

Is Jesus the Son of God?

ADMITTED FACTS

1. A MAN NAMED JESUS LIVED
2. JESUS LIVED IN PALESTINE
3. JESUS LIVED IN THE FIRST CENTURY
4. JESUS WAS A RELIGIOUS TEACHER
5. JESUS WAS A GOOD MAN

YES

Jesus - the Christ imposter

- 1 His claims
- 2 His Virgin birth
- 3 His Prophecies
- 4 His unnatural sayings
- 5 His unnatural deeds
- 6 His miracles
- 7 His resurrection

NO

Jesus - the

- 1 An outcast, illegitimate Jew
- 2 An untrained philosopher
- 3 Filled with Jewish prejudices and hatred
- 4 Filled with worldly ambition
- 5 Filled with self aggrandizement
- 6 A clever liar and fraud

CHART III - JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD!

INTRODUCTION:

Our proposition in this lesson is that, having proved that God exists and that the Bible is a revelation from God to man, the fundamental and basic affirmation of that revelation is true; namely, that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

I. The Proposition Defined

A. Matt 22:42 "What do you think about the _____? Whose son is he?" "The son of David," they replied. 43 He said to them, "How is it then that David, speaking by the _____, calls him 'Lord'? For he says, 44 "'The Lord said to my Lord: 'Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet.'" ' 45 If then David calls him 'Lord,' how can he be his son?" 46 No one could say a word in reply, and from that day on no one dared to ask him any more _____.

Matt 16:15 "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" 16 _____ Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." 17 Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of _____, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. 18 And I tell you that you are _____, and on this rock I will build my _____, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

1. Jesus" - A common name worn by many then and now.

Col. 4:11 Jesus, who is called _____, also sends greetings. These are the only Jews among my fellow _____ for the kingdom of God, and they have proved a comfort to me

2. "Christ" - Hebrew "the Messiah", the one prophesied about in all of the Old Testament. Greek "anointed", signifying His being chosen of God to be:

Prophet – Acts 3:22 For Moses said, 'The Lord your God will raise up for you a _____ like me from among your own people; you must listen to _____ he tells you. 23 Anyone who does not listen to him will be _____ cut off from among his people.'

Priest – Heb. 8:1 The point of what we are saying is this: We do have _____ a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the _____ in heaven,

King – Rev. 17:14 They will make war against the _____, but the Lamb will overcome them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings--and with him will be his called, chosen and _____ followers.

3. "The Son of God" - Not just "a" Son of God, as men and angels are called in the scriptures
Job 38:7 while the _____ stars sang together and all the angels (KJV sons of

God) shouted for joy?

Jn 1:12 Yet to all who _____ him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God--

I Jn 3:2 Dear friends, now we are _____ of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is

But in a special and exclusive sense, He is “the only begotten Son of God”.

B. The significance of the proposition.

1. A matter of revelation. Men could not know by “flesh and blood” (human testimony and human wisdom) this great truth.

Matt. 16:15 "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" 16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." 17 Jesus replied, " _____ are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. 18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this _____ I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

I Cor. 12:3 Therefore I tell you that no one who is _____ by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

2. Declared publicly and audibly by God

Matt. 3:17 And a voice from _____ said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

3. Declared by angels to Mary and Joseph

Lk. 1:35 The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will _____ you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God;

Matt. 1:21 She will give _____ to a son, and you are to give him the _____ Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

4. It is the theme of New Testament preaching

Acts 2:36 "Therefore let all _____ be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you _____, both Lord and Christ."

Acts 17:3 explaining and _____ that the Christ had to suffer and rise from the

dead. "This Jesus I am _____ to you is the Christ," he said;

I Cor. 2:2 For I resolved to know _____ while I was with you except Jesus Christ and _____ crucified.

5. It is the foundation of the Church and the fact that Jesus, Paul, and Peter all apply the passages concerning a foundation to Jesus, not to Peter.

Matt. 16:15 "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" 16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the _____, the Son of the living God." 17 Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not _____ to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. 18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of _____ will not overcome it.

Note—Those who apply this passage so as to make Peter the foundation ignore Paul's statements in:

I Cor. 3:11 For no one can lay any _____ other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Isa. 28:16 So this is what the _____ LORD says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who _____ will never be dismayed.

