



Jesus: Why You Can Believe in Him

As Your Lord and Savior



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Introduction

We are living in perilous times. No other manuscript other than the Christian Bible gives us prophecies beforehand concerning events in our past that have been fulfilled exactly as given with 100 percent accuracy. None!

This age is quickly ending. All the [signs given](#) for the last days are converging together. Jesus Christ is returning to set up [His kingdom to rule and reign in righteousness](#). Judgment will be swift and impartial for those who have not followed Him as the Lord.

For those who follow Him, we will be part of His kingdom for all eternity. Those who choose to ignore Him will spend eternity with Satan and his demons.

That last sentence compelled me to share on my site [PassionatelyLovingJesus.com](#) a short series of posts where I shared excerpts from the books [The Case for Christ: A Journalist's Personal Investigation of Jesus](#) by Lee Strobel along with [Why Believe in Jesus?](#) By Tim LaHaye as well as many other sources.

Fulfilled prophecy is a **unique characteristic of the Bible**. There is no other book in the world that contains fulfilled prophecies. not one fulfilled prophecy in any of the sayings of Confucius or Buddha, the Koran, the Hindu Vedras, or the Book of Mormon.

Moreover, there are still prophecies left to be fulfilled.

J. Barton Payne's Encyclopedia of Biblical Prophecy lists 1,239 prophecies in the Old Testament and 578 prophecies in the New Testament, for a total of 1,817. These encompass 8,352 verses.

This booklet along with my site [PassionatelyLovingJesus.com](#) is my way of being a "*voice crying in the wilderness to make way for the Lord*" (Isaiah 40:3-8). I do this because, I passionately love Jesus Christ and I (we) need to be about our Father's business.

Jesus is our ONLY HOPE and the ONLY SOURCE of ETERNAL life. Therefore, I desire for all people to know that they can and must believe in, rely on, and have faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

You will see why you can believe in God's Son, [Jesus of Nazareth](#), the Messiah, King of kings, and Lord of lords.

You can find this complete series of posts on my site [PassionatelyLovingJesus.com](#) and many others where you will find encouragement and Hope through Jesus our Lord.

If you downloaded this booklet in its PDF form you can click on the many links for further articles, and other sources. Otherwise, I have included the links in the appendix at the end of the booklet.

Unless otherwise noted I used Scriptures from the Modern English Version (MEV) Bible.

Section One - Credibility

Chapter 1 - The Trustworthiness of the Bible

The Bible Alone IS THE Revealed Word of God.

The assumption that everyone believes the Bible is accurate in its claims, is not reality. Therefore, this chapter will show the [trustworthiness](#) of the Bible. Are you desiring to hear from God? Read His Revealed Word to you in the Bible.

Christianity believes and teaches that the Bible alone is the Revealed Word of God. Even though it was written by men, the ultimate author was God Almighty. This claim was not invented by the Church but is the claim the Bible makes for itself.

- “The word of the Lord endures forever” – [1 Peter 1:25](#)
- “All Scripture is God-breathed [given by divine inspiration]” – [2 Timothy 3:16](#) AMP
- “For no prophecy at any time was produced by the will of man, but holy men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.” – [2 Peter 1:21](#)

Josh McDowell states that there are over 2,000 similar clauses as those below in the Old Testament alone.

As a young man, [Josh McDowell](#) considered himself an agnostic. He once thought God and Jesus were fake and that Christianity was for ignorant people! He truly believed that Christianity was worthless. However, when challenged to intellectually examine the claims of Christianity, Josh discovered compelling, overwhelming evidence for the reliability of the Christian faith.

I decided to see for myself how many times the exact phrases below appeared in the Bible. Using [BlueLetterBible.org](#) in the NKJV it indicated:

- 146 occurrences of the phrase “The Lord (or God) spoke to...”
- 108 occurrences of the phrase “The word of the Lord (or God) came...”
- 280 occurrences of the phrase “The Lord (or God) said...”

Josh McDowell also goes on to say on his website:

“The mere fact that the Bible claims to be the Word of God does not prove that it is such, for there are other books that make similar claims. The difference is that the Scriptures contain convincing evidence as being the Word of God. One reason that the Bible is different from other books is its unity. Although this book was composed by men, its unity reveals the hand of the Almighty.”

Per Josh McDowell’s research:

- The Bible was written over a period of about 1,500 years by more than forty different human authors.
- These authors came from a variety of backgrounds, including:
 - Joshua (a military general) Daniel (a prime minister) Peter (a fisherman)
 - Nehemiah (a cupbearer)
- The authors of the various books wrote in different places, such as
 - the wilderness (Moses)
 - prison (Paul)
 - exile on the Isle of Patmos (John)

For more interesting facts read: [The Bible IS Trustworthy and Relevant to Us Today](#)

The Bible is One Unfolding Story

The contents of the Bible deal with many controversial subjects. Yet, the Bible is a unit. From beginning to end, there's one unfolding story of God's plan of salvation for mankind. This salvation is through the person of [Jesus Christ](#).

Jesus said:

"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." – [John 14:6](#)

Jesus also testified that He was the theme of the *entire* Bible.

"You search the Scriptures because you think in them you have eternal life. These are they who bear witness of Me." – [John 5:39](#)

"For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me, for he wrote of Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?" – [John 5:46-47](#)

"And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He [Jesus] explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures." – [Luke 24:27](#)

"He [Jesus] said to them, 'These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and in the Prophets and in the Psalms concerning Me.'" – [Luke 24:44](#)

SIDE NOTE: Throughout the New Testament we see many times that Jesus of Nazareth, was referred to as Jesus Christ. Some in our modern era may think that it was/is His last name. However, **the term Christ means Messiah**. Therefore, instead of referring to Jesus as *Jesus The Christ or Jesus the Messiah*, in its abbreviated form reads as *Jesus Christ*.

I love doing searches and I found using [BlueLetterBible.org](#), that the NKJV Bible references the term, Jesus Christ – 184 times, Christ Jesus – 69 times.

"Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is [an] antichrist who denies the Father and the Son." – [1 John 2:22](#)

"Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him." – [1 John 5:1](#)

The Bible is All About Jesus

- The Old Testament is the preparation ([Isaiah 40:3-5](#)).
- The Gospels are the manifestation ([John 1:29](#)).
- The Book of Acts is the propagation ([Acts 1:8](#)).
- The Epistles give the explanation ([Colossians 1:27](#)).
- The Book of Revelation is the consummation ([Revelation 1:7](#)).

The unity of the Bible is a strong argument in favor of its divine inspiration. The unity of the Scriptures is only one reason among many which supports the Bible's claim to be the divine Word of God. Others

which could be explained in detail are the testimony of the early church, the witness of history and archaeology, and the evidence of changed lives throughout the centuries, to name but a few.

These factors led the great archaeologist, [W. F. Albright](#), to conclude,

“The Bible towers in content above all earlier religious literature; and it towers just as impressively over all subsequent literature in the direct simplicity of its message and the catholicity of its appeal to men of all lands and times” (The Christian Century, November 1958).

A Closer Look at the New Testament

Many people today harbor the notion that the distinctively Christian Scriptures collected as the New Testament can hardly be trusted in what they teach.

Ironically, there has never been more evidence readily available that supports their reliability.

As [F. F. Bruce](#) says,

“The historical ‘once-for-all-ness’ of Christianity which distinguishes it from those religious and philosophical systems, which are not specially related to any particular time, makes the reliability of the writings which purport to record this revelation a question of first-rate importance” (The New Testament Documents: Are They Reliable? p. 8).

The [TheGospelCoalition.org](#) writes:

“The New Testament contains only one book with the genre or contents of the Acts of the Apostles. This is a theologically rich and artistically refined work of history. The number of characters and places in this selective account of key events in the first generation of church history that have been confirmed is staggering.

There are three different types of evidence that are to be used in evaluating the New Testament text.

- The Greek manuscripts.
- The various versions in which the New Testament is translated.
- The writings of the Church fathers.

Moreover:

- The New Testament was originally composed in the Greek language.
- The New Testament was written from about A.D. 50 to A.D. 90.
- There are approximately 5,500 copies in existence that contain ***all or part of*** the New Testament.
- Although we do not possess the originals, copies exist from a very early date.
 - The earliest fragment dates from about A.D. 120, with about fifty other fragments dating within 150–200 years from the time of composition.
 - Two major manuscripts, Codex Vaticanus (A.D. 325) and Codex Sinaiticus (A.D. 350), a complete copy, date within 250 years of the time of composition.

This may seem like a long time-span, but it is ***minimal*** compared to most ancient works.

- [Caesar's The Gallic Wars](#) earliest copy dates 1,000 years after it was written.
- The [Odyssey by Homer](#) first complete copy dates 2,200 years after it was written.
- [Aristotle](#) lived between 384 and 322 BC and the earliest copy of Aristotle's works still in existence was produced some 1400 years after he wrote the Egyptian originals.
- [Plato](#) lived from 427 to 347 BC and the oldest copies we have of his works date from at least 1100 years after the originals were produced.

Yet almost no one denies the authenticity of these authors writings.

When the interval between the writing of the New Testament and earliest copies is compared to other ancient works, the New Testament *proves to be much closer to the time of the original*.

Did You Know?

- The New Testament documents have more manuscript evidence.
- A close time interval between the writing and earliest copy.
- New Testament documents were also translated into several other languages at an early date.
 - Translation of a document into another language was rare in the ancient world, so this is an added plus for the New Testament.
- The number of copies of the versions is more than 18,000, with possibly as many as 25,000.
 - This is further evidence that helps us establish the New Testament text.
- The text of the New Testament could still be reproduced within 250 years from its composition.
 - This can be accomplished by the writings of the early Christians from commentaries, letters, etc., these ancient writers quote the biblical text, giving us another witness to the text of the New Testament.

[John Burgon](#) has catalogued more than *86,000 citations* by the early church fathers who cite different parts of the New Testament.

No Doubting, The Evidence is Overwhelming

F. F. Bruce makes the following observation:

“The evidence for our New Testament writings is ever so much greater than the evidence for many writings of classical authors, the authenticity of which no one dreams of questioning... And if the New Testament were a collection of secular writings, their authenticity would generally be regarded as beyond all doubt.” – ([The New Testament Documents: Are They Reliable?](#) p. 15)

Sir Frederic Kenyon, former director and principal librarian of the British Museum, was one of the foremost experts on ancient manuscripts and their authority. Shortly before his death, he wrote this concerning the New Testament:

“The interval between the dates of original composition (of the New Testament) and the earliest extant evidence becomes so small as to be in fact negligible, and the last foundation for any doubt that the Scriptures have come down to us substantially as they were written has now been removed. Both the authenticity and the general integrity of the books of the New Testament may be regarded as finally established.” – (*The Bible and Archaeology*, pp. 288-89)

In this chapter we have seen that there is so much more evidence for the reliability of the Biblical text than *any other comparable writings in the ancient world*.

Therefore, we can rely on the trustworthiness of the revealed Word of God and that Jesus Christ is the [soon returning Messiah](#) who will set up His [righteous kingdom](#) on this earth.

Are you ready for His return? Will you willingly acknowledge Him as Creator, Savior, and Lord before it becomes too late? Time is running out...

In our next chapter we will dive a bit deeper into the credibility of the gospels.

Chapter 2 - The Credibility of the Gospels

For more than 1600 years the deity of Jesus Christ was seldom questioned. Most people readily accepted the eyewitness accounts of His life contained in the gospels which made it clear that **Jesus was God in human flesh**. History records few voices that were raised to justify questioning the deity of Jesus Christ until about 400 years ago.

For millennia, most of mankind accepted that creation demands a Creator and that a world of infinite design demands a Designer. Yet [Descartes](#) and those who followed in his skeptical footsteps rejected the whole notion of God.

However, keep in mind that one basic principle of logic is that if you begin with a wrong premise, inevitably you will reach a faulty conclusion.

A Matter of Rebellion

Regarding the deity of Christ, once a person has rejected God, he must dismiss belief in the supernatural. This prejudice will force him to wear philosophical blinders, preventing a fair evaluation of any claim related to the deity of Jesus. A skeptic cannot admit the possibility that [Jesus is God](#).

Some people **just refuse to believe**, even when presented **with overwhelming facts**.

Others may have run out of answers, but still refuse to bend their knee to Jesus. In that case, their rejection of Christ and His resurrection is no longer a matter of reason and logic, it is one of **rebellion** against God.

Therefore, God highly exalted Him and gave Him the name, which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. – [Philippians 2:9-11](#) (emphasis mine.)

The Credibility of the Gospels

Many essential facts about Jesus come from the gospels, in a very real sense all of Christianity is based on the credibility of those four gospel accounts. However, never discount the [Old Testament references](#) to Jesus Christ. He is found [throughout the entire Word of God](#).

Modern skeptics, men who lived at least 1700 years after Jesus insist that long periods of time elapsed between the life of Jesus and the writing of the gospels. However, their claims are not based on truth as the following will show.

The Book of John

The most read and loved book in the world is the Bible. Moreover, among the most read and loved books in the New Testament is the gospel of John. (The writings of the apostle John are one of my favorite books to read.)

The gospel of John is customarily set apart from the others because he didn't intend to write an account of Jesus's life in chronological form. John's desire was to present the supernaturalness of Jesus in such a way that his readers would be led to faith.

He makes that clear in his classic comment near the end of the book:

“These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.” – [John 20:31](#)

John had long outlived the other apostles and had noticed a tendency for some people to think of Jesus’s deity in terms like that found in Greek mythologies. John wanted to make it clear to everyone that Jesus had come in the flesh. Moreover, Jesus of Nazareth was 100% human (albeit sinless) and 100% God.

John most likely read the synoptic gospels when they were first written, some 30 years before he wrote the gospel of John. He wanted his record to be unique, which may be why he presents several miracles and many of Jesus’s teachings that are not mentioned in the other gospels.

Moreover, this is probably why he presented Jesus as the Creator of all things.

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were created through Him, and without Him nothing was created that was created. In Him was life, and the life was the light of mankind. The light shines in darkness, but the darkness has not overcome it.” – [John 1:1-5](#)

In addition, John presents Jesus as the Judge, equal with God, the Resurrector, Rewarder, Redeemer, and Revealer.

Its message in accordance with its own stated purpose has been used throughout the centuries to win multitudes to saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and this is perhaps the crowning proof of its authenticity and divine inspiration.

An uncomfortable fact that confronts skeptics is that *more ancient manuscripts* attest to the reliability (and late 1st-century date) of John’s gospel than exist for any other literary work of antiquity. Many pieces of papery have been discovered that validate the Bible (and especially John) more than any other ancient document.

The Book of Matthew

Matthew was an eyewitness to the events of Jesus’s life.

His gospel was written primarily to the Jews because he continually emphasized the fulfillment by Jesus of Old Testament [prophecies](#) proving He was indeed the Messiah. Matthew tells us that he was a “publican” or tax collector who left everything to follow Jesus.

Dr. [Carsten Peter Thiede](#) a German scholar, released to the press his scientific evidence that dated that a fragment of the Matthew’s gospel was written as early as AD 30. In the book *Eyewitness to Jesus*, he, and British scholar [Matthew d’Ancona](#) state,

“It now appears that the finished gospel according to Saint Matthew was also circulating in codex form at that time [A.D. 30 to 60]. It could conceivably have been read and handled by an eyewitness true to the Crucifixion.”

Dr. Carsten Peter Thiede and Matthew d’Ancona *Eyewitness to Jesus* (New York: Doubleday, 1996), 163.

This means that Matthew stood the test of scrutiny by the only people qualified to judge it, not scholars 1900 years removed from the events, but by the very eyewitness to the events themselves.

No wonder the early church accepted the gospel accounts immediately and gave them status as “other scriptures,” placing them alongside the Old Testament in their worship services.

The Book of Mark

Mark traditionally considered the author of the second gospel was probably the first to compile a life of Christ for the ever-expanding early church.

Mark was not an apostle, but he knew both Peter and Paul well and traveled with them frequently. It is thought that Mark was especially attached to Peter and in fact, he was with the apostle in “Babylon” when Peter wrote his first epistle (see [1 Peter 5:13](#)).

Mark had heard both Peter and Paul preach many times and thoroughly knew the events of Jesus’s life. Moreover, because the disciples met in his mother’s home in Jerusalem, it is assumed that in his youth Mark had heard the Savior speak frequently.

The Book of Luke

Luke known as “the beloved physician” (see [Colossians 4:14](#)) and the author of the third gospel and the book of Acts was well-educated and gifted as a historical writer. Even those skeptics who malign the gospel records admit the quality of the literary style in Luke.

He was a Greek medical doctor who traveled extensively with the apostle Paul in spreading the gospel. It is thought that his book was written in AD 70. It is further thought that he read the gospel of Mark prior to writing, for he quotes 320 verses of Mark in the 1129 verses of his gospel.

As a Greek, Luke tended to write to the Greek mind, which gives his gospel a more universal appeal than Matthew. He emphasizes the humanity of Jesus more than the other writers.

Luke was not an eyewitness to the events he relates in his gospel, but ***he turns that deficit to an advantage by interviewing those who were there, producing a highly accurate and believable*** record.

No one person could have been privy to all the details found in Luke’s gospel, but by interviewing the witnesses, the doctor produced a compelling account of Jesus’s life, ministry, and death.

Because Luke refers to so many specific geographical locations in his writings, he made himself vulnerable to careful examination.

He listed 53 geographical locations, and, in every instance, archaeology has proven his findings accurate. His accuracy is so startling that several archaeologists such as [W. F. Albright](#), have seen their faith restored or have turned from infidelity to faith. An example of the latter is [Sir William Ramsey](#), one of the greatest classical archaeologists and geographers ever to have lived.

All the gospels are important. To gain a complete picture of [Jesus’s unique life](#) you must study all four. Each one emphasizes a different aspect of his character.

- Matthew, writing to the Jews presents Him as king.
- Mark presents Him as a servant.
- Luke presents Him as the perfect man.
- John presents Him as God in human flesh.

All four are accurate pictures of Jesus of Nazareth and help us to understand the Lord in all his uniqueness as we will see in chapter three.

