

“Who do you say that I am?”

Meeting Jesus on his terms

Matthew 16:13-23

Galatians 4:4–7 ESV

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Matthew 16:13-23

1. *What was the Jewish expectation of Messiah?*
2. *Was Jesus a prophet? If he was, is he more than a prophet?*

Who does Jesus say that he is?

The people's views:

- Jesus was John the Baptist risen from the dead
- Jesus was Elijah, returned as prophesied in the Old Testament.
- Jesus was Jeremiah or one of the Old Testament Prophets

Matthew 14:1–2 ESV

At that time Herod the tetrarch heard about the fame of Jesus, and he said to his servants, “This is John the Baptist. He has been raised from the dead; that is why these miraculous powers are at work in him.”

Malachi 4:5-6

“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”

Matthew 15:7–9 ESV

You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, when he said:
“This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.”

“The title Christ (Greek) or Messiah (Hebrew) for the Jew would have pointed to the coming king in the line of David whom God would send to restore his people to national independence and their rightful pre-eminence as the people of God.”

--*R.T. France* (Tyndale New Testament
Commentary on Matthew)

What do Jewish people believe about Jesus?

“Jesus was definitely a historical figure...a charismatic community leader who was deeply troubled by what he saw as the failures of his society and spoke eloquently about those failures in the hope of change.”

--Emily Soloff, Midwest Director of the
American Jewish Committee

What the Q'uran says about Jesus:

Surah 3:45

And when the angels said: 'O Mary! Allah gives you the glad tidings of a command from Him: his name shall be Messiah, Jesus, the son of Mary. He shall be highly honored in this world and in the next, and shall be one of those near stationed to Allah.

Surah 19:30

[Jesus] said, "Indeed, I am the servant of Allah . He has given me the Scripture and made me a prophet.

Deuteronomy 18:15

“The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—

Deuteronomy 18:18

I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.

Deuteronomy 34:10–12

And there has not arisen a prophet since in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face, none like him for all the signs and the wonders that the LORD sent him to do in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land, and for all the mighty power and all the great deeds of terror that Moses did in the sight of all Israel.

John 1:20–21 ESV

He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.”

John 6:13–15

So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten. [14] When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, “This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!”

Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

John 6:32–34 ESV

Jesus then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”

John 6:51

I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

So, Was Jesus a prophet?

Yes, but he is much more. He is THE PROPHET Moses spoke about. He is Israel's promised Messiah.

Matthew 16:15–17 ESV

He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.

From the Heidelberg Catechism-

Q: Why do you call him “our LORD”?

A: Because—not with gold or silver, but with his precious blood—he has delivered and purchased us body and soul from sin and from the tyranny of the devil, to be his very own.