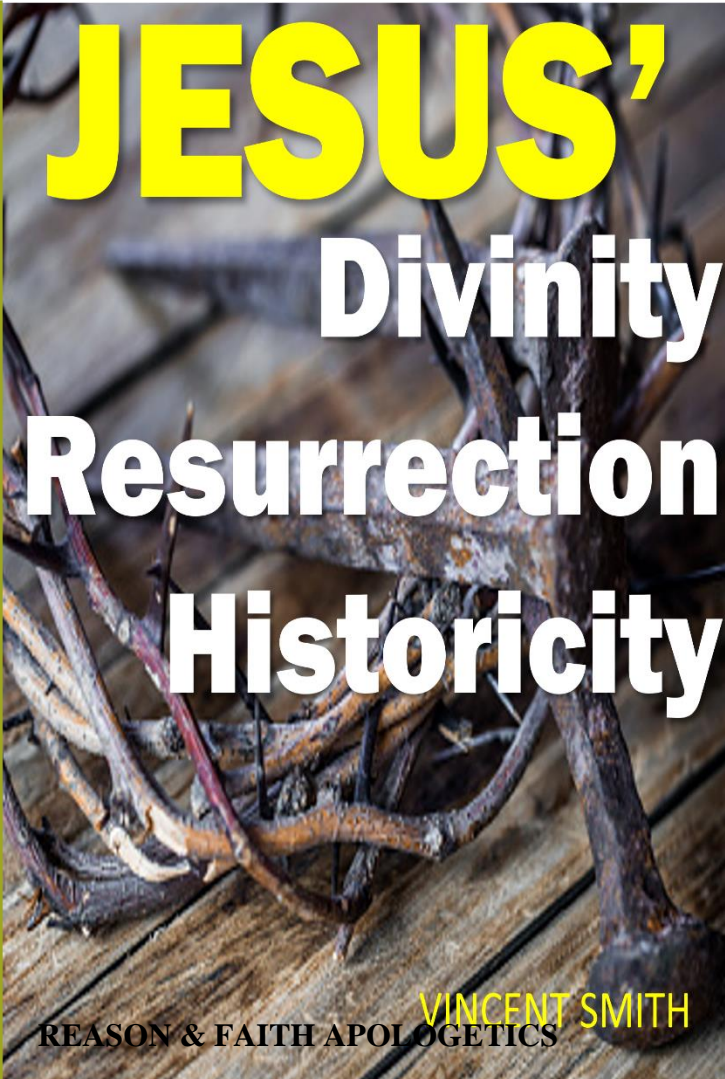


**REASON & FAITH APOLOGETICS  
RESOURCE**



# **JESUS'** **Divinity** **Resurrection** **Historicity**

**VINCENT SMITH**  
REASON & FAITH APOLOGETICS

**ANSWERING POPULAR OBJECTIONS**

**Author. Vincent Smith**

No part of this publication may be reproduced in whole or in part, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the permission of the publisher.

For information regarding permission, write to

Permissions Department, Vincent Smith  
13 Draytons Close,  
Boulevard Road,  
Enterprise  
Christ Church  
Barbados

Copyright © 2019 by Vincent Smith  
All rights reserved.

**Smith, Vincent. Boulevard Road, Enterprise,  
Christ Church.  
Barbados. VinCher Publishing. 2019.**

## CHAPTERS

[Chapter 1](#) [Trinity](#)

[Chapter 2](#) [Jesus is Divine](#)

[Chapter 3](#) [Name of Jesus](#)

[Chapter 4](#) [\*Jesus is the Messiah\*](#)

[Chapter 5](#) [Evidence for the Resurrection](#)

[Chapter 6](#) [Historicity of Jesus](#)

[Chapter 7](#) [“Jesus is not real” claims](#)

## Chapter 1

# THE TRINITY

Claim: nowhere in the Bible is the word, Trinity. So, Trinity does not exist. The word Trinity is not in the Bible but a unity among three persons in heaven is in the Bible.

Trinity is not a thing or title. It is a relationship.

While the term "Trinity" isn't explicitly mentioned in the Bible, the concept of a triune God is derived from various passages that describe the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as distinct persons who are each fully God.

## WHAT GOD IS NOT

Jesus is not the Father or the Spirit.

The Father is not the son or the spirit.

The Holy Spirit is not the Son or the **FATHER**.

## THERE IS ONLY ONE GOD.

Deuteronomy 6:4 *Listen, Israel: The LORD is our God, the LORD is one*

1 Corinthians 8:4 *About eating food offered to idols, then, we know that "an idol is nothing in the world," and that "there is no God but one."<sup>a</sup>*

## **ALL THREE ARE ONE GOD (but not the same person)**

Father is God- Romans 1:7 John 6:27

Son is God- John 1:1, Colossians 2:9, Hebrews 1:8, 1 John 5:02, Phil 2:6-11

Holy Spirit is God– Acts 5:3-4, 1 Corinthians 3:16

God is the Father, God is the Son and God is the Father and Holy Spirit.

