

Study Guide: Jesus, Who Was and Who Is?

November 12, 2025

Quiz: Short Answer Questions

Instructions: Answer the following questions in two to three complete sentences, drawing exclusively from the information provided in the source material.

1. According to the source, what historical evidence exists for Jesus Christ outside of the New Testament?
2. What was Jesus's earthly occupation, and what is the deeper significance of the original Greek word for it?
3. How did the religious leaders of Israel (the Pharisees and chief priests) react to the miracles Jesus performed?
4. In what way does the Jewish text, the *Toledot Yeshu*, acknowledge Jesus and His deeds?
5. How do the religions of Islam and Hinduism view Jesus, according to the presentation?
6. How does Jesus Christ describe Himself in relation to other paths to God, as quoted in John 14:6?
7. Why is the fact that Jesus came in the form of a man considered so significant for believers navigating their own weaknesses?
8. What is the critical difference between treating Jesus as a "memory" versus acknowledging Him as a "Lord" with an active presence?
9. What is the purpose of the Holy Spirit that Jesus left for believers?
10. What do "fruits" represent in a Christian's walk, and what does their absence indicate?

Answer Key

1. Historical evidence for Jesus comes from both supporters and non-supporters. Roman historians like Tacitus and Pliny the Younger, as well as the Jewish historian Josephus, wrote about Christ and Christians, confirming He was executed by Pontius Pilate and was the founder of the Christian sect. The source states there is more evidence for Jesus than for any other notable person from first-century Galilee.
2. Jesus's earthly occupation was a carpenter. The Greek word, *tecton*, has a broader meaning of a skilled craftsman, builder, stonemason, or architect. This is significant because it connects Him to references like Psalm 118:22, which describes the rejected stone becoming the "chief cornerstone."
3. The Pharisees and chief priests did not deny that Jesus was performing miracles. Instead, they gathered a council and expressed fear that if they let Him continue, everyone would believe in Him, and the Romans would take away their place and nation (John 11:47-48).
4. The *Toledot Yeshu*, described as a collection of anti-Christian gospel parodies, acknowledges Jesus by stating He "practiced magic and led Israel astray." It also recounts stories of Him healing a lame man and bringing someone back from the dead, thereby validating His performance of miracles even while opposing Him.
5. Islam acknowledges Jesus as a prophet in the Quran, affirming His virgin birth and His ability to perform miracles, such as healing the blind and raising the dead by Allah's leave. Many Hindus view Jesus as a perfect example of self-realization or a symbol of what humans can attain, rather than a unique divine being.
6. In John 14:6, Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." This statement establishes His exclusive role as the only path to God, which stands in contrast to the views of other religions.
7. Jesus's humanity is significant because it demonstrates the extent of His love and understanding for our struggles. Hebrews 4:15 states He was tempted in all points as we are, yet without sin, meaning He experienced human afflictions like hunger, pain, and fatigue. His earthly testimony serves as an example for believers to follow when facing their own challenges.
8. Treating Jesus as a memory means recalling a past event, like getting saved, without maintaining an active, ongoing relationship with Him. Acknowledging Him as Lord involves recognizing His active presence through the Holy Spirit, which provides daily teaching, conviction, and guidance.

9. According to John 14:25-27, Jesus left the Holy Spirit to be a helper who would be sent by the Father in His name. The Holy Spirit's purpose is to teach believers all things, bring to remembrance what Jesus said, and provide conviction and guidance.

10. "Fruits" in a Christian's walk are the evidence of spiritual life and the presence of Jesus's Spirit. Their production is not a supernatural phenomenon for a select few but a natural outcome of a genuine relationship with Him. The absence of fruit is a significant issue that points back to a problem at the root of a believer's faith.

Essay Questions

Instructions: Reflect on the source material to formulate comprehensive answers to the following questions. Answers are not provided.

1. Analyze the argument presented for Jesus's historical existence, detailing the contributions of the various non-Christian sources mentioned (Tacitus, Pliny the Younger, Josephus, and the *Toledot Yeshu*).
2. Discuss the dual nature of Jesus Christ as "all man but all God." How does the source emphasize His humanity (His trade, physical afflictions, temptations) and connect it to His divine identity and purpose?
3. Compare and contrast the acknowledgment of Jesus in other major religions (Judaism, Islam, Hinduism) with the exclusive claims Jesus makes about Himself in the Christian faith.
4. Explain the concept of treating Jesus as He "was" versus who He "is." Elaborate on how the roles of the Holy Spirit, the Bible, conviction, and the production of "fruits" are central to living a life where Jesus "is" an active Lord.
5. The source argues that many modern Christians "lack victory in their lives." Using the provided text, explain why the speaker believes this is the case and what solution is offered through a proper understanding of who Jesus is.

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Accountability:** The principle of being responsible for one's actions, which, in a counseling context with a Christian foundation, is based on the unchanging standard of the Bible.
- **Chief Cornerstone:** A reference to Jesus Christ, connecting His work as a builder (*tecton*) to His foundational role in the Church, as described in Psalm 118:22.

- **Conviction:** The internal guidance and correction provided by the Holy Spirit concerning sin. The source suggests it can permeate a person's being and lead to repentance.
- **Fruits:** The evidence of a genuine Christian life that demonstrates the active presence of the Holy Spirit. This is not a special ability but a natural result of being connected to Jesus.
- **Historical Sources:** Documents or accounts from the past that provide evidence for people and events. The source cites multiple independent historical sources, from both supporters and opponents, that attest to the existence of Jesus.
- **Holy Spirit:** Referred to as "the helper," sent by the Father in Jesus's name to teach, guide, convict, and bring to remembrance all that Jesus said.
- **Josephus:** A first-century Jewish historian who mentioned Jesus in his work *Jewish Antiquities* (AD 93), referring to Him as a wise man who performed miraculous deeds and was crucified by Pilate.
- **Pliny the Younger:** A Roman governor in Asia Minor around AD 112 who wrote to Emperor Trajan about how to handle legal proceedings against Christians, confirming their existence, worship of Christ, and moral commitments.
- **Quran:** The central religious text of Islam, which acknowledges Jesus as a prophet born of a virgin who performed miracles.
- **Tacitus:** A Roman historian who, in his *Annals* (c. AD 116), wrote about Emperor Nero blaming Christians for the great fire of Rome and identified "Christus" (Christ) as their founder who was executed by Pontius Pilate.
- **Toledot Yeshu:** A collection of Jewish anti-Christian texts that, while hostile, acknowledge Jesus's existence and His reputation for performing miracles, which are described as "magic."

Greek Word Reference¹

- **Tecton** (tek-tawn): The Greek word translated as "carpenter" in Mark 6:3 and Matthew 13:55. The source notes that its definition is broader, also meaning a skilled craftsman, builder, stonemason, or architect, which connects to Jesus's role as the builder of the Church and the "chief cornerstone."
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¹ As identified in the source material.