

## Finding Life Video Series 2

### The Light and Life

#### Joshua of Nazareth and His Father

Hi and welcome back if you have viewed any of the previous videos. My name is Tim Spiess and I am serving as a guide to help people find the Light and Life...to make it past shallow and meaningless life, or an empty or merely emotional religious life - to find the one who said, 'I am the Life'.

We have been taking what is reasonable and arguably the greatest journey any human being can make...one to find the ultimate purpose to one's life and what it means to truly live a successful life according to the standard that was sent by the Creator. In the first video series, we established a few important things. Namely that more and more people are so empty and lonely and miserable that they are killing themselves in increasing numbers, or drugging themselves numb to avoid thinking about the purposeless or meaningless or shallow or wrong life they are living. We examined human nature and clearly concluded that we are more than molecules and proteins...that we have a metaphysical part to our nature that has traditionally been called our soul or spirit or personality. We further concluded using observation and sound reason - that being a marvelous biological machine with inter related systems that depend upon each other for the whole to function – a Designer or Creator is required to account for both our physical and metaphysical parts of our person.

We then turned to trying to find or determine who or what that Designer or Creator was or was like. We used reasonable criteria to briefly examine the various major figures of history who claimed to speak to the human condition and find solutions to mankind's greatest problems; and

we evaluated those persons using three criteria – namely that they first claimed to speak for the Creator of the human race; second, that the solutions they provided actually addressed the primary problems the human race struggles with, namely pride, fear and selfishness; and third, who validated their message with special behavior that provided evidence that they did speak for the Creator of the human race. We did this and only one person was standing at the end of that evaluation, the person who called himself the unique Son of the Creator, the Light of the world, and the Life that people need.

We looked at his message and compared it with the false message that is proclaimed by the very system to claims to represent him – the Christian or bible based religious system. We saw that his message was not one of, ‘believe this stuff about me, which stuff has little application to how you live your life’. Instead and in contrast to the false message, his message was one of action that would impact how people live day to day...it provides the solution that people need to the pride, fear and selfishness that bind us and prevent us from being what the Creator wants.

Finally, we took a closer look at perhaps the main thing which people use to nullify the Messenger’s voice and his actual message, the bible. We saw that the reasons the religious leaders give to people to convince them that the book is what should be looked to as the Creator’s message to mankind - instead of the messenger himself and his words and teachings - are bogus and false. We gave examples of where the bible’s content – apart from the messenger’s words and teachings – contradicts both established facts about the physical universe; contradicts itself; and finally and most importantly, contradicts the Messenger and his message.

Many people call Jesus or Joshua of Nazareth a very special person, a great teacher, a prophet, a good man, the originator of christianity, a very important historical figure, etc. The question that needs to be examined is what did he himself claim about himself? Let us first establish some important matters.

The first matter to consider is that is it possible that the life, works and teachings of Joshua of Nazareth were accurately captured, recorded, placed and preserved at the beginning of the book people label as the new testament. Many want to claim that it did not happen or is next to impossible. Those statements are no more likely to be true than the statement that it is possible

that the life, works and teachings of Joshua of Nazareth were accurately captured, recorded, placed and preserved at the beginning of the book people label as the new testament. To deny this is irrational and indicates prejudice and/or bias against Jesus or Joshua of Nazareth.

The second fact to acknowledge is that having four different accounts of his life, works and teachings; and the fact that those four accounts agree about the main or core aspects to his life, works and message or teachings; makes it more reasonable to believe that those accounts are genuine, real and accurate. To deny this would again indicate bias against Jesus or Joshua of Nazareth.

The last fact to acknowledge is that his teachings, if lived out by human beings, would radically transform human existence and create the utopia many people long for. What teachings, you might ask?

His teachings which both command and define the concept of love. *He defines love as behaving selflessly towards others due to a motivation of compassion for them.* Let me repeat that.

Joshua teaches to love your neighbor and even those who make themselves our enemies. If those teachings were lived out by all people, how much conflict would there be in the world? In truth, none.