## **MODALISM**

*‘God is one person who changings into three different persons’*. False. God is not 1 person but three different persons who already exist. They are sent. Some people use the incorrect analogy of the three states of water. Meaning that God changes state.

## **PERSONALITIES**

*God has three personalities* (False). There are actually 3 people in different locations speaking to each other. If God is one person, he is pretending to talk to another when it’s just him. This is multiple personalities, not multiple persons.

## **PARTIALISM**

The Father, Son and Holy Spirit are separate pieces of God as a whole making one God. False. God is not split into 3 parts or 1/3s. Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

## **TRI-THEISM**

Three separate and distinct Godly beings not from the same source. False.

## **RELATIONSHIP**

### **Equality**

In heaven. the word was equal to God the Father. Phil 2: and John 1: 2

### **Subordination**

In the flesh. Jesus is subordinate to the Father in the flesh as a human son.

Jesus becomes thirsty, bleeds etc. God does not thirst and not know things. The reason for this is although Jesus is truly God, he is truly human. Jesus submits to the Father because it's the human nature to submit. He is the perfect human and an example to us of how to submit to God as our father.

### **Roles**

Each person has a different role concerning man. Father creates.

Son redeems.

Holy Spirit mentors us.

The cross is what God has done. The Trinity is who God is.

## The idea of the Trinity from scripture.

**Mat 28: 19** Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, **baptizing** them in the **name** of the **Father**, and of the **Son**, and of the **Holy Ghost**: Mark 16:15; John 15:16;

**1John 5:7**

For there are **three that testify**, **1 John 5:8** the Spirit and the water and the blood, and these three are in agreement. **1 John 5:9** If we accept the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, because this is the testimony of God that he has testified concerning his Son.

**Gen 1:26**

Then God said, “**Let us** make humankind in our image, after our likeness, so they may rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move on the earth.”

**(Jude 1:5 [NET2])**

Now I desire to remind you (even though you have been fully informed of these facts once for all) that **Jesus**, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, later destroyed those who did not believe.

(Phil 2:6 [KJV])

Who, **being in the form of God**, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

.

**John 1: 1**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, **and the Word was fully God.**



## Chapter 2

# Jesus is Divine

Understanding how God can be one yet three is a puzzling feat, to say the least. But this is how God reveals Himself. It's not a revelation by man. Let us look at another sort of parallel puzzle.

The Holy Spirit. How many Christians are there, millions, and if all have the Holy Spirit in them it should be safe to conclude there are millions of Holy Spirits, right? Wrong. Scripture reveals that there is only one Spirit shared among many who unite us. *(Eph 4:4 [KJV]) There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; (1Cor 6:17 [KJV]) But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit (1Cor 12:12 [NET2]) For just as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body – though many – are one body, so too is Christ. [Similarly, the human body] (1Cor 12:14 [KJV])*

*For the body is not one member, but many.*

When God says, ONE GOD does he mean numerically one or a unified ONE?

## IS JESUS DIVINE

### Did Jesus say He is God?

If you look for a quote where Jesus used the three (3) words, **I am God**, you won't find it but you will find the two words I AM which means the same thing.

**John 8:58** Jesus said to them, “I tell you the solemn truth, *before Abraham came into existence, I am!*” ” you and I don't know what it means so we have to go to those who know what it means, the Jews. The Jews, **59** *Then took they up stones to cast at him: why kill someone for saying two words I AM?* He could mean I am a goat, a tree or a house. Why were they offended and why treat him like he broke the law or sinned? They wanted to kill Him because only God called Himself “I AM”. **Ex 1:14**. So when Jesus said I am He is saying I am God. **Exod 3:14** *And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.* So, we have a direct quote from Jesus. He stopped short of the word God because you don't have to

say the word, God. Just say two words I AM and you have communicated effectively and clearly, that you are God. So yes, Jesus **communicate** He is God.

In the O.T., God said he is the first and last and in Revelation Jesus said he is the first and last.

**Isaiah 44-6** *Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no Gode* **Rev 1:8** *I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.*

Jesus says he must be honoured the same way as the Father God.

**Jn 5:21** *For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will. Jn 5:22* *For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: Jn 5:23* *That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.*

So, we honour the Father by bowing and worshipping Him so must we bow and worship Jesus.

