



Our Courageous God
Jesus: Who and Why? – Part 1

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February 14, 2016



H.G. Wells:

“More than 1900 years later, a historian like myself, who doesn’t even call himself a Christian, finds the picture centering irresistibly around the life and character of this most significant man.”



H.G. Wells:

“The historian’s test of an individual’s greatness is ‘What did he leave to grow?’ Did he start men to thinking along fresh lines with a vigor that persisted after him? By this test Jesus stands first.”

A person wearing white, flowing robes is kneeling on a sandy or dirt surface. The person's hands are resting on the ground. The background is a soft, out-of-focus brown. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, serif font with a black outline.

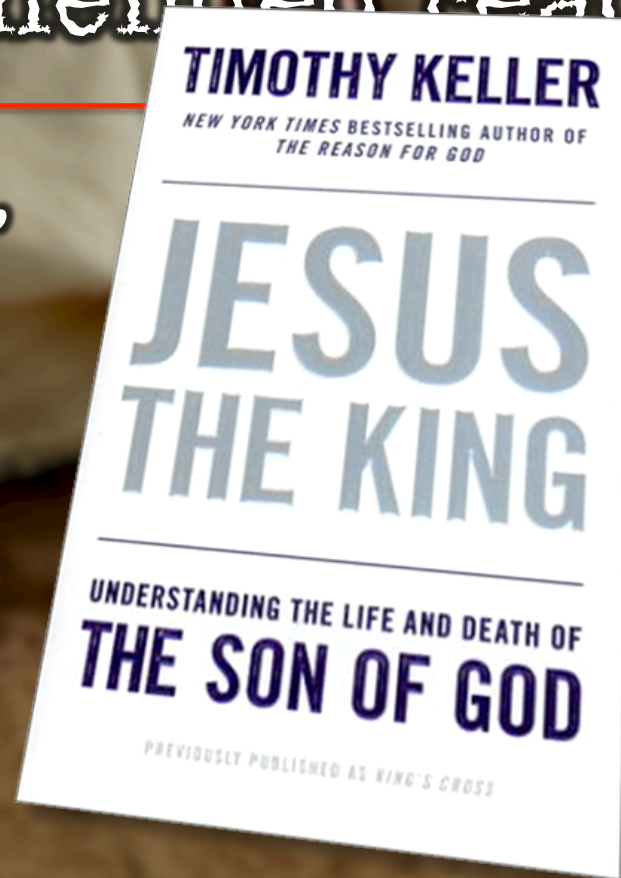
Isaiah 53:2

He grew up before him like a tender shoot,
and like a root out of dry ground.

He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

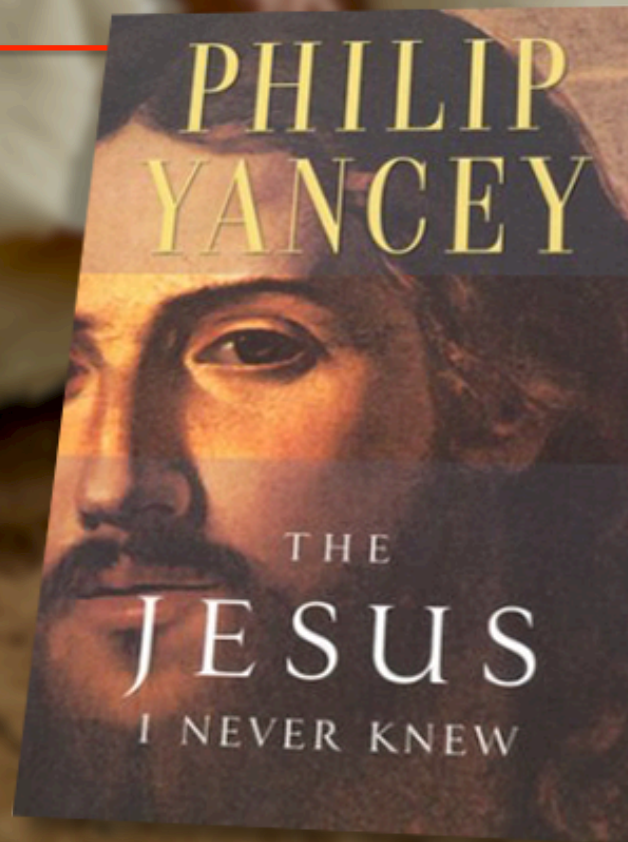
Recommended reading:

- ❖ Timothy Keller,
Jesus the King



Recommended reading:

- ❖ Philip Yancey,
*The Jesus
I Never Knew*



A person wearing a white, long-sleeved robe is sitting on a sandy or dirt-covered ground. The person's hands are resting on their lap. The background is a blurred, warm-toned surface, possibly sand or a textured wall. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, serif font with a black outline.

Job 10:3-4

[Job to God]:

Does it please you to oppress me,
to spurn the work of your hands,
while you smile on the plans of the wicked?

Do you have eyes of flesh?

Do you see as a mortal sees?

A person wearing a white, flowing robe is kneeling on a brown, textured carpet. Their hands are resting on the floor, and they appear to be in a state of prayer or devotion. The background is slightly blurred, focusing attention on the person and the text overlaid on the image.

