

It is an historical fact that Jesus rose from the dead – a fact which provides the answer to a question we all must face: **who is Jesus Christ?** By His resurrection Jesus was ‘declared to be the Son of God with power’ (Romans 1:4). In other words He was God in human flesh and form.



## Invitation

There is a second vital question: **what will you do with Christ?** The Creator and upholder of the universe, the eternal Son of God, stooped down to become a man. He lived a life of perfect holiness, gave that life in the place of others, and rose triumphantly from the grave.

He now promises forgiveness of sins and eternal life to all who trust Him as their Saviour and take Him as their Lord. **What will you do with Him?** The alternatives are simple. You must reject Him or receive Him. But if you reject Him, one day you will hear Him say, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire’ (Matthew 25:41).

But what if you receive Him? Not only will you know His pardon and presence here now, but one day you will hear Him say, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father; inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world’ (Matthew 25:34).

## Church details

You are welcome to come to hear more about Jesus Christ at Pembury Road Baptist Chapel.

We meet for worship at **11:00am** and **6:00pm** on **Sundays**. We also have a **Sunday School** for five to fourteen year olds from 9:45-10:30 am.

Please contact us if you would like a free copy of the Bible, or more information.



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## The Man in Sixty Billion



Text adapted with permission from *Is God past his Sell-by Date?* by John Blanchard

## The Man in 60 billion

His birth divides history into two parts: B.C. and A.D. He never wrote a book, yet more books have been written about Him than anyone else in history.

He never painted a picture, composed music or wrote poetry, but nobody has been the subject of more songs, plays, poetry, paintings and films.

Except for one brief period in His childhood, His travels were limited to an area the size of Wales, but today His influence is literally world-wide. He set foot in only two countries, but today His followers are found in every land.

### Insatiable Interest

The man was Jesus of Nazareth. Brought up in the home of a carpenter called Joseph and His wife Mary, the odds against His future fame were huge. His family was not rich and the village of Nazareth was notorious for its bad reputation.

Yet in the twentieth century alone Jesus has generated some 1000 biographies, while the Encyclopaedia Britannica carries a 30000 word entry under His name. Why this insatiable interest?

Helpfully, most of what we know about His life is recorded in the world's most reliable history book, the Bible.

Among all the estimated 60 billion people who have ever lived on earth, Jesus was unique.

### Virgin Birth

Firstly, *His conception was unique*. Jesus was born in the normal way. What was unique was not how He left His mother's womb but how He entered it – when Jesus was born His mother was a virgin.

### Wisdom

Secondly, *His wisdom was unique*. Not only was everyone 'astonished at His teaching' (Matthew 7:28) but when He was only 12 years old, theologians in Jerusalem were 'astonished at His understanding and answers' (Luke 2:47).

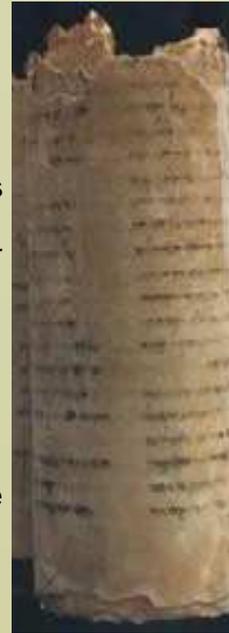
In the Bible's own words, He possessed 'all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge' (Colossians 2:3).

### Miracles

Thirdly, *His miracles were unique*. The Bible occasionally records God using other people to perform miracles, but Jesus sometimes did more miracles in a day than are recorded in a thousand years of Old Testament history. He healed people of 'all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease' (Matthew 4:23).

### Character

Fourthly, *His character was unique*. Contrary to many religious pictures, He did not wear a halo. He was genuinely and completely human. He knew what it was to be tired, hungry, thirsty, disappointed. He also knew what it was to be tempted. The Bible says He was 'tempted in all points as we



are' (Hebrews 4:15), but adds the unique distinction, 'yet without sin'.

### Death

Fifthly *His death was unique*. About one third of the New Testament's biography of Jesus is taken up with His death. Why is that? Because His death fulfilled the purpose of His life! He came into the world in order to die.

The Bible teaches that human death is the result of sin and that all mankind stands condemned before a holy God, because none of us can say that we love God with all our hearts or our neighbour as ourselves, as God has told us to do.

None of us has kept the Ten Commandments as we should do. We are all subject to the death penalty He has laid down – a penalty that extends beyond the grave and leaves the sinner exposed for ever to the righteous wrath of God.

But if Jesus had no sin why did He die? *Uniquely*, He died in the place of others – people like you and me. He 'came into the world to save sinners' (1 Timothy 1:15) and did so by bearing in His own body and spirit the dreadful penalty we deserve. And this He did by choice.

### Resurrection

Sixthly, *His resurrection was unique*. Lord Lyndhurst of Cambridge University, one of the greatest minds in British legal history, once said, 'I know pretty well what evidence is; and I tell you, such evidence as that for the resurrection has never broken down yet.'