No Ancient Book Comes Close

The truth is no ancient book has anywhere near the number of whole copies or parts of manuscripts that we possess of the New Testament. Josh McDowell writes,

“When I finished my research into biblical reliability and released [Evidence That Demands a Verdict](#) in 1973, I was able to document 14,000 manuscripts of the New Testament alone. In 1980 I reissued and updated Evidence because of the vast amount of new research material available. Now, I am able to document 24,633 manuscripts of the New Testament alone.

The significance of the number of manuscripts documenting the New Testament is even greater when one realizes that in all of history, the number two book in manuscript authority is the Iliad, by Homer. It has 643 surviving manuscripts.”

The great number of manuscripts authenticating the New Testament motivated [Sir Frederic George Kenyon](#) one of the leading authorities on the reliability of ancient manuscripts to write:

“The interval then between the dates of original composition and the earliest extant evidence becomes so small as to be in fact net negligible, and the last foundation for any doubt this the scriptures have come down to us substantially as they were written now has been removed. Both the authenticity and the general integrity of the books of the New Testament may be regarded as finally established.”

Quoted by Norman Geisler, General Introduction to the Bible, (Chicago: Moody Press, 1986), 405.

Jesus Guaranteed the Accuracy of His Record

No one needs to worry about the reliability of the gospel records or the accuracy of our Lord's messages. Jesus Christ took great care to ensure they would be infallible. It makes sense that if He was to go to such enormous lengths to save mankind, He would assure the accuracy of the narration of those events.

Moreover, that Christianity has existed for two millennia, all the while depending on the gospels to tell His story did not take Him by surprise. Therefore, we can read the gospels and other New Testament books with the confidence that we are reading pure reports of what Jesus of Nazareth did and said.

For that reason, we can base our eternal salvation and destiny on them. To know who [Jesus of Nazareth](#) really was, the best strategy is to read closely what the gospels and the rest of the Bible, Old and New Testaments have to say about Him.

In the next chapter we will see the uniqueness of Jesus of Nazareth above all men.

Chapter 3 - The Uniqueness of Jesus of Nazareth

Since we have now established the [credibility of the gospels](#), Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John and the [trustworthiness](#) of the whole Bible we will now look at the [uniqueness of Jesus of Nazareth](#) as revealed in the New Testament.

Jesus in His day was known as Jesus of Nazareth. For most of His adult life, He worked as a Carpenter. However, He was so extraordinary in the way He lived and the influence He exerted on humanity that the word extraordinary doesn't begin to describe Him.

No one else has contributed more to world history than Jesus.



At least 107 billion people have come and gone on this planet according to an article from [Live Science published February 07, 2012](#). However, almost 2000 years after the death of Jesus no one has come close to replicating His unique place in history.

No one comes close to equaling Jesus Christ and His influence on mankind. Consider the following 11 areas that display the uniqueness of Jesus of Nazareth.

Areas that Display the Uniqueness of Jesus

We see that Jesus was unique in His:

1. Life and Teachings

Jesus Christ is the most discussed, debated, and scrutinized person who ever lived. He has more defenders and opponents than any other single figure.

There are literally thousands of academicians with the highest of degrees who willingly confessed Him as Lord. There are also thousands of others who would, if they could, destroy His credibility.

2. Moral Influence

Jesus of Nazareth is unparalleled as a moral influence. His life and teachings remain unsurpassed in their ability to guide cultures, tribes, and peoples out of moral confusion.

3. An Artistic Influence

Jesus inspired more of the world's great art and music than any other person. He is the object of more books, music, and literature than any other individual. The Library of Congress considered the most complete repository of books in the world, catalogs more works about Jesus than any other person.

4. Humanitarian Influence

More hospitals, orphanages, rest homes, and rescue missions have been dedicated to Him than to all other religious leaders combined. More people helping efforts have been founded, financed, and perpetrated by His followers than all others.

5. His Ability to Inspire Devotion.

Although Jesus never raised an army during His 3 1/2 years of ministry, multiplied millions of His followers have scattered to the uttermost parts of the earth to carry His message, not for money, lands, or earthly reward, but out of pure devotion to Him.

6. Scholastic Influence

His teachings and followers have contributed to more literacy and educational institutions of all levels, from kindergarten to graduate school than all others combined.

In America alone, 128 colleges were established in the first 100 years of the nation's history. All are founded by a church, denomination, or religious group. Harvard, Princeton, and Yale were created to prepare ministers, missionaries, and Christian leaders.

Before the gospel ever came to America, it was the followers of Jesus Christ who brought education to the children of ordinary citizens. The great reformers Martin Luther and John Calvin saw education as a means of teaching the Bible to whole generations who for the first time could read the scriptures in their mother tongues. The pilgrims and Puritans furthered that pattern in the new world.

By contrast, the secular cultures of the world have done little to bring literacy to the thousands of tribes and indigenous peoples who once lacked a written language. Yet the followers of Jesus have [translated the Bible into countless tongues](#) and have taught millions to read.

7. Impact on Women

No one has done as much to raise the status of womanhood and motherhood as Jesus Christ.

Before Jesus came into the world women were considered only one step above animals. Many were traded for cattle, and few enjoyed personal rights before the law, or the marriage altar.

Where the message of Christ has permeated, women have been ennobled and respected as human beings made in the image of God.

The followers of Christ led the women's suffrage movement throughout Europe, England, and America. Secular women in the West may not understand the debt they owe to Jesus Christ and His teachings, but they have the Nazarene and His followers to thank for the exalted status they enjoy today.

8. Freedom and Justice

No one has more deeply promoted personal freedom and justice before the law than Jesus and His followers, armed with His standard of law.

English and American law, once considered the model throughout the world, was made possible primarily through John Locke, William Gladstone, William Wilberforce, William Blackstone (of England) James Witherspoon, John Adams, James Madison, and John Marshall (of America).

All were committed followers of Christ who knew and applied His principles and teachings to the preservation of individual rights and freedom under the law. All these influential men freely admitted they owed their greatness to Him.

The climax of this commitment to individual freedom came in the United States Declaration of Independence, in which the words "all men are created equal" became the cornerstone of the freest nation in world history. America was founded to preserve religious freedom: "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" for everyone.

No matter what fear of wholesome human activity you consider, Jesus Christ's influence on Western civilization looms larger than anyone else. History shows that wherever the story of His life and message

has been taken, lives have been transformed, resulting in tremendous gains in education, law, society, and culture.

9. Personal life

Jesus's holy life also sets Him apart from anyone else. Moreover, even His enemies could not find any fault in Him. In all human history, only one man who claimed to be perfect has ever been taken seriously by both His friends and His enemies.

Jesus never had to apologize or ask for forgiveness. He is unique in that He never sinned.

The magnificent teachings of this humble Carpenter from Galilee also lift Jesus into a category by Himself.

Most Western historians, philosophers, and many from other traditions acknowledge Him as the greatest teacher who ever lived. Almost all historians agree that this world would be a far better place if everyone followed the teachings of the Nazarene.

10. The Miracles of Jesus

His ability to relieve every malady and cure every infirmity shows He had the power of God within Him like no one else.

Most importantly, He gave Himself sacrificially for the sins of the world, then performed the greatest of all miracles: **He rose from the dead**. That event commemorated each year as one of the two most sacred dates on the Christian calendar sets Him apart as the most extraordinary person who ever lived.

11. Effect on People

The power of Jesus is unique and unparalleled. No one has ever had such a positive influence on more people. Those who come to know Him want to live righteously.

The Influencer of Influencers

The single fact that Jesus of Nazareth has influenced this world more than anyone who ever lived should be sufficient to establish His unique place in human history. However, when you factor in the many other unique features of His life, we are struck with an incredibly difficult dilemma.

How do you explain this on a purely human level, particularly when He made His entire life contribution in only 3 1/2 years?

When one man stands on such a lofty pedestal, far above all others in human history, surely there must be some reason, what was it? Could it be because of His...

- Parentage?
 - His mother was a simple Jewish maiden, and His father was a humble village carpenter.
- Material possessions?
 - He had no money, not even a place “to lay His head.” – [Matthew 8:20](#)
 - He was tried before legal officials in a borrowed robe and buried in a borrowed tomb.
- Education?
 - There is no record that He attended school, yet at age 12, He confounded the “doctors of theology” by “*sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.*” – [Luke 2:41-52](#)
- World travels?

- Apart from a brief trip to Egypt when He was an infant, He never journeyed more than 100 miles from where He was reared.
- It was not because He lived and ministered in an influential country. He spent His entire life in the obscure little land of Israel.
- He was reared in a city that prompted the question, “*Can anything good come out of Nazareth?*” – [John 1:46](#)
- Influential friends?
 - His followers were mostly fishermen, tax collectors, and other ordinary men and women.
 - Religious leaders and the political elite repeatedly tried to kill Him and finally crucified Him.
- Long and successful life and ministry?
 - He was only 33 when He sacrificed His life for others.
 - His ministry was only 3 1/2 years.
 - By human standards, He died an ignominious failure on a roughhewn cross.
 - It was not because He established so many organizations to perpetrate His memory.
 - He founded only one, His church, and that was not begun until after His death.

What Accounts for the Unique Status of Jesus?

So, what accounts for the unique status of Jesus Christ? How did this man influence more lives and affect human history more deeply than all others? In all history, no one even comes close. And yet He did all this in only 3 1/2 years! All honest doubters must answer the question, “How did He manage it?”

As Jesus Christ walks through the pages of human history, He is lifted into a category all by Himself.

Unbelievers cannot ignore Him, so great have been His incredible contributions to humanity; neither can they explain His existence without acknowledging His deity.

There is no mere human explanation why a simple though brilliant man, a man who should have been forgotten long ago by the entire world, would still be the most loved and respected person who ever lived, 2000 years after His death.

- Human explanations alone cannot account for the astonishing grip He still holds over this planet.
- Assigning humanity alone to Jesus is not good enough. Only one fact explains the uniqueness of Jesus Christ.
- To accomplish what He did in both His life and teachings requires both God and man, working together in one person.

That person is Jesus of Nazareth.

*Jesus truly was the divine Son of God
who came in human flesh, just as He claimed.*

Chapter 4 - Jesus of Nazareth Declares Clearly: He Is God!

Almost everyone who has heard of Jesus has an opinion about Him. This is to be expected for He is not only the most famous person in world history but also the most controversial. Most of the popular views about Him can be reduced to two:

Either He was God in human flesh, or He was merely a good man.

Both cannot be right.

If He was not God but claimed to be, then He was not good; rather He was either deranged or utterly evil.

Because of Jesus's upright character and charitable deeds, hardly anyone considers Him in a negative light. Even those who bristle at His name.

[Hegel](#), [Voltaire](#), [Stalin](#), [Mao Zedong](#), and [Marx](#) to name a few were unable to ignore Him. Some were even respectful of Him. Yet they knew His teaching and their own could not coexist, so they spared no effort in a futile attempt to stamp out His influence. It boils down to this:

If Jesus was God in human flesh, then He should be worshipped.

If He is not, He should be forgotten and labeled an impostor or lunatic.

A Prejudicial View = Erroneous Conclusion

Over the past 2000 years, billions of people have indeed worshipped Jesus. Billions of others have never heard of Him or have not gained access to the evidence of who He is.

Many in this latter group have formulated their erroneous conclusion opinions about Him based on the claims of others. This is dangerous, for a prejudicial view can lead to an erroneous conclusion.

Who is Jesus?

Most Jews have rejected Him as their Messiah. However, they cannot and do not deny His existence in history. Many of them today concede that He is the greatest Hebrew since the close of the Old Testament.

Even those who do not accept Jesus' claim to be God admit that He left an indelible impact on humanity.

According to the Bible, the eternal plan of God for man is the most crucial decision facing every individual. "Who is Jesus?" is the most important question any person can ever answer. It determines where you will spend eternity when you take your last breath.

By the way, do not be misled by those who state Jesus never said He was God. You will see for yourself as we look at statements of Jesus contained in the fifth chapter of John; ***He does declare clearly*** that He is God!

Jesus Was Not Confused

The human beginnings of Jesus can be traced to the humble carpentry shop in the obscure village of Nazareth. Yet despite His little lowly stature, at **no time was He confused** about **His person or purpose**.

Almost immediately upon beginning His public ministry, He began to teach and demonstrate that He was more than human, that in fact, He was God come in the flesh. When His enemies recognized the significance of His claims, they took up stones to kill Him (see [John 8:59](#) and [John 10:31](#)).

Jesus knew exactly who He was: the divine Son of God, the second person of the Trinity.

The Samaritan Woman Encounter

Those who claim Jesus was confused about His identity must never have read the gospel records. There is no doubt **Jesus knew He was the Messiah**; the reported encounter in [John chapter 4:1-42](#) between Jesus and the Samaritan woman proves this.

Notice what the Samaritan woman said,

“I know that Messiah is coming (who is called Christ). When He comes, He will tell us all things.” – [John 4:25](#)

Jesus’ response: *“**I who speak to you am He.**”* – [John 4:26](#)

The importance of this conversation cannot be overemphasized for it proves that even lay people (those who were not Jewish leaders) in that day knew about the coming Messiah.

Jesus’ statement is a clear and forthright admission by Himself that He was the Messiah for whom the people were looking.

This text makes it clear Jesus was not confused about who He was. Moreover, this also makes it clear, those who say He never claimed to be God **are in grave error!**

Six Specific Claims Found in John Chapter 5

The 5th chapter of John contains some of the clearest of Jesus’ claims to be found anywhere in the New Testament. However, they are not the only ones in the Gospels.

John an eyewitness to the events of Jesus’ life, on a single day, heard Jesus proclaim these six characteristics of His deity. Taken together, they prove He believed He was more than a man, and that in fact, **He was God in human flesh.**

These following six assertions of deity were delivered to a hostile audience of Jewish leaders who objected when on the Sabbath Jesus healed an invalid. Jesus was in Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, which all Israelite men were required to observe annually. While there, He visited the pool of Bethesda where:

“In these lay a great crowd of invalids, blind, lame, and paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water” – [John 5:3](#)

You can read the account of the healing in [John 5:1-15](#).

The teaching that followed this event was precipitated by the Jew’s ardent commitment to Sabbath keeping, In response to the 4th commandment. *“Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy”* ([Exodus 20:8](#)).

They were so upset by this miracle being performed on the Sabbath day that some wanted to kill Jesus, even though that would have been a violation of the 6th commandment. *“You shall not murder”* ([Exodus 20:13](#)).

To them He had committed the unpardonable sin: He had made Himself “equal with God.” Jesus justified His actions by making the following six classic assertions of His deity.

Jesus Declares Clearly:

1. To Be God in the Flesh

*“Jesus answered them, **“My Father is working still, and I am working.”** So the Jews sought even more to kill Him because He not only had broken the Sabbath but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.”* – [John 5:17-18](#)

2. Power to Raise the Dead

*“For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom He will...**“Do not marvel at this. For the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come out—those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.”*** – [John 5:21, 28-29](#)

Other than the Sadducees the Jews of Jesus’ day believed that only God could raise the dead. However, in the passage above Jesus claimed that ***He will be the one to raise the dead.***

There are four illustrations in scripture of others used by God to raise the dead. However, in each instance, these men did not proclaim that they raised the dead in their own power. *They made it clear it was God who was using them to accomplish the miracle.* They were:

1. Elijah
2. Elisha
3. Paul
4. Peter

Jesus raised the dead in His own power and is the only one who raised a man who had been dead for four days. Jesus not only raised three people but claimed He would raise both the righteous and the unrighteous on judgment day. His audience was thoroughly familiar with Daniel’s prediction that there were two resurrections coming *“Some to everlasting life, but others to shame and everlasting contempt”* – [Daniel 12:2](#)

Such a claim could only be made by God or a mentally deranged person and since Jesus’ life teachings and ministry show no signs that He was mentally deranged we are left to conclude that: **Jesus was the unique Son of God in human flesh.**

3. To Be the Future Judge of ALL Men

“The Father judges no one but has committed all judgment to the Son.” – [John 5:22](#)

Jesus of Nazareth considered Himself divine and openly taught that one day, **ALL** human beings will appear before Him for judgment. Jesus clearly taught that a final judgment is coming, and we know from the scriptures that the verdicts will last for eternity.

Anyone who believes that God will overlook his sinful ways and his rejection of Christ is basing his beliefs on something other than the Bible, for scripture makes it clear:

- *“**I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.**”* – [John 14:6](#)
- *“There is no salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”* – [Acts 4:12](#)
- *“How much more severe a punishment do you suppose he deserves, who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has regarded the blood of the covenant that sanctified him to be a common thing, and has insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know Him who said, “Vengeance is Mine,” says the Lord, “I will repay.” And again, He says, “The Lord will judge His people.” It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”* – [Hebrews 10:29-31](#)

4. Equal Honor With God

“All men should honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.” – [John 5:23](#)

With Jesus’ statement in the above verse, He was making another claim that denies He possessed a merely human nature. Proof that the Jews considered His statement gross blasphemy is seen in their subsequent attempt to kill him.

Honor and worship of God were a centuries-old part of the Jewish faith. They so revered God they would not even say His name aloud. Yet here was Jesus, plainly affirming that His equality with God earned Him the same honor given to God.

5. *Authority to Dispense Eternal Life*

“Truly, truly I say to you, whoever hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has eternal life and shall not come into condemnation but has passed from death into life.” – [John 5:24](#)

A universal desire stamped indelibly on the human heart is the wish to live forever. Only thoroughly indoctrinated secularists can say, “When you’re dead, you’re dead” with any sense of confidence.

All other religions of the world *are inadequate* when addressing how people can be assured of gaining access to eternal bliss and living forever. Invariably they prescribe a system of good works or self-effort to attain eternal life.

This is *not so in Christianity*. The key here is to believe that Jesus was sent by God and can give life to those who believe in Him (*that is, put their faith in Him and follow Him as the Lord He is*). Jesus claimed to be the proper object of faith and the dispenser of salvation.

This, of course, is nonsense if Jesus were only a man. But if Jesus is God, as He claimed, then, of course, He has the capacity to bestow eternal life. Jesus pointedly said He had the authority to impart eternal salvation. That’s what God does!

