

GOD QUESTIONS

Who is Jesus, Really?

“DID JESUS REALLY EXIST?”

THE BIBLICAL RECORD:

Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account ...

Luke 1:1-4

THE EXTRA-BIBLICAL RECORD:

Here is what we can learn from extra-biblical literature . . .

- Jesus was a Jewish teacher.
- Many people believed that he performed healings and exorcisms.
- Some people believed he was the Messiah.
- He was rejected by the Jewish leaders.
- He was crucified under Pontius Pilate in the reign of Tiberius.
- Despite this shameful death, his followers, who believed that he was still alive, spread beyond Palestine so that there were multitudes of them in Rome by AD 64.
- All kinds of people from the cities and countryside – men and women, slave and free – worshipped him as God.

The Case for Christ, Strobel p.115

THE INFLUENCE OF JESUS:

That a few simple men should in one generation have invented so powerful and appealing a personality, so lofty an ethic and so inspiring a vision of human brotherhood, would be a miracle far more incredible than any recorded in the Gospels.

Historian Will Durant

“IS JESUS REALLY GOD?”

THE PROPHETIC ANNOUNCEMENTS DECLARE IT:

Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

Isaiah 7:14

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”

Micah 5:2

JESUS HIMSELF CLAIMS IT:

“I am the light of the world.”

Jesus - John 8:12

“You are making false claims about yourself”

The Pharisees - John 8:13 NLT

“You aren’t even fifty years old. How can you say you have seen Abraham?”

The Pharisees - John 8:58 NLT

“The truth is, before Abraham was, I AM.”

Jesus - John 8:58 NLT

“He says, ‘I am begotten of the One God, before Abraham was, I am,’ and remember what the words ‘I am’ were in Hebrew. They were the name of God, which must not be spoken by any human being, the name which it was death to utter.”

C S Lewis

JESUS’ ACTIONS SUPPORT IT:

Why does this fellow talk like that? He’s blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

Teachers of the Law - Mark 2:7

“Do not worship any other gods besides me”

Exodus 20:3 NLT

“My Lord and my God!”

Thomas – John 20:28

THE DISCIPLES AFFIRMED IT:

We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true by being in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

1 John 5:20

Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation,

Colossians 1:15 NLT

LOGIC SUPPORTS IT:

OPTION #1 – Jesus is a Deceiver

OPTION #2 – Jesus is Deceived

OPTION #3 – Jesus is Divine