**

FURTHER STUDY

Read Luke 14:26–27.

Would a good teacher demand utter dominance and submission in your life so that your love for family looks like hatred by comparison? This also includes hating your own life, leaving it all behind, and following Him—would a “good” teacher require that?

Read Luke 9:60.

Would a good teacher tell someone not to attend the funeral of his father, but pursue Jesus instead? A good teacher would not. God would.

Read Luke 5:27–28.

Would a good teacher ask their students to leave all they own to follow exclusively after him? No, only a delusional cult leader or God would demand that.

Ponder this quote from Dr. John MacArthur:

“Salvation then is giving up my life and embracing Him. It is taking in Christ by faith, acknowledging the reality of who He is and what He did. This is really an invitation to receive Christ, and only the hungry eat, and only the thirsty drink.”

Have you understood the claim the Gospel makes on your life? It is a claim of utter dominance and submission.

Chapter 10

Jesus Is Your Buddy

"I'm Muslim, but I think Jesus would have a drink with me. He would be cool. He would talk to me."

- Mike Tyson

Jesus Is Your Buddy

INTRODUCTION

There are some who irreverently call God “the man upstairs.” Those same people are likely to see Jesus as nothing more than their BFF, who “has their back.”

This chapter will show that Jesus who saves us from the sting of death is superior to being a pal. The redemptive work of Jesus makes him far more excellent than a frat buddy.

REMOVING THE MASK

Chapter 10 of *Jesus Unmasked* begins with the Biblical account of the hungry children of Israel in the wilderness (Exodus 21:4–5). They grumbled, complained, and loathed the food that God had provided. In return for their complaints, God sent poisonous serpents to bite them, causing thousands to die.

1. Why was sending fiery serpents to poison His children a kind thing for God to do? (Hebrews 12:6, Proverbs 3:12, Revelations 3:19) (*Jesus Unmasked* page 86)

ANSWER God does whatever is necessary for us to learn important things. He uses physical pain and struggling to teach us transcendent spiritual truths. God sends or permits pain in order to move us forward in sanctification.

2. How did the children of Israel respond to God’s stinging judgment? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 86)

ANSWER They repented and asked for salvation from physical death.

3. What was God’s remedy for the sting of death?

ANSWER God instructed Moses to make a bronze serpent and set it on a pole and raise it so anyone bitten could look to the bronze serpent and live.

4. Once again, God provided forgiveness and salvation for sinners. God made a way for sinful man to live. What did the bronze serpent represent? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 87)

ANSWER The bronze serpent represented the curse, and it provided life to those who looked toward it.

5. We too, like the Jews, can be obstinate and reluctant to repent of our sins. God still sends “fiery serpents” to lead us to repentance. What is God more interested in for us? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 87)

ANSWER He is more interested in our holiness than our happiness.

6. What question should you ask yourself the next time you feel the sting of God’s correction? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 87)

ANSWER Of what do I need to repent? Teacher’s note: knowing that God stings us for our good should also give us the ability to endure our suffering.

7. How will God answer you when you repent? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 87)

ANSWER He will forgive you and grow you in the area of weakness that caused the correction. That should cause us to be quick to repent and eager to work with the Holy Spirit to grow in holiness!

8. What did Jesus say in John 3:14–15 about the bronze serpent? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 87)

ANSWER Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness and received salvation from the poisonous serpent bite, so too will those who believe in Him have eternal life and escape eternal death.

9. How is Jesus a better “brazen serpent?”

ANSWER The brazen serpent in the wilderness only saved from physical death; Jesus saves us from eternal death.

10. As good as the good news is, God’s offer of salvation is even greater than forgiveness of sins. Not only does the gospel offer forgiveness, it provides righteousness. What does the term “imputed righteousness” mean? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 88)

ANSWER Upon repentance and faith in Jesus Christ, individuals are forensically declared righteous. This righteousness is not the believer's own; rather it is Christ's own righteousness “imputed” or credited to the believer. Just as God laid our sins on Christ at the cross, God lays Christ’s righteousness on us.

11. What does the term “double imputation” mean?

ANSWER We are 1) forgiven, and 2) seen as righteous. Our sins have been credited (imputed) to Jesus, and Jesus’s righteousness has been credited (imputed) to us.

12. Define Jesus’s passive obedience. (*Jesus Unmasked* page 88)

ANSWER Jesus’s passive obedience was seen at the cross as Jesus volunteered to be bruised for our iniquities and receive the wrath of God on our behalf. Because of His passive obedience, our sin debt has been brought to zero. Our sin debt has been paid.

13. Define Jesus’ active obedience. (*Jesus Unmasked* page 88)

ANSWER This was seen when He kept each and every law, thus fulfilling God’s standard of righteousness (Matt. 3:15). He never did anything wrong (sins of commission) nor did he fail to do what was right (sins of omission).

Jesus’s passive obedience brought our sin debt to zero, but Jesus’s active obedience deposits His righteousness into our account so that we can be seen not only as “not guilty,” but as righteous.

With the knowledge of the double imputation provided by Christ, the better bronze serpent, does it seem remotely appropriate to merely consider Him our chum?

FURTHER STUDY

Here are some questions that might encourage you and others.

- Was there a time when God used a painful situation or tragedy to grow you in maturity?
- Would you trade your difficulty for what you learned?

Chapter 11

Jesus Is a Way to God

"Christ-consciousness, God-consciousness, Krishna-consciousness, Buddha-consciousness--it's all the same thing."

- Deepak Chopra

Jesus Is A Way to God

INTRODUCTION

This is the mask we probably hear about the most in our postmodern world: “Jesus is your path or your truth, but we all get there eventually.” This mask is also frequently heard as: “All roads lead to God, all religions are the same, or all religions are equally valid. Most Hindus believe that Jesus is just another path to the divine.”

REMOVING THE MASK

Every other religion besides biblical Christianity requires its adherents to participate in their salvation. Work requirements include acts of prayer, good deeds, strict dress codes, or acts of abstention like avoiding certain foods or behaviors. All man-made religions are a “to-do” list of fiery hoops that followers must jump through. It is Christianity alone that offers complete, full forgiveness of sins and a righteousness offered through God alone.

The “all roads lead to God” argument is made by people who do not know what you are about to study. Let’s look at two more studies of Jesus that will help you remove this mask.

1. The introduction to Chapter 11 of *Jesus Unmasked* states, “Be prepared to see the brilliance, coherence, and supernatural nature of the Bible displayed in HD.” If you had to identify the over-arching theme of the Bible, what would you say it is?

ANSWER **God redeems mankind through the atoning work of Christ, revealed through progressive revelation in the Old and New Testaments.**

2. Each Testament focuses on a different covenant. Does this mean they are disjointed? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 94)

ANSWER **No, the New Testament is a fulfillment or completion of the Old Testament.**

3. In the Old Testament, there are numerous covenants. What are they? (*Jesus Unmasked* pg 94)

ANSWER **Noahic, Abrahamic, Davidic, and the Mosaic Covenants.**

4. In one of these covenants, God chose a group of people for a redeeming purpose. Which covenant was that, and who were those people?

ANSWER **The Abrahamic Covenant. The Jews.**

5. In another covenant, God required His people to obey the terms of the covenant. This covenant would serve to set the nation of Israel apart from all other nations as God's chosen people. Which covenant was this? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 95)

ANSWER The Mosaic Covenant.

6. What does it mean that the Mosaic Covenant was *quid pro quo*? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 94)

ANSWER If the Jews were obedient, God would bless them; if the Jews were disobedient, God would curse them.

7. How well did the Jewish people do in keeping the Mosaic Covenant? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 94)

ANSWER They had a long history of rebellion and faithlessness to a faithful God.

8. On pg 95 of *Jesus Unmasked*, there are four purposes of the Mosaic Covenant. What are they?

ANSWER

- A. The Jews were to be a light to enlighten the Gentiles. God would bless obedient Israel so other nations would be drawn to their God.
- B. This holy, set-apart nation would be the nation that would produce the Messiah.
- C. The weight of the perfect law would cause them to call out for forgiveness and lead them to long for the long-awaited Messiah.
- D. It provided a sacrificial system for the atonement (covering) of sins, until the Lamb of God came to shed His blood for the forgiveness of sins.

9. What was the centerpiece of the Mosaic Covenant? (*Jesus Unmasked* Page 96)

ANSWER The temple.

10. Why was the temple integral to the Mosaic Covenant? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 96)

ANSWER The temple was the centerpiece of God's sacrificial system, which was a shadowy picture of the true and better sacrifice, Jesus Christ. The priests performed their daily duties, especially the blood sacrifices. Every year on the Day of Atonement, God's special presence, His Shekinah glory, would fall on the Holy of Holies.

11. What is *Shekinah*? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 97; Exodus 33:18–23, Exodus 34:29–35, John 1:14, and Revelation 1:17)

ANSWER God’s “special presence” glory.

12. What do we learn from Hebrews 10:1–10 about God’s attitude toward sacrifices?

ANSWER God does not desire sacrifices, offerings, or whole burnt offerings for sin. God’s prearranged plan was for the ultimate sacrifice, Jesus Christ. He took away the first system (the temple) in order to establish the second.

13. John 1:14 tells us that a new tabernacle has arrived. Who was it? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 97)

ANSWER Jesus.

14. What significance does the word “dwelt” in John 1:14 have? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 97)

ANSWER The Greek word for “dwelt” is the word for “tabernacle” or “pitched His tent.” In other words, Jesus came and tabernacled among us while He was on earth.

15. Of what or who is the tabernacle in the Old Testament a picture? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 97)

ANSWER Jesus.

16. Hebrews tells us that Jesus is better. What are the things that Jesus is better than? (Scan through the book of Hebrews to find your answer.)

ANSWER Jesus is better than angels, Melchizedek, the tabernacle, the Mosaic Covenant, and sacrifices. Jesus is the better everything.

17. The tabernacle was a picture of Jesus. Hebrews 9 lists every piece of furniture in the tabernacle. Can we conclude that Jesus is better than every item in the tabernacle?

ANSWER Yes.

Read Hebrews 9:1–5 and get familiar with the Tabernacle figures on page 99 of *Jesus Unmasked*, then answer the following questions:

18. How did the children of Israel enter the tabernacle into the outer courtyard? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 98)

ANSWER Through the only door.

19. What did Jesus say about Himself in John 10:7–9? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 98)

ANSWER He is the door of salvation; if anyone enters through Him, they will be saved.

20. What was the laver? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 98)

ANSWER It was a bronze water basin in which the priests washed their hands and feet daily. They had to do this for ceremonial purification.

21. Washing was often a symbol of purification from sin. What does Jesus say of purification in John 13:8? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 98)

ANSWER Jesus was claiming to be the sole source of purification. We are purified through the work of Christ, and we are able to stand before God solely because Jesus purifies us.

22. Inside the holy place was a golden lampstand. What was its significance? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 99)

ANSWER It was the only source of light in the holy place. Without light, it would have been impossible to see in the dark.

23. In the middle of the Feast of Tabernacles celebration, what pronouncement did Jesus make? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 99; John 8:12)

ANSWER Jesus proclaimed He was the light of the world.

24. In the Holy Place was the table of showbread. What was its significance in the temple? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 100)

ANSWER On it were twelve loaves of bread representing God's covenant people, Israel. The table was a place of communion and fellowship between God and people.