6. *To Be the Source of Life*

“For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has given to the Son to have life in Himself, and has given Him authority to execute judgment also because He is the Son of Man.” – [John 5:26-27](#)

Jesus boldly claimed He shared the divine nature of God and that He was the source of life.

The Jews had an expression for that divine trait, which was used by God Himself when He spoke to Moses at the burning bush. When the people asked Moses, “What is His name?” he was instructed to say, “*I AM has sent me to you.*” – [Exodus 3:13-14](#)

That was and is the ultimate name for an expression of God. It means that God is “the uncaused cause of all things.” For Jesus to claim that he possessed “*life in himself*,” even as did the Father was tantamount to equating Himself with “I AM,” the uncaused cause of all things.

Therefore, it is no surprise when Jesus stated in [John 8:58](#), “*That before Abraham was, I AM.*”

Throughout His ministry, Jesus elaborated on that title.

Jesus, God in Human Flesh

After reading this list of six claims we cannot evade the conclusion that Jesus was never content to think of Himself as a mere human being. *He knew that He was the Son of God* and that *all power and authority resided in Him*. That is why, in the great commission given after His resurrection...

“Then Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.’” – [Matthew 28:18](#)

This shows quite clearly that within weeks of leaving His humble carpenter shack in Nazareth, Jesus unwaveringly proclaimed who He was: God in human flesh.

The claims examined above prove clearly that Jesus thought of Himself as God in human flesh. Jesus never recanted any of those claims. He declared these statements in public so others could reach that same conclusion. Those who accepted His words became ardent followers; Others however rejected them and went on their own way.

People today respond the same way. Many after encountering Jesus accept Him for who He is and follow Him. Others choose to reject Him to their own eternal peril. Our loving God gives us the freedom to choose for ourselves.

Jesus Christ is the [soon-returning](#) Messiah who will set up [His righteous kingdom on this earth](#). Are you ready for His return? Will you willingly acknowledge Him as Creator, Savior, and Lord before it becomes too late? Time is running out...[Begin your relationship with Jesus Christ the King of kings, and Lord of lords today!](#)

Section Two: Eyewitness Testimonies

Overview

Witnesses are essential in establishing any claim to fact. When a news station wants to report a fantastic event, it interviews eyewitnesses. We accept the reports of credible witnesses, especially when there are several of them who agree. The same principle guides our legal system. When credible witnesses testify to an event, we are morally bound to accept what they say as accurate.

The quality of a witness in court is often as important as the testimony itself. If an attorney can impugn the witness's character, he will destroy the effectiveness of what the witness has to say. Eyewitness testimony can be compelling and convincing when:

- A witness has had ample opportunity to observe certain behaviors.
- There are no biases or ulterior motives.
- The witness is truthful and fair.

When it comes to investigating historical matters, eyewitness testimony is just as crucial, whether it's Alexander the Great or Jesus of Nazareth's claim to be the Unique Son of God. In this section, we will call to the following ten witnesses to testify:

- [John the Baptist](#)
- [John the Apostle](#)
- [Peter the Apostle](#)
- [Paul the Apostle](#)
- [Gabriel](#)
- [Angelic Birth announcement](#)
- [Shepherds watching over their flock](#)
- [Simeon and Anna](#)
- [The Greatest Witness of all](#)

Chapter 5 - The Eyewitness Testimony of John the Baptist

Jesus Christ could not have chosen a better first witness to validate his claims of personal deity than John the Baptist. On one occasion Jesus himself said of John, “*Among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist*” ([Matthew 11:11](#)). Since all Jews revered the prophets as the most holy of men, this would make John the most impeccable eyewitness to Jesus’s identity.

John was the first prophet called by God since Malachi some 400 years before his birth. Moreover, the mission that God had for John was revealed to Isaiah, an earlier prophet over 700 years ago!

You can read the prophecy in [Isaiah 40:3-5](#). This passage illustrates God’s master plan in action as God selected John to be His special ambassador to proclaim His own coming.

The apostle John said of John “the Baptist”, “*There was a man sent from God whose name was John. This man came as a witness in order to testify concerning the Light, that all men through Him might believe. He was not this Light but was sent in order to testify concerning the Light.*” – [John 1:6-8](#)

It is now time to call our first eyewitness of Jesus to the witness stand.

John the Baptist Sets the Record Straight

Let me begin by setting the record straight. When people asked if I was the Christ or Messiah I answered clearly: “*I baptize with water, but One stands among you, whom you do not know. This is He who comes after me, who is preferred before me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.*” – [John 1:26-27](#)

I also told the crowds that followed me that I was testifying that Jesus was the God (or Lord) of the Old Testament. The prophet Isaiah said of me, “*I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord’*” – [John 1:23](#). This is what I was born to do. The purpose God had for my life.

I clearly remember the day when “*Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by me,*” I tried to talk Him out of it and I told Him “*I need to be baptized by You,*” Nevertheless, I did as He asked even though He was sinless. – [Matthew 3:13-14](#)

Jesus is THE Son of God

This is how God had instructed me to identify the Messiah. At that time, I did not know that my cousin Jesus was the Son of God. I knew He was a unique individual and I wondered in my heart until He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, “*The One on whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit. I have seen and have borne witness that He is the Son of God.*” – [John 1:32-34](#)

Sure enough, after I baptized Jesus and “*I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove,*” and it remained on Him, I had my confirmation.

The next time I saw the approach of Jesus, I cried out saying, to those around me... “*This is He of whom I said, ‘After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me’*” – [John 1:30](#). I wanted all to know that Jesus existed prior to my own conception.

I identified Jesus as the lamb God. After all, I was schooled in the writings of the Old Testament prophets and knew well the requirements of the special sacrifice for sin, a perfect pure white lamb without blemish and without spot. So, when I saw Jesus coming toward me the next day I said “*Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.*” – [John 1:29](#)

A Moment of Doubt

While in prison I wondered if I was wrong about Jesus. I had heard what Jesus was doing. So, I sent my disciples to Jesus and asked, “*Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?*”

Jesus replied to them, “*Go and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receives their sight, the lame walk, those with leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor are told the good news, and blessed is the one who isn’t offended by me.*” – [Matthew 11:4-6](#)

After hearing His words of encouragement and assessing all I knew about my cousin, Jesus of Nazareth:

- his birth to a virgin,
- his sinless life as a child, teenager, and adult,
- the prophecies of the coming Messiah that Jesus fulfilled,
- and most of all seeing the Holy Spirit descend on Him like a dove and remain on Him,

I knew beyond a shadow of a doubt that Jesus was sinless and therefore qualified to be the Lamb of God, the sacrifice of God for the sins of the whole world.

I, John “the Baptist” declare:

“*I have seen and have borne witness that **He is THE Son of God.***” – [John 1:34](#)

With this testimony alone, there can be no doubt who Jesus of Nazareth is. Jesus Himself, the soon-returning King states:

“*I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End,*” says the Lord, “*who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.*” – [Revelation 1:8](#)

“*Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with Me to give to each one according to his work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning, and the End, the First and the Last.*” – [Revelation 22:12-13](#)

Chapter 6 - The Eyewitness Testimony of the Apostle John

It is generally accepted that John was the disciple closest to Jesus personally. He refers to himself as “*the disciple whom Jesus loved*” with good reason. Apparently, he was a young man during the ministry of the Lord, and he outlived all the other disciples.

As such he was the last living apostolic eyewitness of the resurrection of Christ. He was a close associate of Peter in the early days of the church, usually deferring to his elder’s leadership.

John’s most distinguishing ministry came as the chief elder at the Church of Ephesus as well as through the enormous contribution he made to Christianity through the five books he wrote. All five books were accepted by the church as soon as they were completed.

John insisted that what he wrote was based on his personal contact with Jesus. He was part of Jesus’ “inner circle” and John witnessed:

- The raising of Jairus’ daughter – [Luke 8:51](#)
- The Transfiguration of Jesus – [Mark 9:2](#)
- John was with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane the night He was betrayed. – [Matt 26:37](#)
- It was John who, reclining close to Jesus, first learned the identity of the betrayer. – [John 13:21-26](#)
- John is mentioned as the first to recognize the significance of the empty tomb. – [John 20:1-8](#)

There could be no better witness than one who had traveled with Jesus, lived with, eaten with Him, and even touched Him.

The Purpose of the Gospel of John

John made no attempt to write a chronological history of Jesus’s life in ministry as did the other writers. He had a much different purpose in mind when he wrote.

John insisted that what he wrote was based on his personal contact with Jesus.

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have touched, concerning the Word of life... – [1 John 1:1](#)

That is why both the gospel of John and 2 John make it clear that Jesus had indeed “*come in the flesh*.”

“The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, the glory as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.” – [John 1:14](#)

“For many deceivers, who do not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Each one is a deceiver and an antichrist.” – [2 John 1:7](#)

Therefore, the purpose behind the writing of the gospel of John seems to have been to leave the church with an authoritative eyewitness depiction of Jesus’s life that not only testifies He came “*in the flesh*” but demonstrated through signs, wonders, and healing miracles that He was “*the Son of God*.”

For that reason, John did not intend to write another biography of Jesus’ life. Instead, we find in John among other things incredible miracles that could be accomplished only through divine power.

10 Incredible Miracles

1. Turned the water in six large pots into delicious wine – [John 2:1-12](#)

2. Healed A nobleman son from a distance – [John 4:46-54](#)
3. Healed a man who had been suffering for 38 years with a horrible affliction – [John 5:1-15](#)
4. Fed 5000 men with only two loaves of bread and five fish – [John 6:1-14](#)
5. Walked on water – [John 6:15-21](#)
6. Healed a blind man in Jerusalem – [John 9:1-38](#)
7. Raised Lazarus from the dead – [John 11:1-45](#)
8. Rose bodily from the dead after three days – [John chapters 20-21](#)
9. Appeared five times to individuals or groups after his resurrection – [John chapters 20-21](#)
10. Directed the disciples to a miraculous catch of fish requiring two boats to pull it in after they had spent a whole night catching nothing – [John 21:1-12](#)

The Last Teachings of Jesus

Because John wrote his gospel after the other three instead of repeating their record of Jesus' teachings his gospel is a treasure trove of teachings not found in the other three gospels.

[John chapters 14-17](#) are of utmost significance. They are a record of the very last teachings of Jesus just before His crucifixion and resurrection. These significant teachings discuss:

- Jesus, the Way, the Truth, and the Life to the Father
- The Father Revealed
- Answered Prayer
- The Promise of the Holy Spirit
- Indwelling of the Father and the Son
- The Gift of His Peace
- Jesus the True Vine
- Jesus Chose Us
- The World's Hatred of Believers
- The Work of the Holy Spirit
- Jesus Christ has Overcome the World
- The Prayer of Jesus for:
 - Himself
 - His Disciples
 - Future Believers (you and me!)

John also dedicated two whole chapters after the crucifixion to the fact of the empty tomb and to the post-resurrection appearances of Jesus Christ. He knew the resurrection to be fact and wanted to leave a record of it in ink so that all the world would know that the last living Apostolic eyewitness regarded it to be a fact.

John's heartbeat was that others would come to believe as he did. That's why he openly revealed his purpose in writing the gospel of John.

"Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name." – [John 20:30-31](#)

Do You Believe?

When John was exiled to the Isle of Patmos in the Aegean Sea, the Lord Jesus appeared to him in radiant glory, as recorded in Revelation Chapter 1. No longer did Christ appear as John once saw Him. He saw Jesus Christ as He truly was/IS/and WILL BE.

See for yourself [in Revelation 1:12-18](#)

Do you now believe? [Do you have a relationship with the King of kings, Jesus Christ?](#) He is our only hope of eternal life.

Jesus is not one of many ways to approach God,
nor is He the best of several ways;
He is the only way.
– A. W. Tozer

Chapter 7 - Eyewitness Testimony of the Apostle Peter

As far as the records are concerned, the apostle Peter spoke more than all the other 11 disciples put together. He was part of the inner circle along with James and John and was with Jesus at all the major events of His life including His death and post-resurrection appearances.

Peter's testimony would stand up in any court of our day. He was a man of integrity. Moreover, he was the leader and spokesman of the early church and one of the most influential of all the disciples.

The influence of the apostle Paul was yet all but not existent in those early years. It was left to Peter to be the leader and the human driving force for the early church. Consequently, his testimony about Jesus of Nazareth is of paramount importance. We will begin by looking at a few of his statements recorded in the book of Mark.

Peters' Testimony in the Book of Mark

- **Jesus' Identity** – [Mark 8:29](#)
 - He [Jesus] said to them, *"But who do you say that I am?"* Peter answered Him, *"You are the Christ."*
- **Death and resurrection** – [Mark 8:31-33](#)
 - He [Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things... and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said this openly. And Peter took Him and began to rebuke Him. But when He had turned around and looked at His disciples, He rebuked Peter, saying, *"Get behind Me, Satan! For you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."*
- **Jesus' ability to predict personal behavior** – [Mark 14:29-31](#), [Mark 14:72](#)
 - "Peter said to Him, *"Even if all fall away, I will not."* Jesus said to him, *"Truly, I say to you that this day, during the night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times."* But he [Peter] said more vehemently, *"If I must die with You, I will not deny You."* They all said the same thing... "And the rooster crowed a second time. And Peter called to mind the word that Jesus said to him, *"Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times."* And when he thought on this, he wept.

This is an interesting testimony of Peter because it highlights the Lord's supernatural abilities at the expense of Peter's personal record.

Peters' Testimony in the Book of Acts

In the first sermon preached by Peter on the day of Pentecost note the references to the following events in the life of Jesus of Nazareth. Keep in mind that all the references to Jesus came from Peter spontaneously. Peter did not plan out ahead of time what he was going to say. You can read his first sermon in [Acts 2:14-40](#).

Throughout the book of Acts, Peter gives strong testimony to the identity, mission, and actions of Jesus Christ. In the following texts, Peter makes it clear his convictions about who Jesus is.

- [Acts 3:13](#) – *"The God of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified His Son Jesus."*
- [Acts 3:26](#) – *God, having raised up His Son Jesus, sent Him to you first, to bless you in turning every one of you from your iniquities."*
- [Acts 4:33](#) – *"With great power, the apostles testified to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was on them all."*

Read the [testimony of Peter to Cornelius](#) found in Acts chapter 10.

Peters' Testimony in His Epistles

A man's writings are usually an even more deliberate reflection of what he believes than any of his spontaneously delivered public speeches. Therefore, with that in mind let's review statements from the two books that bear Peter's name to see what he believed about Jesus, 30 or more years after the resurrection.

Here are just a few statements of Peter concerning Jesus.

- *"Followers of Jesus have a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."* – [1 Peter 1:3](#)
- *"Jesus Christ will return to earth."* – [1 Peter 1:7](#)
- *"Jesus was foreordained before the creation of the world but was revealed in these last times for you."* – [1 Peter 1:20](#)
- *"Christ suffered for us."* – [1 Peter 2:21](#)
- *"He committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth."* – [1 Peter 2:22](#)
- *"Christ suffered for sins, the just for the unjust so that He might bring us to God."* – [1 Peter 3:18](#)
- *"Christ has suffered for us in the flesh."* – [1 Peter 4:1](#)
- *"God of all grace, has called us to His eternal glory through Christ Jesus."* – [1 Peter 5:10](#)

Peter's second epistle was written near the end of his life. He knew his time on earth was growing short. ([2 Peter 1:14](#)) If ever there was an opportunity to recant his beliefs and save his life, it was now. However, we see in the following his convictions remained as firm as ever about the identity of Jesus of Nazareth.

- *"Make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never stumble. For in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly provided for you."* – [2 Peter 1:10-11](#)
- *"We have not followed cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty."* – [2 Peter 1:16](#)
- *"Jesus' divine power has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness through the knowledge of Him who has called us by His own glory and excellence."* – [2 Peter 1:3](#)
- *"The Lord is not slow concerning His promise, as some count slowness. But He is patient with us, because He does not want any to perish, but all to come to repentance."* – [2 Peter 3:9](#)

There is no hint of waffling in Peter's testimony even though he confesses that he knew his death as a martyr was imminent. From Pentecost on, Peter never wavered in his convictions.

Chapter 8 - The Eyewitness Testimony of Paul

The book of Acts gives us a historical look at Paul's life and times. The apostle Paul spent his life proclaiming the risen Christ Jesus throughout the Roman world, often at great personal peril ([2 Corinthians 11:24–27](#)).

The testimony of the Apostle Paul adds further evidence to the trustworthiness of the gospel's picture of Jesus. Paul confirmed the gospel's testimony of Jesus creating the universe and His total obedience to the Jewish law without ever committing a sin. Paul also confirmed Jesus was betrayed, crucified, and had risen from the dead on the third day.

Although he was not an eyewitness of the life of Jesus Christ, his testimony is important because he was a contemporary of Jesus. Paul wrote within thirty years of the events recorded in the New Testament. He also challenged his readers to investigate the truth for themselves. Therefore, he is a helpful witness in confirming the reliability of the account of Jesus as found in the gospels.

An Impossible Problem for the Skeptic

The dramatic conversion of the apostle Paul offers an impossible problem for the skeptic determined to destroy Christianity. How can the transformation of this brilliant scholar, a member of the Sanhedrin, a pharisee of the Pharisees be explained away? Moreover, Paul was the man who persecuted the early church and who wholeheartedly consented to the death of Steven the first martyr.

However, Paul himself became converted in a miraculous way, resulting in a complete change of lifestyle and message. Moreover, Paul becomes an outstanding spokesman for the Church that he once persecuted.

No credible scholar, including most critics, denies the life and astonishing turnaround of this apostle. Without a supernatural, resurrected Jesus, there is no adequate explanation for Paul's radically reoriented life.

Who Was Paul (Saul)?

