

Why Jesus...?
The God-Man Jesus

The Essentials of Apologetics

Introduction

A Brief Review of the Facts Until Now

What We've Learned Thus Far

1. The New Testament documents are historically reliable, can be trusted, and were written too early for legend to have polluted the accounts.
2. The fact that Jesus of Nazareth existed is confirmed by literally every reputable historian/scholar.
3. The core facts of Jesus' missing body are also agreed to by the majority of historical scholars today.
4. When all possibilities for Jesus missing body are examined, the resurrection hypothesis emerges as the most credible.



For More Information...

Why Scripture...?

A Defense of the
New Testament

Why Jesus...?

The Historical Jesus

Why Jesus...?

The Resurrected Jesus

The Essentials of Apologetics

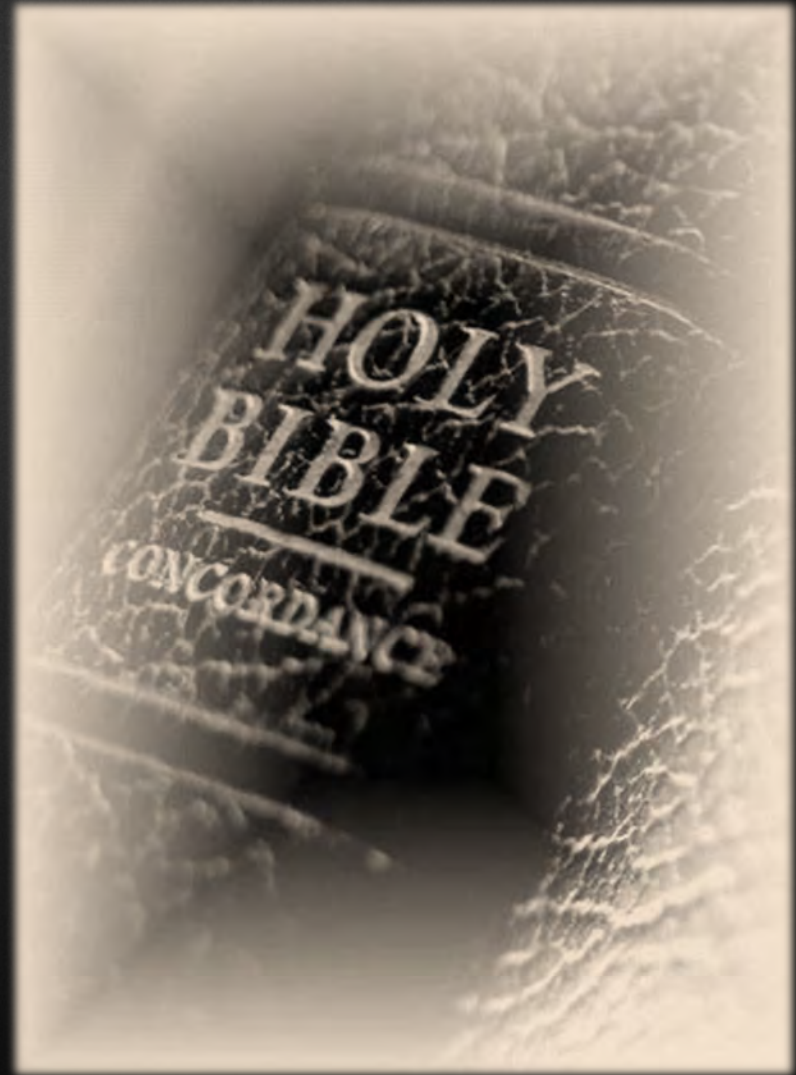
Next Major Question...How Does the Bible Portray Jesus?

- A good moral teacher...?
- A political revolutionary...?
- The Messiah...?
- God Himself....?



How the Bible Speaks about Jesus

- The Old Testament contains information that foretells the coming of one called “Messiah” (“Anointed One”) and provides details about how and when He would arrive.
- The New Testament proclaims that Jesus is the Messiah.
- The New Testament also asserts that Jesus is the Son of God; God Himself in the flesh.



Is Jesus the Messiah?

What does the Bible say about the Christ's coming?

What Some Critics Say...

“The last three decades have erased the Messiah from the Old Testament.”

