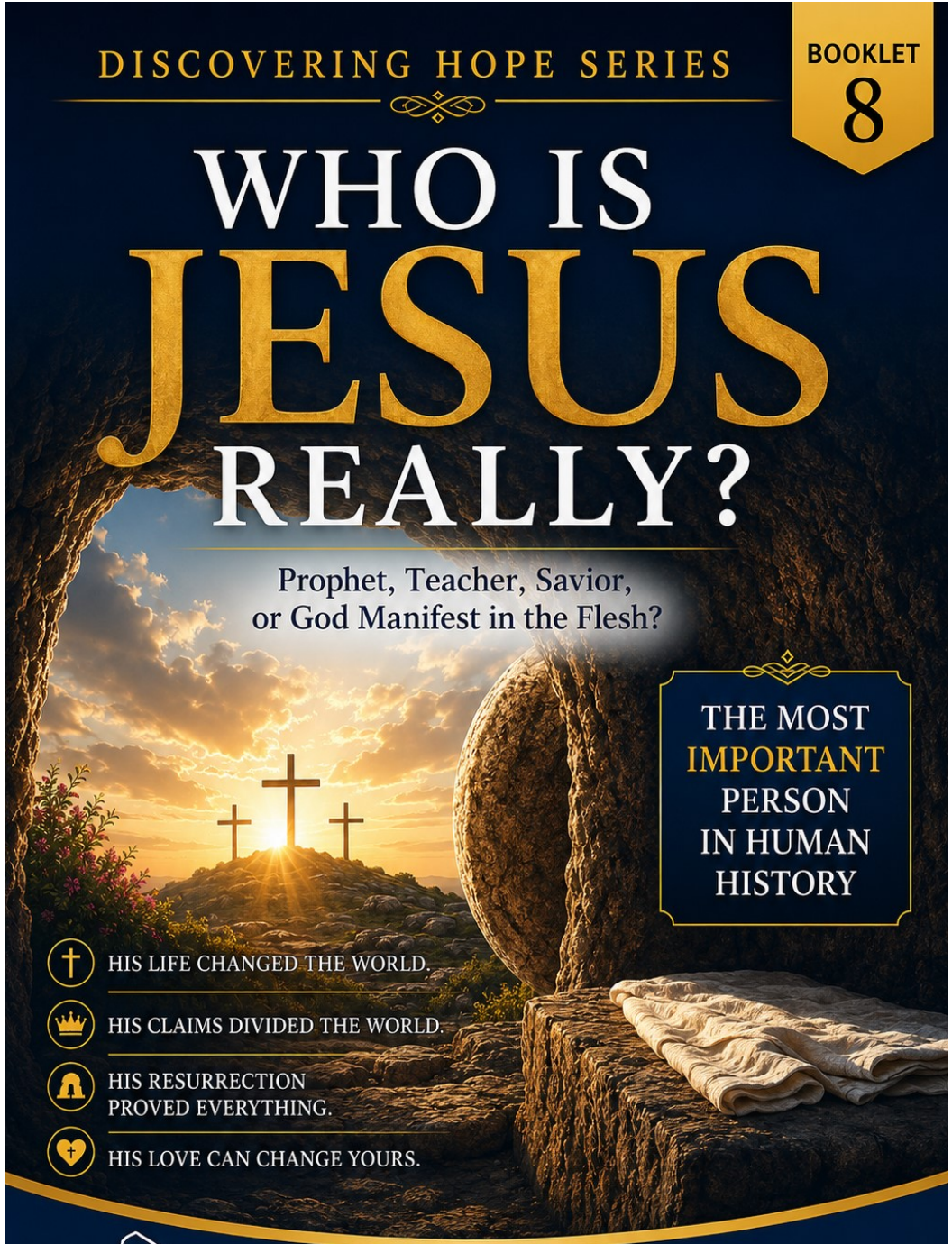
DISCOVERING HOPE SERIES

BOOKLET 8

WHO IS JESUS REALLY?

Prophet, Teacher, Savior,
or God Manifest in the Flesh?



THE MOST IMPORTANT PERSON IN HUMAN HISTORY

- HIS LIFE CHANGED THE WORLD.
- HIS CLAIMS DIVIDED THE WORLD.
- HIS RESURRECTION PROVED EVERYTHING.
- HIS LOVE CAN CHANGE YOURS.

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WELCOME TO THE

DISCOVERING HOPE SERIES

Real Questions. Biblical Answers. Lasting Hope.

Life raises questions that are not always easy to answer.

Why am I here?, Does God really exist? , Can I trust the Bible?, Why does God allow suffering?, Can my life really change? Is there hope when I feel trapped, broken, or uncertain about the future?

The **Discovering Hope Series** was created to help people explore questions like these through the truth of God's Word.

You need not be a Bible scholar or have all the answers.

And you do not need to have everything in your life figured out before you begin.

Each booklet focuses on a different question, struggle, or biblical truth and is designed to help you discover what the Bible actually says.

As you read, take your time.

Consider the Scriptures for yourself.

Ask questions, Pray.

And most importantly, allow God to speak to your heart through His Word.

The Bible is more than a book of religious teachings. It reveals a God who loves us, seeks us, and desires to transform our lives.

Whatever brought you to this booklet, we hope it becomes one more step in your journey toward discovering the hope that can only be found in Jesus Christ.

There is hope. There are answers.

And God may be closer than you think.

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WHO IS JESUS REALLY?