- Saul, “who is also called Paul” ([Acts 13:9](#)), was a Jew of the tribe of Benjamin. – [Philippians 3:5–6](#)
- He was born in Tarsus in the region of Cilicia around AD 1–5 in a province in the southeastern corner of modern-day Tarsous, Turkey. ([Acts 22:3](#)).
- His parents were Pharisees, fervent Jewish nationalists who adhered strictly to the Law of Moses
- Saul's family were Roman citizens but viewed Jerusalem as a truly sacred and holy city – [Acts 22:22-29](#)

Paul's Education

Jewish law prescribed that a boy begins the study of the Scriptures at five years of age and the study of the legal traditions at ten. At thirteen a Jewish boy became a bar mitzvah (“son of the commandment”) at which time he took upon himself the full obligation of the law and the more promising lads were directed into rabbinic schools under abler teachers.

For further rabbinic study, Paul came to Jerusalem to study at the feet of [Gamaliel](#) one of the greatest rabbis of the first century ([Acts 22:3](#)).

Paul explicitly claims to be a Hebraic Jew trained in the most worthy traditions of his fathers, whose Pharisaic qualifications could hardly be surpassed.

“I am indeed a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, taught according to the strictness of our fathers’ law, and was zealous toward God as you all are today.” – [Acts 22:3](#)

“Circumcised the eighth day of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee;” – [Phil 3:5](#)

Zealous for the Law

Paul (Saul) first appears in the book of Acts at the martyrdom of Stephen. You can read the account of Stephen’s testimony in Acts chapters 6 and 7.

- The Arrest of Stephen – [Acts 6:8-15](#)
- Stephen’s testimony – [Acts 7:1-53](#)
- The Stoning of Stephen – [Acts 7:54-60](#)

Saul who loved God and was Zealous for the law thought that these Jewish believers in Jesus of Nazareth were a cult. Therefore, Saul became determined to eradicate Christians. Ruthless in his pursuit, he took it upon himself to stamp out these blasphemous followers.

“At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles... As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing them to prison.” – [Acts 8:1-3](#)

Saul’s Conversion

“Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.” – [Acts 9:1-2](#)

After receiving those letters, He was on his way to Damascus when Saul was confronted by the risen and glorified Christ.

Saul was caught in a bright light from heaven that caused him to fall face down on the ground. He heard the words, “*Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?*” He replied, “*Who are you, Lord?*” Jesus answered directly and clearly, “*I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting*” ([verses 4–5](#)).

As an aside, this might not have been Saul’s first encounter with Jesus. Some scholars suggest that young Saul might have known of Jesus and that he may have witnessed His death.

However, many followers of Jesus at that time were suspicious and thought Paul’s conversion was a trap. You can read the full account [here](#).

Therefore, Luke recognizing the importance of Paul’s experience for all would-be Christians, records not just one, but three accounts of Paul’s conversion.

- [Acts 9:3–20](#)
- [Acts 22:5–16](#)
- [Acts 26:12–19](#)

The Apostle Paul's Ministry

Paul's involvement in the Christian movement spanned approximately thirty years.

He traveled extensively throughout Asia Minor and into Europe, establishing congregations that he left in the hands of trusted associates.

Paul wrote thirteen letters that eventually became part of the New Testament. Some of the letters of the Apostle Paul may have been written earlier than the gospels. For example, 1 Thessalonians was written approximately A.D. 51, while the first letter to the Corinthians was penned about A.D. 56.

Paul's Testimony Confirmed Events Recorded in the Gospels

Paul's testimony confirms the facts of the evidence presented in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John concerning Jesus Christ. Here is a brief listing of those facts.

Jesus is the Creator of the universe.

"All things were created through Him, and without Him, nothing was created that was created." – [John 1:3](#)

"He is the image of the invisible God and the firstborn of every creature. For by Him, all things were created that are in heaven and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they are thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers. All things were created by Him and for Him." – [Colossians 1:15-16](#)

Jesus was sinless.

"God made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." – [2 Corinthians 5:21](#)

Jesus' death was by crucifixion.

"For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through its wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of preaching to save those who believe. For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom. But we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to the Jews and foolishness to the Greeks." – [1 Corinthians 1:21-23](#)

Jesus rose from the dead on the third day.

"For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: how Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, was buried, rose again the third day according to the Scriptures and was seen by Cephas, and then by the twelve." – [1 Corinthians 15:3-5](#)

Many eyewitnesses to Jesus' resurrection were still alive when Paul wrote to the church at Corinth. Anyone doubting the fact of the resurrection could check out their testimony.

Three Important Points to Remember

1. **Paul Was a Contemporary of the Disciples** – The Apostle Paul, though not an eyewitness to the events of the life of Christ, was living at the same time as the disciples who were eyewitnesses. Therefore, he was their contemporary.
2. **He Wrote Within Thirty Years of the Events** – Paul's letters were composed within thirty years of the events of the life and ministry of Jesus. This is far too short a time for him to have radically changed the message of Jesus without receiving criticism from both believing and non-believing eyewitnesses of the events.

3. **Paul Challenged His Readers to Investigate the Evidence** – Paul challenged his readers to investigate for themselves the evidence concerning the resurrection of Jesus Christ. ([1 Corinthians 15:3-6](#))

Conclusion

Something remarkable happened on the way to Damascus, over 2000 years ago. Christianity has an explanation for it; the skeptics are still looking for one. One that will never be found.

Paul's encounter with the living Christ on the Damascus road that so transformed his life is another powerful witness to the deity of Jesus. Moreover, it also provides a powerful endorsement for his testimony of Jesus' identity, a testimony that has not been impeached to date, and never will be.

[Jay Gresham Machen](#) one of the modern era's most able defenders of orthodoxy, counted Paul's conversion as the second greatest proof of the faith, eclipsed only by the resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth, the Messiah and soon returning king.

Chapter 9 - Our Final Six Eyewitness Testimonies

In this chapter, we will look at six more witnesses who testify of who Jesus is.

- The first two witnesses are angels.
- After them, the shepherds will testify.
- Then we will hear from Simeon and Anna.

However, first, we will hear from the angel Gabriel.

Gabriel's Eyewitness Testimony

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy [she was carrying John "the Baptist"] the angel Gabriel was sent from God to Nazareth. Gabriel was to deliver a message from God to Mary, a virgin betrothed to Joseph, of the house of David.

Gabriel, please tell us about the encounter with Mary.

Gabriel: The first thing I said when I came to her was "*Greetings, you who are highly favored. The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women.*"

Naturally, Mary was troubled and afraid. But I said to her "*Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.*" Then I delivered the message I had been given by the Lord God. "*Mary listen, you will conceive in your womb and bear a Son and shall call His name JESUS. He will be great and will be called the **Son of the Highest**. And the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David, and **He will reign over the house of Jacob forever. And of His kingdom, there will be no end.***"

Of course, Mary wondered how this would happen since she had not known a man. Therefore, I explained to her, "*The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you. Therefore, the Holy One who will be born will be called **the Son of God**...For with God, nothing will be impossible.*"

Thank you, Gabriel, you may step down. **Read the testimony in [Luke 1:26-38](#)**

Our next witness almost everyone has heard about. Especially when we celebrate the Savior's birthday. Next, we will call to the stand the angel who announced the birth of Jesus of Nazareth.

An Angel of the Lord Testifies

We must also consider the angel's eyewitness testimony to the shepherds *keeping watch over their flock by night* in the fields *in the same area* of Bethlehem Ephrathah (see [Micah 5:2](#)) where Jesus was born.

We are told in [Luke 2:8-14](#):

"An angel of the Lord appeared to them [the shepherds], and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were very afraid."

Then the angel said: "*Listen! Do not fear. For I bring you good news of great joy, which will be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the City of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign to you: You will find the Baby wrapped in strips of cloth, lying in a manger.*"

"Suddenly there was with the angel a company of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, and goodwill toward men.'"

With that proclamation, we will call the shepherds to take the stand and tell us what they found.

The Shepherds Testimony

After the shock and awe of the angelic appearance, proclamation and return to heaven, we had to go, “to Bethlehem and see what has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” So, we hurried as fast as we could “and found Mary and Joseph, and the Baby lying in a manger.”

Once we had seen Him, we “made widely known the word which was told us concerning this Child.”

After seeing the Child, we returned to the field, “glorifying and praising God for all the things we had heard and seen.” Just as it had been told to us by the angel of the Lord.

Thank you, you may step down. The next two witnesses may get overlooked by many, but not by God. We will hear the testimony of Simeon.

Simeon's Testimony

Simeon's testimony is unique. He lived in Jerusalem and the Bible tells us that he was “righteous and devout waiting for the [consolation of Israel](#), and the Holy Spirit was upon him.” The Holy Spirit revealed to Simeon that “he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ.”

One day being led by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple at the same time when Mary and Joseph “brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law.”

Simeon took the Child Jesus in his arms and blessed God saying:

“Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel.”

Then Simeon blessed Joseph and Mary and said to Mary His mother,

“Listen, this Child is destined to cause the fall and rising of many in Israel and to be a sign which will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed. And a sword will pierce through your own soul also.”

To recap Simeon's testimony:

- Jesus would be the Salvation of the world.
- He would reveal and deliver the truth to Israel and to the Gentiles.
- Jesus would bring glory upon the people of Israel.
- Not all Jewish people would believe that Jesus is the “consolation of Israel.”
- There would be much opposition to Jesus.
- Jesus' suffering would cause Mary much pain.

Read the account in [Luke 2:21-35](#)

We have one other witness who was at the temple that day also. Anna the prophetess will now take the stand.

The Testimony of Anna

Anna, please tell us your background.

- I am a [prophetess](#) the daughter of Penuel from the tribe of Asher.
- My husband died after seven years of marriage.

- Since then, I have remained in the temple serving God with fasting and prayer night and day.

Anna, what do you have to say about Jesus?

I came in at the moment Simeon was telling Mary that Jesus' suffering would cause her much pain. I also recognized the child as the long-awaited Savior and "*gave thanks to the Lord.*" From that time on I "*spoke of Him to all those who looked for the redemption of Jerusalem.*"

Thank you, Anna, you may step down.

Read Anna's testimony in [Luke 2:36-38](#)

The Final Witness

We now call our final witness to the stand...

God the Father, Creator *of all there* *WAS/IS/and SHALL EVER BE*

Three times we see in the New Testament during the life of Jesus where God Himself spoke from heaven to verify the identity of His Son.

1. God audibly spoke at the baptism of Jesus.

[Matthew 3:16-17](#) – "*When Jesus was baptized, He came up immediately out of the water. And suddenly the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending on Him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, saying: 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.'*"

(see also [Mark 1:9-11](#); [Luke 3:21-22](#))

2. God audibly spoke at the Transfiguration of Jesus.

[Matthew 17:1-9](#) – "*Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother and brought them up to a high mountain alone and was transfigured before them. His face shone as the sun, and His garments became white as the light. ...While he [Peter] was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, 'This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased. Listen to Him.'*"

Read the full encounter [here](#).

3. God audibly spoke four days before the crucifixion:

[John 12:23-33](#) – "*Now My soul is troubled. What shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? Instead, for this reason, I came to this hour. Father, glorify Your name.'*" Then a voice came from heaven, saying, "*I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.*" The crowd that stood by and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, "*An angel has spoken to Him.*" Jesus answered, "*This voice came not for My sake, but for your sakes.*"

Not only did God three times audibly identify and validate Jesus as His Son, but later He lifted His teachings into a category all by themselves. The author of Hebrews wrote:

"God, who at various times and in diverse ways spoke long ago to the fathers through the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, and through whom He made the world. He is the brightness of His glory, the express image of Himself, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had by Himself purged our sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high." – [Hebrews 1:1-3](#)

Do You Believe?

The Bible considers it praiseworthy to have a faith that does not require evidence. Jesus replied to Thomas “*You believe because you see blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.*” – [John 20:29](#)

There are plenty of stories of scholars in the New Testament field who have not been Christians, yet through their study of these very issues have come to faith in Christ. Likewise, there have been countless more scholars, already believers, whose faith has been made stronger, more solid, more grounded, because of the evidence. The same applies to skeptics.

Maybe you have been basing your spiritual outlook on the evidence you’ve observed around you or gleaned long ago from books college professors, family members, or friends. But is your conclusion really the best possible explanation for why you do not believe in Jesus?

This current age is drawing to a close. However, before it does there will be [seven years where the wrath of God](#) is poured out on those who have rejected Jesus Christ.

Followers of Christ do not go through the final seven years of God’s wrath. They will be caught up beforehand in what is called the [Rapture](#).

At the end of the seven years, God will judge everyone at the [Great White Throne Judgment](#).

Jesus of Nazareth paid for our sins on the cross, rose from the grave, and is seated at the right hand of the Father until it is time for Him to [return and set up His kingdom](#) to reign as King of kings and Lord of lords for [a thousand years](#).

There is no excuse other than outright rebellion for anyone to spend eternity in the company of Satan and his demonic angels in a place the Bible calls the [lake of fire](#).

So once again I must ask you [Do you have a relationship with the King of kings, Jesus Christ?](#) He is our only hope of eternal life.

*Jesus is not one of many ways to approach God,
nor is He the best of several ways;
He is the only way.
– A. W. Tozer*

Section 3 - The Evidence Declares: Witness of the Resurrection, Ascension, and Fulfilled Prophecies

Overview

In this final section, chapter 10 looks at the Death and Resurrection evidence for Jesus as investigated by Lee Strobel which can be found in his book [The Case for Christ](#). As a warning, this chapter contains graphic details.

Chapter 11 looks at the witness of fulfilled prophecies related to the Messiah that only one person has ever fulfilled.

Chapter 12 deals with the decision every person ever born must face.

Chapter 10 - The Resurrection Evidence for Jesus

The Apostle Paul stated,

“If Christ is not raised, your faith is vain; you are still in your sins. Then they also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.”

– [1 Corinthians 15:17-19](#)

How valid those words are! Today it appears that the world is imploding. Insanity reigns supreme in the hearts and minds of those who have rejected God their Creator.

Unfortunately, people are placing their hope in the next elected individuals. This is the wrong area to look for hope, for our ONLY [HOPE](#) is found in [JESUS CHRIST](#), the [soon-returning King of kings and Lord of lords](#). This is the reason we must believe in [Jesus Christ ALONE](#) for [Eternal life](#).

Never doubt God’s Word. A day of judgment will come to those who reject Jesus Christ. However, our Creator *“Is not slow concerning His promise, as some count slowness. But He is patient with us, because **He does not want any to perish, but all to come to repentance.**”* – [2 Peter 3:9](#)

Was The Death of Jesus Fabricated?

The idea that Jesus never really died on the cross can be found in the Koran¹ which was written in the 7th century. Certain Muslims believe that Jesus fled to India.

Many have tried to explain away the resurrection by suggesting that Jesus only fainted from exhaustion on the cross or He had been given a drug that made Him appear to die and that He had later been revived by the cool, damp air of the tomb.²

Lee Strobel interviewed Alexander Metherell, MD., Ph.D. because he possessed the medical and scientific credentials to explain the crucifixion and this man could discuss the topic dispassionately as well as accurately. The following are excerpts from the conversation.

The Torture Before the Cross

Strobel asked Metherell to paint a picture of what happened to Jesus. Metherell replied:

“It began after the Last Supper when Jesus went with His disciples to the Mount of Olives specifically to the Garden of Gethsemane. Since He knew the amount of suffering, He was going to have to endure He was quite naturally experiencing a great deal of psychological stress.

“There is a known medical condition called [hematidrosis](#) it’s not very common but it is associated with a high degree of psychological stress.

“Severe anxiety causes the release of chemicals that breakdown the capillaries in the sweat glands as a result there’s a small amount of bleeding into these glands and the sweat comes out tinged with blood, we’re not talking about a lot of blood it’s just a very small amount.

“This also sets up the skin to be extremely fragile so that when Jesus was flogged by the Roman soldier the next day His skin would be very sensitive.”

The Flogging

Metherell went on to explain the flogging.

“Roman floggings were known to be terribly brutal. They usually consisted of 39 lashes but frequently were a lot more than that, depending on the mood of the soldier applying the blows.

“The soldier used a whip of braided leather thongs with metal balls woven into them. When the whip would strike the flesh, these balls would cause deep bruises or contusions which would break open with further blows. And the whip had pieces of sharp bone as well, which could cut the flesh severely.

“The back would be so shredded that part of the spine was sometimes exposed by the deep, deep cuts. The whipping would have gone all the way from the shoulders down to the back, the buttocks, and the back of the legs.

“One physician who has studied Roman beatings said, ‘As the flogging continued, the lacerations would tear into the underlying skeletal muscles and produce quivering ribbons of bleeding flesh.’ A third-century historian by the name of [Eusebius](#) described a flogging by saying, ‘The sufferer’s veins were laid bare, and the very muscles, sinews, and bowels of the victim were open to exposure.’

“We know that many people would die from this kind of beating even before they could be crucified. At the least, the victim would experience tremendous pain and go into [hypovolemic shock](#).

“Jesus was in hypovolemic shock as He staggered up the road to the execution site of Calvary, carrying the horizontal beam of the cross. Finally, Jesus collapsed, and the Roman soldier ordered Simon to carry the cross for Him.

“Because of the terrible effects of His beating, there’s no question that Jesus was already in serious to critical condition even before the nails were driven through His hands and feet.”

The Agony of the Cross

Next, Metherell describes what happened when Jesus arrived at the site of His crucifixion.

“He would have been laid down and His hands would have been nailed to the outstretched position to the horizontal beam called a patibulum and at this stage it was separate from the vertical beam which was permanently set in the ground.

“The Romans used spikes that were five to seven inches long and tapered to a sharp point. They were driven through the wrist.

“Nailing through the wrist would lock the hand. If the nails had been driven through the palms His weight would have caused the skin to tear and He would have fallen off the cross. Keep in mind that this was considered part of the hand in the language of the day.

“It’s also important to understand that the nail would go through the place where the median nerve runs. This is the largest nerve going out to the hand, and it would be crushed by the nail that was being pounded in.

*“The pain was absolutely unbearable and in fact, it was literally beyond words to describe; they had to invent a new word: excruciating. Literally, **excruciating** means ‘out of the cross.’ Think of that; they needed to create a new word, because there was nothing in the language that could describe the intense anguish caused during the crucifixion.*

“At this point Jesus was hoisted as the crossbar was attached to the vertical stake, and then nails were driven through Jesus’ feet. Again, the nerves in His feet would have been crushed and there would have been a similar type of pain.

