INTRO: Jesus regularly astounded and surprised both His friends and His enemies. JN 3:2. As an adult, visiting the synagogue in Nazareth where He had attended as a child, they "marveled at [His] gracious words" (LK 4:22). When He calmed a storm at sea, even His closest disciples proclaimed: "Who can this be, that even the wind & the sea obey Him?" (Mark 4:41).
And the better we come to know Him, the more astonished we become.

I. HIS PRE-EXISTENCE. He did not come into being at conception, but existed with the Father before the world began.

John 1:1-3, 14; John 8:58; John 17:5

Col 1:16-17, For by Him all things were created that are in heaven & that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

II. HIS INCARNATION.

Phil 2:6-8, Who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bond-servant, & coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

Someone has said, "The greatest fact in the Old Testament is that man was made in
the image of God. The greatest fact in the New Testament is that God was made in the likeness of man."

Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: "Sacrifice & offering You did not desire. But a body You have prepared for Me." (Heb 10:5). Why???

Heb 2:14-18, Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that thru death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, & release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham. Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

A. So He could identify & sympathize with our infirmities of the flesh, Heb. 2:17-18. Heb 4:15

B. So that He could win the victory over death & destroy the work of the devil, Heb. 2:14.

C. That He could make propitiation or atonement for sin. Heb. 2:17b.

Rom 8:3-4, For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful
flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

D. Jesus was a man, & a son of man.
1 Tim. 2:5

III. THE DEITY OF JESUS. But He was more than a man. John 1:1-3, 14; Isaiah 9:6

Being in the form of God [He] thought it not robbery to be equal with God. (Phil. 2:6).

Col. 2:9; John 20:28

Matt 22:41-45, While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, saying, "What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?" They said to Him, "The Son of David." He said to them, "How then does David in the Spirit call Him 'Lord,' saying: 'The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool"'? If David then calls Him 'Lord,' how is He his Son?" And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore.

IV. HIS GLORIFICATION. Jesus was raised up to sit on the throne of the universe.

John 17:5

Luke 24:26-27, Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" And beginning at Moses & all the Prophets, He expounded to them
in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

The God of Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified His Servant Jesus, whom you delivered up & denied in the presence of Pilate... (Acts 3:13).

READ PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11

CONCLUSION: Sooner or later, you will bow to Jesus. Sooner or later you will confess Him. Sooner or later you will be obedient to His command. Why not now, while it can do you good?

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, July 7, 1996