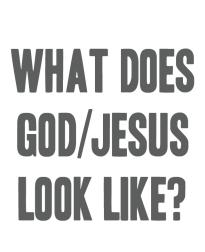


ANSWERED



WE DON'T REALLY KNOW

what God looks like

BUT HERE IS WHAT WE DO KNOW:

- O God is spirit not flesh like us, so we aren't sure what He looks like, but we do know that we are made in the image of God so there is something about us that is like Him.
- O Jesus (God in human form) was born into a Jewish family in the ancient Middle East so He probably looked like the people around Him; dark hair, dark eyes, dark skin, and kind of short.
- O However, the prophet Isaiah gives the only physical description of Jesus from the Bible.
 - "He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem." (Isaiah 53:2b-3)



GOD IS SAID TO BE OUTSIDE OF TIME,

there has never been a time before God and THERE WILL NEVER BE A TIME AFTER HIM.

God is called the Alpha and the Omega - which means the beginning and the end.

The Bible says:

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End." (Revelation 22:13)

DID JESUS HAVE BROTHERS OR SISTERS?

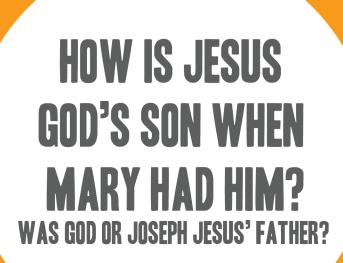
YES

Several that we know of:

James is the most famous.

There is a James who, with his brother John, were fishermen and became disciples. There is also James, the brother of Jesus, who became an early church leader and who wrote the book of James.

Another brother, Jude, wrote the book of Jude in the bible.



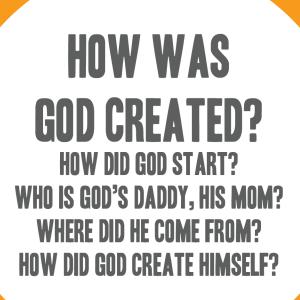
GOD DID SOMETHING HE HAD NEVER DONE BEFORE.

He put Jesus directly into Mary!

Even though Jesus was born, He has always been and always will be God's son. The Bible tells us that when it was time for Jesus to come to earth, the Holy Spirit came upon Mary, and the power of the Most High overshadowed her and Jesus was placed into her belly.

Mary was pregnant with Jesus and was married to her husband Joseph. Joseph was kind of like Jesus' step-daddy; he loved Jesus and took care of Him like his very own son.

We know that by age 12, Jesus thought of Himself as God's son.



IF YOU STOP AND THINK ABOUT IT, SOMETHING HAS TO HAPPEN FIRST.

If God had a dad or mom then they would have to have a dad and mom – right? While we don't understand everything about God, what we do know is there was nothing before God. He has always existed.

No one and nothing created Him. There never was a time when He did not exist. So God does not have a daddy or mommy. He was never created. He has always been and will always be! The Bible starts with, "In the beginning, God" (Genesis 1:1).

HOW MUCH DOES GOD LOVE US?

THE ANSWER IS IN THE BIBLE:

Romans 8:38-39

"And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord."

That is a lot of love.



GOD GAVE SATAN THE SAME GIFT HE GAVE YOU

and me, and all humans and all angels - He gave us freedom.

We all have the freedom to choose to love God back or not to love Him at all.

Freedom is the only way that love is real, the only way it is fair.

If you force it - it is not real.

If you fake it - it is not real.

If it is not real - it is meaningless.

God does not force Satan to be good for the same reason He does not force us to be good; because He loves him.



WE DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHEN GOD MADE THE WORLD.

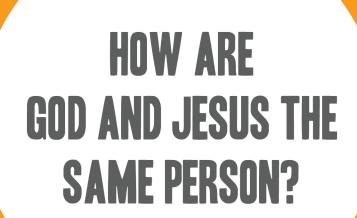
All we know from the Bible is that God did it and it was good.

Genesis 1 talks about creation happening over a period of days. The word the Bible uses for days is "Yom," which could represent an uncertain period of time. It could be 24 hours or a billion years!

So the dinosaurs could have roamed the earth during the "day" God created the animals, before God finished creation by making us.

How did God do it?

The Bible doesn't say how God did it. We just know that He did it and it was good.



GOD IS JESUS, GOD IS THE HOLY SPIRIT AND GOD IS THE FATHER.