When Strobel asked Metherell what stresses this would put on Jesus’ body he replied:

“First of all, His arms would have immediately been stretched, probably about 6 inches in length, and both shoulders would have become dislocated...this fulfilled the Old Testament prophecy in [Psalm 22:14](#).

The Cause of Death

“Once a person is hanging in the vertical position crucifixion is essentially an agonizingly slow death by asphyxiation.

“The reason is that the stresses on the muscles and diagram put the chest into the inhaled position; basically, in order to exhale, the individual must push up on his feet so that the tension on the muscles would be eased for a moment. In doing so, the nail would tear through the foot, eventually locking up against the [tarsal bones](#).

“After managing to exhale, the person would then be able to relax down and take another breath in. Again, he’d have to push himself up to exhale, scraping his bloodied back against the coarse wood of the cross. This would go on and on until complete exhaustion would take over, and the person wouldn’t be able to push up and breathe anymore.

“As the person slows down his breathing he goes into what is called [respiratory acidosis](#), the carbon dioxide in the blood is dissolved as carbonic acid causing the acidity of the blood to increase which eventually leads to an irregular heartbeat. In fact, with His heart beating erratically, Jesus would have known that He was at the moment of death, which is when He was able to say, ‘Lord into your hands I commit my spirit.’ And then He died of cardiac arrest.

“Even before he died... the hypovolemic shock would have caused a sustained rapid heart rate that would have contributed to heart failure, resulting in the collection of fluid in the membrane around the heart, called a [pericardial effusion](#), as well as the lungs, which is called a [pleural effusion](#).

Why Is This Significant?

“When the Roman soldier came around, and being fairly certain that Jesus was dead he confirmed it by thrusting a spear into His right side... the spear apparently went through the right lung and into the heart, so when the spear was pulled out, some fluid, the pericardial effusion and the pleural effusion came out. This would have the appearance of a clear fluid, like water, followed by a large volume of blood, as the eyewitness John described in his gospel. There was absolutely no doubt that Jesus was dead.”

For the Skeptical, Strobel Seeks Answers to Three Questions

1. **Strobel:** The gospels say the soldiers broke the legs of the two criminals being crucified with Jesus. Why do that?
 - a. **Metherell:** *“The Jewish leaders wanted to get the crucifixion over with since the Sabbath and Passover would begin at sundown. Therefore, the Romans would use the steel shaft of a short Roman spear to shatter the victim’s lower leg bones which would prevent them from pushing up with their legs so they could breathe. Death by asphyxiation would result in a matter of minutes. Since the soldiers had already determined Jesus was dead, they just used the spear to confirm it, fulfilling another Old Testament prophecy.”*
2. **Strobel:** Some skeptics say that there is astonishingly little evidence that the feet of the crucified person were ever pierced by nails.
 - a. **Metherell:** *“Archaeology has established that the use of nails was historical although at times ropes were used instead. In 1968 archaeologists in Jerusalem found the remains of about three dozen Jews who had died around A.D. 70. One of the victims had a 7-inch nail still driven into his feet with small pieces of olive wood from the cross still attached confirming the gospel’s description of the crucifixion.”*
3. **Strobel:** Could the Roman soldiers have been mistaken concerning Jesus’ death?
 - a. **Metherell:** *“There was no doubt in the Roman soldier’s mind that Jesus was dead. These soldiers were experts in killing people it was their job and they did it very well. Moreover, if one of their prisoners somehow escaped the responsible soldiers would be put to death themselves. Therefore, they had a huge incentive to make absolutely sure that each and every victim was dead when he was removed from the cross.”*

The evidence clearly shows that Jesus' death was real. Therefore, Strobel interviewed William Lane Craig, Ph.D., D.TH. discussing the evidence of Jesus' missing body.

The Burial Evidence

Strobel knew that history tells us that as a rule, crucified criminals were left on the cross to be devoured by birds or were thrown into a common grave. Therefore, this has prompted various people to conclude that Jesus' body probably was dug up and consumed by wild dogs.

Craig agreed that based on customary practices this could have been probable. However, he went on to say, "But that would ignore the specific evidence in this case." Craig continues:

"The apostle Paul passes on a very early creed of the church in [1 Corinthians 15:3-7](#).

'For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: how Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, was buried, rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and was seen by Cephas, and then by the twelve. Then He was seen by over five hundred brothers at once, of whom the greater part remain to this present time, though some have passed away. Then He was seen by James and then by all the apostles.'

"This creed is incredibly early and therefore trustworthy material...The first line refers to the Crucifixion, the second to the burial, the third to the Resurrection, and the fourth to Jesus' appearances. As you can see the second line affirms that Jesus was buried.

"This creed is actually a summary that corresponds line by line with what the gospels teach. When we turn to the gospels we find multiple independent attestation of this burial story, and [Joseph of Arimathea](#) is specifically named in all four accounts. On top of that, the burial story in Mark is so extremely early that it's simply not possible for it to be subject to legendary corruption.

"First, Mark is considered to be the earliest gospel. Second, his gospel basically consists of short anecdotes about Jesus, more like pearls on a string than a smooth, continuous narrative.

"But when you get to the last week of Jesus' life...then you do have a continuous narrative of events in sequence. This passion story was apparently taken by Mark from an even earlier source, and this source included the story of Jesus being buried in a tomb."

["John A. T. Robinson](#), the late Cambridge University New Testament scholar, said the honorable burial of Jesus is one of the earliest and best attested facts that we have about the historical Jesus."

Was the Tomb Secure?

To Strobel, it seemed important to know how secure the grave of Jesus was from outside influences. The tighter the security, the less likely the body could have been tampered with. So, he asked Craig to describe how this kind of tomb looked, as best as archaeologists have been able to determine from excavations of 1st-century sights. Craig stated:

"There was a slanted groove that led down to a low entrance and a large disk-shape stone was rolled down this groove and lodged into place across the door. A smaller stone was then used to secure the disk. Although it would be easy to roll this big disk down the groove, it would take several men to roll the stone back up in order to reopen the tomb. In that sense it was quite secure."

Is the Empty Tomb a Historical Fact?

Strobel asked Craig to convince him with four or five reasons that the empty tomb is a historical fact. Below are Craig's reasons.

1. **"The empty tomb is definitely implicit in the early tradition that is passed along by Paul in [1 Corinthians 15](#), which is a very old and reliable source of historical information about Jesus."**
2. **"The site of Jesus' tomb was known to Christians and Jews alike.** So, if it weren't empty, it would be impossible for a movement founded on the belief of the Resurrection to have come into existence in the same city where this man had been publicly executed and buried."
3. **"We can tell from the language, grammar, and style that Mark got his empty tomb story, actually, his whole passion narrative from an earlier source.** In fact, there's evidence it was written before A.D. 37, which is much too early for legend to have seriously corrupted it."
 - a. **"[A. N. Sherwin-White](#), the respected Greco-Roman classical historian from Oxford University, said it would have been without precedent anywhere in history for legend to have grown up that fast and significantly distorted the gospels."**
 - b. **"Fictional apocryphal accounts from the 2nd century contain all kinds of flower narratives, in which Jesus comes out of the tomb and glory and power, with everybody seeing him including the priests, Jewish authorities, and Roman guards. Those are the way legends read, but these don't come until generations after the events, which is after eyewitnesses have died off.**
By contrast, Mark's account of the story of the empty tomb is stark in its simplicity and unadorned by theological reflection."
4. **"The unanimous testimony that the empty tomb was discovered by women, argues for the authenticity of the story.** This would have been embarrassing for the disciples to admit and most certainly would have been covered up if this were a legend."
5. **"The earliest Jewish polemic presupposes the historicity of the empty tomb.** In other words, there was nobody who claimed that the tomb still contained Jesus' body. The question always was, 'What happened to the body?'"
"The Jews proposed the ridiculous story that the guards had fallen asleep. Obviously, they were grasping at straws. But the point is this: they started with the assumption that the tomb was faked! Why? Because they knew it was!"

William Lane Craig, Ph.D., D.TH.

The Resurrection Evidence Interview of Gary Habermas, Ph.D., D. D.

Lee Strobel states in his book that he began this interview with prosecutorial bluntness. He came right out and said, "Isn't it true that there are absolutely no eyewitnesses to Jesus' resurrection?"

Habermas replied, "That's exactly right there's no descriptive account of the resurrection."

Strobel then realized what he was saying: Nobody was sitting inside the tomb and saw the body start to vibrate, stand up, take the linen wrappings off, fold them, roll back the stone, wow the guards, and leave.

Strobel then asked Habermas: "Doesn't this hurt your efforts to establish that the Resurrection is a historical event?" Habermas response in one word, "No."

Habermas stated,

“Science is all about causes and effects. We don’t see dinosaurs; we’ve studied the fossils....Maybe nobody witnesses a crime, but police piece together the evidence after the fact. So, here’s how I look at the evidence for the Resurrection: First, did Jesus die on the cross? And second, did He appear later to people? If you can establish these two things, you’ve made your case, because dead people don’t normally do that.”

What Evidence is There?

Habermas indicated that he would start with evidence that virtually all critical scholars would admit as evidence. The following are his answers.

#1 – Paul’s affirmation

“Paul affirmed in two places that he personally encountered the resurrected Christ.” [1 Corinthians 9:1](#) and [1 Corinthians 15:8](#).”

“Moreover, when Paul visited Peter and James in Jerusalem three years after his conversion Paul was playing the role of an examiner, someone who was carefully checking this information that he had out. Paul personally confirmed matters with two eyewitnesses who are specifically mentioned as seeing the resurrected Jesus, Peter and James.”

“Later in [1 Corinthians 15:11](#), Paul emphasizes that the other apostles agreed in preaching the same gospel and message about the resurrection. This means that the eyewitness Paul is saying is the exact same thing that the eyewitnesses Peter and James are saying.”

#2 – Jesus’ Appearance to 500 People

1 Corinthians 15 is the only place in ancient literature where it claimed that Jesus appeared to 500 people at once. The gospels don’t corroborate it and no secular historian mentions it. Therefore, it raised a yellow flag in Strobel’s mind. He asked, “If this really happened, why doesn’t anyone talk about it?”

The atheist [Michael Martin](#) stated. “One must conclude that it is extremely unlikely that this incident really occurred and that this therefore indirectly casts doubt on Paul as a reliable source.”³

Habermas’s reply:

“It’s just plain silliness to say this casts doubt on Paul.

“First, even though it’s only reported in one source it just so happens to be the earliest and best-authenticated passage of all!

“Second Paul apparently had some proximity to these people. He says most of them are still living though some have fallen asleep. Paul either knows some of these people or was told by someone who knew them that they were still walking around and willing, if asked, to be interviewed.

“If you stop and think about it, you will never include this phrase unless you were absolutely confident that these folks would confirm that they really did see Jesus alive. Paul was virtually inviting people to check it out for themselves! He wouldn’t have said this if he didn’t know they’d back him up.

“Third, when you have only one source you can ask why aren’t there more. But you can’t say, this one source is crummy on the grounds that someone else didn’t pick up on it. You can’t downgrade this one source that way. So, this doesn’t cast any doubt on Paul at all! Martin would love to be able to do that, but he can’t do it legitimately.”

#3 – Jesus’ Appearance in the Gospels

There are several different appearances of Jesus to different people in the gospels and the book of Acts. Sometimes Jesus appeared individually and at other times in groups. The text teaches that He was physically present. Moreover, these people touched Jesus or ate with Him. The appearances occurred over several weeks and Habermas states that there are good reasons to trust these accounts because they are lacking in many typical mythical tendencies. The following is a list of where you can read about His post-Resurrection appearances.

- [Matthew 28:8-10](#) – The women at the tomb saw Him.
- [Matthew 28:16-20](#) – Jesus’ commissioning of the eleven disciples.
- [Luke 24:13-32](#) – Jesus talked to Cleopas and another disciple on the road to Emmaus.
- [Luke 24:33-49](#) – Jesus appears to the eleven and those who were with them in Jerusalem assembled together.
- [Luke 24:50-52](#) – At the Ascension, “While He blessed them, He parted from them and was carried up into heaven.”
- [John 20:10-18](#) – Mary Magdalene saw Him at the tomb.
- [John 20:19-23](#) – “On the evening of that first day of the week... Jesus came and stood in their midst, and said to them, “Peace be with you.”
- [John 20: 26-30](#) – “After eight days His disciples were again inside with the doors shut, and Thomas was with them. Jesus came and stood among them, and said, “Peace be with you.”
- [John 21:1-14](#) – Jesus revealed Himself again to the [seven] disciples at the Sea of Tiberias.
- [Acts 1:4-9](#) – The disciples at the Ascension.

We also have already seen in a previous chapters the [eyewitness](#) accounts of [Peter’s](#) and [Paul’s](#) testimony of Jesus appearing after His Resurrection.

Habermas stated:

“The Resurrection was undoubtedly the central proclamation of the early church from the very beginning. The earliest Christians didn’t just endorse Jesus’ teachings they were convinced they had seen Him alive after His crucifixion. That’s what changed their lives and started the church. Certainly, since this was their center-most conviction, they would have made absolutely sure that it was true.”

The Circumstantial Evidence Interview of J. P. Moreland, Ph. D.

Strobel wanted to know if there was any supporting circumstantial evidence of the Resurrection. For that evidence, Strobel asks Moreland to provide five pieces of circumstantial evidence **not in dispute** that convince Moreland that Jesus rose from the dead. Listed below are excerpts from Moreland’s answers.

1. *The disciples died for their beliefs.*
 - a. “People will die for their religious beliefs if they sincerely believe they’re true, but they won’t die for their beliefs if they know their beliefs are false.”
2. *The conversion of skeptics*
 - a. “James the brother of Jesus and Saul of Tarsus were hardened skeptics who didn’t believe in Jesus before His crucifixion and dead set against Christianity, who turned around and adopted the Christian faith after Jesus’ death. There’s no good reason for this apart from having experienced the resurrected Christ.”
3. *Changes to key social structures*

- a. "First, the Jewish people had been taught ever since the time of Abraham and Moses that they needed to offer an animal sacrifice on a yearly basis to atone for their sins. After the death of Jesus, these Jewish people no longer offered sacrifices."
- b. "Second, Jews emphasized obeying the laws that God had entrusted to them through Moses yet within a short time after Jesus 's death, Jews were beginning to say you don't become an upstanding member of their community merely by keeping Moses' laws."
- c. "Third, Jews scrupulously kept the Sabbath by not doing anything except religious devotion every Saturday. However, after the death of Jesus, this 1500-year tradition is abruptly changed. These Christians worship on Sunday because that's when Jesus rose from the dead."
- d. "Fourth, they believed in only one God. While Christians teach a form of monotheism, they say that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are one God. This is radically different from what the Jews believed."
- e. "Fifth, these Christians pictured the Messiah as someone who suffered and died for the sins of the world, whereas Jews had been trained to believe that the Messiah was going to be a political leader who would destroy the Roman armies."

4. *Communion and Baptism*

- a. "All religions have their own rituals and practices. However, what's odd is that these early followers of Jesus didn't get together to celebrate His teachings or how wonderful he was. They came together regularly to have a celebration meal for one reason: to remember that Jesus had been publicly slaughtered in a grotesque and humiliating way."

"They realized that Jesus' slaying was a necessary step to a much greater victory. His murder wasn't the last word, the last word was that He had conquered death for all of us by rising from the dead. They celebrated His execution because they were convinced that they had seen Him alive from the tomb."

"The baptism was a celebration of the death of Jesus, just as communion was. By going under the water, you're celebrating His death and by being brought out of the water you're celebrating the fact that Jesus was raised to newness of life."

Moreover, Moreland replied that these were not adapted from so-called mystery religions.

- b. "First, there's no hard evidence that any mystery religion believed in god's dying and rising until after the New Testament. So, if there was any borrowing they borrowed from Christianity.
- c. "Second, the practice of baptism came from Jewish customs and the Jews were very much against allowing Gentile or Greek ideas to affect their worship."
- d. "Third, these two sacraments can be dated back to the very earliest Christian community. Too early for the influence of any other religions to creep into their understanding of what Jesus' death meant."

5. *The emergence of the church*

- a. "When a major culture shift takes place, historians always look for events that can explain it. Thinking about the start of the Christian Church there's no question it began shortly after the death of Jesus and spread so rapidly that within a period of maybe 20 years it had even reached Caesar's palace in Rome. Not only that, but this movement triumphed over a number of competing ideologies and eventually overwhelmed the entire Roman Empire."

One Other Category of Evidence That Strobel Hadn't Asked About

Moreland brought to Lee Strobel's attention that there was one other category of evidence that he hadn't asked about. It was the ongoing encounter with the resurrected Christ that happens all over the world.

- In every culture,
- To people from all kinds of backgrounds and personalities,
- Well-educated and not,
- Rich and poor,
- Thinkers and feelers,
- Men and women...

Testify that more than any single thing in their lives, Jesus Christ has changed them. Moreland said,

"To me, this provides the final evidence, not the only evidence but the final confirming proof that the message of Jesus can open the door to a direct encounter with the risen Christ."

To Moreland, the conclusion is clear. He stated,

"Look, if someone wants to consider the circumstantial evidence and reach the verdict that Jesus did not rise from the dead, fair enough. But they've got to offer an alternative explanation that is plausible for all five of these facts. Remember, there's no doubt these facts are true, what's in question is how to explain them. And I've never seen a better explanation than the Resurrection." - J. P. Moreland, Ph. D.

What Motivated Jesus?

Let's take a moment to ponder the following. Jesus stated no one takes His life...

"I am the good shepherd. I know My sheep and am known by My own...And I lay down My life for the sheep... My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again..." – [John 10:14-18](#)

- Therefore, why would Jesus intentionally walk into the arms of Judas?
- Why didn't He resist arrest?
- Why didn't He defend Himself at His trial and willingly subject Himself to a humiliating and agonizing form of torture?
- Why would a person do that and agree to endure this sort of punishment?
- Jesus knew what was coming and He was willing to go through it all. Why?