25. What did Jesus say about living bread in John 6:35? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 100)

ANSWER He claimed to be the living bread; anyone who comes to Him and eats, will never be hungry.

26. The last article in the Holy Place to look at is the altar of incense. What was burned on this altar? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 100)

ANSWER Incense that released a fragrant aroma.

27. Read Psalm 141:2 and Revelation 5:8. To what does Scripture liken incense?

ANSWER It likens incense to the prayers of God's people.

28. Read Exodus 30:7–8. What do we learn about the altar of incense?

ANSWER Incense is to burn all day. The aroma arose perpetually before the Lord. The rising smoke was symbolic of the prayers of His people going up to Him. These prayers, represented by the smoke from the altar, were a sweet-smelling aroma to God.

29. God was particular about the altar of incense and the mixture of the incense burned on it. Read Exodus 30:34–38. The incense mixture was solely for temple use and not for the priest's personal use. What could this say about God and prayer?

ANSWER He is zealous and jealous about how He is worshipped and approached.

30. Between the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies was a veil. Why? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 100)

ANSWER The Holy of Holies is the part of the sanctuary that only the high priest could enter one day a year under very specific rules and requirements. The veil was a physical reminder that the Jews were separated from God by sin. The veil stood as a reminder that there was no nearness, no close relationship with God.

31. What did Jesus' death accomplish in relation to the veil? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 100; Hebrews 10:19–20)

ANSWER The veil was torn. Jesus has made a way for us to commune with God. He is now our intercessor. We don't have to go through rituals or an earthly priest anymore. Instead, Jesus made a new and living way for us to reach God. The veil was torn at Christ's death, thus ending the Mosaic Covenant.

32. There was only one item in the Holy of Holies. What was it? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 100–101; Exodus 25, Hebrews 9:3)

ANSWER The Ark of the Covenant with the mercy seat on top of it.

33. What was inside the Ark of the Covenant? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 101; Hebrews 9:4)

ANSWER A pot of manna, Aaron's rod, and the two tablets of the Ten Commandments.

34. What did each item represent?

ANSWER The manna represented the life-sustaining food that God gave His people in the wilderness. When Jesus fed the five thousand He said, "Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven . . . the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world" (John 6:33). The flesh and blood represent the atoning work of Christ who is life-sustaining food for the believer.

The rod was placed in the ark to show that Christ was the LORD's chosen and anointed priest (Hebrews 5). Aaron's rod was symbolic of the intercessory work that is being done by Christ on our behalf.

The Ten Commandments were in the ark and represented the law which would be perfectly kept by Christ. He would completely obey all the commands of God for His people.

35. The mercy seat sat on top of the ark of the covenant. On the Day of Atonement, the blood from the lamb was sprinkled on the mercy seat, and it stood between the law and God. How is this a picture of Jesus and His atoning work?

ANSWER The blood of Christ stands between the law of God and the sinner. Through the blood of Jesus, the sins of God's people are forgiven and God's wrath is satisfied. The Lord sees His children not through the filter of the law, but through the lens of the gospel because of the blood of Christ.

36. Is Christ the Mercy Seat? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 101; Romans 3:24–25)

ANSWER Yes, Jesus is our propitiation, our mercy seat.

37. Is Jesus a better high priest? (*Jesus Unmasked* Page 101; Hebrews 7:26)

ANSWER Jesus is the better high priest.

38. What about the animal that was sacrificed in the temple on the Day of Atonement? Do we see Jesus pictured in the lambs? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 101; Hebrews 10:10)

ANSWER Yearly, the unblemished lamb was slaughtered for the covering of sins on the mercy seat. We have been forgiven and sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

39. What piece of furniture was conspicuously missing from the temple? Why? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 101–102)

ANSWER A chair, because the priest's work was never done.

40. Where is Jesus seated now? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 102; Hebrews 10:11–14)

ANSWER He is seated at the right hand of God in heaven. The earthly priests' duties were never done, but Jesus fulfilled His duties with His death and resurrection.

We began this chapter seeking to displace the mask that Jesus was just one of many ways to God. As we have seen, Jesus came from an elaborate and divinely planned nation, religion, and history that culminated in the brutal and breath-taking sacrifice of Jesus—God Himself. It is preposterous to conclude that God would go through this much effort and sacrifice His only begotten Son and allow people to choose any path.

Why would God go to such lengths and require such total devotion to His Son, when any work-righteous religious path would be just as efficacious? He wouldn't.

FURTHER STUDY

Jesus came out of a “set-aside people” with a history, religion, and writings that point to a supernatural purpose and fulfillment in Jesus. Every man-made religion teaches a set of man-made religious rules.

If all paths lead to God:

- Why does only one religion offer complete forgiveness and the rest don't?
- Why does only one religion offer a guilt-free existence and the rest don't?
- Why does one religion not require good deeds and the rest do?
- One religion has God dying for believers and the others don't. Why is that?

Read pages 9–14 of *Jesus Unmasked* regarding postmodernism. How does the postmodern mindset almost seamlessly play into the “Jesus is just a way” mentality?

Chapter 12

Jesus Is a Fable

"...there never was any 'Jesus Christ' nor any meaningful real like basis for the story of 'Jesus Christ...'"

- R. G. Price

Jesus Is A Fable

INTRODUCTION

A growing chorus of voices claim that Jesus is a fictional story used to placate the masses. Karl Marx famously wrote that "religion is the opiate of the masses." Some argue Jesus never existed because they claim there is no external, secular evidence to prove that He existed. While this is untrue (consider Josephus, Tacitus, Suetonius, Pliny the Younger, Lucian, to name a few), this mask persists.

REMOVING THE MASK

1. Galatians 4:4 tells us that Jesus was born at just the right time: what made Jesus's birthday the "right time"? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 31)

ANSWER

- A. Jesus has the history of a set-apart nation.**
- B. Jesus has the history of a religion.**
- C. Jesus has the history of a God who performed miracles.**
- D. Jesus has the foundation of a book.**
- E. Jesus is the fulfillment of dozens of prophecies predicting where He would be born, and how He would live and die.**

2. What is the conscience?

ANSWER

Your conscience is that silent voice inside you that nags when you have done something wrong. Everyone has one.

3. Where does the conscience come from? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 116)

ANSWER

According to Romans 2:14–16, God wrote his moral law on our hearts.

4. What conundrum does the atheist have regarding the conscience? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 116)

ANSWER

It is impossible for the atheist to explain why morality in every culture is the same. Why is murder, lying, cheating, dishonoring parents, etc. forbidden worldwide, if not for the divine laws written on our hearts?

5. What are man's two typical responses to the conscience and innate knowledge that God exists? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 118)

ANSWER (1) They suppress the truth so they can live immorally (Romans 1:18). (2) They suppress the truth and create their own god or religious system that allows them to work hard to appease their man-made deities' demands, thus attempting to quench the guilt they feel from a guilty conscience.

6. What is man's natural (sinful) bent? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 118)

ANSWER Work righteousness. Man concocts all kinds of religious schemes in an attempt to feel guilt-free. Also, man's self-righteous pride enjoys the satisfaction of "earning forgiveness."

7. Read Romans 4, especially verse 16. Was the Jewish faith ever intended to be a work-righteous religious system? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 119–120)

ANSWER No, it had become works-based by the time Jesus was on earth. Biblical salvation was always intended to be by grace alone. The Jews stumbled into man's fallback position to earn salvation by their own efforts.

8. In particular, the Jewish religious leaders had turned the Sabbath into a man-made salvation requirement. According to the Mishna, how many man-made Sabbath rules did they concoct? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 120)

ANSWER 613

9. According to the rabbis, what made a Jew a faithful Jew? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 121)

ANSWER Zealous adherence to the rabbinical Sabbath rules. The fourth commandment had become the pet commandment that became something it was never intended to be. The Jewish leaders had turned God's system of grace into a burden that the Jews must have dreaded on their day off.

10. The rabbis had turned the Sabbath gift of rest into a method for working one's way to heaven. They had made the ceremonial law an intolerable yoke. Read Matthew 11:28–30. What does Jesus say about the true way to salvation?

ANSWER **He calls all sinners who are burdened by their sin and their man-made efforts to rectify their sin, to come to Him alone for salvation.**

Now, in light of what you have learned about the rabbis' perversion of the Sabbath, read Matthew 12:1–8. (*Jesus Unmasked* page 121)

11. What four statements did Jesus make when the Pharisees accused Jesus and His disciples of breaking the rabbinical law of the Sabbath? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 122)

ANSWER

- A. Jesus had not broken a biblical Law, but a man-made religious rule.**
- B. The Bible actually approved of gleaning wheat when one is hungry.**
- C. Jesus used King David as an example of eating the temple bread to teach that the Sabbath was not supposed to be a yoke, but a blessing.**
- D. Jesus proclaimed that He is the Lord of the Sabbath.**

12. What was Jesus saying when he told the Pharisees that He is the “Lord of the Sabbath”? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 122)

ANSWER **He was proclaiming that the Old Testament Sabbath was a picture of Him.**

13. The rabbis and teachers of the law responded by plotting to kill Him. What did Jesus reveal about them that made them so angry they wanted to kill Him? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 122)

ANSWER **It revealed that they didn't know the law at all, nor did they understand God's plan of salvation. They were blinded by their man-made rules. These rules gave them power that wasn't rightly theirs. They weren't willing to jettison that lucrative position.**

14. What is the Sabbath? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 123)

ANSWER **The Sabbath was a seal of the Mosaic Covenant.**

15. What did breaking the Sabbath mean? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 123)

ANSWER To break the Sabbath was to defile the thing it represents, Israel's covenant relationship with God. To break the Sabbath was to spurn God and all He had done for Israel; it was akin to asking God for a divorce.

16. What was the penalty for violating the Sabbath? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 123)

ANSWER The death sentence.

17. When was the Sabbath initiated? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 123)

ANSWER The Sabbath did not start at Sinai, but on day seven of creation. On the seventh day of creation, God rested and exulted in the glory of His labors. The entire creation week was moving toward a goal of rest, contemplation, and enjoyment of God.

18. How is the Sabbath incorporated into the Mosaic Law? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 123)

ANSWER According to Exodus 20, when God handed down the Ten Commandments to Moses, commandment number four was to remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. (Exodus 20:8-11)

19. What was the purpose of the Sabbath? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 124)

ANSWER It was to be a reminder that a permanent rest from their labors was coming — a rest from the labors required under the Mosaic Law.

One of the Jews' most repeated sins that led to their captivity was the violation of God's Sabbath (Jeremiah 17:21-27, Ezekiel 22:26). Based on the messages from Jeremiah and Ezekiel, the Jews knew that their captivity had been for breaking God's laws, including the Sabbath.

Once restored to their promised land, they were determined to follow God's laws meticulously in order to avoid another captivity. With that came a heavy burden of rabbinical-crafted prohibited actions written as laws for the Sabbath.

Attached to this new man-made set of rules was the errant belief that one's keeping the Sabbath perfectly would make a man righteous. These are the man-made laws that Jesus sought to break.