Or how about his teaching of “treat others the way you want to be treated”. If a group of people who still had a conscience lived by that principle, how much conflict would there be among them? In truth, none.

Please think about this important fact for a moment...that *Joshua of Nazareth was the first to bring those teachings in human history and those teaching solve all of mankind's self-created problems!* Please let me repeat that.

People see and experience all the pain and suffering and waste and evil that human being's self conflict brings, and Joshua has the solution to fix all of that! Did you hear that dear viewer? Just because people don't want to listen to Joshua does not mean that he and his teachings are not the solution to mankind's conflict problems...it merely means that human beings are captured by pride, fear and selfishness.

So, who did Joshua of Nazareth himself claim to be? Let's take a look at his words and claims in that regard.

Joshua refers to a person as quote "my Father" about 42 or so times in the four gospel accounts. Who does he say his Father is?

Quote, "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven".

"Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven."

"For whoever does the will of My Father who is in heaven, he is My brother and sister and mother."

This is a good sampling from the book of Matthew. Joshua claims that his Father is not of earthly origin or location, but rather is quote "in heaven". In those 40 or so references to his Father, Joshua says many times that his Father's abiding place is in a realm or dimension called "heaven".

Therefore, Joshua claims his Father exists and is located in a place, realm or dimension called "heaven".

Does Joshua specifically identify or describe his Father? Yes, please listen to him:

"After defeating death, Joshua said to her, "Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brothers and say to them, 'I ascend to My Father and your Father, to My God and your God.'"

"In speaking to the people, who were accusing him, Joshua answered, "If I glorify Myself, My glory is nothing; it is My Father who glorifies Me, of whom you say, 'He is our God'".

So, Joshua identifies his Father as "God" or the deity who Created mankind and life on earth.

Joshua further identifies himself as the unique Son of his Father. Please listen to him:

“For God so loved the people of the earth who walk in darkness, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish in darkness, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the people of darkness, but that those people might be saved through Him.”

“All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows *the Son* except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except *the Son*, and anyone to whom *the Son* wills to reveal Him.”

“But of that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor *the Son*, but the Father alone.”

“And they all said, “Are You the Son of God, then?” And He said to them, “*Yes, I am.*”

“Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the *Son of God*, and those who hear will live.”

“[Why] do you say of Him, whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, ‘You are blaspheming,’ because I said, ‘*I am the Son of God*?’”

“But when Joshua heard this, He said, “This sickness is not to end in death, but for the glory of God, so that *the Son of God* may be glorified by it.”

As you can see, Joshua very plainly and clearly said that the Creator or God was his Father and that he, Joshua, is His unique Son.

What did Joshua teach the Father, the Creator of the human race, God, gave to him?

“For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to whom He wishes. For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son, so that all will honor the Son even as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not

honor the Father who sent Him. Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.”

So, in this passage, Joshua teaches that his Father, the Creator, God, has given him:

The ability to resurrect human beings...that is to re-constitute people’s bodies after they have died and place their soul and spirit back in their bodies;

...that God has given him the right to judge all people as worthy of Life or not based on how they lived their lives and why;

...that God has given him the ability to grant eternal life to those who believes what he says.

In like manner, Joshua says this...

“All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.”

In this saying, Joshua says that his Father has given him “all things”, meaning all matters regarding judging the human race and individuals. In other words, Joshua’s Father, the Creator, God, has given Joshua the right to judge people, and by that judgment, determine the nature and sincerity of those people’s life choices.

OK, what else does Joshua say about himself?

“I am the way, the truth and the life; and no one comes to the Father except through me.”

This is a comprehensive claim regarding who he is and the place and power he has been given by the Creator. He is the Way to Life, spiritual, eternal life; he is truth regarding human existence that all human beings need; he is the Life, or stated another way, knowing him is eternal life...is both to know what life is supposed to be while on the earth in our bodies as well as to preserve our existence after our body dies. Again, this is a far reaching claim with significant implications. Here

is another saying in this regard:

“Your own nation and the chief priests delivered You to me; what have You done?” Joshua answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the religious people; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm.” Therefore Pilate said to Him, “So You are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say correctly that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears my voice.”

