



Monday, November 17, 2025

The key thing to know up front is:

- The New Testament never gives an earthly, skin-tone description of Jesus.
- Claims that Jesus was a *white* (sometimes even “ginger”) man are mostly built from:
  - Symbolic “white/light” passages,
  - Late, non-biblical “eyewitness” letters,
  - Medieval mystical visions and devotional texts,
  - And then mass-produced European art.

Below I’ll map the main Christian texts that have actually been used to push a white (sometimes light-brown / “ginger-ish”) Jesus.

## 1. WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS (AND DOESN’T SAY) ABOUT JESUS’ APPEARANCE

### 1.1 Gospel silence

All four Gospels describe what Jesus did, not what he looked like. Modern scholars stress that ancient biographies usually only mentioned appearance if it was very unusual, and the New Testament simply doesn’t.

[Bible Hub+1](#)

So there is no biblical verse that says “Jesus had white skin” or “Jesus had blond / ginger hair.”

### 1.2 “Whiteness” as glory, not ethnicity

Despite the silence on skin tone, there are a few passages that talk about white / shining aspects of Christ. These have been pulled into “white Jesus” arguments.

#### Transfiguration

- *Matthew 17:2; Mark 9:2–3; Luke 9:29*
  - His face shines like the sun;
  - His clothes become “white as light”, “dazzling white,” “glistening.” [GotQuestions.org+1](#)



## Apocalyptic vision

- **Revelation 1:14–16**
  - “The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow”;
  - His face “like the sun shining with full force.” [Reddit+2Bible Hub+2](#)

In context these are visions of the glorified, heavenly Christ. Even conservative commentators insist they’re symbolic (wisdom, purity, glory), not literal portraits of hair dye and skin tone. [GotQuestions.org+2JW.org+2](#)

Still, in popular imagination, repeated talk of Jesus’ white garments, white hair, shining face has been used to support pictures of him as very light-skinned.

### 1.3 Beauty language used Christologically

Some Old Testament poetry that later Christians read as referring to Christ also feeds into “fair Jesus” ideas, for example:

- **Psalms 45:2** – “You are the fairest of the sons of men...”
- **Song of Songs** applied allegorically to Christ as the perfect bridegroom.

Those texts don’t mention colour, but alongside later European art, “fairest” gets visually coded as pale-skinned, light-haired beauty.

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## 2. PSEUDO-HISTORICAL “EYEWITNESS” LETTERS DESCRIBING A FAIR / LIGHT-HAIRED JESUS

These are not canonical scripture, but they’ve been printed in devotional books and treated by many readers as if they were historical reports.

### 2.1 The “Letter of Lentulus”

The Letter of Lentulus is a 15th-century forgery that pretends to be an official Roman report about Jesus. It was widely circulated in Europe and heavily influenced art. [Wikipedia+1](#)

It describes Jesus as:

- A man of medium size, “most beautiful among the children of men”;
- With hair “of the colour of the ripe hazel-nut... straight down to the ears, but below the ears wavy and curled... with a bluish and bright reflection, flowing over his shoulders”;
- Beard “of the colour of his hair”;
- Face “without wrinkle or spot, embellished by a slightly reddish complexion”;
- Eyes blue-gray and bright. [Wikipedia+2New Advent+2](#)

This is basically a light-skinned, light-brown / golden haired Jesus with a “slightly reddish” complexion – perfect raw material for a white / sometimes gingerish Christ.

Even though scholars now agree it’s late and fabricated, it was treated for centuries as a real description and used directly by painters as a model. [Wikipedia+2uncpressblog.com+2](#)

### 2.2 Nicephorus Callistus (14th c.)

By the 14th century, the Byzantine historian Nicephorus Callistus quotes an “ancient” description of Jesus as:

- Tall and beautiful,
- With fair, wavy (sometimes interpreted as blond) hair. [Wikipedia+2truthbrary.mpaq.org+2](http://Wikipedia+2truthbrary.mpaq.org+2)

Modern scholars think Nicephorus is likely influenced by existing icons, not by genuine early data – but his text still reinforces the idea of a light-haired, fair Jesus.

### 2.3 Other forged letters (Pilate, etc.)

Various late devotional texts claim to be letters from Pontius Pilate or other Roman officials, describing Jesus as:

- Of serene, striking beauty,
- With golden or light hair and beard,
- Standing out in contrast to “bearers with their black beards and tawny complexions.”  
[macblogphd.blogspot.com+1](http://macblogphd.blogspot.com+1)

These are historically worthless, but in popular Catholic and Protestant piety they’ve been quoted as if they were Roman eyewitness proofs that Jesus looked like a handsome Caucasian with golden / hazel hair.

