

## WHO DO PEOPLE SAY I AM AND HOW ABOUT YOU?

(Matt. 16:16; Luke 9:20; John 19:19)

After having healed all those that had come to Him and fed the multitude of thousands with seven loaves of bread and a few fish, YAHSHUA asked a very important question in two folds: Who do people say that the Son of Man is, but Who do you say that I am? The conjunction but emphasizes the importance in the clear understanding of the knowledge the disciples must have of Whom YAHSHUA was. He directs the first question in the third person – the Son of Man is, but when directed the question to them, He asks them in the first person, but Who do you say I am? Or How about you?

The Samaritan woman, after talking to YAHSHUA, went to town and she began telling the people, “Come, and see a Man Who has told me everything that I ever did”! She concluded with a curious question, Can this be the Christ? Many believed the words of the Samaritan woman enough to come and meet Him. And perhaps out of curiosity they came. But when they heard Him, they said, Now we no longer believe just because of what you said; for we have heard Him ourselves and we know that He truly is the Savior of the world, the Christ (John 4:42). Hungry for more of His words, they asked YAHSHUA to remain with them and He did stay there two days (John 4:40). Two days represent the period of two thousand years God was giving to the Gentile nations to hear the Gospel and turn to Him. In contrast with these Samaritans, the Jews of those days, in spite of all that they had witnessed in miracles, they could only conclude that He was perhaps John the Baptist, Elijah or Jeremiah, or one of the prophets (Matt. 16: 14).

The Bible says that when YASHUA had gone into the region of Caesarea Philippi, (a city of Greek-Roman culture, well known for the worship of foreign gods, built in honor of Caesar by King Phillip), He asked the question, Who do people and you say I am? In that region where Caesar was honored and his false gods worshipped, He the Creator of the universe, the only true God asked a very important question. That was the right place in point of time. He asked the disciples this personal question for the purpose of declaring openly to the disciples His divine identity to be the Son of God. Peter, under the direction of the Holy Spirit confessed and said, You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God (Matt. 16:16). Even the demons of the unseen world often cried out: You are the Son of God! Obviously they knew Him before His incarnation and were frustrated that He had come to interfere and destroy their work. The Jewish nation, represented by her leaders, had a different opinion of Him no matter the signs. One example of this is the healing of the blind man in chapter nine of John. In chapter 9:33 of John, when YAHSHUA performed the sign that showed Him to be the Messiah, they committed the unpardoned sin by blaspheming the Holy Spirit saying that YAHSHUA performed healing through and by the help of Beelzebub and they accused Him of blaspheming by claiming the rights and prerogatives of God. They ignored all together the evidences that demanded the acceptance of Whom He was and

they were doomed in their rejection of their Messiah in A.D. 70. One wonders why they had to fight against the truth that would have set them free.

When we open the pages of the book of John we see that YAHSHUA was the incarnate Word of God; He was with God and He was God in the beginning of all things, creating the world and all that was created was created by Him; without Him nothing that has been created would have been created (John 1: 1-3). In this book we find the I AMs YAHSHUA confessed to be. He was the I AM that spoke to Moses when Moses wanted to know Who that was that was sending him to deliver his people Israel from the bondage of Egypt. In the book of John, YAHSHUA asserted several times that He was the I AM: I AM the Bread of life (6:3); I AM the Light of the world (8:12; 9:5); I AM the Door (10: 7); I AM the Good Shepherd (10: 11-14); I AM the Resurrection and the Life (11: 25); I AM the Way, the Truth and the Life (14:6); I AM the True Vine (15: 1).

As the Bread of Life His body was broken at the hands of the Romans and crucified to offer us life. As the Light of the world, He guided us from darkness into His light, as Isaiah prophesized: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great Light; those who dwelt in the land of intense darkness and the shadow of death, upon them has the Light shined (9:2). He lives in unapproachable light (I Tim. 4:16b) and He continues to shine His light today giving us understanding of His Word. There is no other door apart from YAHSHUA that can have access to heaven. He said, I AM the Door; anyone who enters in through Me will be saved. He will come in and he will go out [freely], and will find pasture John 10:9). In Him we have freedom; we can go to Him at any time; He is our access to the Father. In Him we have our being. As our Good Shepherd He has a relationship with us; He knows and He leads us; He speaks to us, He gives us eternal life and the assurance that we will never perish through the ages and no one can take us from His hand ( John 10:27-28). He is Resurrection and Life; death has no power over Him. At the resurrection of Lazarus, He had to shout Lazarus' name, so as not to have everyone else to come up from the dead. This same shout will be heard some day at the rapture of His Bride. He will call our names we will go up to meet Him in the air to live with Him forever. That's how only those who hear their names will ascend to Him, resurrected or alive. He is the only Way to God, the only Truth that sets us free from the evil one; the only One Who can give eternal life, for He is Life; Without Him we are doomed to hell.

YAHSHUA identified Himself in the book of Revelation as the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last. In Him all started; in Him all things will have their end. When John saw Him, He fell at His feet as if dead (Rev. 1:17). No longer the YAHSHUA John knew and walked with in His earthly days, but now the Everlasting One. His awesome and holy presence caused John to be fearful and unworthy. YAHSHUA then introduced Himself to John: Do not be afraid, He said; I Am the First and the Last, And the Ever-living One; I died, but see, I am alive forevermore; and I possess the keys of death and hades (Rev. 1:17-18). With that introduction, I am sure John felt better as his memories traveled back in time when YAHSHUA lived among them.

Who do you think YAHSHUA is? A prophet in the human limitation? How does your life translate Who He is to the world? Many times the erroneous ideas the world has of Him has to do with the way we live our life. For many Christians He is still stretched on the cross, powerless and not being able to save. They carry Him dead on their necklaces, showing their hopelessness and voidance of salvation. Therefore they labor to save themselves through their good works and deeds. He is also remembered on the wrong day of His birthday as a baby in the manger surrounded by farm animals. These were His steps on earth, but He neither remained a baby, nor remained on the cross.

Conclusion: He is King of all kings, Lord of all lords; every knee will bend before Him; everyone will fall at His feet unable to look at His face; His holiness will humble the entire world; His untouchable light will penetrate deep in the soul of men; He is the only true God, besides Him there is no other!

Live a life as if you were in His physical presence my friend, and the world will know that He is the Son of God.