

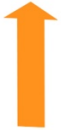
SEVEN ARROWS



What does this passage say?



What did this passage mean to its original audience?



What does this passage tell us about God?



What does this passage tell us about man?



What does this passage demand of me?



How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



What does this passage prompt me to pray to God?

JOHN 1:29-34



Many of those who met Jesus knew there was something special about Him. Not only did He speak with authority, but He was able to perform miracles proving His power. Unfortunately, many simply thought He was sent as a prophet or miracle-worker. They thought He was *from* God but did not believe He was God. John, however, knew the truth. From the beginning, John knew God had chosen Jesus to atone for the sins of the world. Jesus would be the perfect and final sacrifice offered, so that the sins of God's people would be forgiven forever. God gave John supernatural eyes to see the presence of God in the person of Jesus Christ. Others lacked such faith and continually failed to see that Jesus is God, even in spite of everything He said and did. Jesus knew that it was not enough for people to believe He was a great man, excellent teacher, or incredible miracle worker. What mattered was whether or not people recognized that He is God.

JOHN 10:22-42



The Jewish leaders were at the top of the list of those who did not believe Jesus was God, even though they should have been the first to believe. Jesus made it clear that His works were meant to communicate one central truth-He and God the Father are one. Anyone who sees Jesus also sees God. Jesus is God with skin on. It's easy to condemn the Jewish leaders for their disbelief, but you might imagine how hard this was for them to believe. This Son of Mary and Joseph, a carpenter from Nazareth, was God? Few would have expected God's promised One to come this way, but this was God's plan from the beginning of creation. Salvation hinged on whether or not people believed in this claim. If they believed Jesus is God, then they would be saved and protected forever. If they did not, they would perish. Simply stated, there was, and is, no other alternative.

MATTHEW 8:23-27



Jesus demonstrated authority over every kind of human sickness and disease. He could fix everything broken in the human body. He also proved that He could fix everything broken in the world. Since sin entered creation, storms, hurricanes, tornadoes, and other disasters have pointed to the fact that something is not right in the world. Sin damaged creation itself, and it also needs to be made right. Jesus, the One who spoke all things into existence, calmed a raging storm with just a word. No one but God has that kind of power. The peace that followed the storm represents the healing of the created world that will come when Jesus returns and makes all things right again. Not only will the human body will be perfect, but the world itself will be fixed. We will spend eternity in a perfect world that forever shows off the greatness of God.

MATTHEW 12:1-8



There is another way that Jesus showed the world He was God. Because they believed it was essential for a right relationship with God, many followed various aspects of the Old Testament law, and resting on the Sabbath day was very important. Any work was off limits, and the people created an extensive list of types of activity considered to be work. Jesus' act of healing on the Sabbath was considered a blatant disregard for the law. *Who did He think He was?* The answer is that Jesus knew He was God, the One who made the Sabbath and perfectly understood the God-given intent behind this law. He understood that the various man-made stipulations associated with the divine law missed the point. Because He wasn't merely a man, He held the authority to discount the human law in order to bring salvation and healing to this man. The religious leaders of Jesus' day clearly understood that Jesus believed He was God, a claim that would soon get Him killed.

2 CORINTHIANS 13: 11-14



In our day, it is common to meet people who have great respect for Jesus. They may think that He was a great leader, teacher, even miracle-worker. Jesus certainly embodied these things, but He was much more. No one experiences salvation because they believe Jesus was special--salvation comes to those who have faith in Jesus as God. Paul finished a section of his letter to the church at Corinth with a statement of the divinity of Jesus. In fact, He united all three members of the Trinity and described each of them as God: And the Holy Spirit is God, as well. While the word "Trinity" is not used in the Bible, undoubtedly the authors understood that the one true God consists of three persons who are each God and possess the full measure of God's glory.