

GOD CAME NEAR

April 19, 2015 Various Texts by Bob Branch
Exploring The Foundations of Our Faith, Part 2

MAIN IDEA: Zero in on Jesus, understanding His identity and His mission, with an invitation to receive Him more fully!

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

Jesus... a Nazareth-born, Jewish man in history

Christ... Messiah, Anointed-Ruler, fulfillment, setting things right

John 4:25–26; 1:41; Acts 10:38; Luke 4:18 (See Is. 61)

God's Son... *from the Father, of the Father, representing Him*

“For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him...
For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form”

Colossians 1:19; 2:9

1 Jn 5:12, 20; Lk. 1:35; Jn. 3:16; 1:49; 11:27; 20:31; Mt. 8:29; 14:33; Mk 1:1; Rom. 1:4

Our Lord... Exclusive rulership; whom you submit and surrender

“Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.” **Acts 2:36**

“Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?”
Luke 6:46

Is. 9:6; Mat. 1:23; 28:18; Jn. 8:58; 13:13 Lk. 2:11; 24:34; Acts 10:36; Rom. 10:9,13; 14:9; 1 Cor. 8:6; 15:47; Eph. 1:18-23; Phil. 2:9-11; Col. 1:15-18; 1 Tim. 6:15; Heb. 1:3

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary

Incarnation: God took on flesh

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was *with* God, and the Word *was* God.... The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.” **John 1:1-4, 14** (Isaiah 7:14; Luke 1:25, 37)

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and buried

1) **Propitiation**, appease anger thru substitution; make peace.

“He is the propitiation (atoning sacrifice) for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.”
1 John 2:2 ESV (1 John 4:10)

2) **Justification**, acquitted of all condemning (true) charges

“Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him!”

Romans 5:9

3) **Reconciliation**, two estranged parties, restored.

“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.” **1 Peter 3:18** (Rom. 5:10; Col. 1:19–20)

4) **Redemption**, ransom price paid, slave freed (sin, satan, self)

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” **Mark 10:45** (Eph. 1:7; 1 Peter 1:18–19)

5) **Victory**, Death has been swallowed up

“But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.” **Hebrews 2:9**

1 Cor. 1:17-18; 15:3; Phil. 2:8; Col. 2:14-15; 1 Cor. 15:3; Gal. 2:21; 1 Thess. 4:14; 5:10; Heb. 9:14-15; Rom. 4:25; 5:6-8; 6:5; Eph. 2:16; 1 Peter 2:24; Propitiation: Heb. 2:17; Rom. 3:25; Ransom: Mat. 20:28; Mk. 10:45; 1 Tim. 2:6; Heb. 9:15; Gal. 3:13-14; 4:5; Titus 2:14; 1 Pet. 1:18-19; Rom. 3:24; Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14; Heb. 9:14; Death: 1 Cor. 15:26, 54–55

he descended to hell. Psalm 16:10; Acts 2:27-31; 1 Peter 3:18-20; Luke 23:43

To realm of the dead... **He really died.**

He went where we were supposed to go

WHAT DOES THIS ALL MEAN?

- The Creed is Christ-centric, because the Christian life is!
- He took on flesh completely. He can relate to your struggles.
- All of God’s promises are fulfilled in him... He is *the* Messiah-King!
- He is God’s Son; the inheritance all goes to him, and you’re in Him!
- He is the Lord; your loyalty and submission are rightly his.
- His miraculous entry *and* exit tell us that He is the God of miracles.
- Jesus’ sacrifice covers you in every dimension of life where you need restoring! The work of the cross is powerful!
- Jesus experienced death completely for you, that his eternal life can find its full place in you.