Introduction

More books have been written about Jesus Christ than any other person in history.
His teachings changed the world.
His followers span every continent.
His name is known in nearly every nation.
Yet despite His fame, many people still ask:
Who was Jesus really?
Was He merely a good man?
A prophet?
A teacher?
A religious leader?
Or something more?
The answer to that question may be the most important answer a person ever discovers.

1. JESUS IS A HISTORICAL PERSON

Virtually no serious historian denies that Jesus existed.
Even non-Christian historians mention Him.

- Josephus
- Tacitus
- Pliny the Younger

The real debate is not whether Jesus existed.
The real debate is:
Who was He?

2. JESUS CLAIMED TO BE MORE THAN A PROPHET

Many religious leaders point people toward truth.

Jesus claimed to be the truth.
John 14:6

"I am the way, the truth, and the life..."
He did not merely claim to know the way.
He claimed to be the way.

3. JESUS FULFILLED PROPHECY
Hundreds of years before His birth, the Old Testament foretold details about the coming Messiah.

- Born in Bethlehem
- Born of a virgin
- Betrayed for thirty pieces of silver
- Crucified
- Buried with the rich
- Raised from the dead

These prophecies were written centuries before Jesus was born.

4. JESUS FORGAVE SINS
One of the most shocking things Jesus did was forgive sins.
Mark 2:5-7

The religious leaders immediately recognized the implication:
"Who can forgive sins but God only?"
Jesus was claiming an authority that belonged to God.

5. JESUS ACCEPTED WORSHIP
Prophets refused worship.

Angels refused worship.
Jesus accepted it.
Matthew 14:33

"Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him..."
This raises a serious question:
Why would a righteous man accept worship unless He truly was who He claimed to be?

6. JESUS REVEALED THE FATHER
Many people imagine God as distant and unknowable.
Jesus came to reveal Him.
John 14:9

"He that hath seen me hath seen the Father..."
Jesus was not merely revealing information about God.
He was revealing God Himself.

7. JESUS IS GOD MANIFEST IN THE FLESH
This is where the booklet can gently introduce biblical Oneness truth.
1 Timothy 3:16

"And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh..."
Isaiah 9:6

"His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father..."
Jesus was fully man.
Yet He was more than a man.
God came to us in flesh.

8. THE RESURRECTION CHANGES EVERYTHING

Christianity stands or falls on one event:
The resurrection of Jesus Christ.
If Jesus remained in the grave, His claims were false.
If He rose from the dead, everything changes.

Romans 1:4

"And declared to be the Son of God with power... by the resurrection from the dead."

The resurrection was God's public declaration concerning who Jesus truly is.
Throughout His ministry, Jesus made extraordinary claims.
He claimed authority to forgive sins.
He claimed to be the way, the truth, and the life.
He claimed to have come from the Father.
He claimed that He would die and rise again.
Anyone can make claims.
The resurrection is what validated them.

The Tomb Was Empty

Even the enemies of Jesus never produced His body.
The Jewish leaders and Roman authorities had every reason to stop Christianity in its infancy.
The simplest way to do that would have been to produce the body of Jesus.
Yet they never did.
The tomb was empty.
In fact, the earliest explanation offered by Christ's opponents was not that the body was still in the tomb.

Their explanation was that the disciples had stolen it.

Matthew 28:12-15

The religious leaders paid the soldiers to spread the story that Jesus' disciples came by night and stole His body while the guards slept.

Notice what this means.

Even Christ's enemies admitted the tomb was empty.

The debate was never whether the tomb was empty.

The debate was how it became empty.

Hundreds Saw Him Alive

The resurrection was not based upon the testimony of one person.

Nor was it based upon a private vision.

The New Testament records numerous appearances of the risen Christ.

Jesus appeared to:

- Mary Magdalene
- The women at the tomb
- Peter
- The two disciples on the road to Emmaus
- The apostles
- James
- Many others

The Apostle Paul writes:

1 Corinthians 15:6

"After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once..."

At one time more than five hundred people saw Jesus alive after His resurrection.

Many of those witnesses were still living when Paul wrote these words and could have been questioned.

The Disciples Were Transformed

Before the resurrection, the disciples were fearful and hiding.
Peter denied even knowing Jesus.
The followers of Christ appeared defeated and discouraged.
After the resurrection everything changed.
The same men who had been hiding suddenly began publicly preaching that Jesus had risen from the dead.
They endured imprisonment, beatings, persecution, and even death rather than deny what they claimed to have seen.
People may die for something they mistakenly believe is true.
But people do not willingly suffer and die for something they know is a lie.
The disciples were convinced that they had seen the risen Christ.

The Body Has Never Been Found

Nearly two thousand years later, the body of Jesus has never been produced.
Christianity began in the very city where Jesus was crucified and buried.
If His body had remained in the tomb, the Christian movement would have ended almost immediately.
Instead, it spread throughout the Roman Empire and eventually throughout the world.

The Resurrection Changes Everything

The resurrection proves that Jesus is exactly who He claimed to be.
The resurrection proves that His sacrifice was accepted.
The resurrection proves that His promises are true.
The resurrection proves that death has been defeated.

John 11:25

"I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live."
The empty tomb remains one of the most powerful pieces of evidence in human history.
The resurrection changes everything.

9. WHY DID JESUS COME?

Jesus did not come merely to teach.
He came to save.

Luke 19:10

"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."
The cross was not an accident.
It was God's plan of redemption.

Conclusion

The question is not:
"What do others say about Jesus?"
The question is:
"Who do you believe Jesus is?"

Matthew 16:15

"But whom say ye that I am?"
Your answer to that question affects not only this

life.
It affects eternity.