20. Jesus did not break the moral law of the Sabbath as instituted by God through the Ten Commandments; He fulfilled it perfectly. According to Hebrews 4:9–10, what/who is our permanent rest? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 124)

ANSWER **Jesus Christ, the Lord of the Sabbath.**

21. Explain how Jesus is the Sabbath rest? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 124)

ANSWER **When a person rests in Jesus and His accomplishments, every second of every day is a Sabbath rest, a rest from exhausting work-righteous attempts to earn God's favor.**

22. The Sabbath rest provided a physical and temporary rest. How is Jesus the greater Sabbath rest?

ANSWER **Jesus offers permanent, spiritual rest.**

23. If we don't "keep the Sabbath," isn't that a violation of the Ten Commandments? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 125)

ANSWER **The Book of Hebrews tells us that the Old Covenant is completely nullified and fulfilled by Jesus. Therefore, the Old Covenant is no longer in effect. We live under a new and better covenant. We still follow the lessons, principles, and theology of the Old Covenant, but it has no claim, power, or effect over us.**

24. But what about the other nine commandments? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 125)

ANSWER **We keep nine out of ten because they are reiterated in the New Testament. It is only the Sabbath commandment that does not reappear in the New Testament.**

25. So if we don't have to "keep the Sabbath," why do we go to church on Sunday? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 125)

ANSWER **We go to church because Hebrews 10:25 commands us not to forsake "our own assembling together." We also follow the pattern of the early church that met on Sunday, Resurrection Day.**

26. On page 126 of *Jesus Unmasked*, it states that Jesus's yoke is so light that most people hate Him for it. What does that mean?

ANSWER Because our natural bent is to try to earn God's favor by doing good deeds. Jesus crushes our self-righteous pride by declaring us entirely unable to contribute anything to our redemption. Because most people think they can earn their salvation, they hate hearing about their depravity and inability to save themselves; that causes them to hate God and Jesus.

27. What does it mean that God "resists the proud?"

ANSWER Those who stubbornly and zealously cling to their natural bent of self-righteous, work-righteous attitudes will be resisted by God. Grace comes to the contrite and broken-hearted.

28. How does a person receive this rest from Jesus? (*Jesus Unmasked* Page 127)

ANSWER Repentance and faith. We must lose our pride, lay down our good works, and run to Jesus, the Lord of the Sabbath. He will give us rest.

Jesus is not a fable because He has the history of a set-apart nation, the history of a religion, the history of a God who performed miracles, the foundation of a book, and the fulfillment of dozens of prophecies predicting where He would be born and how He would live and die. God proclaimed the reality of Jesus every single Sabbath day; that is hardly a myth.

FURTHER STUDY

How many religious systems can you name that promise eternal life/Nirvana/Paradise if a person does good works?

Can you name any other religions that offer grace alone as the means to salvation?

While we should do good works in response to the gospel, do you ever find yourself trying to do good works to earn God's favor?

Do you ever feel like you have to do "make-goods" to atone for your sins (i.e., be super nice to the kids on Tuesday because you were crabby with them on Monday).

Chapter 13 & 14

Jesus Was a Crackpot

"A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic--on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg--or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice."

- C. S. Lewis

Jesus Was A Crackpot

INTRODUCTION

Preachers regularly stand in the middle of Times Square and proclaim their deity. They are crackpots. Yet Jesus did the same thing, so how do we know He was not a madman?

REMOVING THE MASK

While wandering in the wilderness, God commanded the Jewish people to celebrate seven festivals that honored Him. We will see in this chapter that these festivals were Old Testament types for Jesus. This should lead us to the unmistakable conclusion that if Jesus was a crackpot, then the men who concocted this festival scheme were cruel and brilliant deceivers.

1. What were the four spring feasts? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 130)

ANSWER **Passover, Unleavened Bread, First Fruits, and Pentecost.**

2. In Leviticus 23:4–7, what do we learn about the first three festivals? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 130)

ANSWER **They are very closely linked as they occur successively.**

3. What is Passover? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 130–131)

ANSWER **Passover was the celebration of the night God sent the tenth plague to the Egyptians, forcing the Pharaoh to let God’s people go. It celebrated God’s goodness in providing a way for the Jews to not suffer the same fate as the Egyptians.**

4. God threatened to kill the first-born son unless they showed faith by painting blood from the lamb on their doorpost. Fill in the following from *Jesus Unmasked* page 130:

Only an _____, spotless lamb was an acceptable _____.

ANSWER **unblemished, sacrifice.**

5. The lamb was to be selected on “lamb _____ day,” which was _____.

ANSWER **selection, Monday**

6. The lamb would _____ with its people for a short _____ until _____.

ANSWER live, time, Friday.

7. The lamb was to be sacrificed in the city of _____ on Friday.

ANSWER Jerusalem

8. The lamb was to have no _____.

ANSWER broken bones

How is Jesus like the Passover Lamb? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 130)

9. Jesus was spotless. He never _____!

ANSWER Sinned

10. Jesus likely entered _____ on _____ of Passover week.

ANSWER Jerusalem, Monday

11. Why was it significant that Jesus entered Jerusalem on a Monday?

ANSWER This was “lamb selection day.”

12. Jesus _____ with us for only a _____ time: 33 years.

ANSWER dwelt, short

13. Jesus was _____ in Jerusalem on _____.

ANSWER sacrificed, Friday.

14. Unlike most _____ victims, none of Jesus’s _____ were broken.

ANSWER crucifixion, bones.

How is Jesus Better than the Passover Lamb? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 131)

15. A lamb is an _____ sacrifice. Jesus was _____.

ANSWER ignorant, not.

16. Jesus was a _____ volunteer, not an _____ victim.

ANSWER willing, unwilling.

17. The _____ of lambs could only _____ sins. Jesus's sacrifice _____ sins and _____ our consciences.

ANSWER blood, cover, forgives, cleanses.

18. Lambs only served as a _____ of the Lamb of _____ who takes away the _____ of the world.

ANSWER picture, God, sins.

19. Explain the Feast of Unleavened Bread. (*Jesus Unmasked* page 131–132)

ANSWER The festival occurred after Passover night. The Jews were to bake unleavened bread, a yeast-free flatbread that was quick and easy to make. They were also to purge their home of leaven.

20. According to Exodus 12:42, what is the purpose of the feast? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 131)

ANSWER It was a night to be observed for the Lord who brought them out of the land of Egypt. This night is for the Lord, to be observed by all the sons of Israel throughout their generations.

21. Leaven was a symbol for _____. (*Jesus Unmasked* page 131)

ANSWER sin.

22. Therefore, God was telling his chosen people to be symbolically purged of sin. This represented God's desire for His people to be holy. Why did God desire a set-apart people? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 131)

ANSWER God wanted His Messiah to come out of a holy people.

23. Read 1 Corinthians 5:6–7. How is the Feast of Unleavened Bread a picture of Jesus? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 132)

ANSWER Jesus is the Passover Lamb who cleanses us from sin. As believers, we are to be “unleavened” from our sin.

24. What is the Feast of First Fruits? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 132–133)

ANSWER This feast was a thanks offering to God. They would offer the first ripe sheaf of barley to the Lord in thanksgiving to Him for the great harvest to come.

25. Leviticus 23:9–12 is about this festival. (*Jesus Unmasked* page 132) What two rites were the Jews to perform?

ANSWER A. Raise a sheaf and wave it while thanking God.
B. Sacrifice an unblemished male lamb.

26. How does 1 Corinthians 15:20 show that Jesus is the first fruit pictured in this festival? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 132)

ANSWER Just as the first fruit sheaf was to be raised as a sign of many to follow, so Jesus was raised from the dead as the first of many to follow.

27. Why is the resurrection of Jesus a chief doctrine of Christianity? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 133)

ANSWER If Christ had not been raised, our faith would be worthless.

28. When did this Feast of Weeks take place? (*Jesus Unmasked* 133)

ANSWER It took place fifty days after the Festival/Feast of First Fruits.

29. By the time of Jesus, the Festival of Weeks was referred to as _____

ANSWER Pentecost.

30. Pentecost is the Greek word for _____. (Jesus Unmasked page 133)

ANSWER fiftieth day.

31. According to the Matthew Henry commentary, what had the Festival of Weeks / Pentecost become by the time of Jesus? (Jesus Unmasked page 133)

ANSWER It was a festival that celebrated the giving of the Law to Moses and the Jews.

32. What happened fifty days after Jesus rose from the dead? (Jesus Unmasked page 134)

ANSWER Jesus fulfilled His promise to provide His Holy Spirit who is able to help us keep the Law.

33. What are the three Fall Festivals? (Jesus Unmasked page 134)

ANSWER Feast of Trumpets, the Day of Atonement, and the Feast of Tabernacles(or Booths)

34. The Feast of Trumpets was a holy convocation commemorated with what? (Jesus Unmasked page 134)

ANSWER Trumpet blasts.

35. In your own words, when and what was the Day of Atonement according to Leviticus 16:7–9 and Leviticus 23:26–28?

ANSWER It occurred on the tenth day of the seventh month. It was to be a holy convocation of humbling and the presentation of an offering by fire to the Lord. The high priest presented two male goats before the Lord at the doorway of the tent of meeting. One of the goats was for the Lord as a sin offering, and the other was to be a scapegoat.

36. In what ways is Jesus both sacrificial goats? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 136)

ANSWER According to Romans 8:3, Jesus is our sin offering. Hebrews 13:11–12 describes Jesus as the scapegoat that was released outside the city, as He was crucified outside of the city that we might be shameless.

37. What was the purpose of the Feast of Tabernacles/Booths? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 136)

ANSWER To commemorate God's faithfulness and supernatural provision during the forty years of wandering in the wilderness.

38. What events took place during this festival?

ANSWER The Jews were to live in tents (tabernacles/booths) for seven days and then hold a sacred assembly on day eight (Numbers 29:35).

39. Jesus became flesh and _____ among us. (John 1:14)

ANSWER tented/tabernacle

40. According to 1 Corinthians 6:19–20, what are Christians? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 136)

ANSWER We are the temples of the Holy Spirit.

41. What do we learn about Jesus in Revelations 21:3? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 136)

ANSWER That he will dwell/tabernacle among His people again in the future.

42. What ritual did the priests perform each morning of the feast? (*Jesus Unmasked* Page 137)

ANSWER They would draw water in a golden vessel from the pool of Siloam and carry it to the temple to be poured out.

43. What did this commemorate? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 137)

ANSWER This commemorated the water God gave the Jews in the wilderness and served as a symbol that when the Messiah comes, the whole world will know God as "water covers the earth" (Isaiah 11:9).

44. In John 7:37–38, Jesus did something shocking during this event on the last day of the festival. What did he do? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 137)

ANSWER **Jesus cried out, saying, if anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. What He was basically saying was: “What you are doing is a picture of ME.”**

45. What was the mix of responses to what Jesus said? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 137)

ANSWER **Some believed He was the Messiah, others doubted, and some wanted to kill Him (John 7:41–44).**

46. Other than the ritual of water, what other ritual occurred during the eight-day Festival? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 137)

ANSWER **Torches were lit to illuminate Jerusalem. The number of lights increased each day so that by the eighth day, Jerusalem was lit up like a rocket.**

47. What did this ritual symbolize? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 137)

ANSWER **The light was to be a symbol of the Messiah who would be a light to the Gentile nations (Isaiah 49:6).**

48. In the midst of this, what did Jesus proclaim? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 137)

ANSWER **That He was the light of the world and all who follow Him will not walk in darkness, but will have the Light of life (John 8:12).**

Jesus was saying that the light from torches was a picture of Him. He was saying He is the spiritual light of the world. Unfortunately, the Jews rejected Him because they did not see from the old covenant that He was their Messiah. They were blind and could not see.