-J. G. Eichorn, father of higher Criticism

“One might say ... the death of the Messiah – his torture, his crucifixion – is predicted in the Old Testament. Well, in fact, it’s not.”

- Amy-Jill Levine, Vanderbilt Divinity School

“Everything Christians claim for Jesus as the Jewish Messiah is false.”

-Rabbi Pinchas Stolper



When Does The Bible Say the Messiah Would Come?

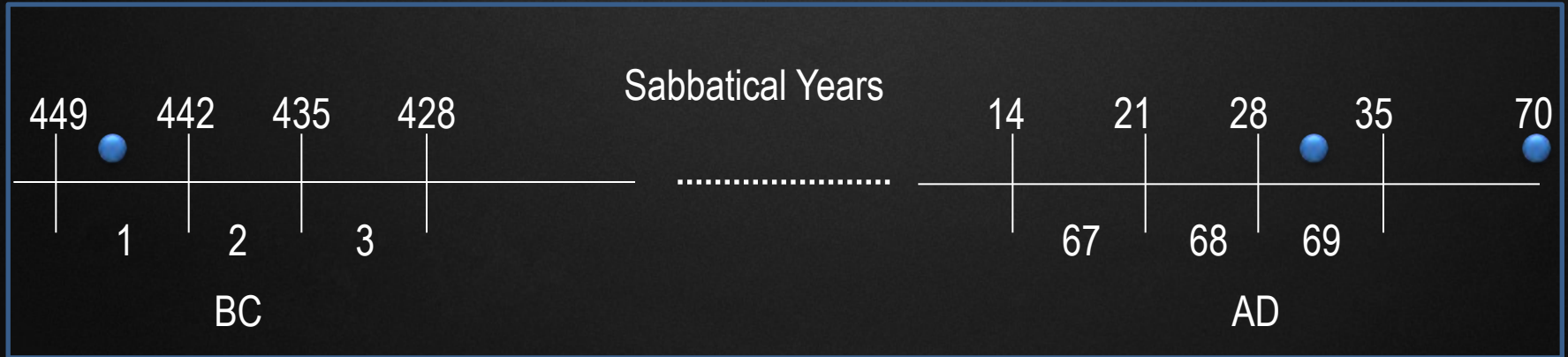
“The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet, **until Shiloh comes**” - **Genesis 49:10**.

“I will shake all the nations; and they will come with the wealth of all nations, and I will fill this house with glory,’ says the Lord of hosts ... **The latter glory of this house will be greater than the former,**’ says the Lord of hosts, ‘and in this place I will give peace,’ declares the Lord of hosts. . . . Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. **And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple;** and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming,” says the Lord of hosts.” - **Haggai 2:7,9; Malachi 3:1**.

- The Bible says that the Messiah would come from the line of Judah before the rulership of Judah/the Jews would cease. That rule ended in A. D. 70.
- The prophets also said that the second temple would have greater glory than the first because the Lord Himself would physically come to that temple. The second temple was destroyed in A. D. 70.

When Does The Bible Say the Messiah Would Come?

“Know and understand this: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven ‘sevens,’ and sixty-two ‘sevens.’ It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble. After the sixty-two ‘sevens,’ the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary.” - Daniel 9:25-26



- In 445 B.C. Artaxerxes commissioned Nehemiah to rebuild Jerusalem.
- 483 (69 x 7) years later, Jesus made His entry into Jerusalem on 9 Nisan A.D. 30.
- Jesus was ‘cut off’ and crucified immediately afterwards.
- In A. D. 70, Titus and the Roman army destroyed Jerusalem and the temple.

What Would the Messiah Be Like?

“Behold, my servant shall act wisely; he shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted. As many were astonished at you— his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of mankind— so shall he sprinkle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which has not been told them they see, and that which they have not heard they understand. Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand. Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors” -Isaiah 52:13–53:12.

What Would the Messiah Be Like?

“The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen” - Deuteronomy 18:15

“For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption” - Psalm 16:10

“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey” - Zechariah 9:9.