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## 3. MEDIEVAL MYSTICAL VISIONS AND DEVOTIONAL TEXTS

A second big cluster of “white Jesus” material comes from Catholic mystics whose visions were written down and widely circulated.

### 3.1 St Bridget of Sweden (14th c.)

In Bridget’s *Revelations* and later compilations summarising them, Mary is reported as describing Jesus roughly like this:

- Light brown (sometimes rendered “blondish”) hair, eyebrows and beard;
- Strong but slender build;
- Face of great beauty. [Philstar+2salvemariaregina.info+2](http://Philstar+2salvemariaregina.info+2)

These descriptions present Christ with fair skin and light-brown hair, again matching northern European ideals.

### 3.2 Blessed Anne Catherine Emmerich (19th c.)

Emmerich’s visions were published in the 19th century and famously influenced depictions like Mel Gibson’s *The Passion of the Christ*. She repeatedly describes Jesus as:

- Having a fair complexion, like Mary, “slightly tinted with red”;
- With brown or black hair, depending on the passage, but always against a pale, luminous skin tone.  
[tandfspi.org+2tandfspi.org+2](http://tandfspi.org+2tandfspi.org+2)

Example phrasing:

- “The complexion of our Lord was fair, like that of Mary, and slightly tinted with red.”  
[documentacatholicaomnia.eu](http://documentacatholicaomnia.eu)

Devotional books and websites quote these lines as if they give a precise portrait of Jesus: fair, pale, lightly flushed – visually very close to the standard Western white Jesus.

### 3.3 Other mystic descriptions

Various later mystical or devotional sources circulate similar descriptions:

- Jesus with light brown hair and beard,
- Fair or very pale complexion,
- Sometimes contrasted with ordinary people's "tawny" or darker complexions.  
[salvemariaregina.info+2Facebook+2](http://salvemariaregina.info+2Facebook+2)

All of this textually supports a white, often Northern-looking Jesus, even when it doesn't explicitly mention "white skin."

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## 4. HOW THESE TEXTS FEED WHITE / EUROPEAN JESUS

### 4.1 Art that matches the texts

Art historians note that from late antiquity onward, images of Jesus shift toward:

- Fair-skinned, often light-haired, long-haired, bearded figures patterned after Greco-Roman ideals, then later after European ideals. [Wikipedia+2Reddit+2](#)

The Lentulus letter and similar descriptions gave artists an explicit literary template: medium height, hazel/golden hair, divided in the middle, flowing to the shoulders, bright complexion, blue or grey eyes.  
[Wikipedia+2New Advent+2](#)

These visuals, once standardised, then looped back into text:

- Catechisms, sermons and pamphlets referring to "our fair Lord";
- Children's Bibles and tracts pairing white artwork with phrases like "gentle, fair-faced Jesus";
- Protestant prints (e.g. Warner Sallman's *Head of Christ*) mass-reproducing a pale, light-brown-haired Jesus as *the* face of Christ. [University of South Carolina+2Broadview Magazine+2](#)

### 4.2 White-supremacist and colonial uses

Modern scholarship on "white Jesus" shows how these texts and images became ideological tools:

- Missionaries and colonial powers spread a pale, European Christ across Africa, Asia and the Americas, implying that God looks like the coloniser, not the colonised. [University of South Carolina+2Premier Christianity+2](#)
- White supremacist groups and racist theologies in the US have used this imagery (and the pseudo-texts behind it) to normalise a white saviour and to downplay or erase Jesus' Jewish and Middle-Eastern identity. [Human Parts+2livingchurch.org+2](#)

In those circles, people often cite or allude to:

- "Ancient eyewitness descriptions" (Lentulus, Pilate letters),
- "Mystic visions" that describe Jesus as fair,

- And sometimes even Revelation's glowing Jesus, as if all of them together prove that Jesus was a white European man.
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## 5. WHAT ABOUT "GINGER JESUS"?

There's no major Christian text that plainly says "Jesus had ginger (carrot-red) hair." The "ginger Jesus" idea is pulled together from hints:

1. Lentulus letter – hair "colour of the ripe hazel-nut" and "slightly reddish complexion" – which some modern writers and websites take as light brown / reddish-blond. [Wikipedia+2New Advent+2](#)
2. Mystic visions – Bridget and others describing light brown hair, fair complexion flushed with red, which can slide in popular imagination toward reddish / ginger tones. [Philstar+2Facebook+2](#)
3. A general European tendency in art to depict Jesus with brown-to-golden hair and ruddy cheeks – which modern internet culture easily memes into "Jesus was ginger."