The answer is so simple we tend to shrug it off.

This was the only way He could **REDEEM** us.

Jesus was our **SUBSTITUTE** and **PAYED** the **PENALTY** of **DEATH** that **WE DESERVED**, because of our sinful **REBELLION AGAINST GOD**.

So, if you wonder what motivated Jesus, the only answer can be summed up with one word. And that would be...

Love

Chapter 11 - The Evidence of Fulfilled Prophecies

Messiah comes from the Hebrew word, *Mashiach*, meaning “the anointed one,” or “the chosen one.” *Christos* (Christ) is the Greek equivalent of the Hebrew term. In the Old Testament, prophets, priests, and kings were anointed by oil when they were set apart for these positions. The anointing was a sign that God had chosen and consecrated them for the work He had given them to do.

Prophecies/Predictions Are Easy

It's easy to make predictions, anyone can do it. However, ensuring that they are fulfilled accurately 100% of the time is another story altogether. The more statements you make about the future and the greater the detail, the better the chances are that you will be proven wrong. God stated:

“When a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the thing does not occur or come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously. You shall not be afraid of him.” – [Deuteronomy 18:22](#)

Unlike modern psychics/prophets, such as [Nostradamus](#), [Hughes](#), [Criswell](#), [Dixon](#), and [Mark Taylor](#), anything less than 100% is not good enough per our Creator! You can read for yourself the penalty God decreed if alleged prophets were not 100% accurate.

*“But the prophet, who presumes to speak a word in **my name**, which I have not commanded him to speak, or who shall speak **in the name of other gods**—that prophet shall die.” – [Deuteronomy 18:20](#) (Emphasis mine)*

God takes prophecy seriously. Therefore, we can too!

How Difficult Would It Be...

How difficult do you think it would be to...

- Predict the exact city in which the birth of a future U.S. President would take place in the year 2700 A.D.
 - That's what the prophet Micah did 700 years before the Messiah.
- Indicate the precise kind of death that an unknown religious leader would experience a thousand years from today, or predict and describe a new method of execution not currently known? (One that won't even be invented for hundreds of years?)
 - That's what David did in 1000 B.C. when he wrote [Psalm 22](#).
- Predict the specific date of the appearance of some great future leader hundreds of years in advance?
 - The prophet Daniel did so 530 years before Christ.⁴

Our Creator stated:

“Remember the former things of old, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done...” – [Isaiah 46:9-10](#) (emphasis mine)

Uniqueness of Messianic Prophecies

The uniqueness of the Messianic prophecies is seen in the following facts:

- Despite the [1500-year time span and the many authors](#) who prophesied about the Messiah, the prophecies in the Christian Bible form a united and progressive revelation that is not contradictory.
- The Messianic prophecies are minute and specific in detail.
- Their content is [unique in all of religious literature](#).
- Their fulfillment has been exact, but [only in one Person, Jesus of Nazareth](#).

Therefore, It is only logical to conclude that if all of these prophecies perfectly fit the Person and life of Jesus Christ, then [Jesus had to be the one and only Messiah](#). The Savior who gave His life and rose from the grave so we could have eternal life.

This conclusion can be avoided only by denying that the prophecies exist or denying that Jesus fulfilled them.

The prophecies do exist, and even skeptics (whether they accept Him as Messiah or not) admit that they remarkably fit the life of Jesus.

A Rabbis' Modern Picture of Messiah

As [Alfred Edersheim](#) observes in his monumental work, [The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah](#), “The general conception which the rabbis had formed of the Messiah, differed totally from what was presented by the prophet of Nazareth [Jesus].”⁵

The rabbis’ modern picture of the Messiah contradicts much of their own scriptural commentaries down through history (such as the Midrashic and Talmudic commentaries.) What is significant is that their own scriptural commentary paints a picture of the Messiah which fits none other than Jesus Christ.

One modern rabbi who rejected Jesus was honest enough to admit that when the Messiah came, he would have to be “just like Jesus of Nazareth, except for his untimely death.”

Another rabbi appeared in a debate on apologetics expert [John Ankerberg's TV show](#). The evidence of Jesus’ messiahship was so clear to this rabbi that he concluded Jesus had indeed fulfilled the prophecies. He died and rose again from the grave, but He was the Messiah...*for the Gentiles!*

This rabbi rejected Jesus as the Messiah of the Jews not because Jesus failed to fulfill any of the prophecies required of Him, but because He would have to come twice to fulfill them all!

Therefore, this rabbi expects the Jewish Messiah to come later. He stated: “When Messiah comes, he will settle all the problems of the world. I still see wars, death, disease, poverty, etc.; Therefore, we are still waiting for our Messiah.”

What this man didn’t understand is that the Messiah had to suffer first⁶ for the sins of the world. Then, in the last days, He **will come again for the second time** and will **fulfill all the remaining prophecies** of [His Second Coming](#).

How Many Prophecies are in the Bible?

According to [J. Barton Payne](#), about 27 percent of the Bible is prophecy.⁷ There are 1,239 prophecies in the Old Testament and 578 prophecies in the New Testament for a total of 1,817. This means that, when written, over one-fourth of the Bible, is prophetic.

At least one-half of all biblical predictions have already been fulfilled **precisely** as God had declared. Because of God's faithfulness in fulfilling these prophecies, we can be assured that **He will fulfill the rest of the prophecies** in Scripture without fault.

"God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He spoken, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?" – [Numbers 23:19](#)

How Many are Messianic Prophecies?

Alfred Edersheim also stated:

"[If we examine] those passages in the Old Testament to which the ancient synagogue referred as Messianic... [we find] upwards of 456... and their Messianic application is supported by more than 558 references to the most ancient rabbinic writings."⁸

[Dr. David Reagan](#) of Lamb and Lion Ministries agrees. However, in his [Christ in Prophecy Study Guide](#), he tells us that many of these prophecies **are repeated several times**. When you take all the repetitive prophecies out there remain slightly more than **100 distinctly different, specific prophecies about the Messiah's First Coming**.

For all of them to be fulfilled by one individual requires a man so unusual and a life so unique as to eliminate all pretenders and indeed all men who have ever lived, except one!⁹

Is a Prophetic Scheme Possible?

Is it possible a scheme could have been hatched to make Jesus' life seem prophetic by creating prophecies after He had passed? Modern scholars have established that such a scheme is simply not possible.

Most scholars of antiquities admit that the Hebrew original must have existed at least 50 to 150 years before the [Septuagint](#) (a Greek translation of the Hebrew scriptures) was produced. That means all prophecies of Jesus' life and death had to be written at least 250 to 400 years prior to his birth. Consequently, these prophecies are more than adequate witnesses to [His unique person and identity](#).

Science of Probability

How we all remember the phrase "trust the science" during the so-called "world pandemic" recently. Except, the true science was hidden as much as possible because of the agenda of certain people.

However, we can trust the science of [Peter W. Stoner](#), Professor Emeritus of Science at Westmont College.

He calculated the probability of one man fulfilling the major prophecies made concerning the Messiah. The estimates were worked out by twelve different classes, involving more than 600 college students.

Dr. David Reagan in his article *Applying the Science of Probability to the Scriptures – Do statistics prove the Bible's supernatural origin?* stated,

"For years I have been quoting a book by Peter Stoner called Science Speaks."¹⁰ I like to use a remarkable illustration from it to show how Bible prophecy proves that Jesus was truly God in the flesh.

"I decided that I would try to find a copy of the book so that I could discover all that it had to say about Bible prophecy... In the edition I purchased, there was a foreword by [Dr. Harold Hartzler](#), an officer of the American Scientific Affiliation. He wrote that the manuscript had been carefully reviewed by a committee of his organization

and that ‘the mathematical analysis included is based upon principles of probability which are thoroughly sound.’ He further stated ...Stoner ‘has applied these principles in a proper and convincing way.’”

One person has suggested, “Only a preexisting bias against supernatural prophecy itself (such as those holding a rationalistic worldview) or a bias against these prophecies referring to the Person of Jesus can deter someone from accepting the Scriptures as Messianic prophecy.”¹¹

Listed below are just a few of the many prophecies from the Old Testament Scriptures concerning the Messiah’s First Coming, along with the New Testament Scriptures of fulfillment.

Prophecies Concerning the Messiah’s First Coming

The Messianic Prophecy: His Lineage	Old Testament Prophecy Location:	New Testament Fulfillment Location:
The Son of God	Ps 2:7	Mat 3:17
From the Shemite branch of humanity	Gen 9:26	Lk 3:36
From the seed of Abraham	Gen 12:3	Mat 1:1
From the seed of Isaac	Gen 21:12	Lk 3:23 ; Lk 3:34
From the seed of Jacob	Gen 28:14	Lk 3:34
From the seed of Jesse	Isa 11:1	Lk 3:23-32
From the house of David	Jer 23:5-6	Lk 3:23-31
From the tribe of Judah	Mic 5:2	Lk 3:33

The Messianic Prophecy: His Birth	Old Testament Prophecy Location:	New Testament Fulfillment Location:
Born at Bethlehem Ephrathah	Mic 5:2	Mat 2:1
The virgin shall conceive	Isa 7:14	Lk 1:34-35
Shall call His name Immanuel	Isa 7:14	Mat 1:21
Spirit-filled from birth	Isa 11:1-2	Lk 2:46-47 , Mat 3:16-17
The timing of Messiah’s birth	Gen 49:10	Mat 2:1

Around approximately 7 A.D. the Romans abolished the power of the Sanhedrin council in Judah to pronounce the death penalty – thus, the scepter (power) passed from Judah. Jesus had been born in 4 B.C., during the reign of Herod ([Matthew 2:1](#)), so Shiloh (the Messiah) had come shortly before the scepter departed – just as prophesied.¹²

The Messianic Prophecy: His Childhood	Old Testament Prophecy Location:	New Testament Fulfillment Location:
Kings bring presents	Ps 72:10	Mat 2:1 ; Mat 2:11
Live in Nazareth	Isa 11:1	Mat 2:23
Grows up in poverty	Isa 53:2	Mk 6:3 , Lk 9:58

The Messianic Prophecy: Messiah's Purpose is to...	Old Testament Prophecy Location:	New Testament Fulfillment Location:
Be the Bridge to heaven	Gen 28:12	Jn 1:51
Be the Intercessor between man, and God	Isa 59:16	Mat 10:32
Be the Light of the Gentiles	Isa 49:6	Jn 8:12 ; Acts 13:47
Be the New Covenant	Jer 31:31	Mat 26:28
Be the Offering for sin	Isa 53:10	Mat 20:28 ; Gal 3:13
Be the Salvation for Israel	Isa 49:6	Lk 2:29-32
Comfort the broken-hearted	Isa 61:1	Mat 11:28-30
Declare things not yet done	Isa 46:9-10	Jn 13:19
Die for the sins of the world	Isa 53:10	Jn 18:11
Do battle w/Satan	Gen 3:15	Mat 4:1-11
Give up His life to save mankind	Isa 53:12	Lk 23:46
Have a ministry of miracles – <i>See Note</i>	Isa 35:5-6	Mat 11:2-6
Intercede to God on behalf of mankind	Isa 53:12	Lk 23:34 ; Rom 8:34
Minister to broken lives	Isa 42:3	Mat 8:16
Preach the righteousness in Israel	Ps 40:9	Mat 4:17
Provide freedom from the bondage of sin	Isa 61:1	Jn 8:31-36
Send the Spirit of God	Isa 44:3	Jn 16:7-13
Speak the Wisdom of God with authority	Ps 78:2	Mat 7:29

Note: The context of the Isaiah passage makes it clear that its ultimate fulfillment will occur during the Millennium. But Jesus makes it clear that it was pre-filled in His healing ministry.

The Messianic Prophecy: Messiah's Nature	Old Testament Prophecy Location:	New Testament Fulfillment Location:
Compassionate	Ps 112:4	Mat 9:36
Devine	Isa 9:6	Jn 10:30
God's servant	Zech 3:8	Jn 17:4
Good	Ps 100:5	Mat 19:16-17
Holy	Ps 2:6	Jn 8:46 ; Rev 3:7
Just	Isa 9:7	Jn 5:30
King	Ps 2:6	Mat 27:37
Lord	Ps 110:1	Jn 13:13 ; Mat 22:44-45
Loving	Ps 103:17	Jn 15:13
Meek and lowly	Isa 42:2	Mat 11:28-30
Merciful	Ex 33:19	Lk 1:72
Prophet	Deu 18:15-18	Mat 21:11
Reliance and trust in God	Ps 22:9-10	Jn 5:19
Righteous	Isa 53:11	Acts 7:52
The Anointed One	Ps 2:2	Lk 2:10-11 Jn 1:41 ; Acts 2:36
Zealous for God	Ps 69:9	Jn 2:14-16

Messiahs Adult Ministry

The Messianic Prophecy: He would be...	Old Testament Prophecy Location:	New Testament Fulfillment Location:
A stranger to own brethren	Ps 69:8	Jn 1:11; 7:5
Anointed by the Holy Spirit	Ps 45:7	Mat 3:16; Lk 3:22
A man of prayer	Ps 109:4	Lk 18:1
Despised by some	Isa 53:3	Lk 4:28-29
Hated without a cause	Ps 69:4	Jn 15:24-25
Rejected by Jews	Ps 69:7-8	Jn 1:1; Mat 27:21-23

The Messianic Prophecy: He...	Old Testament Prophecy Location:	New Testament Fulfillment Location:
Came as a Teacher	Isa 48:16-17	Jn 3:2
Healed the sick	Isa 53:4-5	Mat 8:16-17
Knew people's thoughts	Isa 11:3	Lk 6:8; Jn 2:25
Opened blind eyes	Isa 42:7	Jn 9:25-38
Would begin His ministry in Galilee	Isa 9:1-2	Mat 4:12-17
Would teach in parables	Ps 78:1-2	Mat 13:34-35
Entered Jerusalem on a donkey	Zech 9:9	Mat 21:6-10
Greeted with rejoicing in Jerusalem	Zech 9:9	Mat 21:9-10; Lk 19:37

The Messianic Prophecy:	Old Testament Prophecy Location:	New Testament Fulfillment Location:
His people would not believe Him	Isa 53:1	Jn 12:37-38
Parables fall on deaf ears	Isa 6:9-10	Mat 13:13-15
The Gentiles seek Him	Isa 11:10	Jn 12:18-21
The Spirit of God upon Him	Isa 61:1	Mat 3:16-17

Messianic Prophecies Fulfilled Within 24 Hours

The Messianic Prophecy: Messiah's Betrayal and Trial	Old Testament Prophecy Location:	New Testament Fulfillment Location:
Experienced grief/agony	Isa 53:11	Mat 26:37-38
My soul is exceeding sorrowful	Ps 69:20	Mat 26:38
Betrayed by a friend	Ps 41:9	Jn 13:18; Mat 26:20-21
Betrayed for thirty pieces of silver	Zech 11:12-13	Mat 26:14-15
His acquaintances fled from Him	Ps 31:11	Mk 14:50
Forsaken by His disciples	Zech 13:7	Mat 26:55-56
Innocent and had done no violence	Isa 53:9	Lk 23:41; Jn 18:38
He would be judged	Isa 53:8	Jn 18:13-22
Accused by false witnesses	Ps 35:11	Mat 26:59-63
Silent before His accusers	Ps 38:12-13	Mat 27:12-14
They counseled to put Him to death	Ps 31:13	Mat 27:1; Jn 11:53

The Messianic Prophecy: Messiah's Torture	Old Testament Prophecy Location:	New Testament Fulfillment Location:
Stripped Him before the stares of men	Ps 22:17-18	Lk 23:34-35
I gave my back to those who struck Me	Isa 50:6	Mat 27:26
Smitten on the cheeks	Isa 50:6	Mat 26:67
Wounded and bruised	Isa 53:5	Mat 27:26
Oppressed and afflicted	Isa 53:7	Mat 27:27-31
He was scourged	Ps 129:3	Mat 27:26
Spit upon	Isa 50:6	Mat 27:30

The Messianic Prophecy: Messiah's Crucifixion	Old Testament Prophecy Location:	New Testament Fulfillment Location:
Fell under the cross	Ps 109:24-25	Jn 19:17
Hands and feet pierced	Ps 22:16	Jn 19:34-37; 20:27
Crucified with thieves	Isa 53:12	Mk 15:27-28
They stood afar off and watched	Ps 88:8	Lk 23:49
Prayed for forgiveness of His persecutors	Isa 53:12; Ps 109:4	Lk 23:34
Suffered agony on Calvary	Ps 22:14-15	Mk 15:34-37
He thirsted	Ps 22:15	Jn 19:28
Gall and Vinegar Offered to Him	Ps 69:21	Mat 27:34
They parted His garments	Ps 22:18	Jn 19:23-24
Forsaken by God	Ps 22:1	Mat 27:46
No bones broken	Num 9:12	Jn 19:31-36
It is finished	Ps 22:31	Lk 23:46
Darkness over the land	Amos 8:9	Mat 27:45
Buried in a rich man's grave	Isa 53:9	Mat 27:57-60

The Resurrection Prophecies

Within Christianity, the resurrection is vitally important. Without the resurrection, our faith is useless ([1 Corinthians 15:14](#)). It was Jesus' resurrection that changed the lives of the disciples. After Jesus was crucified, the disciples ran and hid. But when they saw the risen Lord, they knew that what Jesus had said and done proved that **He was indeed God in the flesh, the Savior**.

No other religious leader has died in full view of trained executioners, had a guarded tomb, and then rose three days later to appear to many people. This resurrection is proof of who Jesus is, and that He did accomplish what He set out to do: provide the **only** means of redemption for humanity.

The Messianic Prophecy:	Old Testament Prophecy Location:	New Testament Fulfillment Location:
He would defeat death	Hos 13:14	1 Cor 15:55-57
Resurrected and live forever	Isa 53:10	Rom 6:9
Resurrected	Ps 16:10	Mk 16:6
Was to arise from the dead	Ps 16:9-11	Jn 20:9

First Coming Prophecies in the New Testament

According to Dr. David Reagan, a truth that is often overlooked is the gospels also contain prophecies about the Messiah's First Coming. Moreover, several of them are clustered around the birth of Jesus.