In this passage, Joshua was being examined by Pilate, the Roman governor at that time. Joshua made several claims on this passage:

That he is a king of a kingdom that is not “of this world or realm”.

That everyone who is of the truth – that is those who use reason to examine claims about root level, existential truth – will hear his voice, meaning will understand and believe what he says. Of course the flip side of this saying is that those who don’t care about truth will not hear his voice.

Speaking of the future fulfillment of his teachings, Joshua says this:

“But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.’”

Again, Joshua, using his favorite title or description of himself – the Son of Man – says he is a king that will judge all people, and based on that judgment, people will be sorted into two streams – those inheriting the kingdom the king refers to, which kingdom was prepared since the earth was made habitable for human beings - and those who do not. Again, a significant claim well beyond something of the nature of, ‘I speak for God and God wants this or that from you’.

OK, to review and in short, Joshua of Nazareth does not merely say he speaks for the Creator of the human race. Rather, he says he is the unique Son and Messenger of the Creator and that the Creator, or God, has given him the authority to judge human beings based on what they do with

him and with the life they are given. He says he is the Light of the world in a world of human darkness. He says he is the bread that people need for life. He says he is the only good shepherd capable of caring for a person's soul. He says his words alone will last after heaven and earth pass away. He also says he is the only perfect Messenger of the Creator. Please listen to him:

“So Joshua said to them again, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

“Many false prophets (those who claim to speak for God) will come and will deceive many.”

Those who are ignorant of Joshua and his teachings are those who proclaim things like, “he was a great man” or “he was a great prophet of God” or “he was one of the most important religious figures in history” or “he was a great moral leader”. While Joshua was those things, he, according to his own words and teachings, was much more. He is the sole appointed Messenger of the Creator to His created beings. He is the Life that people need. He is the Leader humanity needs. He is the judge appointed by the Creator to judge each individual's life, words and behavior. And, he is the representation of Love and truth that the world so desperately needs.

So, the next time you hear someone claim they know who Joshua of Nazareth is, and they merely say the ‘oh, he was a great man’ type stuff, remind them that they have created a Jesus of their own making to serve their own existential beliefs, and if they were to be objectively honest, they ought to say, “I don't know who Jesus of Nazareth actually said he is by his own words because I've never seriously studied his teachings”.

Please listen to this key accountability statement by the Light of the world...

“If anyone hears my sayings and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world. He who rejects me and does not receive my sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day. For I did not speak on my own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent me has given me a commandment as to what to say and what to speak.”



Can you, dear viewer, hear that? Or are your ears dull? Answer this question...what does Joshua teach that is wrong or bad? And if you can't find anything, why don't you do what he says? Ask yourself why you ignore him and his teachings. Ask yourself why you pay him lip service while at the same time never sincerely intend to understand and do what he says? Seek to find what disease infects your soul in this regard.

Each of us will be held accountable for what we have heard and what we know and what we understand and how we behave. As we heard in earlier videos, other people that are held up as spokespeople for God – like Muhammad or Moses or many others – simply fall far short of the Light of the world. The best they can do is serve as a distraction or an alternative to the true Light of the world. Only the Light has the solution to mankind's darkness disease made up of pride, fear and selfishness. Only the Light can illuminate our souls with what our souls need – love, compassion, humility, tenderness, patience, selflessness. Only the Light reveals what the Creator – called God – is truly like, and the good news is God is not a blood thirsty, vengeful schizophrenic who also loves when he is not busy punishing and destroying.

Next time, we will start to take a close look at his teachings on how we human beings should live out the lives we are given.

Until next time, be real, get past the shallowness and pretentiousness of typical American life – especially religious life – and look deeper to find what you truly need.