So "ginger Jesus" is really a modern extrapolation from:

- Late, non-scriptural descriptions, and
  - Centuries of European art that favoured light-brown, golden or reddish-brown hair on a pale face.
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## 6. HOW "EXHAUSTIVE" IS THIS?

In strict terms, you can't literally list every sermon, pamphlet, children's book, or mystic diary that has ever described Jesus as fair, white, golden-haired or light-brown-haired.

But in terms of key Christian texts that have actually been used to support "Jesus was a white man (maybe light-brown / ginger-ish)" claims, the main clusters are:

1. Biblical imagery
  - Transfiguration and Revelation whiteness: white hair, white clothes, shining face as glory, later read visually as supporting a pale Christ.
2. Pseudo-historical descriptions
  - Letter of Lentulus – hazel/golden hair, slightly reddish fair complexion, blue-grey eyes. [Wikipedia+1](#)
  - Nicephorus Callistus – tall, beautiful, fair wavy hair. [Wikipedia+1](#)
  - Other forged letters (e.g. Pilate) giving Jesus golden hair and beard, contrasted with darker Jews. [macblogphd.blogspot.com+1](#)
3. Catholic mystic and devotional texts
  - Bridget of Sweden – Jesus with light brown hair, fair beauty. [Philstar+1](#)
  - Anne Catherine Emmerich – fair or very fair complexion, often slightly red-tinted, compared to darker others. [tandfspi.org+2documentacatholicaomnia.eu+2](#)
4. Art-shaping and mass-culture texts

- Later catechisms, devotional booklets and art theory that treat these descriptions as authoritative portraits, then export a white European Jesus worldwide. [Wikipedia+2University of South Carolina+2](#)

Those are the textual pillars under most “white / ginger Jesus” claims. Everything else tends to be commentary, art and ideology built on top of them.

Signed

*John Canoe*

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Monday, November 17, 2025

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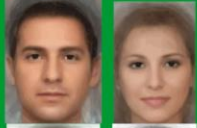











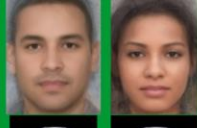





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# POLICE CODES

	<b>IC1</b>		W1 UK White W2 White European W9 Other White		<b>Who are you?</b>   <b>BIRTH PLACE</b>   <b>LINEAGE</b>   <b>APPEARANCE</b>   <b>STATE OF MIND</b>   <b>DNA</b>
	<b>IC2</b>		W9 Other White Dark European		
	<b>IC3</b>		B1 Caribbean B2 African B9 Other Black		
	<b>IC4</b>		A1 Indian A2 Pakistani A3 Bangladeshi A9 Other Asian		
	<b>IC5</b>		O1 Chinese O9 Any Other Oriental		
	<b>IC6</b>		M1 White & Black Caribbean M2 White & Black African M3 White & Asian M9 Any Other Mixed		
	<b>IC7</b>		NS Not Stated		