Those who claim Jesus was a madman are also blind. If they would study the intricate detail and absolute elegance of the Bible, they would not conclude He was a crackpot, but the fulfillment of a spectacularly detailed and brilliant system.

Chapter 15

Jesus Was a Prophet or Enlightened Being

"Even if I accepted that Jesus - like almost every other prophet on record - was born of a virgin, I cannot think that this proves the divinity of his father or the truth of his teachings. The same would be true if I accepted that he has been resurrected."

- Christopher Hitchens

Jesus Was A Prophet or Enlightened Being

INTRODUCTION

Many biblically illiterate people believe Jesus was a prophet or just an enlightened being. They claim that Jesus had a profound sense of wisdom or insight, but certainly not a divinely sourced wisdom. Those in this group include Muslims, Baha'i, atheists, agnostics, and New Age philosophers.

REMOVING THE MASK

To remove this mask, we must define and clarify the use of the word “prophet.” We are going to see that the biblical definition of “prophet” is different from the skeptic’s use of this word.

1. Go to www.Carm.org, search for the definition of a Biblical prophet, and write out the definition here:

ANSWER A biblical prophet was a man who spoke for God. He was the person who stood between God and man to impart to man messages from God. Examples include Moses, Elijah, Solomon, and any of the twelve Minor Prophets in the Old Testament.

2. Is this the definition people consider when using the word “prophet?” For instance, is that the definition someone like Oprah Winfrey would have in mind when saying Jesus was a prophet? Or would she have a more secular definition in mind?

ANSWER The world has defined the word “prophet” to mean someone with great insight, but not a person who brings an authoritative message from God Himself.

The world’s definition of “prophet” is clearly different from the Bible’s. Let’s take a look at the definitions of other words to determine if the world is using the word “prophet” correctly. Look up the following words in a dictionary or in Wikipedia, and write out each definition:

3. Sage:

ANSWER The sage is one who lives "according to an ideal which transcends the everyday." In the *Theaetetus*, Plato defines a sage as one who becomes "righteous and holy and wise," and is thus God-like in his nature.

4. Japanese Sensei:

ANSWER The term can be directly translated as "born before" and implies one who teaches based on wisdom from age and experience.

5. Zen Master:

ANSWER This term is regularly used for a Buddhist monk who is a master of meditation and teaches Zen Buddhist meditation. A Zen master is a Buddhist who has reached the highest level of "enlightenment" within Buddhism.

The above three words describe someone who speaks "wisely" or "morally," but neither he nor his message is of divine origin. In this case, unbelievers put Jesus on the same level as Buddha, Gandhi, and anyone who has written a really good fortune cookie.

6. Do you think that the Biblical definition of "prophet" is what unbelievers have in mind when they call Jesus a prophet?

ANSWER No.

7. Now that we have both the Biblical and secular definitions of "prophet" defined, let's look at what kind of prophet Jesus was. Read Matthew 13:57 and Mark 6:4. Did Jesus refer to Himself as a prophet?

ANSWER Yes.

8. When Jesus calls Himself a prophet, which definition was He using? Look up "prophet" using Strong's Greek 4396, and write out the definition:

ANSWER One who, moved by the Spirit of God and hence his organ or spokesman, solemnly declares to men what he has received by inspiration, especially concerning future events, and in particular such as relate to the cause and kingdom of God and to human salvation.

Clearly, Jesus was using the term "prophet" in the Biblical sense, not the secular, pagan sense.

Does the Bible give us more insight into His role as a prophet? Did Jesus differ from other prophets? Let's take a look.

9. What purpose did the Old Testament prophets serve? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 145)

ANSWER To preach directly to the people or to instruct the king.

10. Why were Biblical prophets considered “the voice of God?” (*Jesus Unmasked* page 145)

ANSWER Because they delivered God’s message to the people or king directly. The prophet did not create a message; God gave the prophet the message He wanted delivered to his people or the king.

11. What was the Biblical prophet’s main job? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 146)

ANSWER To proclaim the Word of the Lord, or to declare a future event.

12. Is the Bible filled with more prophecies that predict the future or more proclamations from God to His people?

ANSWER Comparatively, the prophet spent far more time calling people to repentance versus predicting the future.

13. What would happen if an Old Testament prophet inaccurately predicted the future? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 146)

ANSWER He would be stoned to death (Deuteronomy 18:22).

14. Why is false teaching an abomination to God? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 146)

ANSWER Falsely speaking for the Lord mangles His message and sets man above God. There is no greater sin than to claim to speak for God when you do not. False teaching and false teachers are an abomination to God.

15. Do you see any warnings here for false teachers and modern-day prophets who predict the future and are almost always wrong?

ANSWER Yes. While we are not living under the Old Covenant and we no longer stone false teachers, this should serve as a frightening warning to wolves. It should also remind us of the importance of sitting under good teaching and refuting false teaching and teachers.

16. What were some of the ways a prophet was proven to be a man of God? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 146)

ANSWER He could perform signs and wonders (like parting the Red Sea), and he could predict the future accurately (Jeremiah 28:9, Ezekiel 33:33).

Now that we have defined the work of a Biblical prophet, let's examine the words and works of Jesus to see if He was qualified for this office.

17. Read Luke 24:19. Were Jesus's predictions accurate? Did Jesus perform more or fewer signs and wonders than the Old Testament prophets?

ANSWER Jesus's predictions were fulfilled perfectly. Jesus also performed more and greater miracles than all of the Old Testament prophets combined.

18. Throughout the Bible, prophets would receive a message of God, sometimes through dreams or visions (2 Corinthians 12:1--4, Acts 16:9, Acts 18:9). Can you recall Jesus ever having a dream or vision? Is there any significance to this?

ANSWER No. Jesus received everything He was supposed to say directly from the Father, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

19. Throughout the Old Testament, prophets began their proclamations with, "Thus says the LORD of hosts," or "Thus sayeth the LORD" (Exodus 4:22, 5:1, 8:1, Josiah 7:13, Judges 6:8, 1 Samuel 10:18). Did Jesus ever utter those words? What might be the significance of this?

ANSWER No. Jesus was speaking AS God, not merely FOR God.

20. Read Matthew 5:18, 6:2, 8:10, and 10:23. In what manner did Jesus speak?

ANSWER Jesus spoke authoritatively by saying, "Truly, I say to you." He had the authority to speak as God.

21. Read John 1:51, 3:11, 5:19, and 8:58. Who was His source of authority?

ANSWER Jesus was His own source of authority.

22. Read Matthew 7:28 and 28:28. What were some of the responses to the way Jesus spoke?
(*Jesus Unmasked* page 19)

ANSWER **People had never heard anyone speak so forcefully and with the authority of God. He did not rely on other rabbis' words, He spoke His own.**

We have seen that Jesus did not speak the same way an ordinary prophet spoke; He spoke with words that showed He is God. In this area, He surpassed and exceeded the other prophets. He wasn't a mere mouthpiece; He is God.

Let's examine if there were other ways that Jesus behaved that demonstrated He was the greatest of all prophets.

23. Read John 21:25 and page 149 of *Jesus Unmasked*. Who preached more unique content, Old Testament prophets or Jesus?

ANSWER **An Old Testament prophet preached a sermon or two, mostly about judgment. Jesus taught extensively on every theological subject. According to *Jesus Unmasked*, "In a sense, all of the Old Testament prophets were minor prophets who served as a type of the Major prophet to come, Jesus Christ" (page 149).**

24. God would occasionally authenticate the Old Testament prophets through signs, wonders, and healings. Did Jesus heal more or less than the Old Testament prophets? Read Matthew 9:35–38, Luke 7:21, Matthew 14:14, and page 18 from *Jesus Unmasked*.

ANSWER **Jesus performed single healings or numerous healings when crowds gathered. Nowhere in the Scriptures does it say that Jesus turned away anyone who came to him for healing, nor was there any disease too difficult for him to heal. He even raised people from the dead.**

25. Read John 20:30. What does it say about the quantity of Jesus's healings?

ANSWER **There were even more signs performed by Jesus that are not recorded.**

26. According to page 18 of *Jesus Unmasked*, how many people were still sick when Jesus completed His ministry?

ANSWER **Disease was virtually wiped out.**

27. Read Deuteronomy 34:10–12. Who was the greatest Old Testament prophet?

ANSWER **Moses.**

28. Read Deuteronomy 18:15. What did Moses prophesy?

ANSWER **There was one coming after him who would be even greater than Moses.**

29. Read John 5:46 and Hebrews 3:3–6. What do these verses say about Jesus?

ANSWER **In John 5:46, Jesus states clearly that Moses wrote of Him. The author of Hebrews presents the case that Jesus should receive greater glory than anyone.**

30. What does it mean that, “In a sense, all of the Old Testament prophets were minor prophets who served as a type of the major prophet to come, Jesus Christ?” (*Jesus Unmasked* page 149)

ANSWER **The Old Testament prophets were fuzzy pictures of the greatest, all-satisfying prophet, Jesus.**

We have seen that Jesus is the greatest Biblical prophet through His superior teachings, healings, and authority. Furthermore, Scripture itself states that Jesus was the greatest prophet, greater than Moses.

31. Read John 12:29. What is the relationship between God and Jesus? What does this say about Jesus?

ANSWER **Jesus claimed that God is His Father, which equates Him with God. Jesus is the greatest prophet, but more than that, He is God.**

We have established that Jesus was the greatest prophet. But as you learned in reading Chapter 15 of *Jesus Unmasked*, there were three main offices in the Old Testament: Prophet, Priest, and King.

Let’s see if Jesus, the “enlightened sensei,” was also a priest and king.

32. Who were priests? From which tribe did they come? (Deuteronomy 18:1 (*Jesus Unmasked* page 150))

ANSWER **Tribe of Levi; they were in charge of the temple to offer sacrifices, care for the poor, and act as the mediator between man and God.**

33. How did priests differ from high priests? (Exodus 28:1–3 and 40–41 (*Jesus Unmasked* page 150))

ANSWER The high priest was the chief of all priests. This was the priest who annually entered the Holy of Holies in the Temple to sprinkle the blood of the lamb on God's mercy seat for the covering of the nation's sins.

34. The book of Hebrews repeatedly teaches that the Old Covenant—the temple, the priests, the sacrifices—were a picture of the reality found in Jesus. Read Psalm 40:6–8 and Hebrews 10:4–10. What do these passages reveal about the old sacrificial system?

ANSWER It revealed that sin required the death of an animal, yet the death of the animal only covered their sin but could not remove their sin. The constant sacrificing of animals year after year revealed the deficiencies of the system. Furthermore, it was expected that a greater sacrifice was needed and anticipated.

35. Read Hebrews 7:23–28 and 9:11–14: What are the elements that make Jesus the better high priest? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 150–151)

ANSWER Jesus intercedes for us as He sits next to the Father.
Jesus offered his own blood, not the blood of an animal.
Jesus is the sacrifice given once for all time (eternal).
Jesus's priesthood is permanent.
Jesus's sacrifice provided actual forgiveness, not just covering of sin.
Jesus's sacrifice removed guilt and a guilty conscience.