Psalms 118:22 The stone the builders rejected has become the _____
(Quoted in Matt. 21:42; Rom. 9:33; Acts 4:11; I Pet. 2:4)

6. It is the reason for the New Testament Scriptures.
Jn 20:30 Jesus did many other _____ signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. 31 But these are written that you may _____ that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have _____ in his name.

7. You must believe and confess it in order to be saved.
Rom. 10:9 That if you confess with your mouth, "_____ is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your _____ that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you _____ and are saved.

Acts 8: 37 Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." The eunuch answered, "I believe that _____ Christ is the Son of God." 38 And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the _____ went down into the water and Philip _____ him

II. Facts Admitted by All

- A. Jesus lived.
 - 1. All writers, enemies and friends, Jewish, Roman, Greek, etc., treat Jesus as an historical character, not as a fictitious character.
- B. He lived in Palestine.
 - 1. All writers refer to Him as a Jew who lived in Palestine.
- C. He lived at the beginning of the 1st century.
 - 1. To determine when George Washington lived, you could trace historical references to him in each generation until about 1700. Before that, his name is not mentioned. Obviously, then, he lived during the 18th century.
 - 2. Likewise, there is historical reference to Jesus in each century and generation back to the 1st century. Before that, He is not mentioned (except in prophecy, as we will see later in the lesson).
- D. He was a religious teacher.
 - 1. All writers refer to him as a teacher of religion, the author of the Christian religion. Before He lived, the Christian religion did not exist; since He lived, it has always been here.

III. There Are But Two Alternatives

- A. That Jesus is the Son of God as He claimed, that He was born miraculously, that He fulfilled Old Testament prophecy, that His actions and attitudes were contrary to those of ordinary men, that He performed miracles, and that He was raised from the dead.
- B. If He is not what He claimed, then He was just an ordinary man, a Jewish imposter, limited in knowledge, filled with all of the prejudices and hatreds so common to the Jews of that day, filled with vain worldly ambition, and in all of his activities a conscious and deliberate liar and fraud.
- C. The third alternative imagined by many that He was neither the Son of God nor a conscious liar and imposter, but that he was a great philosopher, a genius in his day, a great and good man, is ridiculous to contemplate. He made the most stupendous and grandiose claims of any man that ever lived. If He was not what He claimed to be, He knew that such claims were untrue when He made them and hence He would be an unmitigated liar and not a good man in any sense of the term.
 - 1. Some have suggested the possibility that He may have been mentally unbalanced and had “delusions of grandeur”. But look at his life! He was always calm, rational, the master of every situation. An insane person does not act in such a manner. That the world’s highest moral standard could come from the mind of a sick and demented man is incredible.

IV. Evidences That He is The Son of God

- A. The Claims:
 - 1. He claimed to be sinlessly perfect.
 - a. He challenged his hearers to convict Him of sin
Jn 8:46 Can any of you prove me _____ of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don't you believe me?
 - b. His disciples said He was sinless.
Heb. 4:15 For we do not have a _____ priest who is unable to _____

with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without _____.

I Pet. 2:22 "He _____ no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth."

Yet, they made no such claim for themselves.

Lk. 5:8 When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a _____ man!"

I Tim. 1:15 Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save _____ of whom I am the worst.

- c. His friends lived with Him constantly for more than three years and had every opportunity to observe His life, yet found no fault in Him. (Even the one who betrayed Him admitted that Christ was innocent Matt 27:4 "I have sinned," he said, "for I have _____ innocent blood." "What is that to us?" they replied. "That's your responsibility.")
 - d. His enemies used every means, legal and illegal, to convict Him of a sin or crime yet even the Roman authority who sentenced Him to die (as a political expedient) admitted His innocence.
Matt. 27:24 When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I am _____ of this man's blood," he said. "It is your responsibility!"
 - e. Such a claim would have been disastrous to an imposter or fraud. He would know that he could not hide his mistakes and human frailties. But Jesus made the claim, lived the part, and at the same time condemned self-righteousness.
2. He claimed to be equal with God.
- a. Jn 5:17 Jesus said to them, "My _____ is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am _____." 18 For this reason the Jews tried all the harder to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own _____ making himself equal with God

Jn 14:6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him." 8 Philip said, "Lord, show us the _____ and that will be enough for us." 9 Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the _____'? 10 Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work."