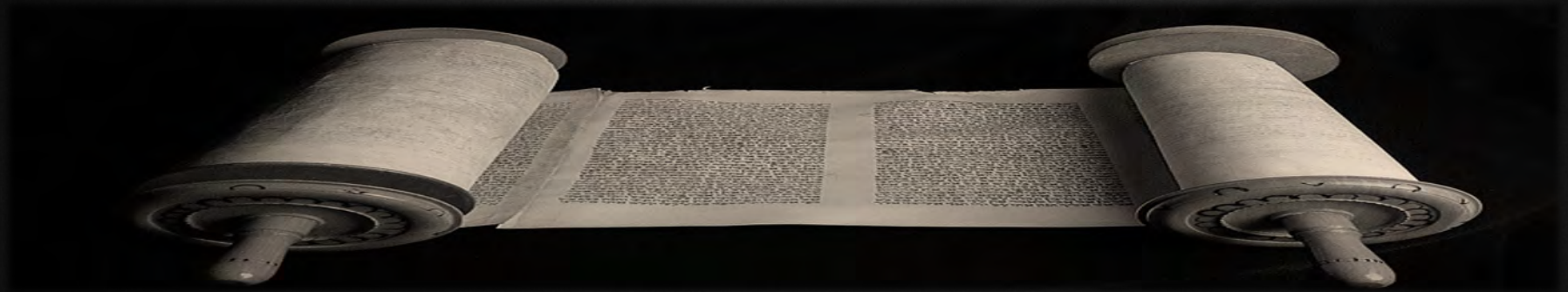
“Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me” - Malachi 3:1

Where Would the Messiah be Born?

“But you, **O Bethlehem Ephrathah**, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days” - Micah 5:2

“When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, **he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: “ ‘And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.’ ”**”
- Matthew 2:3–6

The Old Testament Says the Messiah Would...



- ...be of the line of Abraham, Judah, and David.
- ...come before the rulership of Judah ceased (which it did in A. D. 70).
- ...come 483 years after a decree was given to rebuild Jerusalem.
- ...be born in Bethlehem.
- ...be the last great prophet of Israel.
- ...be preceded by a great messenger.
- ...come to His people riding on a donkey.
- ...personally visit the 2nd temple before it would be destroyed.
- ...be physically abused, stay silent before His accusers, and take away sins.
- ...make atonement for sin and be killed before the 2nd temple was destroyed.
- ...be buried in a rich man's tomb.
- ...return to life.

Who Might That Be...?



Did Jesus Claim to be the Messiah?

The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things.” Jesus said to her, “**I who speak to you am he.**” - John 4:25–26

“He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven” - Matthew 16:15–17



Did Jesus Claim to be the Messiah?

“The high priest asked him, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?” Jesus said, “I am; and ‘you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power,’ and ‘coming with the clouds of heaven.’ ” - Mark 14:61–62

“The Lord says to my lord, “Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies your footstool.” - Psalm 110:1

“I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed” - Daniel 7:13–14

- Jesus made direct Messianic claims to two key Old Testament passages during His trial that portray the Messiah.
- Jesus’ execution was a direct result of His Messianic claims.

Prophecies Concerning the Messiah

- The Old Testament contains 108 distinct prophecies that speak about the Messiah's first coming.
- Every one was fulfilled in the life of Jesus of Nazareth.
- In his book *Science Speaks*, Peter Stoner calculates the odds of just eight prophecies being accidentally fulfilled in the life of one man over the course of hundreds of years.
- Stoner calculated those odds to be: 1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000 (one hundred quadrillion): 10^{17}
- Statisticians say anything past 1 to 10^{50} power is no chance. This limit is exceeded when just 20 fulfilled prophecies are considered (and Jesus fulfilled 108).

Jesus Or No One



- Only Jesus fits the personage of anyone within the timeline specified by the Old Testament for the Messiah.
- Only Jesus fulfilled the characteristics of the Messiah as described in the Old Testament.
- If Jesus is not the Messiah, then no one will ever be and the Bible is wrong.

Is Jesus God?

What does the Bible say about Jesus' Divinity?