The Jews relied on the Old Covenant as the way to have limited access to God. Jesus says there is no other way to God, but through Him (John 14:6). No sacrificial system or Jewish priestly intervention could draw one close to God. Our one and only way to have full access to God is through Jesus—the better High Priest and better sacrifice.

36. Read 1 Peter 1:1–5 and Romans 8:31–39 (*Jesus Unmasked* page 152). What promises are given to believers because of our High Priest?

ANSWER He saved us, and He will keep us as saints. He will give us a reserved inheritance that will be undefiled and imperishable. Our standing with God is not based on us, but on the high priestly work of our Great High Priest, the Lord Jesus Christ.

37. What are the glorious blessings of being in our Great High Priest, listed at the top of page 153 in *Jesus Unmasked*?

ANSWER

If you are in Christ:

The devil cannot separate you from the love of God.

Your spouse cannot separate you from the love of God.

Your parents cannot separate you from the love of God.

Accusers cannot separate you from the love of God.

Your sin cannot separate you from the love of God.

Your past cannot separate you from the love of God.

Your weak faith cannot separate you from the love of God.

Your doubts cannot separate you from the love of God.

You cannot separate you from the love of God.

38. We have the greatest Biblical Prophet and the greatest Great High Priest, but we also have the greatest King (*Jesus Unmasked*, pages 153–158). Read 1 Samuel 8:4–22. Who was always to be Israel's king?

ANSWER

God.

39. God ruled through _____ who were guided by _____. (*Jesus Unmasked* Page 153)

ANSWER

Judges, prophets.

40. Why did Israel want a king? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 153)

ANSWER

Peer pressure. They wanted someone they could see living among them possessing pomp and royalty like the other nations. Don't miss that they didn't ask for a wise and kind king; they merely wanted a figurehead to impress their neighbors. They did not want a theocracy. They did not want God to rule. They had the best Sovereign possible and threw it away for a lesser system. This was a reflection of their hearts towards God.

41. What was Samuel's warning about how a human king would treat them? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 153–154)

ANSWER

Enslave them and their children, and take their money and land.

42. What will God's response be when they cry out to Him for relief?

ANSWER He will not answer them.

43. Did most of the kings rule well? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 154)

ANSWER No. There were a few good kings (like David and Josiah), but mostly they “did evil in the Lord’s sight.”

44. What promise did God make to King David? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 154)

ANSWER That his descendant would be established on the throne forever.

45. Read Luke 1:31–33. Who will sit on David’s throne forever?

ANSWER Jesus

46. Why is the genealogy in the first chapter of Matthew important? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 155)

ANSWER To show that Jesus is a descendant of King David.

47. For whom were the Magi searching in Matthew 2:2?

ANSWER King of the Jews.

48. Read Matthew 3:1–3. Kings had heralds to go before them to announce his coming and prepare the people for the arrival of the king. Who was Jesus’s herald?

ANSWER John the Baptist.

49. Why was Jesus's entry into Jerusalem on a donkey significant? (Read Zechariah 9:9)

ANSWER To fulfill the prophecy of Zechariah 9:9.

50. From Zechariah 9:9, what characteristics about Jesus are prophesied?

ANSWER He will be a king, He will be just, He will deliver salvation, and He will be humble.

51. Read Matthew 27:11. What was Jesus's answer to Pontius Pilate when Pilate asked Him if He was the King of the Jews? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 156)

ANSWER Jesus said: "It is as you say."

52. Read 1 Corinthians 6:9–10. The king has set the entrance standards into His kingdom. This is a short list of sins that will keep mankind from heaven. Yet how do I, as a redeemed believer who sins, rectify this with 1 John 3:9–10?

ANSWER The verse in 1 John speaks of a habitual, ongoing lifestyle of sin. Converted believers fall into sin and quickly confess, then strive to forsake their sin. They do not plan, scheme, and live in ongoing sin.

53. We read in Revelation 19:11–16 that our King is coming again. What will that look like? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 156–157)

ANSWER When our King returns, He will wage war against sinners. Justice will be executed for every crime committed against man and God. No wicked deed will go unpunished. All sins are crimes against God, and He will execute justice.

54. How can one escape the coming judgment by King Jesus? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 158)

ANSWER Bow before the King. The great High Priest will apply His redemptive work to you, and He will save you.

55. What does being saved to the uttermost mean? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 158)

ANSWER Jesus will save the vilest of sinners; He will forgive all sins past, present, and future. He will cleanse your conscience; He will give you a new nature. He will help you make sense of the world; He will give you hope; He will give you a future.

56. Needless to say, the world's understanding of a prophet differs radically from biblical prophets. More than that, when the world calls Jesus simply a prophet, it is clear they have not studied what you just learned. So when the world claims that Jesus was merely a prophet, what should your response be?

ANSWER Start by asking them how they define "prophet," then share with them that Jesus was the greatest Biblical prophet, the perfect priest, and the reigning king forever.

FURTHER STUDY

On page 156 of *Jesus Unmasked*, the return of King Jesus describes his rule and judgment over His creation. Do you have a sense of fear or dread when you read that? Do you dread His coming courtroom?

If so, call out to the perfect prophet, priest, and king to find salvation, forgiveness, and comfort.

Chapter 16

Jesus Is Just Another Bible Character

"Jesus was a link in a long chain of prophets and messengers sent by God to various societies and nations whenever they needed guidance or deviated from the teachings of God."

- Dr. Maneh Hammad Al-Johani

Jesus Is Just Another Bible Character

INTRODUCTION

The biblically uninitiated make a dreadful error when they think Jesus is just another character in the panoply of Biblical actors. Samson, Solomon, David, Jonah, Jesus, whatever.

When we study Old Testament typology and see that Jesus is better than everyone and everything that pointed to Him, we can conclude that Jesus is hardly an actor in a long list of movie credits. Jesus is the only true and living God.

REMOVING THE MASK

1. In what way is Jesus like Abel, only better? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 162)

ANSWER

- A. Jesus was killed by His brothers, His fellow Jews.**
- B. Abel's death did not atone for anyone's sins, but Jesus's death does.**
- C. Abel's sacrifice of an animal only provided a temporary covering for sin, but Jesus's sacrifice provided complete and total forgiveness of sins.**

2. In what four ways is Jesus a greater priest than Melchizedek? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 162)

ANSWER

- A. Jesus was not just a priest, but the highest of high priests (Hebrews 4:14).**
- B. Jesus is the guarantee of a better covenant (Hebrews 7:22).**
- C. Jesus is not merely the King of Salem, but the King of everything (Rev 1:4-5).**
- D. Genesis does not provide the ancestry or death of Melchizedek, making his priesthood appear eternal; Jesus' high priesthood actually is eternal (Heb 7:3).**

3. How is Isaac a type of Jesus? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 163)

ANSWER

- A. Abraham nearly sacrificed his only beloved son, Isaac. God the Father actually sacrificed His only beloved Son, Jesus.**
- B. Isaac was completely unaware of what was going to happen; Jesus knew exactly what was going to happen to Him.**
- C. The location of Isaac's sacrifice was Mount Moriah, outside of the city of Jerusalem; Jesus was sacrificed outside of the city of Jerusalem, likely on Mount Moriah.**
- D. Isaac carried wood to the sacrificial site; Jesus carried a wooden cross to His sacrifice.**

4. Moses spoke of a greater prophet to come. In what way is Jesus a greater prophet than Moses? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 163)

ANSWER

- A. Both were servants.**
- B. Moses gave the Law; Jesus magnified the Law.**
- C. Moses delivered the Jews from physical slavery; Jesus delivers us from the slavery of sin and death.**
- D. Moses brought the Jews to the Promised Land; Jesus promises to bring us to the greater Promised Land.**

5. In what ways was Jonah a Christ-type? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 165)

ANSWER

Jonah and Jesus were both prophets, and both preached repentance. Jonah was in the belly of a big fish for three days, and Jesus was in the belly of the earth for three days (Matthew 12:39).

6. How was Jesus a Solomon type? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 165)

ANSWER

Solomon and Jesus were both from the line of David, both were kings, and both were wise. Solomon built the temple; Jesus built the church. Solomon built a massive physical kingdom; Jesus is building a larger spiritual kingdom.

7. What other people could be a “Jesus-type?” (*Jesus Unmasked* page 165–169)

ANSWER

Boaz, Joseph, and Adam

8. What does it mean that Adam is an anti-type? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 168)

ANSWER

Adam is the opposite of Jesus. Adam failed; Jesus succeeded. Adam ushered in death; Jesus gives life.

FURTHER STUDY

- What does the ontological nature of Jesus mean?
- Research the hypostatic union of Christ.
- Read the Athanasian Creed. Can we believe whatever we want about the Trinity?

Chapter 17

Jesus Is a Higher Power

"I've always believed in a higher power. You can call it God, you can call it Jesus, Krishna, Buddha, Allah, I don't care. I really believe we are all a part of God."

- Olivia Hussey

Jesus Is A Higher Power

INTRODUCTION

As we might recall from grammar school, adjectives can take three forms, in ascending order: positive, comparative, and superlative. An adjective can be good, better, or best. When it comes to theology, too many people think that Jesus's power is good or better, but few believe that His power is best. Let's remove the higher power mask and see how mighty Jesus really is.

REMOVING THE MASK

1. After the Jews had been held as slaves in Egypt for 400 years, God sent a deliverer named Moses to do what? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 176)

ANSWER Break the chains of bondage, and bring God's chosen people into a land flowing with milk and honey.

2. Both Israel and Jesus were "called out of Egypt." What does that mean? (Matthew 2:14–15; *Jesus Unmasked* page 176)

ANSWER Israel was called out of Egypt to the Promised Land, and Jesus was also called out of Egypt after His life was no longer in danger as a child.

3. Israel was tempted in the wilderness for forty years and _____ the test. Jesus was tempted in the wilderness for forty days and _____. (*Jesus Unmasked* page 176)

ANSWER failed, succeeded.

4. Each time Jesus was tempted in the wilderness, He quoted _____. (*Jesus Unmasked* page 176)

ANSWER Moses.

5. The Jews were brought into the Promised Land by a man named Joshua, the Hebrew name for _____. We are brought into the heavenly promised land by _____. (*Jesus Unmasked* page 177)

ANSWER Jesus, Jesus.

6. The story of the Jews being delivered from Egypt and brought to the Promised Land is a picture of the redemptive work of Jesus. Just as the Jews were delivered out of slavery to Pharaoh by Moses, we are delivered out of slavery to _____ by Jesus. (Hebrews 2:14; *Jesus Unmasked* page 177)

ANSWER Satan

7. In what way is the story of Israel a picture of Jesus and the gospel? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 177)

ANSWER The Jews could not enter the Promised Land without God's help, and we can't enter Heaven unless God provides a way.

8. What purpose did the Cities of Refuge serve? (*Jesus Unmasked* pages 177–178)

ANSWER If a man accidentally killed another man, God created six cities of refuge for the suspected criminal to run to for safety. Any vigilantism would be avoided, and this would ensure that the suspect could be kept alive until a trial could be held to determine innocence or guilt.

9. In what ways can we learn from this? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 178)

ANSWER We don't take matters of justice into our own hands and kill people. The city of refuge tells us that God wants judges to determine the innocence or guilt of a suspected criminal.