[As we have seen in a previous post](#) there are several prophecies which the Holy Spirit revealed to people concerning who this child was such as Zacharias and Elizabeth, the parents of John the Baptist, Mary, and two aged prophets named Simon and Anna.

Angels spoke prophecies about the Lord's First Coming to Joseph and Mary, to the priest Zacharias, and declared His birth to the shepherds of Bethlehem.

[John the Baptist](#), who was a prophet of God, made several prophetic statements about his cousin, Jesus. Moreover, [Caiaphas](#), the high priest at the time of Jesus' death was directed by the Holy Spirit to make a prophetic utterance about the death of Jesus and its significance.

An "Angel of the Lord" revealed to Joseph in [Matthew 1:20-23](#)

- Mary will have a son conceived by the Holy Spirit.
- You shall call His name JESUS.
- He will save His people from their sins.

Gabriel revealed to Zacharias in [Luke 1:11-17](#)

- Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son.
- You will name him John.
- He will be filled with the Holy Spirit
- He will turn many to the Lord their God.
- He will prepare people for the Lord.

Gabriel revealed to Mary – [Luke 1:26-37](#)

- You will conceive and bear a Son.

- His name will be JESUS.
- He will be great and called the Son of the Highest.
- The Lord God will give Him the throne of David.
- He will reign over the house of Jacob forever.
- Of His kingdom there will be no end.
- Conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- The Holy One will be called the Son of God.

The following people also prophesied concerning Jesus.

- Elizabeth – [Luke 1:40-45](#)
- Mary – [Luke 1:46-55](#)
- Zacharias – [Luke 1:67-79](#)
- Simeon and Anna – [Luke 2:25-38](#)
- John the Baptist – [John 1:23, 29,30,33](#)
- Caiaphas, the High Priest (who condemned Jesus to death) – [John 11:49-51](#)

Prophecies Given by Jesus

The bulk of New Testament prophecies concerning events related to the First Coming came from the mouth of Jesus himself. 1500 years earlier Moses had prophesied that the Messiah would be a prophet. ([Deuteronomy 18:15,18](#)).

Jesus certainly operated as a prophet. He spoke prophetically about events that would occur during His life, or which would result from it. Likewise, He spoke many prophecies concerning His Second Coming which we will review in a different post. Below are just a few samples of the many prophecies given by Jesus found in the Gospels.

His Purpose

To give His life as a ransom for many. – [Matthew 20:28](#)

Not to judge/condemn the world but to save. – [John 3:17](#); [12:47](#)

Regarding His Fate

Jesus states: “Now I tell you before it happens, that when it does happen, you may believe that I am He.” [The Messiah] – [John 13:19](#)

“Now we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and scribes. And they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify Him, but on the third day He will rise.” – [Matthew 20:18-19](#)

Taking the twelve, He said, “Listen! We are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written by the prophets concerning the Son of Man will be accomplished, for He will be handed over to the Gentiles and will be mocked and insulted and spit upon. They will scourge Him and put Him to death, and on the third day He will rise again.” – [Luke 18:31-33](#)

“My Father loves Me because I lay down My life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I received this command from My Father.” – [John 10:17-18](#)

“After I have risen, I will go before you to Galilee.” – [Matthew 26:32](#)

Jesus said to her, ...”go to My brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to My Father and your Father, to My God and your God.’” – [John 20:17](#)

The 100% accuracy of Jesus’ prophecies about Himself is proof positive that He was God in the flesh.

Only Jesus Can...

In an article titled, *Why believe in Christianity over all other religions?* The writer [Matt Slick](#) states:

“There are such things as absolute truths...Religions contradict each other; therefore, they cannot all be true...Though other religions have prophecies in them, none are 100% accurate as is the Bible; and none of them point to someone like Jesus who made incredible claims and performed incredible deeds.”

In the article’s conclusion, Slick writes:

“Why should anyone trust in Christianity over Islam, Buddhism, Mormonism, or anything else? It is because there are absolute truths. Only in Christianity are there accurately fulfilled prophecies of a coming Messiah. Only in Christianity do we have the extremely accurate transmission of the eyewitness documents (gospels). So, we can trust what was originally written. Only in Christianity do we have the person of Christ who claimed to be God, performed many miracles to prove His claim of divinity, who died and rose from the dead, and who said that He alone was the Way, the Truth, and the Life ([John 14:6](#)). All this adds to the legitimacy and credibility of Christianity above all other religions – all based on the person of Jesus. It could not be that Jesus is the only Truth, and other religions also are the truth.

“Either Jesus is true, and all other religions are false, or other religions are true, and Jesus is false. There are no other options. I choose to follow the risen Lord Jesus.”

Only Jesus can wash away the sins in our life. He welcomes all who acknowledge their sins and come to Him in repentance. Eternal Life awaits those who follow Him as the Lord He is.

Will you choose to follow the risen Lord Jesus?

Chapter 12 – One Remaining Issue

The evidence concerning Jesus of Nazareth is crystal clear. Jesus Christ is **THE** Son of God. He is the **ONLY WAY** of ensuring Eternal Life.

Therefore, there is only one remaining issue. What are you going to do with the evidence? There are only two options available.

Option #1 – Will you bow your knee and follow Jesus Christ knowing that this life is the closest you will ever be to Hell?

Option #2 – Or, are you going to ignore the evidence, take a rebellious attitude, and live your life on your own terms? If so, this choice guarantees your reservation to live throughout eternity in the Lake of Fire [created for Satan and the angels who rebelled](#) against God.

However, in case you are considering option #2 or think you have other options BEWARE, you are deceiving yourself. Let us take a moment to review the following table.

If Jesus... Then We Can...

If Jesus...	Then We Can...
Is the Son of God...	Understand that His teachings are more than just good ideas from a wise teacher. They are divine insights on which we can confidently build our lives.
Set the standard for morality...	We have an unwavering foundation for our choices and decisions rather than basing them on the “woke” opinions of ourselves or others.
Rose from the grave and is alive today...	We can have confidence knowing that He can provide Eternal Life for us too.
Loves us and has our best interest at heart...	We have nothing to lose and everything to gain by committing ourselves to Him and his purposes.
Has divine power...	He has the supernatural ability to guide, help and transform us as we follow Him.
Knows the pain of loss and suffering...	We know He can comfort and encourage us in the midst of any trouble and chaos in this fallen world corrupted by sin.

Personally, I would call this decision a no-brainer. However, if you are still on the fence so to speak and still considering option #2, perhaps a brief look at the following eight self-proclaimed “atheists” who changed their minds and decided to follow Jesus Christ may help.

8 Atheists Who Became Christians

There are plenty of New Testament scholars who have not been Christians. However, many of them through their study have come to faith in Christ. Likewise, there have been countless more scholars, who were already followers of Jesus Christ, whose faith has been made stronger, more solid, and more grounded, because of the evidence examined. The same applies to skeptics. Below is a sampling of eight atheists who have become followers of Jesus Christ.

C.S. Lewis

[C.S. Lewis](#) is the author of popular books like *The Chronicles of Narnia* and *Mere Christianity*.

Before he wrote the Narnia saga, Clive Staples Lewis was a professed atheist. He spoke of a “blandly Christian childhood” but wrote in his biographical work [Surprised by Joy](#) of his “seemingly firm belief in the inexistence of God”, in which perhaps the most famous passage from that book, he writes:

“You must picture me alone in that room at Magdalen, night after night, feeling, whenever my mind lifted even for a second from my work, the steady, unrelenting approach of Him whom I so earnestly desired not to meet. That which I greatly feared had at last come upon me. In the Trinity Term of 1929 I gave in, and admitted that God was God, and knelt and prayed: perhaps, that night, the most dejected and reluctant convert in all England.” – C.S. Lewis

Peter Hitchens

The younger brother of noted atheist writer Christopher Hitchens once shared his late sibling’s worldview. A journalist, author, and conservative political commentator, he infamously set fire to his copy of the King James Bible as a 15-year-old at boarding school. He and Christopher shared a tempestuous relationship over 50 years, exchanging their youthful arguments over toys for debates about the existence of God in later life.

He [describes](#) coming to an awareness of his own sin, writing that

“My large catalogue of misdeeds replayed themselves rapidly in my head... I had absolutely no doubt that I was among the damned, if there were any damned.” – Peter Hitchens

After his brother famously published *God is not Great* in 2007, Peter wrote his own book, [The Rage Against God](#) in response, critiquing the new atheist movement among which Christopher was so prominent.

Chuck Norris

[Chuck Norris](#) is hands-down the most iconic person in Hollywood to have become a born-again Christian. He kicked off his career as a martial artist and starred in more than 23 films. While he was rapidly climbing the ladder of success, his personal life bore the turmoil.

“I had earned millions of dollars over my lifetime,” he writes. “I’d been a friend to several presidents, yet all the money in my bank account couldn’t help me now.... There was only one person to whom I could turn.” – [Chuck Norris](#)

You can learn more about his epic story by reading [Against All Odds: My Story](#).

Alister E. McGrath

[Alister McGrath](#) is an Irish Anglican priest, historian, and biochemist scientist who believed in evolution. He is also a Professor of Science and Religion who became a Christian apologist and author.

He is perhaps the most intellectual Christian of this century. His writings follow the discipline of historical theology, systematic theology, and the relationship between science and religion.

In 2004, he wrote “[The Twilight of Atheism](#) and also [The Dawkins Delusion?](#)” considered one of his best works. McGrath holds three doctorates from the University of Oxford: in molecular biophysics, theology, and intellectual history.

Gary Busey

[Gary Busey](#) is a prolific actor, best known for his roles in *Point Break* and *Lethal Weapon*. He lived a non-Christian lifestyle that revolved around cocaine and women. However, in 1988, his life changed forever

after a motorcycle accident. Busey's skull fractured, and he suffered permanent brain damage. The extreme hardship changed Busey's religious beliefs, and he announced himself a Christian in 1996.

"I am proud to tell Hollywood I am a Christian. For the first time, I am now free to be myself." – [Gary Busey](#)

Anthony Flew (1923 – 2010)

A son of a preacher, [Anthony Flew](#) was a British philosopher and a notorious advocate for atheism who preceded Dawkins and Hitchens in the 1980s. In 1950, he wrote a short paper, "*Theology and Falsification*," that disavowed God's existence. He quickly became a famous intellectual voice for atheism and wrote more books to discredit God's existence.

In 2004, his faith changed, and he announced that he believed in God, sending shockwaves in the atheist community. Three years before he died, Flew wrote the book, "[There Is God: How the World's Most Notorious Atheist Changed His Mind](#)."

Lee Strobel

[Lee Strobel](#) is an atheist-turned-Christian with a journalism degree from the University of Missouri and a Master of Studies in Law degree from Yale Law School. He was the award-winning legal editor of the Chicago Tribune. After probing the evidence for Jesus for nearly two years, Lee became a Christian in 1981.

Lee Strobel is a *New York Times* [best-selling author of more than forty books](#) and curricula that have sold fourteen million copies in total.

Josh McDowell

As a young man, Josh McDowell considered himself an agnostic. He truly believed that Christianity was worthless. However, when challenged to examine the claims of Christianity intellectually, Josh discovered compelling, overwhelming evidence for the reliability of the Christian faith. After trusting in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, Josh's life changed dramatically as he experienced the power of God's love.

Since 1960, Josh has written or co-authored 155 books in 128 languages including [More Than a Carpenter](#) and [Evidence That Demands a Verdict](#).

What these eight men and many others have discovered is that the evidence unwaveringly points to Jesus Christ AS our ONLY Hope. If you are still struggling with your decision and think you have plenty of time to come to a decision, things to do, and life to live, perhaps you do have a little more time. Perhaps not...

Jesus told a parable of a rich man whose land produced what we would call a bumper crop. Not having any more room to store his crops the man decided,

"I will pull down my barns and build greater ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years. Take rest. Eat, drink, and be merry."

"But God said to him, 'You fool! This night your soul will be required of you. Then whose will those things be which you have provided?' "So is he who stores up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God." – [Luke 12:18-21](#)

After all, this farmer thought he had plenty of time also, and yet...

All Flesh is as Grass

The Bible tells us that our lives are but a breath, like the flowers of the field, we are here one day and gone the next.

“All flesh is as grass and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withers and its flower falls away...” - [1 Peter 1:24](#)

From the first breath we take leaving the womb, we begin the journey that for our natural bodies ends in death. None of us know when that last breath will come. Young people for the most part think they're invincible. When I was young, I never thought about death. Most are occupied with education, jobs, dreams, goals, families, vacations, and sometimes people *may* squeeze God and the thought of eternity in there. However, most never give it a thought.

A True-Life Illustration

I recently had the honor to accompany friends (more like family) of mine from Kentucky to Ohio to support them during the auction of their deceased son's, (nephew, brother) possessions who had passed away suddenly at the age of 57.

To me, I cannot imagine anything more difficult than a parent losing a child. It does not matter what the child's age is when they pass.

I thought I was prepared for this heart-wrenching experience as the family watched the final bits of their son's life being auctioned off. I had only attended one other auction. Therefore, this was a new experience as I was seeing it from the family's perspective.

During this experience, it was the knowledge that [God's Word is true](#), and He is enough to get us through anything that we may face IF we are followers of Jesus Christ, that gave us strength in our weak moments during the auction. For the Lord said to Paul,

“My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness... So I take pleasure in weaknesses... for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.” - [2 Corinthians 12:9-10](#)

During the auction, the Lord reminded me of three specific things to remember.

We Are Not Promised a Life of Ease

The first reminder was that He never promised life would be easy, in fact, He told us that:

“I have told you these things so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But be of good cheer. I have overcome the world.” - [John 16:33](#)

However, God never leaves us stranded and on our own as orphans.

“The Lord, He goes before you. He will be with you. He will not fail you nor forsake you. Do not fear, nor be dismayed.” - [Deuteronomy 31:8](#)

Jesus's Clothes Were in a Sense “Auctioned Off”

The second thing the Lord brought to my remembrance was Mary the mother of Jesus was there at His crucifixion and watched as they “auctioned off” her Son's “possessions”.

“When they crucified Him, they divided His garments by casting lots...” - [Matthew 27:35](#)

The auction took about four hours. However, to me and I'm sure to the family those four hours felt like an eternity as they watched people paw through and bid on their deceased son's possessions.

Some attending the auction knew the son who passed. Many others did not and to them, this was just an entertaining way to spend a Saturday in the atmosphere of a carnival setting. Food and prizes for pennies. I wondered at the time if the family felt like they were being skinned alive every time another piece of their son's life was sold. Especially when it came time to auction off the drums that this man had played

most of his life since childhood. The mom and the aunt could not watch but the brother stayed, My heart was breaking for them all.

A precious life, a person made in the image of God reduced to...

A Man's Life is a Vapor

The third thing the Lord reminded me of was:

"Man is like a breath; his days are as a shadow that passes away." – [Psalm 144:4](#)

"You do not know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? It is just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away." – [James 4:14](#)

When we returned home, I asked the parents if I had their permission to share my observations and a brief background of their son's history. Which they gave.

The "Drummer Boy"

This man's parents loved children and fostered many. Unlike so many "foster families" this family loved each one as their own. One foster child, who I will call the little "drummer boy" was legally adopted into the family.

This reminded me that we also are [adopted into the family of God](#), IF we believe in, rely on, and have faith in Jesus Christ as Lord. Jesus willingly endured our sentence of death so we could be adopted into His family. And as He conquered death, we also will live with Him forever, if we do not reject such great a sacrifice.

Eventually this "drummer boy" became a drummer for a popular heavy metal band in the 80's. This meant that their son was heavily involved in sex, drugs, alcohol, and satan worship for many years. This lifestyle results according to God's Word, in being judged and [cast into the lake of fire](#).

The [Great White Throne](#) Judgment

"Then I saw a great white throne and Him who was seated on it. From His face the earth and the heavens fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God.

"Books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. The dead were judged according to their works as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one by his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

"Anyone whose name was not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire." – [Revelation 20:11-12](#)

But God: the Prodigal Son

However, God would not let go of this "drummer boy" and continued to pursue him because:

*"The Lord is not slow concerning His promise, as some count slowness. But He is patient with us, because **He does not want any to perish, but all to come to repentance.**"* – [2 Peter 3:9](#) (emphasis mine)

Like the parable of the prodigal son (see [Luke 15:11-32](#)), this "drummer boy" when he came to his senses (vs 17) gave his life to Jesus Christ who began to work in his life and set him free from his old ways. Moreover, this "prodigal son/drummer boy" went from playing drums for [Satan](#) to playing drums for [Jesus Christ](#), his Creator, Savior, and Lord as he played his drums during worship services in a local church.

Because he [repented of his old ways](#) and chose wisely, he is safe in what I like to call, his “[happily ever after home](#).” Healed and whole.

Eternal Life: Our Number One Focus

As we go about living our lives in this fallen world, we must make our Eternal Life our number one focus.

Where we choose to spend eternity depends on whether we accept Jesus of Nazareth as God and follow Him on His terms or reject Him.

Those who follow [Jesus Christ](#) will stand before Him to receive the crown of life.

Others who decide to do life “their way and on their terms” will stand before Him to give an account of their lives and then as the Scripture above states “be assigned to the lake of fire” created for [Satan and his demons](#).

This does not have to be the outcome of your brief life. Choose [Eternal life](#) with Jesus Christ.

“Lord, make me to know my end, and what is the measure of my days, that I may know how transient I am. Indeed, You have made my days as a handbreadth, and my age is as nothing before You; indeed, every man at his best is as a breath.” [a wisp of smoke, a vapor that vanishes]!” Selah

“Surely every man walks in a mere shadow [in a charade]; surely, he goes as a breath; he heaps up riches and does not know who will gather them.” – [Psalm 39:4-6](#)

The Question

In this booklet you have seen what many refuse to admit. The Bible is filled with God’s truth. The only truth that matters. Therefore, when Jesus declared He IS THE ONLY WAY to eternal life, we had better listen to Him.