- b. Jesus always lived with the calm assurance that He was the Son of God; that He had the attributes and prerogatives of God; that He came from the Father; and would return to Him.
 - c. What sinful human being, what Jew living in a decadent and ignorant generation would ever conceive that such a relationship could exist between God in Heaven and men on earth?
 - d. What imposter or fraud would have made the claim knowing that it would mean certain punishment for blasphemy?
3. He claimed that He would rise from the dead.
- a. Luke 9:22 And he said, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be _____ by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life."

Matt. 12:40 For as _____ was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

Matt 16:21 From that time on Jesus began to explain to his _____ that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be _____ to life.

- b. What would an imposter, seeking to establish a false religion and further his own ends, possibly hope to accomplish by such a claim? He would know that within three days after his death he would be proven to be a liar.
4. He claimed that all men everywhere should love and obey Him.
- a. Matt. 10:37 "Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not _____ of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me"

Mark 16:15 He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. 16 Whoever believes and is _____ will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned."

- b. What Jewish impostor would have ever conceived of the Great Commission? The Jews were bound up in national pride; they hated the Gentiles. That a world-embracing message of good will would come from the prejudiced mind of a Galilean peasant is incredible.

B. The Virgin Birth.

- 1. Isa. chapters 7-9 record a prophetic picture of the Messiah under the figure of a child.
 - a. Isa. 7:14 - "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. The _____ will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel."
 - b. Isa. 8 - This child "Immanuel" is mentioned twice again.
 - c. Isa. 9:6 - "For to us a child is born..." What child? The one mentioned in Isa. 7:14 - Immanuel.
 - d. When Jesus was born, Matt. 1:22, 23 says that Isa. 7:14 was fulfilled. Luke 1:32.

33 shows that Isa. 9:6, 7 was fulfilled.

- e. It is obvious that one of the signs by which God would identify the Messiah is that He would be born of a Virgin, a miraculous and supernatural event.
2. Modernists today delight in ridiculing and rejecting the virgin birth. Harry Emerson Fosdick states, "Of course I do not believe in the virgin birth or in that old-fashioned doctrine of the atonement and I do not know any intelligent Christian minister who does".
 - a. They say, "it is contrary to the natural law of procreation." Certainly it is, that's the point! It was a miraculous sign given by God. Surely He who could create both man and woman from the dust of the ground in the beginning could create life separate from His law again.
 - b. To deny the virgin birth is to deny the validity of the Gospel records. Note Matthew's account, chapter 1:18-25.
 - (1) vs. 18—"Before they came together" (or cohabited).
 - (2) vs. 19—Joseph knew the child was not his and would have put her away.
 - (3) vs. 20—The angel said "what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit."
 - (4) vs. 22—Matthew says that it is a fulfillment of Isa. 7:14.
 - (5) vs. 25—Matthew states that "he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son"

C. Fulfilled Prophecies

1. Jesus claimed that He was the fulfillment of the Messianic prophecies.
Jn 5:39 You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that _____ about me.

Luke 24:25 He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" 27 And _____ with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the _____ concerning himself.

Lk 24:44 He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be _____ that is written about me in the Law of _____, the Prophets and the Psalms."

2. The apostles claimed these applied to Him.
Acts 3:18 But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the _____, saying that his Christ would suffer.

Acts 26:22 But I have had God's help to this very day, and so I stand here and testify to small and great alike. I am saying nothing beyond what the _____ and Moses said would happen— 23 that the Christ would suffer and, as the first to rise from the dead, would proclaim light to his own people and to the _____."

3. Bear in mind that this was not an afterthought. Jesus made this claim while he was yet living.
4. Examples of prophecies fulfilled.

EXAMPLES

- (A) Born of Woman
- (B) Born of Virgin
- (C) Linage of Abraham
- (D) Family of David

- (E) Time of Birth
(Preceded by a Forerunner)
- (F) Place of Birth
- (G) Divinity

- (H) Slaughter of Babies
- (I) Galilean Ministry
- (J) His Priesthood

- (K) To be a Prophet
- (L) Purging the Temple
- (M) Triumphant Entry

- (N) Betrayed by a Friend
- (O) Price of Betrayal
- (P) Deserted by Disciples
- (Q) Silent Before Accusers

- (R) Mocked and Insulted

- (S) Vinegar and Gall

- (T) Cries on the Cross
- (U) Vicarious Death
- (V) Crucified Among Thieves
- (W) Nailed - Pierced