# UK Government Race and Ethnicity Codes.

# Are you a Racist?

		<b>IC1</b>	<b>W1 UK White</b> <b>W2 White European</b> <b>W9 Other White</b>			<b>IC3</b>	<b>B1 Caribbean</b> <b>B2 African</b> <b>B9 Other Black</b>			<b>IC6</b>	<b>M1 White &amp; Black Caribbean</b> <b>M2 White &amp; Black African</b> <b>M3 White &amp; Asian</b> <b>M9 Any Other Mixed</b>
1 White Race	WBRI	White British		3 Black Race	BAFR	Black - African		6 Mixed Race	MABL	Asian and Black	
1 White Race	WCOR	White British - Cornish		3 Black Race	BANN	Black - Angolan		6 Mixed Race	MACH	Asian and Chinese	
1 White Race	WENG	White British - English		3 Black Race	BAOF	Other Black African		6 Mixed Race	MAOE	Asian and Any Other Ethnic Group	
1 White Race	WSCO	White British - Scottish		3 Black Race	BCON	Black - Congolese		6 Mixed Race	MBCH	Black and Chinese	
1 White Race	WSEL	White British - Welsh		3 Black Race	BCRB	Black Caribbean		6 Mixed Race	MBOE	Black and Any Other Ethnic Group	
1 White Race	WOWB	White British Other		3 Black Race	BEUR	Black European		6 Mixed Race	MCOE	Chinese and Any Other Ethnic Group	
1 White Race	WIRI	White - Irish		3 Black Race	BGHA	Black - Ghanaian		6 Mixed Race	MOTH	Any Other Mixed Background	
1 White Race	WIRT	White - Traveller of Irish Heritage		3 Black Race	BNAM	Black North American		6 Mixed Race	MOTM	Other Mixed Background	
1 White Race	WEEU	White Eastern European		3 Black Race	BNGN	Black - Nigerian		6 Mixed Race	MWAI	White and Indian	
1 White Race	WEUR	White European		3 Black Race	BOTB	Other Black		6 Mixed Race	MWAO	White and Any Other Asian Background	
1 White Race	WOTW	White Other		3 Black Race	BOTH	Any Other Black Background		6 Mixed Race	MWAP	White and Pakistani	
1 White Race	WWEU	White Western European		3 Black Race	BSLN	Black - Sierra Leonean		6 Mixed Race	MWAS	White and Asian	
				3 Black Race	BSOM	Black - Somali		6 Mixed Race	MWBA	White and Black African	
				3 Black Race	BSUD	Black - Sudanese		6 Mixed Race	MWBC	White and Black Caribbean	
		<b>IC2</b>	<b>W9 Other White</b> <b>Dark European</b>			<b>IC4</b>	<b>A1 Indian</b> <b>A2 Pakistani</b> <b>A3 Bangladeshi</b> <b>A9 Other Asian</b>			<b>IC7</b>	<b>NS Not Stated</b>
2 White Race	WALB	Albanian		4 Asian Race	AAFR	African Asian		6 Other Race	OAFG	Afghan	
2 White Race	WOTH	Any Other White Background		4 Asian Race	ABAN	Bangladeshi		6 Other Race	OARA	Arab Other	
2 White Race	WBOS	Bosnian- Herzegovinian		4 Asian Race	AIND	Indian		6 Other Race	OEGY	Egyptian	
2 White Race	WCRO	Croatian		4 Asian Race	AKAO	Kashmiri Other		6 Other Race	OFIL	Filipino	
2 White Race	WGRK	Greek		4 Asian Race	AKPA	Kashmiri Pakistani		6 Other Race	OIRN	Iranian	
2 White Race	WGRC	Greek Cypriot		4 Asian Race	AMPK	Mirpuri Pakistani		6 Other Race	OIRQ	Iraqi	
2 White Race	WGRE	Greek/ Greek Cypriot		4 Asian Race	ANEP	Nepali		6 Other Race	OJPN	Japanese	
2 White Race	WROM	Gypsy / Roma		4 Asian Race	AOPK	Other Pakistani		6 Other Race	OKOR	Korean	
2 White Race	WITA	Italian		4 Asian Race	AOTA	Other Asian		6 Other Race	OKRD	Kurdish	
2 White Race	WKOS	Kosovan		4 Asian Race	AOTH	Any Other Asian Background		6 Other Race	OLAM	Latin/ South/ Central American	
2 White Race	WPOR	Portuguese		4 Asian Race	APKN	Pakistani		6 Other Race	OLEB	Lebanese	
2 White Race	WSER	Serbian		4 Asian Race	ASLT	Sri Lankan Tamil		6 Other Race	OLIB	Libyan	
2 White Race	WTUK	Turkish		4 Asian Race	ASNL	Sri Lankan Sinhalese		6 Other Race	OMAL	Malay	
2 White Race	WTUC	Turkish Cypriot		4 Asian Race	ASRO	Sri Lankan Other		6 Other Race	OMRC	Moroccan	
2 White Race	WTUR	Turkish/ Turkish Cypriot						6 Other Race	OOEG	Other Ethnic Group	
						<b>IC5</b>	<b>O1 Chinese</b> <b>O9 Any Other Oriental</b>				
				5 Chinese Race	CHKC	Hong Kong Chinese		6 Other Race	OOTH	Any Other Ethnic Group	
				5 Chinese Race	CHNE	Chinese		6 Other Race	OPOL	Polynesian	
				5 Chinese Race	CMAL	Malaysian Chinese		6 Other Race	OTHA	Thai	
				5 Chinese Race	COCH	Other Chinese		6 Other Race	OVIE	Vietnamese	
				5 Chinese Race	CSNG	Singaporean Chinese		6 Other Race	OYEM	Yemeni	
				5 Chinese Race	CTWN	Taiwanese					