Luke 1:38

**“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered.
“May your word to me be fulfilled.”**



Philip Yancey:

“Often a work of God comes with two edges, great joy and great pain, and in that matter-of-fact response Mary embraced both. She was the first person to accept Jesus on his own terms, regardless of the personal cost.”



Luke 2:34-35

Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

A person wearing a white, flowing robe is kneeling on a sandy surface. The person's right hand is resting on their knee, and their left hand is pointing towards a footprint in the sand. The scene is set outdoors on a beach or a similar sandy area. The text "Christmas Jesus" is overlaid on the image in a white, pixelated font with a black outline, positioned above a horizontal red line.

Christmas Jesus

- ❖ Humble
- ❖ Approachable
- ❖ Underdog
- ❖ Courageous



Christmas carol Christology:

- ❖ Doubtful: “The little Lord Jesus,
no crying he makes.”
- ❖ True: “The hopes and fears of all the world
do rest on thee tonight.”

A person wearing a white, flowing robe is kneeling on a sandy surface. Their right hand is resting on the sand, and their left hand is pointing towards a footprint. The background is a soft, out-of-focus landscape.

G.K. Chesterton:

“Alone of all creeds, Christianity has added courage to the virtues of the Creator.”

Colossians 1:15-16

The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.



Colossians 1:17-18

He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.



Colossians 1:19-20

For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Names and nicknames:

- ❖ Jesus
- ❖ The Christ
- ❖ Emmanuel
- ❖ Son of David
- ❖ Son of Man
- ❖ Good Shepherd
- ❖ Great Physician
- ❖ Light of the World
- ❖ Living Water
- ❖ Bread of Life

A person wearing a white, flowing robe is kneeling on a sandy surface. Their right hand is resting on their lap, and their left hand is pointing towards a footprint in the sand. The scene is set against a plain, light-colored background.

“the fullness of time”

- ❖ Hellenistic Age
- ❖ Pax Romana

A person wearing a white, long-sleeved robe is kneeling on a sandy surface. Their right hand is resting on their lap, and their left hand is pointing towards a footprint in the sand. The background is a vast, flat, sandy landscape under a clear sky.

Jewish political parties:

- ❖ Essenes
- ❖ Pharisees
- ❖ Sadducees
- ❖ Zealots

A person wearing a white, flowing robe is kneeling on a sandy surface. The person's hands are resting on the sand, and they appear to be in a state of prayer or contemplation. The background is a vast, flat expanse of sand under a bright sky. The text "Temptations:" is overlaid in a white, serif font with a black outline, positioned in the upper center of the image. A thin red horizontal line is drawn below the title.

Temptations:

- ❖ Turn stone into bread.
- ❖ Accept all kingdoms of the world.
- ❖ Jump from a high place.

A person wearing a white, long-sleeved robe is sitting on a brown, textured surface. The person's hands are resting on their lap. The background is slightly blurred, focusing attention on the person and the overlaid text.

Matthew 16:21

From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

Matthew 16:22-23

Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!" Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

Luke 23:35-39

- ❖ The crowd: “He saved others; let him save himself if he is God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.”
- ❖ The soldiers: “If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.”
- ❖ The thief: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”

A person wearing a white, flowing robe is kneeling on a brown, textured surface, possibly sand or a mat. The person's hands are resting on the ground in front of them. The background is a solid brown color.

Philip Yancey:

“There was no rescue, no miracle, no easy, painless path. For Jesus to save others, quite simply, he could not save himself. That fact, he must have known as he faced Satan in the desert.”



John 12:27-28

[Jesus]: “Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name!”



John 12:28-29

Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again." The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him.

John 12:30-33

Jesus said, "This voice was for your benefit, not mine. Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

John 10:27-30

[Jesus]: “My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand. I and the Father are one.”

A person wearing a white, textured robe is sitting on a brown, textured surface. The person's hands are resting on their lap. The background is a soft, out-of-focus brown. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, serif font with a black outline.

Matthew 11:4-5

Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor.

A person wearing a white, flowing robe is kneeling on a sandy surface. They are pointing their right index finger towards a set of footprints in the sand. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Offensive symbols:

- ❖ The yoke of burden
- ❖ The cup of suffering
- ❖ The towel of service
- ❖ The cross of execution

A person wearing a white, flowing robe is kneeling on a sandy surface. They are using their right hand to draw a cross in the sand. The background is a soft, out-of-focus landscape. The text 'The call of Jesus:' is overlaid on the image in a white, serif font with a black outline, positioned above a thin red horizontal line.

The call of Jesus:

- ❖ You cannot serve two masters.
- ❖ Forsake the love of money.
- ❖ Deny yourself.
- ❖ Serve others.
- ❖ Take up your cross.



Luke 10:21

At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do."

Mark 3:13-15

Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. He appointed twelve that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach and to have authority to drive out demons.

A person wearing a white, flowing robe is kneeling on a sandy surface. Their right hand is resting on their knee, and their left hand is pointing towards a set of footprints in the sand. The scene is set against a plain, light-colored background.

Why has Jesus called you?

- ❖ That he might be with you
- ❖ That he might send you





Are you being called?

- ❖ To receive Christ
- ❖ To become a member of Melbourne Community Church
- ❖ To pray / to receive prayer
- ❖ To affirm or reaffirm a commitment
- ❖ To receive the LORD's Supper