“Among these Jews there suddenly turns up a man who goes about talking as if He was God. He claims to forgive sins. He says He has always existed. He says He is coming to judge the world at the end of time. Now let us get this clear. Among Pantheists, like the Indians, anyone might say that he was a part of God, or one with God: there would be nothing very odd about it. But this man, since He was a Jew, could not mean, that kind of God. God, in their language, meant the Being outside the world Who had made it and was infinitely different from anything else. And when you have grasped that, you will see that what this man said was, quite simply, the most shocking thing that has ever been uttered by human lips.”

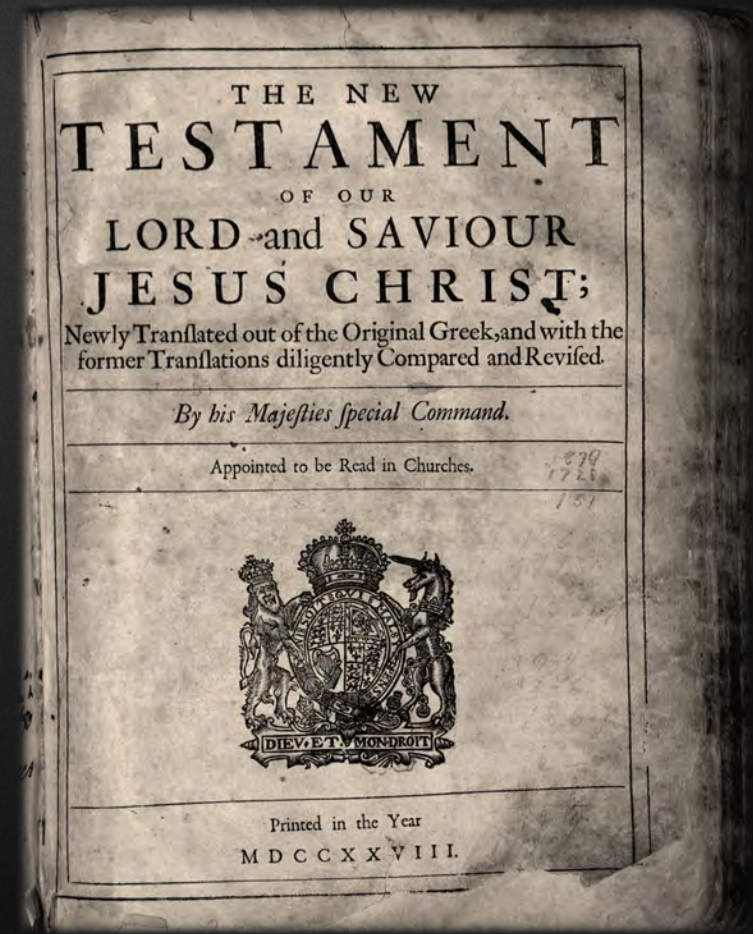
– C. S. Lewis



Does the New Testament Claim Jesus is God?

Let's examine...

1. Jesus' words.
2. Jesus' miracles.
3. Jesus' actions.
4. The testimony of the New Testament writers.



Did Jesus Claim to be God?

LIGHT OF THE WORLD
GATE
GOOD SHEPHERD
WAY TRUTH life
resurrection
good shepherd
WAY
TRUTH
light GATE
of the world WAY
true
vine
light of the world WAY
gate
WAY TRUTH
life
RESURRECTION truth
good WAY
shepherd life
TRUE VINE

GATE
good shepherd
BREAD
OF LIFE
gate bread of life
resurrection
TRUTH
light
of the world
way
GATE
bread of life
WAY SHEPHERD
RESURRECTION
good WAY
shepherd
LIGHT OF
THE WORLD
truth
gate way
life

BREAD
OF LIFE
light of the world
truth
bread of life GATE
GATE
bread of life
TRUE
VINE
bread
of life
WAY GOOD
SHEPHERD
LIFE
true
vine
TRUTH

bread of life
GATE
resurrection
bread of life
GOOD
SHEPHERD
light of the world
RESURRECTION
true vine
WAY
bread
of life
RESURRECTION
true vine
way
light
of the world
TRUTH
bread
of life
GATE

who does Jesus claim to be?

“Jesus answered, “If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, ‘He is our God.’ But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad.” So the Jews said to him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?” Jesus said to them, “**Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.**” So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.” - John 8:54–59

Did Jesus Claim to be God?