We have one God who is three persons.

Some people have tried to make sense of it with water or eggs:

Water can be water, steam or ice, but it is always water.

Eggs have a shell, the yoke and the white part, but they are all together an egg.

But even these are not good representations, because God is three persons who are ONE God, at the exact same time. He isn't one God who acts three different ways. He is three distinct persons who are all one God.

A better analogy is the critical point for liquids. There is a temperature where water can be in two states (e.g. gas and liquid) at the exact same time. It might not make logical, sense but it is true.

There are some parts of God that might not make logical sense, but that doesn't make it any less true. We will never fully understand God. We have to have faith because our God is bigger than our minds. And since there are things we don't understand about God, we know we have a HUGE God. A God worth believing in.

WHY DID GOD SEND JESUS? CAN'T HE COME HIMSELF?

GOD IS JESUS, GOD IS THE HOLY SPIRIT AND GOD IS THE FATHER.

Jesus understood what the Father wanted Him to do and He willingly came not because His Daddy pressured Him but because He loves the Father and because He loves us! Jesus came willingly out of love for us!



THE BIBLE TALKS ABOUT HEAVEN

in a lot of really cool ways.

One word used is "paradise" which comes from a word that means "garden." But we're not talking about a dinky little garden in your backyard. We're talking about the most beautiful, colorful, peaceful place you could ever imagine. Other parts of the Bible describe heaven as a spectacular, shining city where we won't even need the sun because the light of God will light up the whole city.

How awesome is that?!

The Bible also says heaven is full of angels singing praises to God. So when we go to heaven we'll be hanging out with angels. But the most important thing about heaven is that God will be there. We'll get to see Jesus face to face. And we'll never, ever be sad. Close your eyes and picture the happiest moment of your life. Heaven will be even better than that. All the time.

We don't really know where heaven is. You can't take an airplane or drive there. God has to take you there. God promises us that heaven is very real. Jesus is there now and He has prepared a place there for everyone who loves and follows Him. If you want to read more about heaven, start with the book of Revelation (at the very back of your Bible). Head to chapter 21, verses 1-7.



IN MATTHEW 18:18

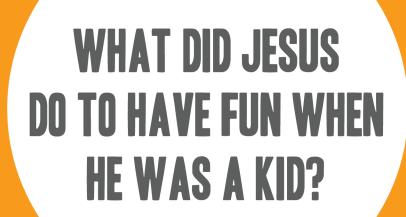
Jesus says, "I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it."

So we know Jesus invented it and in the New Testament comes the first Christian church.

After Jesus ascends to Heaven, He calls the disciples to gather and wait on the Holy Spirit. When it comes on them, they throw open the doors and preach boldly to thousands of people gathered in the streets, leading many of them to join them.

From that moment, churches started to form.

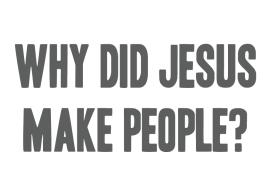
And Acts 2:42-47 shows us exactly what the first churches looked like.



WE DON'T KNOW A LOT ABOUT JESUS' CHILDHOOD.

Everything we know about Jesus and God is that He likes to have fun and He likes to be around people.

Jesus' dad, Joseph, was a carpenter so I bet Jesus made stuff like bird houses or derby cars!



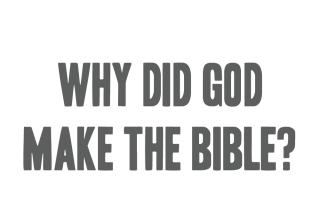
A LOT OF PEOPLE WONDER

why God went to all the trouble of creating us.

The Bible makes it clear that God didn't need to make us. The book of Acts says, "He is the God who made the world. He also made everything in it. He is the Lord of heaven and earth. He doesn't live in temples built by hands. He is not served by human hands. He doesn't need anything..." (Acts 17:24-25)

That's a mouthful, but it's just saying that God would be perfectly fine without us. And He's not lonely either. Since the beginning, God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit have been a perfect community. So, God didn't need to make us, but He did it anyway because He loves us and He actually wanted to create us and be with us. The God of the universe loves us. Isn't that awesome?

He didn't need to make us, but He is so loving and wonderful that He decided to share His abundance of love with us. I don't know about you, but I'm sure glad He did.



You and I were not around when God created the world, so we missed out on seeing that firsthand. Bummer.

THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN INCREDIBLY COOL TO SEE!

We also weren't alive yet when Jesus walked the earth more than 2,000 years ago. So we didn't get to see Him walk on water or heal sick people or stand up to the devil. And there were so many other awesome, miraculous things that happened throughout history—real, true stories of people who lived before us. Thanks to the Bible, we can know about all of these amazing events even though we weren't there. Thanks to the Bible, we can know who God is. We can know that He loves us.

Do you have baby pictures from when you were tiny? If you do, you're able to see what you looked like as a baby, even though you can't remember it. Those pictures are proof that you used to be a little baby. The Bible is kind of like God's way of showing us proof that He is real and has been doing wonderful things for a long time...long before we were born.

The Bible, which is sometimes called "Scripture" or "The Word," is not just proof that God loves us. It's also our guide on how to do life. The Bible answers your question directly. It says, "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness" (2 Timothy 3:16). So, all in all, the Bible is an amazing gift from God to us. That's why it's good to read it as much as possible. You wouldn't want to miss something that God has to say to you, right?

WHY DOES GOD LET PEOPLE DIE RIGHT IN OUR FACE?

Seeing someone die is one of the toughest things in the world. It's so hard for the people who are left behind, and it's OK to be sad and upset. But we all know that nobody lives forever.

HERE'S WHY:

This world is not the way God wanted it to be. In the beginning, the world was perfect! There was no human pain, suffering or death. But Adam and Eve, the first people, sinned and everything was messed up!

Now the world is not how God intended; it is broken. And because of sin, people die. They may die of old age, sickness or because someone chose to hurt them. But God is good, even though the world is no longer good.

And God is love. So He doesn't want death to win. He doesn't want death to be the final word. So God became a man, Jesus Christ, and He lived a perfect life. Because He was perfect and never sinned He didn't have to die (remember, death is because of sin). But He allowed Himself to die in our place. And three days later, He ROSE from the dead! He defeated death!

WHY DID GOD DIE ON THE CROSS? WHY DID JESUS HAVE TO DIE ON THE CROSS?

THIS IS A GREAT QUESTION

because it shows that you know that Jesus is God. This is a big mystery and it's hard to wrap our brains around, but we worship one God who is three persons—Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Son is Jesus and even though He could have stayed in Heaven hanging out with His awesome Dad, He allowed God to send Him to earth to save us.

You see, we all have a big problem and that problem is sin. God is perfect and we are not.

The Bible says that everyone has sinned and no one measures up to God's glory. Even really nice, kind people are sinners. Have you ever told a lie or disobeyed your parents? I know I have and that means I'm a sinner. God doesn't want us to sin, but we all choose to disobey Him and do it anyway.

NOW, HERE'S THE REALLY BIG PROBLEM:

Since God is perfect, He can't tolerate sin. And the Bible says the punishment for sin is death. We're all sinners and we all deserve to die and not hang out with God. But guess what? God loves us. He didn't want us to die and be separated from Him, so instead of punishing us for our sin, He sent His Son, Jesus, to take our place. It's kind of like this—let's say you talk back to your parents and you get in trouble. Your punishment is to go to time out for the rest of the night and that stinks. But what if someone else takes your place and serves your time out for you? Then you get to go free even though you deserved time out. That's what Jesus did for us, except in a much bigger way. Even though we deserve to die for our sins, Jesus took our place by dying on the cross. Because He did that for us, if we trust Him as our Savior and follow Him, our souls will never die. Instead, we'll go to heaven!

(Romans 6:23a)

OH, AND IN CASE YOU'RE WONDERING

why Jesus died on a cross instead of some other way of dying, it has a lot to do with where He lived and what it was like 2,000 years ago when He was living on earth as a man. Back then, the Romans sometimes killed people by hanging them on a cross. It was a terrible way to die. When Jesus was only 33 years old, some people who didn't believe He was God's Son wanted to put Him to death. So they crucified Him, which means they killed Him by nailing Him to a cross, even though He had never done anything wrong in His life. It was a terrible day when Jesus died, but the sadness didn't last long.

Three days later He rose from the dead and showed Himself to lots of people to prove He was really alive. It was the biggest miracle that has ever happened. It showed that God is stronger than death and it saved us from death, too. Jesus loves us so much that He died for us. What He did is still the greatest act of love the world has ever seen.

YOU GUYS ASKED SOME GREAT QUESTIONS!