- (X) No Bones Broken
- (Y) Casting Lots for Garments
- (Z) Grave with the Rich
- (AA) Resurrection
- (BB) Coronation

PROPHECY

- Gen. 3:15
- Isa. 7:14
- Sen. 12:3
- Ps. 132:11
- Jer. 23:5
- Isa. 40:3
- Mal. 3:1; 4:5
- Micah 5:2
- Ps. 2:7
- Isa. 9:6
- Isa. 25:9
- Jer. 23:6
- Jer. 31:15
- Isa. 9:1, 2
- Ps. 110:4
- Zech. 6:12, 13
- Deut. 18:15, 18
- Ps. 69:9
- Isa. 62:11
- Zech. 9:9
- Ps. 41:9; 55:13
- Zech. 11:12, 13
- Zech. 13:7
- Ps. 38:13 14
- Isa. 53:7
- Ps. 35:15, 16
- Ps. 22:7
- Ps. 69:21

- Ps. 22:1, 31:5
- Isa. 53:4, 6
- Isa. 53:12
- Ps. 22:16
- Zech. 12:10
- Ps. 34:20
- Ps. 22:18
- Isa. 53:9
- Ps. 16:10; 30:30
- Ps. 110:1,2
- Ps 24:7- 10

FULFILLED

- Gal. 4:4
- Matt. 1:22
- Acts 3:25, 26
- Rev. 22:16
- Matt.1:1-2
- Matt. 3:3
- Luke 3:3, 4
- Matt. 2:5, 6
- Acts 13:33
- Matt. 11:27
- Luke 2:11
- Luke 2:11
- Matt. 2:17, 18
- Matt. 4:14.16
- Heb. 5:6
- Heb. 7:17-21
- Acts 3:22
- Jn 2:17

- Matt. 21:4, 5
- Jn 13:18
- Matt. 27:9, 10
- Matt. 26:56

- Matt. 27:12, 13,
- Matt. 26:67
- Matt. 27:39, 40
- Matt. 27:34
- Jn 19:29, 30
- Matt. 27:46
- Matt. 8:17
- Matt. 27:58

- Jn 19:34, 37
- Jn 19:33, 36
- Jn 19:23, 24
- Matt. 27:57-60
- Acts 2:31, 32

- Acts 1:9; Eph. 1:20-23

5. Suppose you read a book in a library about a man from a large family, whose father was United States Ambassador to England, whose oldest brother was killed in World War II, who piloted a P. T. Boat for the U. S. Navy, who was a senator from Massachusetts, who became the first Catholic President of the United States, and who was assassinated in Dallas, Texas. You would immediately recognize that these facts apply to only one man, John F. Kennedy. Now suppose that the librarian proved to you that the book was printed in 1700. Imagine, a man's whole life portrayed in detail and in print hundreds of years before he was ever born! That is exactly what you have in these Messianic prophecies. These prophecies were all recorded and in a complete translation in the Greek language (Septuagint Version) at least 250 years before Jesus was born.
 6. Now what could a Jewish imposter, a fraud trying to begin a new sect, possibly hope to gain by making such a claim? Even if he were foolish enough to read those prophecies and decide to play the part, there would be things over which he would have no control (where he would be born, the amount of money paid for his betrayal, the events of his death, the disposition of his garments after death, etc.)
- D. Unnatural Sayings and Deeds.
1. Read the accounts of Jesus' earthly life as recorded in the Gospel record, study carefully His teaching and His actions and ask yourself, "Are these the actions and sayings of a natural man? Did He react to situations as men do today? Would a Jewish imposter, a cheat and a fraud have so acted?"
 2. Some unnatural attitudes of Jesus:
 - a. He was completely devoid of worldly ambition.
 - (1) When they tried to make Him a worldly king, he refused
Jn 6:15 Jesus, knowing that they _____ to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.
 - (2) Mark 10:17 As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "Good _____," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" 18 "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good - except God alone. 19 You know the commandments: 'Do not _____, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, do not defraud, honor your father and mother.'" 20 "Teacher," he declared, "all these I have kept since I was a boy." 21 Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, _____ me." 22 At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.
 - (3) A Jewish fraud trying to establish a religion would naturally try to influence and win the support of the rulers, the chief priests, and the scribes. Jesus cultivated the poor and the sinners.