God in the Old Testament	Jesus Comparison to Himself
I AM (Exodus 3:14-15; Isaiah 48:12)	I AM (John 8:58; John 8:18, 24)
The Shepherd (Psalm 23:1)	The Shepherd (John 10:11)
The Light (Psalm 27:1)	The Light (John 8:12)
Ruler of all (Isaiah 9:6)	Ruler of all (Matthew 28:18)
Judge of all nations (Joel 3:12)	Judge of all (John 5:12)
The Bridegroom (Isaiah 62:5; Hosea 2:16)	The Bridegroom (Matthew 25:1)
God's Word never pass away (Isaiah 40:8)	Jesus' words never pass away (Mk. 13:31)
First and the Last (Isaiah 48:12)	First and the Last (Revelation 1:17-18)

Did Jesus Claim to be God?

In **20** of Jesus' 52 parables, He identifies Himself as God. Some examples:

God in the Old Testament	Jesus Comparison to Himself
The Sower (Jeremiah 31:27; Ezra 34:9)	The Sower (Matthew 13:3-9)
The Shepherd (Gen 49:24; Psalm 23:1)	The Shepherd (John 10:11)
The Rock (Psalm 18:2)	The Rock (Matthew 7:24)
The Bridegroom (Isaiah 54:5, Hosea 2:16)	The Bridegroom (Matthew 25:1)

Did Jesus Claim to be God?

- “Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.” - John 8:24
- “Anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father” - John 14:9
- “I and the Father are one” - John 10:30
- “Father glorify Me in Your presence with the glory I had with You before the world began” - John 17:5 (cf. “I am the Lord that is My name! I will not give My glory to another” - Isaiah 42:8)
- “My Father is always at His work to this very day, and I too, am working.”
- John 5:17



“I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I’m ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don’t accept his claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.”

– C. S. Lewis



Jesus' Miracles

Jesus demonstrated sovereignty over:

- **Birth defects** (John 9:1)
- **Disease** (Matt. 8:2, Luke 7:1, Mark 3:1, Matt. 8:28, etc.)
- **Nature** (Mark 4:35, Matt. 14:25, etc.)
- **Poverty/Lack/Need** (John 2:1, Mark 6:30, etc.)
- **Satan/demons** (Luke 8:26, 13:11, etc.)
- **Space/time** (John 1:48)
- **Death** (John 11:43, Mark 5:22, Luke 7:11)



Did Jesus Act Like He was God?



- Jesus accepted worship nine times in the gospels.
- Jesus forgave sins (Mark 2).
- Jesus said to pray in His name (John 16:23-24).
- Jesus never said “Thus says the Lord”, but rather “I say”.
- Jesus said He was Lord of the Sabbath (which God created; Mark 2:28).
- Jesus said to baptize in His name (Matthew 28).

The Testimony of the New Testament Writers

Witness	Verse	Statement
John	John 1:1-3,14	God became flesh
Thomas	John 20:28	“My Lord and my God!”
Paul	Romans 9:5	Jesus is God over all
Paul	Philippians 2:5-8	Jesus set aside His right as God
Paul	Colossians 1:16-19, 2:9-10	Created all things including angels; all fullness of Deity dwells
Paul	1 Timothy 6:15, Deut 10:17	Jesus is King of kings, Lord of Lords
Peter	2 Peter 1:1	Jesus is our God and Savior
Writer of Hebrews	Hebrews 1:8, 13:8	Has everlasting throne and is immutable

The Testimony of John

“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 came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being...And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.” - John 1:1-3,14.

“dwell” = σκηνή
“Yahweh’s tabernacle”

“Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.” - Exodus 40:34

The Testimony of Paul

“If you confess with your mouth Jesus as **Lord**, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. For the Scripture says, “**WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED.**” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same **Lord** is **Lord** of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; for “**WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD (YAHWEH) WILL BE SAVED.**”

– Romans 10:9-13.

Same Greek word – **Kyrios** – is used.

The Testimony of Paul

"Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in **Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God**, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. **Being found in appearance as a man**, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that **at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**"

- Philippians 2:5-10

"By Myself I have sworn, My mouth has uttered in all integrity a word that will not be revoked: Before Me every knee will bow; by Me every tongue will swear."