10. What are the three realms of authority God has set up in the New Testament? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 178)

ANSWER

- A. Family
- B. Church
- C. Government

11. The smaller the number of people, the _____ the authority; the greater the number of people, the _____ the authority. (*Jesus Unmasked* page 178)

ANSWER greater, less

Each one of these realms has very specific assignments: (*Jesus Unmasked* page 178)

12. Parents are to _____ up their children in the _____ and _____ of the Lord. (Ephesians 6:1)

ANSWER train, discipline, admonition

13. Shepherds are to _____ the flock and _____ them from wolves. (Ephesians 4:11)

ANSWER feed, protect

14. Government officials are to _____ the bad guys. (Romans 13:1–7)

ANSWER punish

15. When a realm of authority gets involved in one of the other realms, what happens?

ANSWER Disaster and failure

16. What ways can Christians step over the line regarding realms of authority?

ANSWER When unbelievers start seeing Christians as a political party and not as followers of Jesus.

Jesus was a much better City of Refuge in what ways? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 180)

17. _____ men were to run to the city of refuge. We are not innocent; we are actually _____.

ANSWER Innocent, guilty

18. The city of refuge was a place of _____ safety; Jesus is a _____ place of safety.

ANSWER temporary, permanent

19. The city of refuge was a _____. Jesus is an actual _____ with whom we can have a relationship.

ANSWER thing, person

20. How was Jesus like Jacob's ladder, only better? (*Jesus Unmasked*, page 180)

ANSWER Jacob's ladder had angels ascending and descending. Jesus provides a way for man to get from earth to heaven.

A surety is someone who promises to pay the obligation if the principal cannot or will not pay his debt.

Jesus is the surety of a better covenant according to Hebrews. Fill in the following. (*Jesus Unmasked* page 181)

21. We have more than a financial debt; we have a _____ debt.

ANSWER sin

22. Our debt is not with man, but with _____.

ANSWER God

23. Jesus does more than _____ our fine; He puts His _____ into our account.

ANSWER pay, righteousness

24. Why do you never have to worry that God will change His mind about you? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 181)

ANSWER Because Jesus is the surety of the unchanging new covenant. If we are in Christ, we will forever be loved by the Father because of the work of the Son.

What a mighty power, to accomplish so much for so many! Clearly, Jesus is more than a higher power; He is the highest power who accomplished more than we can dream or imagine.

Chapter 18 & 19

Jesus Would Be a Socialist, Democrat, or Republican

"Jesus was the first socialist, the first to seek a better life for mankind."

- Mikhail Gorbachev

Jesus Would Be A Socialist, Democrat or Republican

INTRODUCTION

The political mask is often put on Jesus by people who believe that He would be in their political party. Socialists, Sojourners, and the Moral Majority all claim that Jesus would be of their political persuasion. As we will see, asking whose political convention Jesus would attend is asking the wrong question. By studying these two chapters of *Jesus Unmasked*, we will conclude that Jesus transcends all political labels.

REMOVING THE MASK

Most first-century Jews were expecting a leader who would throw off Roman rule and return Israel to the golden days of King David. This is somewhat understandable as the anointed descendant of King David was supposed to reign forever on a throne in Jerusalem. But providing a political or military leader was not God's plan.

God's short-term plan was to reign over a physical realm in order to create an eternal spiritual kingdom. God can take over any nation He wants to, but He is looking to do something far more profound. God is looking to prepare a bride for His Son at the consummation of human history.

1. What is a covenant? (*Jesus Unmasked* pages 184–186)

ANSWER A covenant is an agreement or promise between two parties to be fulfilled unto death.

2. What was the consequence of breaking a covenant? (*Jesus Unmasked*, page 184)

ANSWER The typical promise made in a covenant was, "If I break this, you can kill me."

3. God cut a covenant with Abraham. What was/is the duration for this contract? (Genesis 17:6–8)

ANSWER It is an eternal, one-sided, irrevocable covenant. God committed Himself to the covenant alone. Abraham was not an active party to this covenant ceremony, thus making the covenant a one-sided, one-party ceremony. The beneficiaries receive the blessings of the covenant regardless of their participation in the covenant.

4. What were the promises of the Abrahamic Covenant?

ANSWER

- A. Land**
- B. Nation**
- C. Seed**

5. Could the Mosaic Covenant be broken? (Exodus 32, Deuteronomy 28, Hebrews 8–10)

ANSWER

Because it was a *quid pro quo* covenant based on both parties fulfilling their obligations, the Mosaic Covenant could be abrogated.

6. In most covenant arrangements, both parties have responsibilities. What is our contribution to the New Covenant cut by Jesus? (Ephesians 2:8–9; Titus 3:4–7; Romans 11:5–6)

ANSWER

The only thing we bring to the New Covenant is our sin; otherwise, we contribute nothing. Jesus initiated the New Covenant, brings us into the New Covenant, keeps us in the New Covenant, and helps us obey the New Covenant.

God set apart the Jewish people as a nation unto Himself so that He might use them as a nation of priests to reveal His plan of salvation to the heathen nations (Exodus 19:6). They were God's chosen people in order to reveal Himself as the one true God. Through Israel, He gave the world a Savior.

7. When did Jeremiah declare that God was going to make a new covenant? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 184, Jeremiah 31:31–34)

ANSWER

600 B.C.

8. God promised, "Not like the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day I took them out by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt" (*Jesus Unmasked* page 184). What did He mean by that?

ANSWER

The coming New Covenant was unconditional, not conditional like the Mosaic Covenant. The New Covenant also contained greater promises.

9. Were sins forgiven under the Old Covenant? (*Jesus Unmasked* Page 185, Hebrews 10:1–18)

ANSWER

No, they were only covered.

10. How will sins be dealt with in this New Covenant? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 185)

ANSWER They will be forgiven and forgotten.

11. If sins were merely covered in the time prior to Jesus, how did Old Testament believers get to heaven? (Romans 4)

ANSWER By believing in the promised Messiah to come.

12. There was a 400-year silence after the last Old Testament book of Malachi. How was the silence broken? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 185; John 1:29)

ANSWER John the Baptist proclaimed: “Behold the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world.”

13. Do we have any responsibility in the New Covenant? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 186; Hebrews 10:14, 18, 22)

ANSWER We are brought into the New Covenant entirely by grace, but we are to follow and obey God in response to all that He has done.

Step One: Exchange of Robes (*Jesus Unmasked* pages 186–192):

14. In covenant, the exchange of robes was a “sign.” What was the significance of that sign? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 187)

ANSWER An outward sign of an inward commitment. By making this exchange, covenant partners were saying that they were receiving that person unto themselves. It was a total exchange of identity.

15. Was there an exchange of robes in the New Covenant? What does Philippians 2:5–8 say? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 187)

ANSWER The King of Glory left His throne, humbled Himself, and took on our actual form. God became flesh and became one of us. God robed Himself with flesh.

16. What does the phrase “the incarnation of Jesus Christ” mean? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 187)

ANSWER The infinite God took on a finite human form.

17. What does the Bible mean when it says that Mary was “overshadowed by the Holy Spirit?” (*Jesus Unmasked* page 187)

ANSWER God supernaturally made Mary pregnant without conjugal relations.

18. What is the hypostatic union of Jesus? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 188)

ANSWER Jesus was fully God and fully man.

19. What warning does the Athanasian Creed offer? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 189)

ANSWER If one doesn’t understand the nature of Jesus rightly, one can’t understand God rightly because Jesus Himself is God.

20. But Jesus took on more than our flesh. What else did he take on? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 190, II Corinthians 5:21)

ANSWER Our sin was placed on Him; His righteousness is placed on us. He gets our sin; we get his righteousness.

21. In this great exchange of robes in the New Covenant, did we take on Jesus’s robe? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 191, Romans 13:14; Galatians 3:27)

ANSWER We are to be clothed in Jesus, meaning we are to be like Him. His identity should become our identity.

22. Remember, this exchange of robes was an outward sign of an inward commitment. So how is our total exchange of identity summed up in 1 Cor 11:1, Eph 5:1, and Col 3:1–14?

ANSWER We have merged ourselves into Christ. We are to die to our old selfish ways, our old fleshly desires, and our old sins. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we are to be imitators of Christ and put on the robe of His likeness.

Step Two: The Exchange of Weapons (*Jesus Unmasked* pages 192–196)

23. What was the symbolism attached to the exchanging of weapons? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 192)

ANSWER It represented the parties' shared responsibility to defend each other against their enemies. They were committing their lives to the protection and defense of their covenant partner.

24. Knowing that God defends us (2 Thessalonians 1:5–7), how are we to treat those who hurt us? (Romans 12:17–19)

ANSWER We are never to pay back evil for evil; vengeance is God's.

25. What truths can you remember next time someone hurts you? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 193)

ANSWER We have a covenant partner who will defend us. We do not have to retaliate; God will ensure that justice is satisfied.

26. What does Romans 12:20–21 say about our enemies? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 193)

ANSWER Feed them; give them water to drink. Overcome evil with good. We can only do that because we have a covenant partner who will deal with retribution. This frees you to “love your neighbor as yourself.”

27. We have seen that God is our defender, but do we defend God, our covenant partner? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 194–196; Jude 3; James 4:4)

ANSWER One of the ways we defend God is by defending His Word and contending earnestly for the faith. We also defend God by not partnering with the world.

28. In what way is a believer who sins an adulterer? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 196)

ANSWER When we sin, we are partnering with the world and cheating on our covenant partner. By loving the things of this world, we show disdain towards God.

Step Three: The Exchange of Belts and Girdles (*Jesus Unmasked* pages 196–197)

The belt of the garment held one's weapons in place. To give your belt in covenant signified the giving of your strength to your covenant partner.

29. In what ways does God give us his belt/strength? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 196, Philippians 4:13)

ANSWER He helps us endure persecution and hardship.

30. On the flip side, do we give God our strength? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 197, 2 Cor 12:9–10)

ANSWER We have no strength, only weakness. We give Him our weaknesses and sins, and He gives us His strength and righteousness.

Step Four: The Cutting of Wrists (*Jesus Unmasked* page 197)

31. The cutting of wrists was accomplished by making an incision in each partner's wrist or forearm and striking or locking the hands together in such a way so that their blood would mingle. What did this co-mingling signify? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 197)

ANSWER The two parties became "blood brothers." In essence, two had become one.

32. In keeping with oneness, how are we one with Jesus Christ? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 197)

ANSWER Christ dwells in us, and we are in Christ.

Step Five: The Taking of an Oath (*Jesus Unmasked* pages 197–198)

In the covenant ceremony, typically both parties would pledge all their resources to each other, basically proclaiming, "All that I have is now yours."

33. Does God share His possessions with us? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 198; Philippians 4:19; Romans 8:32)

ANSWER God will supply all our needs, and He has promised to give us all things freely.

34. Are we to share our possessions with God? (Romans 12:1; 1 Corinthians 6:19–20)

ANSWER We are to present our bodies as a living and holy sacrifice and glorify God in our bodies.

Step Six: The Seal of the Covenant (*Jesus Unmasked* page 201–202)

35. What is the purpose behind the seal of a covenant? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 202)

ANSWER It was used as a regular reminder of the pledges, oaths, and promises each partner made in the covenant ceremony to each other.