Luke 15:1 Now the tax collectors and "sinners" were all gathering around to hear him. 2 But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered,

"This man welcomes _____ and eats with them." and rebuked the ones in prominent positions. (Matt. 23).

- b. He never expressed a doubt on any subject.

John 7:46 "No one ever _____ the way this man does," the guards declared.

- (1) He did not admit ignorance of anything; to Him there were no mysteries; He spoke as One who possessed all truth. He never appealed to human philosophy or human authority in an attempt to bolster his arguments. He did not apologize for even the most revolutionary statements, nor did He burden them with complicated or wordy explanations. His authority did not come from education, political influence, popularity, or any such source, but was inherent within Him.

Matthew 7:29 because he taught as one who had _____, and not as their teachers of the law.

- c. He was entirely free of prejudice or hatred.

- (1) While surrounded by prevailing prejudices against the Gentiles

John 4:9 The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan _____. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

He treated all kindly and in the religion He established, made Jew and Gentile, slave and free, male and female, equal.

Mark 16:15 He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. 16 _____ believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

Galatians 3:28 There is neither _____ nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all _____ in Christ Jesus. 29 If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

What Jewish fraud would have acted in this manner?

- d. He was entirely fearless and set forth teachings that were certain to bring persecution.

- (1) While all Jews looked with pride upon Jerusalem as the chosen city of God, the center of a physical kingdom to come, Jesus plainly foretold its utter

destruction (Matt. 24).

- (2) While the Jews looked upon the 10 commandments, the law of Moses, as the ultimate and eternal law, Jesus taught that it would end and that men were to hear Him rather than Moses.

Matt. 5:17 "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to _____ them. 18 I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest _____, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. 19 Anyone who breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and _____ these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

Colossians 2:14 having canceled the _____ code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross.

- (3) While the Jewish nation looked for a worldly Messiah to set up an earthly kingdom, He said, "My kingdom is not of this world."

John 18:36 Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my _____ would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place."

- (4) What Jewish imposter, seeking to establish a new religion would have made such statements calculated to bring the wrath of the Jewish people down upon him? What would he have to gain by condemning all of the existing Jewish sects, showing disregard for their vaunted traditions, and accusing their leaders of hypocrisy?

- e. He had no malice or ill-will even toward His enemies.

Matthew 5:44 But I tell you: Love your _____ and pray for those who persecute you

His statement as He hung dying on the cross is not the statement of a human being whose earthly plans had been frustrated and defeated.

Luke 23:34 Jesus said, "Father, _____ them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

- f. He was entirely free of egotism and selfishness.

- (1) Scrutinize carefully the life of Jesus and see if you can find one selfish thing that He ever did. His whole life was spent in service and sacrifice for others.

Matthew 20:27 and whoever wants to be first must be your _____ - 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

- (2) What egotist, what Jewish imposter seeking to gather support for himself, would ever have spoken as Jesus did? He gave God all the credit for what He accomplished.

John 5:30 By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my _____ is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me.

John 11:40 Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of _____?" 41 So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. 42 I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you _____ me." 43 When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"

John 12:48 There is a _____ for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; that very word which I spoke will condemn him at the last day. 49 For I did not speak of my own accord, but the _____ who sent me commanded me what to say and how to say it.

- (3) Some unnatural sayings of Jesus:

- a. John 8:58 "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was _____, I am!"

What Jew living in that day would have conceived of a pre-existence?

- b. Matthew 24:35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will _____ pass away.

From a human being, the statement that his words were of such import that they would outlast all the teachings of all other men but would outlast the Universe itself, would be the height of audacity.

- c. John 5:22 Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all _____ to the Son,

John 5:26 For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son to have life in himself. 27 And he has given him authority to _____

because he is the Son of Man.

John 12:48 There is a judge for the one who _____ me and does not accept my words; that very word which I spoke will condemn him at the last day.

For one who taught others "Judge not that you may not be judged", these statements are nothing short of amazing.

- d. Matthew 4:10 Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the _____ your God, and serve him only.'"

John 4:23 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true _____ will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. 24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.

While claiming that only God should be worshiped, He accepted worship from many people.

Matthew 8:2 A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, "Lord, if you are _____, you can make me clean."

Matthew 9:18 While he was saying this, a ruler came and knelt before him and said, "My _____ has just died. But come and put your hand on her, and she will live."

John 9:35 Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" 36 "Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may _____ in him." 37 Jesus said, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you." 38 Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he _____ him.

