

WHAT IS CHRISTIANITY?



An introduction to the
story of Jesus



What is Christianity?

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“Who do you say I am?”

Jesus once asked his followers this question.

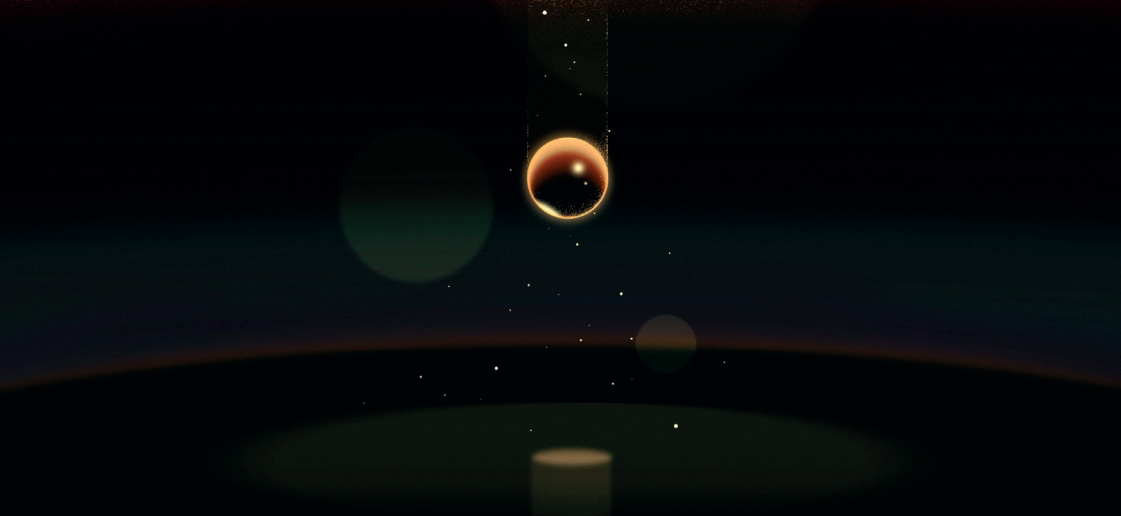
How would you answer? Who is Jesus?

A myth? A man? A teacher? A sage?

A king?

The story of the Bible – stretching from its first page to its last – is an answer to that question.

It’s a story that begins like this...

A celestial scene with a glowing orange sphere in the center, surrounded by stars and a dark horizon line. The sphere has a bright white spot on its surface, possibly representing a sun or a planet. The background is a dark, starry space with a faint horizon line at the bottom.

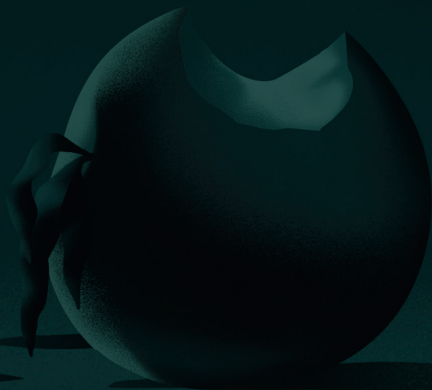
Before anything else existed, God was there – Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
At the dawn of time, God spoke the universe into being. He ignited human history as he breathed life into the lungs of the first man and woman – and every inch of creation itself.

He created a perfect world for us to enjoy, full of all the things we love most: friends and family, music and mountains, excitement and exploration, love and laughter, work and rest.

God, the Creator, was ruler over all of it, and all of it was good.



But the first people rebelled.





They turned against their Creator and followed their own way, even though it would cost them their lives.

Deep down, every human being since then has made the same choice. We don't want God to be in charge of our lives or our world. We want to rule over all of it – and now all of it is broken.

Sin poisoned God's perfect creation, giving way to sickness, injustice and death. It grows like a weed in even our best relationships.

It separates us from one another, and from God. When we reject God's rule, we make him our enemy, and one day we will face his judgment.



But rather than cast off humanity, in love God the Father sent his Son, Jesus, to enter into the world he created – the one broken by our sin – to be the King we needed.

In the person of Jesus, God himself became human like us. He breathed our air; he experienced our joys and sorrows.

Jesus lived a life of perfect love and obedience – the life God intended us to live.





He gave glimpses of the world as it was meant to be – as it originally was – as he healed the sick, welcomed the outcast, and made time for those society had forgotten.

And he called everyone to turn from their sin and follow him in faith.

Some believed his words and embraced him as King.

Others rejected him. They crowned him with thorns, and murdered him by hanging him on a cross.



But God had a plan.

Jesus willingly gave himself up to die on that cross to save us from God's judgment and the death we deserved.

On that cross, he experienced God's judgment in our place. He exchanged our rebellion for his obedience; our brokenness for his perfection.


The Son of God died so we could live.

But Jesus didn't stay dead. On the third day God raised him to life again.


Jesus has defeated death forever. Now he sits on the throne of heaven, offering life through the Holy Spirit to all those who turn from rebellion against him to instead have him as their King.

And he promises to one day restore this world to what it once was, and even more – a world where his people will enjoy all the things they love the most, with the God who loves them.





Jesus is the King of kings.
Today, you can either
embrace him as King and
enjoy all that he offers...



... or reject him as King and
face the judgment he came
to rescue you from.

Crown him or crucify him – there is no middle ground.

No one will ever ask you a more important question than the one Jesus asked:

“Who do you say I am?”

*Want to keep exploring? At **christianityexplored.org** you'll find answers to tough questions people have about Christianity, real-life stories from people who have investigated the Christian faith for themselves, and ideas for how you can discover more about Jesus.*



The greatest story ever told. The most significant figure in history who's ever lived.

Discover the message of Christianity and the story of the person at its heart: Jesus Christ.

Watch the *What is Christianity?* animation at christianityexplored.org/whatischristianity



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