

CREED - Jesus

Opening reading: Matthew 16: 13 - 17

I believe in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord ...

WHAT THE PEOPLE SAID

Who do people say the Son of Man is?

John the Baptist - see John 14: 9-12

Elijah - Malachi 4:5-6

Jeremiah - noted for calling God's people to repentance

WHAT PETER SAID

You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God

Why did Peter say this?

WHAT JESUS SAID

... for this was not revealed to you by man, but my Father in heaven

What does this teach us?

See also John 6:44

But what do people say about Jesus today?

Some say he was a good moral teacher - e.g Richard Dawkins

C.S Lewis disagrees ... from his book Mere Christianity (worth reading)

Some question whether Jesus ever existed

Consider:

Written records outside of Scripture - Flavius Josephus, Tacitus - Roman senator and historian etc.

The credibility of the Gospels and Epistles

See Luke 1:1-3 and the early Christian hymns - Philippians 2:6-8 and Colossians 1:15 - 17

Some say he was a prophet - Islam especially.

But what did Jesus say about himself?

Matthew 26:63 - 64

Note also the I AM statements of Jesus (Discuss in home groups)

He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary ... John 1:1 and John 1:14

He suffered under Pontius Pilate ... historical occurrence

Was crucified, died and his was buried - fulfilling the prophetic

See Isaiah 53:5, 10-11 and more

He descended to the dead ...

Why this sentence - see 1 Peter 3:19

Also perhaps Luke 23:43

On the third day he rose again ..

Some say he merely fainted, some say he he wasn't the one crucified etc.

BUT

No one survives a Roman crucifixion, plus Roman soldiers know a dead person when they see one - they also made sure!

Note also the effect of both the crucifixion and the resurrection on the disciples

He ascended into heaven ... Acts 1:9 - 11

He will come again to judge the living and the dead ...

Why faith in Christ matters

What is faith in Christ anyway?

See John 3:16 - 17

and Romans 3:23 - 24