Matthew 28:9 Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and _____ him.

John 20:26 A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" 27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your _____ here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." 28 Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my _____ !" 29 Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

- e. John 5:21 For just as the _____ raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it.28 "Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice 29 and come out - those who have done good will _____ to live, and those who have done _____ will rise to be condemned."

What human being would ever risk the ridicule and exposure that could come from falsely claiming to rise from the dead?

E. Miracles of Jesus.

1. What is a miracle?
 - b. A miracle is the direct intervention of God in the affairs of men. It is an event that indicates the presence or sanction of Deity. It is an event that could not be brought about by the ordinary forces of nature or by ordinary men.
2. Are miracles possible?
 - a. Admit the existence of God and all things are possible to such an omnipotent power. If we believe the first verse of the Bible, our faith ought not to waver at any miracle therein.
3. What purpose do miracles serve?
 - a. Miracles were given to confirm that the one who spoke was speaking from God

Mk 16:20 Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and _____ his word by the signs that accompanied it.
 - b. Jesus claimed that the miracles he performed were God's stamp of approval upon Him as God's revelation to man.

John 5:36 "I have testimony weightier than that of John. For the very work that the Father has given me to finish, and which I am doing, testifies that the _____ has sent me.

John 10:25 Jesus answered, "I did tell you, but you do not believe. The _____ I do in my Father's name speak for me,

Matthew 11:2 When John heard in prison what Christ was doing, he sent his disciples 3 to ask him, "Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect _____ else?" 4 Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: 5 The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the _____ are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. 6 Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me."

4. Did Jesus actually perform miracles?

a. He said He did.

John 5:36 "I have _____ weightier than that of John. For the very work that the Father has given me to finish, and which I am doing, testifies that the Father has sent me. "

John 10:25 Jesus answered, "I did tell you, but you do not _____. The miracles I do in my Father's name speak for me,"

Matthew 11:2 When John heard in prison what Christ was doing, he sent his disciples 3 to ask him, "Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?" 4 Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: 5 The _____ receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the _____ hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. 6 Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me."

b. His disciples said He did.

Acts 2:22 "Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by _____, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know.

John 3:2 He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the _____ signs you are doing if God were not with him."

c. His enemies said that both He and His disciples did.

Matthew 12:22 Then they brought him a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute, and Jesus healed him, so that he could both talk and see. 23 All the people were astonished and said, "Could this be the Son of David?" 24 But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, "It is only by _____, the prince of demons, that this fellow drives out demons."

Acts 4:10 then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God _____ from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. 16 "What are we going to do with these men?" they asked. "Everybody living in Jerusalem knows they have done an outstanding _____, and we cannot deny it.

d. The Bible records them as facts. To deny miracles is to deny the inspiration of the Bible.

- e. Historians say that He did. Josephus describes Him as “a doer of wonderful works.”
 - f. It was 100 years or more after the death of Christ before anyone attempted to deny His miracles as valid.
5. To even claim such miraculous power would have been disastrous for a Jew trying to usurp authority and establish a new religion. He would know that in those multitudes, and certainly among his followers, would be those who could disprove His claim.
- a. To say that He succeeded by fakery and deceit to convince everybody, friends and foes alike, would make Him the greatest sleight of hand artist the world has ever known (as well as the biggest cheat).
 - b. And even if you granted the inconceivable possibility of his fooling everybody by stupendous acts of legerdemain, how do you account for his failing to capitalize on the publicity? Why would he tell those who saw his magic to keep it quiet?

Matthew 9:30 and their sight was restored. Jesus warned them sternly, "See that no one _____ about this."

Matthew 12:16 warning them not to _____ who he was.

Matthew 17:9 As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them, "Don't _____ anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

Mark 3:12 But he gave them strict orders not to _____ who he was.

Luke 5:14 Then Jesus ordered him, "Don't _____ anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them."

F. His resurrection.

1. We have already seen how utterly foolish it would have been for an imposter to claim that he would be raised from the dead. But Jesus made the claim repeatedly and His Apostles affirmed that they were witnesses of it.
2. The fact of the resurrection is the greatest proof of the Christian religion.

Romans 1:4 and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his _____ from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Corinthians 15:12 But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no _____ of the dead? 13 If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. 14 And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. 15 More than that, we are then found to be false _____ about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. 16 For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been _____ either. 17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. 19 If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.