36. What are some of the covenant seals in the Bible? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 202)

ANSWER The seal of the Noahic Covenant was the rainbow, the seal of the Abrahamic Covenant was circumcision, and the seal of the Mosaic Covenant was the Sabbath.

37. What is the seal of the New Covenant? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 202; Ephesians 1:13)

ANSWER The Holy Spirit.

38. How is the indwelling of the Holy Spirit an outward sign?

ANSWER When we walk in newness of life, bearing fruit of repentance, the world sees this and knows we are supernaturally changed.

Step Seven: The Exchange of Names (*Jesus Unmasked* pages 202–203)

39. Historically, the exchange of names indicated an exchange of identity. Do we get a new name when we enter into the New Covenant? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 202, Ephesians 2:1–3)

ANSWER We were Children of Wrath, but now we are Children of God.

40. What does Revelation 2:17 tell us about our name in heaven?

ANSWER We will receive a new name in heaven. It will be from the One who knows you better than you know yourself.

Steps Eight and Nine: The Splitting of an Animal and the Walk of Death (*Jesus Unmasked* page 203–205)

41. These two steps are combined because they usually happen concurrently. The splitting of an animal had two significant parts in the ceremony. What were they? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 203)

ANSWER It demonstrated the solemnity of the covenant, and it called upon God to intervene in like manner if the covenant was broken.

42. What “animal” was killed in the New Covenant? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 204; John 1:29)

ANSWER Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

43. Is there another death in the New Covenant? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 204; Galatians 2:19–20; 2 Corinthians 5:14–17)

ANSWER We are to die to self and walk in the newness of life in Christ.

44. After the death of the sacrificial animal, the pieces of the animal were laid opposite one another and the covenanting parties would walk through the pieces of the animal. What did this “walk of death” signify? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 204)

ANSWER This was a physical dramatization of each person’s promise to die to their independent living and always live in consideration of their covenant partner.

45. What happened to the veil in the temple when Jesus died? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 205; Matthew 27:51)

ANSWER It was torn from top to bottom.

46. What did this symbolize? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 205; Hebrews 10:19–20)

ANSWER Jesus’s body was “split” so we can have direct access to the Father.

47. Can you see any parallel with John 14:6? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 205)

ANSWER “...no one comes to the father except through Me” reminds us that Jesus’s sacrifice is the only way we have access to God.

Step Ten: The Covenant Meal (*Jesus Unmasked* pages 205–206)

48. When the cutting of the covenant was complete, the parties would share in a special covenant meal. There, the two parties would feed each other bread dipped into wine. What was the symbolic meaning of this? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 206)

ANSWER This was a symbolic way of saying, “I am giving you my life.”

49. What did Jesus say in 1 Corinthians 11:23–25 about His body and blood and the New Covenant? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 206)

ANSWER It is His body and blood that are broken and shed for the forgiveness of sins. The Lord’s Supper is to be a remembrance meal for Christians.

50. What is the New Covenant meal?

ANSWER The Lord’s Supper

51. What does Jesus demand? (*Jesus Unmasked* Page 206)

ANSWER Repentance

52. Repentance is not about _____, but about direction. (*Jesus Unmasked* page 207)

ANSWER perfection

53. Is repentance a work? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 208)

ANSWER No, it is a gift. Repentance is the right response to hearing the good news.

54. There is a heavenly feast we will enjoy with Jesus, who promised not to drink from the last cup of the feast until he returned. Read Matthew 26:27–29, Luke 22:15–18, and Revelation 19:9. At this feast, who will serve us? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 210)

ANSWER The Lord Almighty serves us. The King serves the servants. The Master serves the slaves. The Creator serves His creation.

Some people put a political mask on Jesus to co-opt him to their political party. Our emphasis in this chapter was to point to Jesus being the lamb who was slain for the inauguration of the New Covenant.

Consider the effort, focus, and eternal benefits of the covenants. For Jesus to become a member of a political party would be a downgrade akin to a king who mops the floors. Jesus is more than a member of a political system; He is the God who saves mankind through Himself. That is far more profound and valuable than any political party could accomplish.

FURTHER STUDY

- Ponder in what ways you have been adulterous in your relationship with God (this is in relation to step 2).
- Do you ever feel guilty? Is this the way we should feel? If all of our sins, past, present, and future are all forgiven, should the Christian ever feel guilty? It is not a sin to have remorse over bad decisions, but a Christian should never feel guilty.
- Is it possible you need to repent, perhaps for the first time, and place your faith in Jesus Christ?

Chapter 20

Jesus Is a Created Being

"Mormons do not believe that Jesus was born of a virgin but that He was begotten by an Immortal Father in the same way that mortal men are begotten by mortal fathers."

- Bruce R. McConkle

Jesus Is A Created Being

INTRODUCTION

Mormons, Muslims, Jehovah's Witnesses, and anyone who adopts Arianism do not believe that Jesus has eternally existed. They believe He is a created being. Needless to say, this is a substantial mask that can be easily removed by simply studying the "I am" statements of Jesus in the Gospel of John.

REMOVING THE MASK

Let's look into *Jesus Unmasked* Chapter 20 and see what Jesus said about Himself and how it underscores His deity and His pre-existence.

1. What does ego eimi mean? (*Jesus Unmasked*, page 216)

ANSWER Greek for "I AM."

2. On page 217 of *Jesus Unmasked*, what did you learn about "I Am?"

ANSWER This is the name that God shared with Moses that identifies Him as the eternal, self-existent, never-changing God.

3. In the Gospel of John, Jesus referred to Himself as "I Am" _____ times. (*Jesus Unmasked* page 217)

ANSWER 21

4. On page 217 of *Jesus Unmasked*, what did you learn about word order in Greek?

ANSWER Jesus placed the "I Am" at the end of the sentence to emphasize what He was trying to say.

5. Read John 8:24, 8:28, and 8:58 (*Jesus Unmasked*, pages 217–218). What was Jesus claiming with his persistent use of "I Am"?

ANSWER The "I Am" identifies God as the eternal self-existent, never-changing God. Jesus's usage of "I Am" equates Him with the self-existent, eternal, never-changing God. Jesus was not created. He is eternal, just as God.

Read John 8:12; Exodus 13:21–22; Psalm 27:1, Isaiah 60:19–20; 42:6, and Revelation 21:23–24.

6. To whom was Isaiah referring when he described light?

ANSWER **The Messiah**

Jesus called Himself the light of the world during the daily lighting ceremony that occurred during the yearly Feast of Booths celebration. The lighting ceremony was a picture of Exodus 13:21–22 and a demonstration of hope in the Messiah who would be a light to the world.

7. How might Jesus’s “follow me” statement in John 8:12 be an allusion to the pillar of fire by night and cloud by day to the children of Israel?

ANSWER **The Jews followed the pillar of fire so they didn’t get lost and could be led to the promised land of Canaan. God was their guide. Jesus was saying we must follow Him because He will lead us to God, heaven, and everlasting life.**

8. Do a search on the word “follow” from John 8:12, using Strong’s Greek 190. What did you learn about the word?

ANSWER **The Greek word is *ä-ko-lü-the’-ō* which means to join one as a disciple, used as a soldier following his commander or a slave following his master.**

9. This is an “all in” type of following, not a casual acquaintance. Furthermore, according to John 8:12, what will happen if someone follows the light of the world?

ANSWER **They will not walk in darkness ,and they will have the light of life.**

Jesus told the crowd at the Feast that He was the way out of darkness—the darkness of ignorance, bondage to sin, shame, guilt, and death. He was in essence saying, “Follow me, and I will lead you to the eternal Promised Land, the way your ancestors followed the pillar of fire to their earthly promised land.”

10. What did you learn about the Jehovah’s Witnesses Bible translation regarding John 1:1? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 219)

ANSWER **It is in error. It states the “word was a god.” However, the original Greek word order is emphatically clear: God was the Word. Jesus is the Word; therefore, Jesus is God.**

11. Did Jesus equate Himself with God? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 219)

ANSWER Yes, that is why the Jews sought to stone him (John 8:59); they ultimately crucified Him for “claiming to be God” (Matthew 26:63–66).

12. Did the God of the Old Testament claim to be the only true and living God? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 219–221)

ANSWER Yes, read Jeremiah 10:2–16. Jesus equated Himself with the God of the Old Testament. Therefore, Jesus is the only true and living God.

Jesus is not a created person as the Mormons and Jehovah’s Witnesses believe. That is also made clear as we see Christ-types or shadowy pictures of Christ in some people of the Old Testament.

FURTHER STUDY

Let’s begin by defining the phrase “A son of God” and then we will see that Jesus was “The Son of God.” We will also see that this distinction has eternal consequences.

Mormons:

Mormonism teaches that Jesus is a procreated being, the literal offspring of a physical relationship between God the Father and one of His heavenly wives. According to Mormon theology, God the Father, Elohim, dwells on a planet with His many spirit wives producing numerous spirit children who await to inhabit physical bodies so that they too may one day ascend to godhood as their parents did. Jesus is believed to be the firstborn spirit child of Elohim. The Doctrine and Covenants, one of the four sacred books of Mormonism states, “Christ, the Firstborn, was the mightiest of all the spirit children of the Father.”

James Talmage, one of the early apostles of the Mormon Church, wrote, “[A]mong the spirit-children of Elohim, the firstborn was and is Jehovah or Jesus Christ to whom all others are juniors” (James Talmage 18, *Articles of Faith*).

Mormons teach that Jesus existed as a spirit child prior to His incarnation. They believe Jesus was an offspring of Elohim, created at some point in time. Mormons quote John 3:16 to support this position.

13. Do a word study on “begotten” from John 3:16 using Strong’s Greek 3439, and write out what you find below:

ANSWER The Greek word used there is *monogenes*, which means “unique” or “one of a kind.” It does not mean “procreated.” *Begotten* means “having no peer” and emphasizes uniqueness.

Mormons also quote Colossians 1:15, which identifies Christ as the “firstborn over all creation.”

14. Do a word study on “firstborn,” Strong’s Greek 4416, and write out what you learn:

ANSWER *prototokos*, meaning “first in rank, preeminent one.” It denotes preeminence in rank.

15. David was called “firstborn” in Psalm 89:27. Was he born first in his family? Was David the first king?

ANSWER David was not the first born in his family, nor was he Israel’s first king.

16. Read John 4:24. Does God the Father have a physical body that He could use to sire a son?

ANSWER No.

The Bible further teaches Jesus is an eternal being who has no beginning.

17. Colossians 1:17 states, “He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.” This verse means that:

- A. Jesus was the fruit of a sexual relationship between God and one of His wives.
- B. Jesus the man became divine when He grew in holiness during His ministry.
- C. Jesus existed before anything else existed.

ANSWER C.

18. According to Colossians 1:17, who holds all things together?

- A. The Higgs Boson “god particle.”
- B. Luck.
- C. Jesus.

ANSWER C.

Jehovah's Witnesses (JW) also hold a heretical view of Christ.

JWs teach that Jesus Christ was the first created being of Jehovah God. Jehovah God created Jesus at some point in pre-creation time. According to JWs, "This means that he was created before all the other spirit sons of God, and that he is the only one who was directly created by God" (You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, 1982, p. 58).

Furthermore, they believe that "he is also God's 'only-begotten' Son in that he is the only one directly created by Jehovah God; all other things came into existence through him as God's Chief Agent" (The Truth that Leads to Eternal Life: Watchtower Bible and Tract society of New York, p. 47).