- Isaiah 45:23

The Testimony of Paul

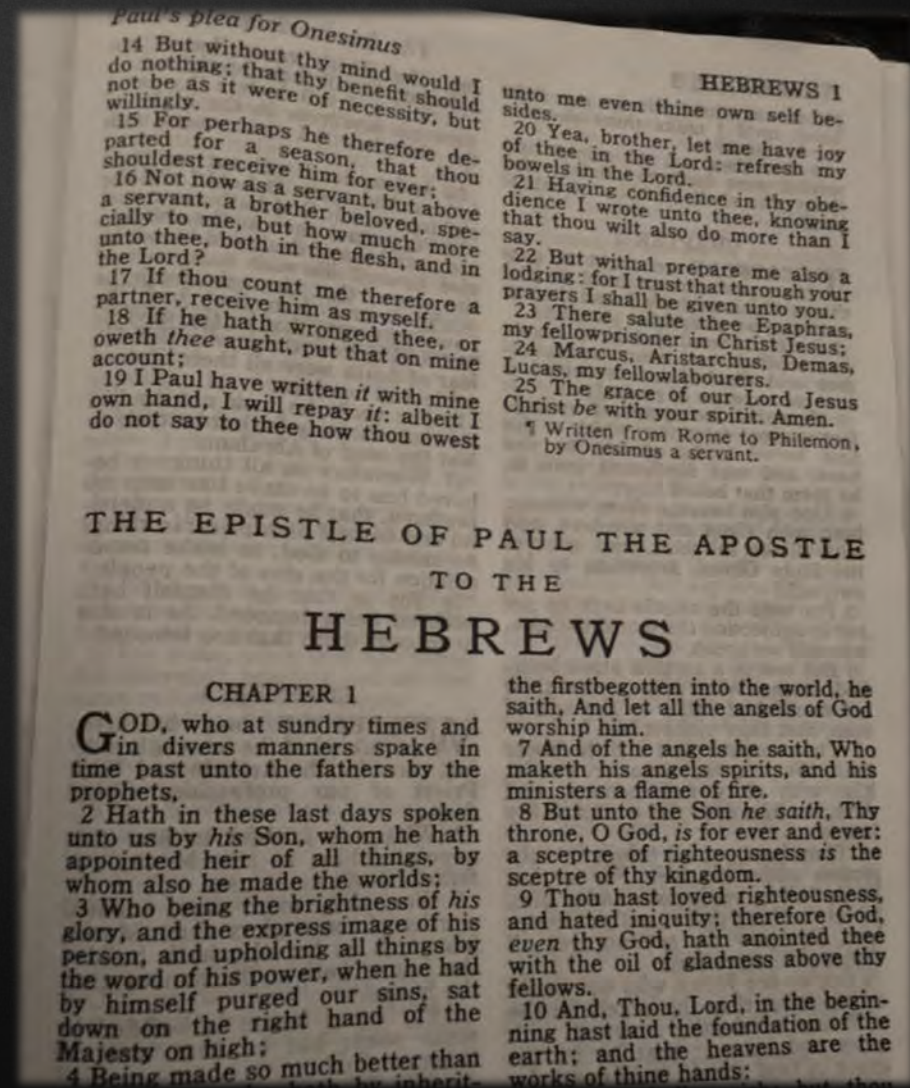
"For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him"

- Colossians 1:13-19

The Writer of Hebrews

"And He [Jesus] is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. . . . Of the Son He says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever"

- Hebrews 1:3,8



Early External Testimony Referencing Jesus as God

“They were in the habit of meeting on a certain fixed day before it was light, when they sang an anthem to Christ as God...”

– Pliny the Younger, Letters, series 10

“Now if the Christians worshipped only one God they might have reason on their side ... But as a matter of fact they worship a man who appeared only recently. And their worship of this Jesus is the more outrageous because they refuse to listen to any talk about God, the father of all, unless it includes some reference to Jesus ... And when they call him Son of God, they are not really paying homage to God, rather, they are attempting to exalt Jesus to the heights.”