- a. If we accept it as true, every claim and action of Jesus is verified.
 - b. If we reject it, Jesus as a good man, the Bible as a good book, Christianity as a worthwhile religion, are likewise cast aside.
3. The Apostles as witnesses of the resurrection.
- a. Their honesty, integrity, competency, etc., are unquestioned. They risked everything of a worldly nature, even their own lives, to proclaim this fact. The transformation in their lives following their seeing Jesus arisen from the dead is evidence of their firm conviction.
 - b. They were sufficient in number to preclude any possibility of mistake.
4. Facts admitted by all:
- a. Jesus not only lived but was crucified by Jews and Romans.
 - b. He was buried in a sealed tomb.
 - c. His body disappeared.
5. Alternate explanations proposed
- a. The swoon theory (that Jesus was not actually dead, and that He revived from a state of unconsciousness and walked out of the tomb).
 - (1) Does not account for soldier's actions
John 19:33 But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already _____, they did not break his legs.
 - (2) Does not account for testimony of a competent Roman officer
Mark 15:44 Pilate was surprised to hear that he was already dead. Summoning the centurion, he asked him if Jesus had already died. 45 When he learned from the _____ that it was so, he gave the body to Joseph.
 - (3) Does not account for how those who worked on His body, anointed and

wrapped it, etc., could have failed to perceive life in His body.

- (4) Does not account for how after such physical torture on the cross, plus a spear wound in His side with accompanying loss of blood, plus at least two days without food, water, or medication, He could undo the wrappings, take time to fold them neatly, roll away the huge stone at the entrance, fight off a Roman guard, walk the length of Palestine, and appear healthy and hearty to His disciples.

b. The theory that the enemies of Jesus stole the body.

- (1) They had no motive! It would defeat their purpose. They wanted Him dead and buried and made every precaution to assure the body being still in the grave three days later.

Matthew 27:62 The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. 63 "Sir," they said, "we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise again.' 64 So give the order for the tomb to be made _____ until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first." 65 "Take a guard," Pilate answered. "Go, make the _____ as secure as you know how." 66 So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard.

- (2) If they had, all they would have had to do on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2) would have been to produce the dead body of Jesus to forever put an end to His claims and His teaching.

c. The theory that the disciples stole the body.

- (1) Does not account for how a guard of at least 12 Roman soldiers (under penalty of death if negligent) would allow the disciples to take the body.
- (2) Does not account for motive. The disciples dispersed after the crucifixion and did not expect Jesus to be raised. Would they have risked their lives, suffer persecution and privation for that which they knew was a lie?

d. The "hallucination" theory. (That the disciples wanted to see Jesus so badly, they mistook a vision or dream for reality.)

- (1) Jesus corrected them when they at they first thought they saw a vision.

Luke 24:36 While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood

among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." 37 They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a _____.

- (2) Thomas wanted positive proof.

John 20:24 Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my _____ where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it." 26 A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the _____ were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" 27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." 28 Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" 29 Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have _____; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." 30 Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book.

- (3) The variety of appearances in both number and circumstances preclude the possibility.

- (a) Not just one appearance but many, over a space of 40 days.
(b) Not just to one group but to groups of 2,12, and even 500 at once.

- (4) Besides the disciples were not expecting to see Him.

- (5) Besides all that, if it had been an hallucination, the body would still have been in the tomb.

e. That He arose from the dead!

V. Conclusion.

A. Take divinity away from Jesus and what do you have?

1. A Jew, born in a captive Roman province, of a peasant woman, lived as a carpenter's son for 30 years, became a teacher of religion for 3 ½ years, was deserted by his followers when arrested, tried, and killed as a common criminal. He never wrote a book, never invented a machine, never went to college, yet he claims to be equal with God, to be the light of the world, that He would judge the world, that He would arise from the dead, and that He was sinless.

- a. More than that, He succeeded in having all time reckoned from Him (when we write A. D. 2002, we acknowledge His claim by dating in the "year of our Lord").

- b. He established a religion that has grown and spread throughout the whole world.
- c. More than that, this nameless cheat, this fraud, invented the character of Christ, and successfully played the part for a number of years!
- d. Though a conscious liar, he gave the world the highest moral standard it has ever known.
- e. Who can believe it? The only logical and rational conclusion to reach is that **Jesus is what He claimed to be, the Christ, the Son of God!!**