19. Let's see what the Bible says about Jesus being "a" son of God. Look up the following: Mark 1:1, Luke 1:35, Luke 3:38, and Luke 22:70. What do these verses say about Jesus?

ANSWER **Jesus is THE Son of God**

20. Read Matthew 26:63–66. What does the title "Son of God" mean?

ANSWER **From this passage, it is clear that it is a Messianic title and a title that equated Jesus with God. This is why the Pharisees sought a death sentence. The Jewish leaders understood the phrase "Son of God" to be the same nature as God— in fact to be God—and believed it was blasphemy for any mere mortal to make that claim. Therefore, they demanded Jesus's death, in keeping with Leviticus 24:15.**

21. Read Mark 3:11. Who called Jesus the Son of God?

ANSWER **The demons declared the truth of who Jesus was. Clearly they do not believe in Him, but they certainly recognize who and what He is.**

22. Read Hebrews 7:3. What do we learn about the Son of God?

ANSWER **He has no beginning and no end; He is eternal.**

Jesus was not a super-human species produced from the outcome of a God–Mary union. He was God in flesh, the second person of the Trinity. The next time your doorbell rings, you now know how to engage a confused Mormon or Jehovah's Witness.

Chapter 21

Jesus Is My Boyfriend

"And I'm madly in love with you
And I'm madly in love with you
And I'm madly in love with you
And I'm madly in love with you. "

- Passion Worship
Madly

Jesus Is My Boyfriend

INTRODUCTION

Far too many people sing about Jesus like they are singing to their boyfriend. Jesus is not our boyfriend; Jesus is pictured in the Bible in a far more profound way. He is not the sweaty, nervous groom standing at the altar waiting for His bride to appear. Instead, Jesus is the divine bridegroom whose bride is the church, which He purchased with His blood.

REMOVING THE MASK

It is time to rip the “boyfriend mask” off Jesus and reveal our glorious bridegroom who planned, provided, and will bring to culmination the greatest wedding celebration ever.

1. What traditional wedding vows allude to Genesis 2:23–25? (*Jesus Unmasked*, page 224)

ANSWER “Two shall become one flesh. “Til death do you part” comes from being “joined together,” which is to cleave to one another until you die.

2. What are the five reasons God created marriage? (*Jesus Unmasked*, page 224–225)

ANSWER

- A. Procreation
- B. Sex
- C. Companionship
- D. We are better together than alone.
- E. It is a picture of something greater.

3. What is the picture that marriage paints? (*Jesus Unmasked*, page 225)

ANSWER Marriage was created to be an analogy. It is a shadowy picture of our relationship with Jesus. In a marriage, the man plays the role of Jesus, and the woman plays the role of His bride, the Church (Eph. 5:22–24).

4. In what way can marriage be a testimony to the pagan world? (*Jesus Unmasked*, page 225)

ANSWER When both man and woman fulfill their parts in marriage, the world can look at them and understand how Jesus loves the church and vice versa (Matthew 9:15; 2 Corinthians 11:2).

5. If marriage is a picture of our relationship with Jesus, the bridegroom, why shouldn't we sing ooey gooey love songs to Him?

ANSWER Because we do not have a romantic love with Jesus, and we most certainly do not have a sexual love relationship with Jesus. NO analogy or Old Testament picture of Jesus is clear; it is always fuzzy and we should never try to make perfect comparisons. For instance, we know that Moses prefigured Christ, but Jesus did not have a speech impediment like Moses.

Let's look at the twelve first-century marriage customs to see imagery that describes Jesus and His relationship to His bride, the Church (*Jesus Unmasked* pages 225–229).

Bridal Selection (*Jesus Unmasked* page 225)

6. Who selected the bride?

ANSWER The Father (along with the help of a matchmaker)

7. What do you learn from Ephesians 1:3–6?

ANSWER That God chose us before the foundation of the world and predestined us to adoption as sons through Christ.

Legal contract/covenant (*Jesus Unmasked* pages 225–226)

8. What did the groom promise?

ANSWER To care for his wife and give himself for her.

9. What did the bride promise?

ANSWER To pay her dowry.

10. What do you learn from 1 Corinthians 6:20?

ANSWER We have been bought with a price, and we should glorify God in our body because of it.

Bridal Payment (*Jesus Unmasked*, page 226)

11. Who paid it?

ANSWER The groom to the bride's family.

12. What did it signify?

ANSWER To set her free from her parents' household to be with the groom.

13. List where we see this in the Bible.

ANSWER Genesis 24:53, Genesis 29:20, 27 and 1 Corinthians 6:19–20.

14. Has Jesus paid a bridal payment? (1 Peter 1:18–19)

ANSWER Yes, 1 Peter 1:18–19 tells us that we were not redeemed with perishable things, but with the precious blood of Christ.

The Betrothal (*Jesus Unmasked*, page 226)

15. This was the separation time prior to the wedding. The couple prepared to enter into the marriage during this time. How is a betrothal different from an engagement? (*Jesus Unmasked*, page 226)

ANSWER A betrothal was stronger than an engagement; it could only be broken by the husband through divorce.

16. Why does God hate divorce? (*Jesus Unmasked*, page 226)

ANSWER It ruins the picture of God's relationship with us. It confuses the world about the gospel. It also confuses the world about God's character. God never divorces us; He commits forever and never changes His mind.

17. What does John 10:28 say about God's betrothal to us?

ANSWER He gives us eternal life, and we will never perish nor will anyone snatch us out of His hand. God will not divorce us.

18. What comfort do you receive from this?

ANSWER We cannot divorce Him, and He will not divorce us. We are eternally secure.

The Betrothal Ceremony (*Jesus Unmasked*, page 226)

This is the ceremony whereby the couple publicly expresses their intention to become engaged.

19. The canopy, or huppah, symbolized a new _____ being planned.

ANSWER household

20. What two other elements were performed in the betrothal ceremony? (*Jesus Unmasked*, page 226)

ANSWER The couple exchanged items of value, and a cup of wine was shared to seal the vows.

21. Matthew 26:27–29 illustrates parallel imagery between Christ and the betrothal ceremony. What did you learn from reading the passage? (*Jesus Unmasked* page 226)

ANSWER Jesus drank from a wine cup during the Passover remembrance meal, and He declared it was the blood that was shed for the New Covenant. Furthermore, He stated He would not drink of the cup again until He drinks it with us in His Father's kingdom, alluding to the Marriage Feast of the Lamb.

The Betrothal Period (*Jesus Unmasked*, page 227)

22. This was the one-year period of time from the betrothal ceremony to the wedding. What was the couple's status at this time?

ANSWER Married

23. Was there still a separation?

ANSWER Yes, the couple lived separately until the end of the betrothal period.

24. Who is a good example of this?

ANSWER Mary and Joseph (Matthew 1:18–25)

25. Do we, the bride of Christ, have a betrothal period?

ANSWER Yes. In John 13:33, Jesus announces His departure but promises He will return to gather His bride.

Post Betrothal Ceremony (*Jesus Unmasked*, page 227)

26. What would the groom do after the betrothal ceremony?

ANSWER He would return home to fulfill his obligations.

27. The groom would leave a gift as a reminder to the bride. What is the reminder?

ANSWER That he will return to receive her.

28. Have we received a gift from our groom?

ANSWER Yes. Ephesians 1:13–14 tells us we are sealed in Christ with the Holy Spirit of promise as a pledge of our coming inheritance.

Betrothal Period – groom (*Jesus Unmasked* page 227)

29. Upon returning to their homes, what obligations did the groom have to fulfill?

ANSWER To prepare a dwelling place for the bride.

30. How was this typically done?

ANSWER By adding a room or dwelling onto his father's home or land.

31. Who determines when the new addition is ready?

ANSWER The groom's father would make the determination.

32. Once it was deemed ready, what would the groom do?

ANSWER Once the go-ahead was given by the father, the groom would receive the bride.

33. According to Matthew 24:36, who determines when our Groom will come to receive us?

ANSWER Our Heavenly Father.

34. Has our groom, Jesus, prepared a dwelling place for us? (John 14:2–3)

ANSWER Yes. John 14:2–3 tells us that there are many dwelling places, that he has gone to prepare a place for us, and that He will come again to receive us to Himself.

Betrothal Period—bride (*Jesus Unmasked*, page 227)

35. What was the bride to do during this time?

ANSWER Keep herself busy preparing wedding garments. Like her, the Christian should be clothed in righteousness.

36. Would the bride know the time of the groom's coming?

ANSWER No, only the father knows.

37. In light of that, what would be the bride's focus?

ANSWER Always being ready and on the lookout for the groom's coming.

38. What is our charge during our waiting time for the groom? (1 Thessalonians 5:2–6; Matthew 25:13)

ANSWER According to 1 Thessalonians 5:2–6 and Matthew 25:13, we are to be alert and sober, awaiting the day of Christ's return.

39. Why was it important for the bride to be busy preparing? (Ephesians 5:27)

ANSWER So she could be presented in all her glory having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she would be holy and blameless.

The Wedding Day (*Jesus Unmasked*, page 228)

40. Once the day arrived when the father of the groom decided the dwelling place was ready, what would happen?

ANSWER A member of the bridegroom's party would appear at the bride's house.

41. What would this member of the bridegroom's party do?

ANSWER He would shout, "Behold, the bridegroom comes," and a shofar horn would blow.

42. Will we have an announcement of our "wedding day" to our bridegroom? (1 Thessalonians 4:16)?

ANSWER Yes, according to 1 Thessalonians 4:16, the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, and the voice of the archangel and the trumpet of God will announce His coming to raise the dead in Christ.

The Wedding Day—Continued (*Jesus Unmasked*, page 228)

The entire wedding party would walk in procession to the site of the wedding ceremony.

43. Will we have a procession for our wedding day? (Revelation 19:14, 19)

ANSWER Yes, all the armies in heaven will follow Him on white horses, and His angels will gather together His bride (the church) for the marriage supper of the Lamb. (*Jesus Unmasked*, page 228–229)

44. The new couple would ultimately move into their new home. Will we have a new home with our bridegroom?

ANSWER Yes. According to Revelation 21, there will be a new heaven and a new earth in a New Jerusalem. Furthermore, God will tabernacle among us!

45. In what way will we be a gift to Jesus at the wedding celebration of the Lamb? (*Jesus Unmasked*, page 229)

ANSWER 1 Corinthians 15 says that we, the church body, will be a gift to God the Son from God the Father.

46. Why doesn't it make sense if someone says they love Jesus, but they don't love the Church?

ANSWER You can't love one and hate the other. It is like saying to a man, "I like you, but I hate your wife."

The bridegroom imagery in the Bible far transcends an earthly marriage between a husband and wife, and it most certainly transcends the notion that Jesus is our boyfriend.

Epilogue

Congratulations! You made it all the way through the study. While the amount of work you have done is considerable and commendable, you have only seen the tip of the iceberg. Jesus, the Son of God, is everywhere in the Bible if we know where and how to look for Him.

It is our hope that you have been persuaded of two things:

1. The Bible is a continuous, coherent, supernatural book that reveals who God is and what man must do to be saved.
2. That Jesus is God, and nothing less.

Thank you very much for doing this study. It is our prayer that God will use what you have learned not simply to out-debate skeptics, but to grow in your love and devotion to the God who died to save sinners.