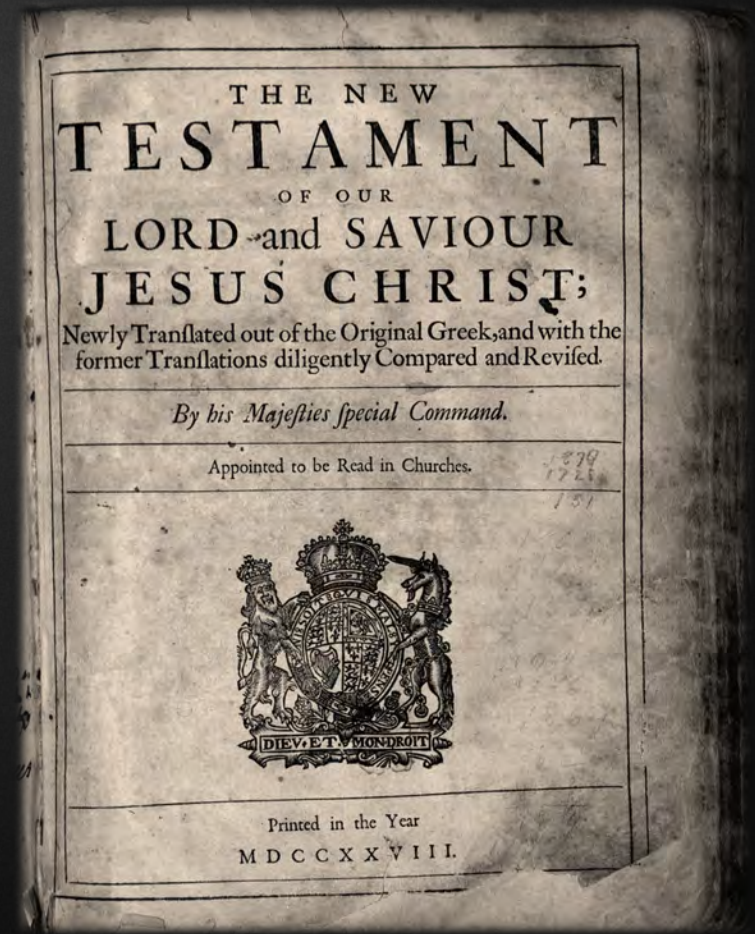
– Celsus

“I conjure you by the God of the Hebrews, Jesus ... who appears in fire, who is in the midst of land, snow, and fog...” (lines 3007-3041)

– Exorcism formula from the Greek Magical Papyrus

Does the New Testament Claim Jesus is God?


1. Jesus' words clearly demonstrate He believed He was God.
2. Jesus' miracles showed His sovereignty over all creation.
3. Jesus' actions of forgiving sins, accepting worship, etc., show He believed He was God.
4. The testimony of the New Testament writers point to Jesus being God.



Conclusions

Final Thoughts

What Conclusions Are We Left With?



Final Thoughts

Did Jesus of Nazareth exist...?

Yes

Did Jesus fulfill Messianic prophecies...?

Yes

Did anyone else appear in history like Jesus...?

No

Did Jesus claim to be God...?

Yes

Did Jesus prove His claim via miracles and His resurrection...?

Yes

Did the NT writers and others testify that Jesus is God...?

Yes

What Is Your Answer?



“Who do you say that I am?” – Jesus (Matt. 16:15)

For More Information/Presentations

Christian Apologetic Pow... x

www.powerpointapologist.org

iGoogle Bookmarks FoxNews.com - Bra... Yahoo!

Other bookmarks

The PowerPoint Apologist
Defending the Christian Faith with Style...

Confident Christians Website | Contact | Submit Presentation
Free Christian Apologetic PowerPoints
What is the Gospel?

About Beliefs Full Series Topics All Blog

ARE YOU WILLING TO BELIEVE?

What is the Powerpoint Apologist?

What is the Powerpoint Apologist? We are devoted to supplying polished and professional Christian apologetic Powerpoint presentations that you can download and use free of charge in your church or classroom setting to teach and defend the truths of the Christian faith.

New/Highlighted Presentation

Why believe in God? Our fifth presentation in our new apologetics series with which we're partnering with [Apologetics 315](#) answers this question by presenting evidence for God being the moral source for objective moral values and duties.