There will not be any excuse that will be acceptable when we take our last breath in these bodies.

The most important decision facing each human made in the image of God is “Will we bow and accept Jesus Christ as the rightful Lord he is or do we live our lives on our own terms resulting in eternity apart from Him?”

Therefore, on last time I will ask you, [do you have a relationship with Jesus?](#)

Appendix 1: How to Begin a Relationship With Jesus

If you have not made a choice to accept Jesus Christ and follow Him, now is the time to do so. Today is the day of salvation. This is the day to decide where you will spend eternity. After all, we are not guaranteed our next breath. Remember to not make a choice, is in itself a choice.

Many people acknowledge that there is a God but stop short when it comes to accepting that Jesus is the only way to spend eternity with him.

Do these thoughts reflect your feelings? “Why shouldn’t I get to spend eternity in heaven? I’m not so bad, I try to live a good life and help those in need. I attend church. I do not believe that a loving God would send people to hell.”

That is exactly what Satan wants you to believe. God ***DOES NOT*** send anyone to hell. Hell or Heaven is ***YOUR*** choice. Hell was created for Satan and the angels that rebelled against God, not for us. But if we turn our backs on Jesus Christ, and trust in our own goodness to get us to Heaven then we are being deceived.

Have you made Jesus Lord of your life?

My Child,

My Son is returning soon. Are you ready? Have you made Jesus Lord of your life? Do you think you have eternal life because you are a good person? I look down from heaven on the entire human race; to see if anyone is truly wise if anyone seeks me. But no, all have turned away; all have become corrupt. No one does good, not even one! ([Psalm 53:2-3](#)) For everyone has sinned; all fall short of my glorious standard. ([Romans 3:23](#))

If you claim you have no sin, you are only fooling yourself and not living in the truth. ([1John 1:8](#)) You are calling me a liar and showing that my word has no place in your heart. ([1John 1:10](#)) There is no judgment against anyone who believes in Christ Jesus. But anyone who does not believe in Jesus has already been judged for not believing in my one and only Son. ([John 3:18](#))

The day is coming when I, God, through Christ Jesus, will judge everyone’s secret life. ([Romans 2:16](#)) All will stand before the judgment seat of God. As surely as I live, every knee will bend to me, and every tongue will confess and give praise to me. Yes, everyone will give a personal account to God. ([Romans 14:10-12](#)) For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus the Lord. ([Romans 6:23](#))

I, God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for your sin, so that you could be made right with me through Christ. ([2 Corinthians 5:21](#)) I showed my great love for you by sending Christ to die for you. ([Romans 5:8](#)) For I, God loved the world so much that I gave my one and only Son so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. ([John 3:16](#)) I know the plans I have for you; they are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. ([Jeremiah 29:11](#))

Therefore, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that I, the Lord God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with Me, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved. Anyone who trusts in me will never be

disgraced. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. ([Romans 10:9-10](#)) For if you confess your sins to me, I AM faithful and just to forgive your sins and to cleanse you from all wickedness. ([1 John 1:9](#))

Today is the day of salvation! Love Eternal, God, the Father

It's Your Choice

Please make The Choice for Jesus. Let us enjoy the presence of the Lord together for all eternity! If you have decided to make the choice to accept Jesus as your Savior, invite Jesus into your heart by praying a prayer like the one below. The prayer must come from your heart, and I hope this will help you to invite Jesus into yours. This prayer is here only as a guide. I urge you to pour out your heart to Jesus in your own words.

“Heavenly Father,

Have mercy on me, a sinner. I believe in you and that your words are true. I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of the living God and that he died on the cross so that I may now have forgiveness for my sins and eternal life. I know that without you in my heart my life is meaningless.

I believe in my heart that you, Lord God, raised Him from the dead. Please, Jesus, forgive me, for every sin I have ever committed or done in my heart, please Lord Jesus forgive me and come into my heart as my personal Lord and Savior today. I need you to be my Father and my friend.

I give you my life and ask you to take full control from this moment on; I pray this in the name of Jesus Christ.”

Amen.

How to follow up on your commitment.

- Be baptized as commanded by Christ.
- Tell someone else about your new faith in Christ.
- Spend time with God each day. It does not have to be a long period of time. Just develop the daily habit of praying to Him and reading His Word. Ask God to increase your faith and your understanding of the Bible.
- Seek fellowship with other followers of Jesus.
- Find a local church where you can grow and worship God.

Appendix 2: Chapter Links

Chapter 1 - The Trustworthiness of the Bible

- **Aristotle:** <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Aristotle>
- **Caesar's The Gallic Wars:** <https://www.britannica.com/event/Gallic-Wars>
- **F. F. Bruce:** <https://www.ffbruce.com/>
- **John Burgon:** https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Burgon
- **Josh McDowell:** <https://www.josh.org/about/josh-d-mcdowell/>
- **Odyssey by Homer:** <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Odyssey-epic-by-Homer>
- **Plato:** <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Plato>
- **W. F. Albright:** <https://www.britannica.com/biography/W-F-Albright>

Chapter 2 - The Credibility of the Gospels

- **British scholar Matthew d'Ancona:** https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matthew_d%27Ancona
- **Descartes:** <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Rene-Descartes>
- **Dr. Carsten Peter Thiede:** https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carsten_Peter_Thiede
- **Old Testament references:** <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/where-is-jesus-in-the-old-testament>
- **Prophecies:** <https://reasons.org/explore/publications/articles/fulfilled-prophecy-evidence-for-the-reliability-of-the-bible>
- **Sir Frederic George Kenyon:** <https://christianpublishinghouse.co/2019/10/16/sir-frederic-g-kenyon-1863-1952/>
- **Sir William Ramsey:** <https://www.ligonier.org/podcasts/5-minutes-in-church-history-with-stephen-nichols/sir-william-ramsay>
- **W. F. Albright:** <https://www.britannica.com/biography/W-F-Albright>

Chapter 4 - Jesus of Nazareth Declares Clearly: He Is God

- **Hegel:** <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Georg-Wilhelm-Friedrich-Hegel>
- **Mao Zedong:** <https://www.britannica.com/question/Who-was-Mao-Zedong>
- **Marx:** <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Karl-Marx>
- **Stalin:** <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Joseph-Stalin>
- **Voltaire:** <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Voltaire>

Chapter 8 - The Eyewitness Testimony of Paul

- **Gamaliel:** <https://www.christianity.com/wiki/people/who-was-gamaliel-and-how-did-he-indirectly-advance-the-gospel.html>
- **Jay Gresham Machen:** https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J._Gresham_Machen

Chapter 9 – Our Final Five Eyewitness Testimonies

- **Consolation of Israel:** <https://www.gotquestions.org/consolation-of-Israel.html>
- **Lake of fire:** https://www.blueletterbible.org/faq/don_stewart/don_stewart_170.cfm
- **Prophetess:** <https://www.gotquestions.org/prophetess-Bible.html>

Section 3 - Overview

- **The Case for Christ:** <https://www.amazon.com/Case-Christ-Journalists-Personal-Investigation/dp/0310350034>

Chapter 10 - The Resurrection Evidence for Jesus

- **Alexander Metherell, MD., Ph.D.:** <http://factsandfaith.com/glossary/alexander-metherell/>
- **Eusebius:** <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Eusebius-of-Caesarea>
- **Gary Habermas, Ph.D., D. D:** <https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/?speaker=gary-habermas>
- **Hematidrosis:**
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2810702/#:~:text=Hematohidrosis%20also%20known%20as%20Hematidrosis,%5B1%5D%20Manonukul%20et%20al.>
- **Hypovolemic shock:**
<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000167.htm#:~:text=Hypovolemic%20shock%20is%20an%20emergency,many%20organs%20to%20stop%20working..>
- **J. P. Moreland, Ph. D:** <https://www.biola.edu/directory/people/jp-moreland>
- **John A. T. Robinson:** <http://trinitycollegechapel.com/about/memorials/brasses/robinson/>
- **Joseph of Arimathea:** <https://www.gotquestions.org/Joseph-of-Arimathea.html>
- **Michael Martin:** https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_Lou_Martin
- **N. Sherwin-White:** https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A._N._Sherwin-White
- **Pericardial effusion:** <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/pericardial-effusion/symptoms-causes/syc-20353720>
- **Pleural effusion:** <https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/diseases/17373-pleural-effusion-causes-signs--treatment>.
- **Respiratory acidosis:** <https://www.healthline.com/health/respiratory-acidosis>
- **Tarsal bones:** <https://www.theskeletalsystem.net/tarsal-bones>
- **William Lane Craig, Ph.D., D.TH:** <https://www.reasonablefaith.org/william-lane-craig>

Chapter 11 - The Evidence of Fulfilled Prophecies

- **1500-year/many authors:** <https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-study/explore-the-bible/the-bible-what-is-it-who-wrote-it-and-why-it-still-matters-today.html>
- **Alfred Edersheim:** <https://www.ccel.org/ccel/edersheim>
- **Caiaphas:** <https://www.gotquestions.org/Caiaphas-in-the-Bible.html>
- **Criswell:** <http://www.ansible.co.uk/writing/ft89.html>
- **Dixon:** <https://www.thevintagenews.com/2017/09/20/the-predictions-of-famous-psychic-jeane-dixon-who-met-with-both-roosevelt-and-nixon-2/>
- **Dr. David Reagan:** <https://christinprophecyblog.org/author/docreagan/>
- **Dr. Harold Hartzler:** <https://www.asa3.org/ASA/PSCF/1949/JASA1-49Hartzler.html>
- **Hughes:** <http://www.trivia-library.com/b/psychic-predictions-of-irene-hughes-future.htm>
- **J. Barton Payne:** [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Barton_\(theologian\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Barton_(theologian))
- **John Ankerberg TV:** <https://jashow.org/>
- **Mark Taylor:** <https://www.charismanews.com/politics/issues/61220-firefighter-prophet-updates-his-vision-for-donald-trump-s-presidency>
- **Matt Slick:** <https://carm.org/author/matt/>
- **Nostradamus:** <https://www.popularmechanics.com/science/a42396432/nostradamus-predictions-2023-cannibalism-mars/>,
- **Peter W. Stoner:** https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_Stoner
- **Septuagint:** <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Septuagint>

- **The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah:** https://www.amazon.com/Times-Jesus-Messiah-Alfred-Edersheim-ebook/dp/B004NEW1ZQ/ref=tmm_kin_swatch_0?_encoding=UTF8&qid=&sr=
- **Unique in all of religious literature:** <https://carm.org/atheism/why-believe-in-christianity-over-all-other-religions/>

Chapter 12 – One Remaining Issue

- **Adopted into the family of God:** <https://www.gotquestions.org/Christian-adoption.html>
- **Alister McGrath:** <https://www.john15.rocks/list-intellectual-atheists-scientists-became-christians-believed-god-bible/>
- **Anthony Flew:** <https://www.john15.rocks/list-intellectual-atheists-scientists-became-christians-believed-god-bible/>
- **C.S Lewis:** <https://www.christiantoday.com/article/five-atheists-who-lost-faith-in-atheism/61784.htm>
- **Cast into the lake of fire:** <https://christinprophecy.org/articles/the-nature-of-hell/>
- **Chuck Norris:** <https://thewitness.org/famous-atheists-who-became-christians/>
- **Describes:** <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1255983/How-I-God-peace-atheist-brother-PETER-HITCHENS-traces-journey-Christianity.html>
- **Gary Busey:** <https://thewitness.org/famous-atheists-who-became-christians/>
- **Hell created for Satan:** <https://www.blueletterbible.org/faq/hell.cfm>
- **Josh McDowell:** https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Josh_McDowell
- **Lee Strobel:** https://www.amazon.com/s?k=lee+strobel+books&i=stripbooks&crd=2OLF1MJPHQR58&srefix=Lee+Strobel+%2Cstripbooks%2C93&ref=nb_sb_ss_ts-doa-p_2_12
- **Peter Hitchens:** https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_Hitchens

Appendix 3: Resource List

PassionatelyLovingJesus.com Referenced Articles

- [22 Quotes of Jesus – Signs of the Times & the End of the Age](#)
- [25 Quotes of Jesus Regarding His Return aka Second Coming](#)
- [28 Awesome “I AM” Quotes of Jesus Our Savior](#)
- [33 Quotes of Jesus Concerning Eternal Life](#)
- [88 Conditional “I Am” Truths](#)
- [A Look at the Uniqueness of Jesus of Nazareth](#)
- [BREAKING NEWS: Sky Splits Open, Jesus Christ Returns!](#)
- [Fact Sheet: The Rapture of the Followers of Christ](#)
- [How to Begin a Relationship with Jesus Christ](#)
- [Jesus of Nazareth Declares Clearly He Is God](#)
- [Jesus Revealed From Genesis to Revelation](#)
- [My Hope Stands Firm in Jesus Christ](#)
- [Our Eternal Home in the Presence of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit](#)
- [Our First Eyewitness of Jesus – John the Baptist](#)
- [Our Fourth Eyewitness of Jesus – Paul the Apostle](#)
- [Our Second Eyewitness of Jesus – the Apostle John](#)
- [Our Third Eyewitness of Jesus – Peter the Apostle](#)
- [Six More Eyewitnesses Testify of Who Jesus Is](#)
- [The Bible IS Trustworthy and Relevant to us Today](#)
- [The Credibility of the Gospels](#)
- [The Eyewitness Testimonies from Followers of Jesus of Nazareth](#)
- [The Great White Throne Judgement](#)
- [The Kingdom of Jesus Christ](#)
- [The Millennial Reign of Jesus Christ – 17 Questions Answered](#)
- [The Trustworthiness of the Revealed Word of God, the Bible](#)
- [Truth is: God’s Word is True](#)
- [Truth Is: Satan is Shrewd](#)
- [Truth Is: The LORD \[is the\] Creator](#)
- [Truth is...Satan Is Not Your friend](#)

Videos

- [The Case for Christ explained in 16 minutes.](#) – Lee Strobel

Books of Interest

- [Why Believe in Jesus?](#) – Tim LaHaye
- [The Case for Christ: A Journalist’s Personal Investigation of Jesus](#) – Lee Strobel
- [Evidence That Demands a Verdict](#) – Josh McDowell
- [More Than a Carpenter](#) – Josh McDowell
- [The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah](#) - Alfred Edersheim

- [Encyclopedia of Biblical Prophecy](#) - Dr. J. Barton Payne
- [The New Testament Documents: Are They Reliable?](#) - F. F. Bruce
- [Surprised by Joy](#) - C.S Lewis
- [The Rage Against God](#): - Peter Hitchens
- [Against All Odds: My Story](#) - Chuck Norris
- [The Twilight of Atheism](#) - Alister McGrath
- [The Dawkins Delusion?](#) - Alister McGrath
- [There Is God: How the World's Most Notorious Atheist Changed His Mind](#) - Anthony Flew

Websites and Links to Sources

- [BibleGateway.com](#)
- [BibleResources.org](#)
- [BlueLetterBible.org](#)
- [EvangelicalFocus.com](#)
- [GotQuestions.org](#)
- [TheGospelCoalition.org](#)
- **Bible.org:** [The Importance of Bible Prophecy](#)
- **BibleStudyTools.com:** [Paul in the Bible](#)
- **Biblical-christianity.com:** [7 Marks of a True Prophet](#)
- **Carm.org:** [Why believe in Christianity over all other religions?](#)
- **Christianity.com:** [Who Was Gamaliel and How Did He Indirectly Advance the Gospel?](#)
- **ChristianToday.com:** [Five atheists who lost faith in atheism](#)
- **ChristInProphecy.org:** A collection of articles, programs, and resources related to Bible prophecy.
- **DesiringGod.org:** [Where is Jesus in the Old Testament?](#)
- **Dr. David Reagan's article:** [Applying the Science of Probability to the Scriptures](#)
- **JaShow.org:** [Rabbis' Modern Picture of the Messiah](#)
- **JaShow.org:** [The Case for Jesus the Messiah](#)
- **Josh.org:** [What turns skeptics into believers?](#)
- **Josh.org:** [Resources, Apologetics, and Answering Skeptics](#)
- **John15.Rocks:** [11 Intellectuals Atheists Who Became Christians](#)
- **Ligonier.org:** [5 Things You Should Know about the Apostle Paul](#)
- [LiveScience.com](#)
- **Reasons.org:** [Fulfilled Prophecy: Evidence for the Reliability of the Bible](#)
- **TheWitness.org:** [Famous Atheists Who Became Christians](#)
- **Wycliffe.net:** [Wycliffe Global Alliance](#)
- **Supersummary.com:** [The Case for Christ](#)- A modern alternative to SparkNotes and CliffsNotes, SuperSummary offers high-quality Study Guides that feature detailed chapter summaries and analysis of major themes, characters, quotes, and essay topics.

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Old Testament Books
New Testament Books
C = Complete Chapter referenced

End Notes

1. ¹ Surah IV: 156-157.
2. ² Craig, *Reasonable Faith*, 234.
3. ³ Martin, *The Case Against Christianity*, 90.
4. ⁴ <https://jashow.org/articles/the-case-for-jesus-the-messiah-incredible-prophecies-that-prove-god-existspart-4/>
5. ⁵ Alfred Edersheim, *The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah*, Vol. 1, p. 160, emphasis added; cf. Vol. 2, p. 741.
6. ⁶ Isaiah 53
7. ⁷ Payne, J. B., *The Encyclopedia of Biblical Prophecy*, Baker Pub. Group, 1980, p. 675.
8. ⁸ Alfred Edersheim, *The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah*, vol. 1, rev. ed. (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1993), 163-64.
9. ⁹ Dennis Pollock, "Messiah Has Come," *Lamplighter Journal* (December 1994), eight.
10. ¹⁰ Peter W. Stoner, *Science Speaks: Scientific Proof of the Accuracy of Prophecy and the Bible* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1969), p. 4.
11. ¹¹ <https://jashow.org/articles/the-case-for-jesus-the-messiah-incredible-prophecies-that-prove-god-existspart-1/>
12. ¹² <https://jashow.org/articles/the-case-for-jesus-the-messiah-incredible-prophecies-that-prove-god-existspart-13/>