Copyright Confident Christians, 2012

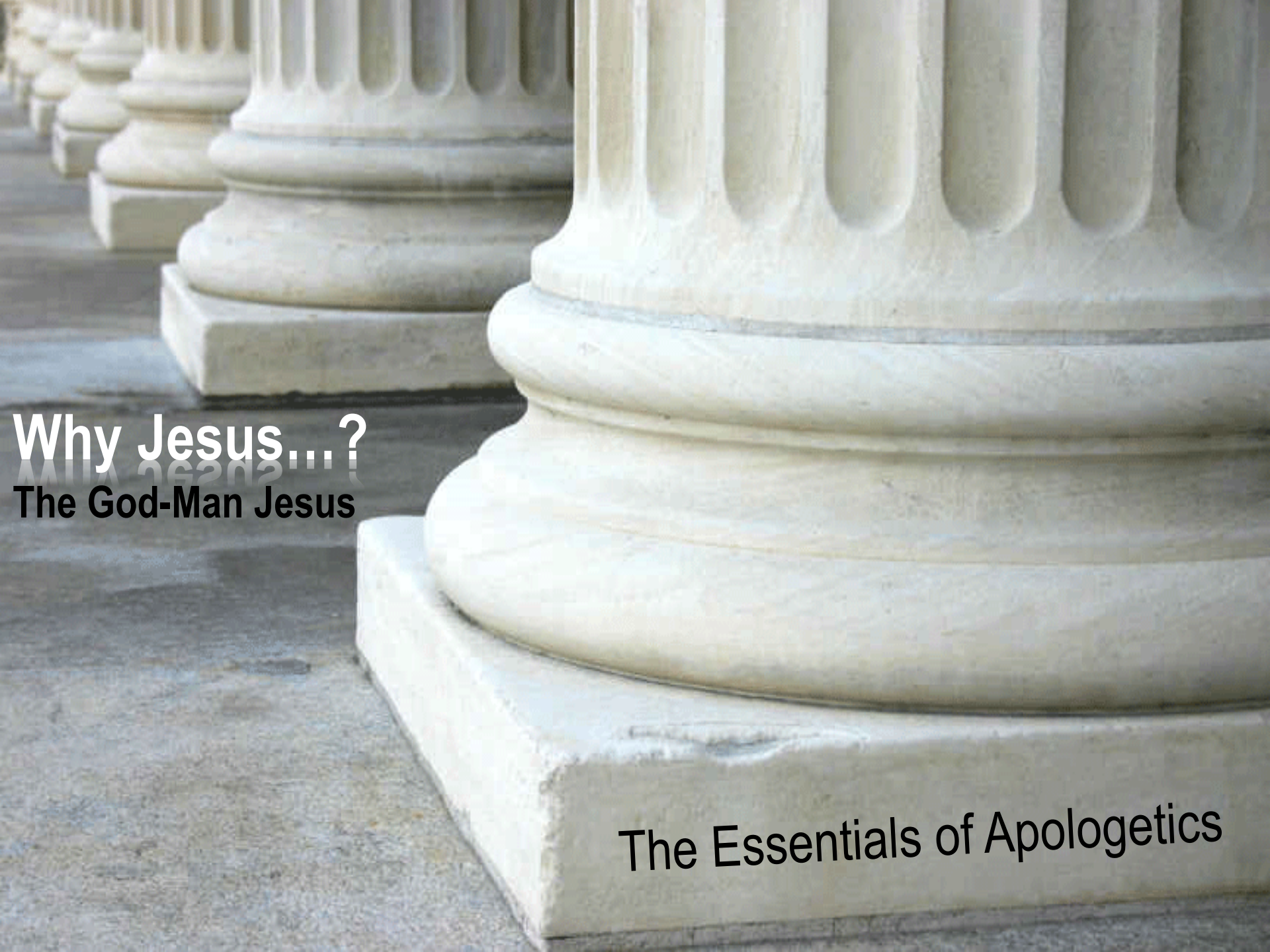
www.powerpointapologist.org
www.confidentchristians.org

For More Apologetics Resources

Apologetics315

*Daily apologetics resources
including audio, debates, podcasts,
book reviews, and more.*

www.apologetics315.com



Why Jesus...?
The God-Man Jesus

The Essentials of Apologetics