**John 10:30-33** (*The Father and I are one.*” **31** *The Jewish leaders picked up rocks again to stone him to death.* **32** *Jesus said to them, “I have shown you many good deeds from the Father. For which one of them are you going to stone me?”* **33** *The Jewish leaders replied, “We are not going to stone you for a good deed but for blasphemy, because you, a man, are claiming to be God;* **John 8:58-59** (*Jesus said to them, “I tell you the solemn truth, before Abraham came into existence, I am!”* **59** *Then they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out from the temple area.)* **john 1:18** *No one has ever seen God. The only one, himself Jesus (Word), who is in **closest fellowship** with the Father, has made God known.),* **John 14:9** (*Jesus replied, “Have I been with you for so long, and you have not known me, Philip? The person who has seen me has seen the Father! How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”*)

## **Was Jesus a Liar, Lunatic or God?** (Had multiple personalities or delusional)

This is the old C.S. Lewis trilemma, First, if anyone says Jesus was a liar, they are assuming Jesus is a real historical figure and he also said these things. So, we are off to a good start. Jesus did not have three personalities, he made statements that caused people to think he was a liar, lunatic or God.

He said, I am the son of God, I and my father are one, I give them eternal life etc.

LIAR- If he is not who he said he is, then he is a liar. They will have to prove he was a liar. You will need to prove or supply evidence he is not a liar. Jesus when faced with this, said if you don't believe me then believe my works. Jesus is implying his works should prove he is not a liar and therefore He whom He said He is. Let's look at his works. Turn water into wine, walk on water, born without a father, prophesied the destruction of Jerusalem, raised the dead, made fish go into a net, feed the five thousand from 5 loaves and 2 fish, healed the sick, cast out demons made the blind see,

prophesied his death and resurrection in 3 days, raised himself from the dead and forgave sins.

1. He was raised from the dead in 3 days so he did not lie about that. Every miracle he did, defies all laws of nature which means that nature or anything alive in this material universe cannot perform any of them. Therefore, he demonstrated power beyond and above all things in this material universe. Powers only a God or supernatural entity can perform. His actions are strongly consistent with him being either connected to the source of his superpower or that source itself. So, His statements, I am the son of God, I and my father are one, I give them eternal life all require Him to be connected to the source of power or be the source itself which His powerful miracles have proven.
2. There is overwhelming evidence from His works that He was not lying, He was not in a delusion but was very sober, in sound mind and honest.

### **Jesus is God!! a logical conclusion.**

1) Jesus came from heaven. Was he a human who visited heaven or did he live there? He lived there. Who lives in heaven? Only God and angels. If Jesus lived in heaven, then he is either God or an angel. Was he an angel? No. Therefore he is God.

2)

a-Jesus created all things in heaven and the universe.

b-There are two things in heaven, angels the created and God the uncreated.

c-Since Jesus created all the created things in heaven, he is uncreated.

d-Since the uncreated in heaven is God, Jesus is God.

### **Is Jesus God?**

Jesus, the Father and the Holy Spirit are all Almighty God and there is only one God **Isa 44:6** but Jesus is not the Father or the Holy Spirit and the Father is not the Spirit or Jesus. Jesus is the word of God that took the form of a human **John 1:1-3 &10-14**. Jesus is the word of God through whom God created life **Gen 1:3, 6** etc. The word of God existed as long as God existed. The Father, the Word and the Holy Spirit are

co-equal. Jesus the man was sent to Mary, not Jesus the man.

### **There is more to God.**

The word is not the Spirit or the Father it is an individual but together with the Father and the Spirit,

### **He is God.**

The word entered Mary's **womb, not her vagina** and a human emerged from Mary. This is the form which the word took to deliver the message of the Father.

God revealed he exists as three persons (a father, word, and Holy Spirit) in **Gen 1:26, Gen 1:2 & John 1:1**, yet he said he is "one God" in **Deu 6:4 & Ex 20:3**. There was no explicit teaching in the Old Testament that there is a triune God but it was implicit.

Through revelations from Jesus and the apostles, we get a better understanding of God which was spoken of by the Prophets and not fully understood by people of the Old Testament.

John said, *that Isaiah saw Jesus' glory.* **John 12:37-41** <sup>37</sup> *But although He had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him,*



*38 that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke: "Lord, who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?" 39 Therefore they could not believe, because Isaiah said again: 40 "He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, Lest they should see with their eyes, Lest they should understand with their hearts and urn, So that I should heal them." 41 These things **Isaiah** said **when he saw His glory and spoke of Him.***

John is talking about Jesus being seen by Isaiah. So exactly **when did Isaiah see Jesus' glory?** When he was seated on the throne in heaven. Also notice Isaiah referred to Jesus as, Jehovah. **(Isa 6:1-3. 1 [KJV])** *In the year that king Uzziah died, I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. 2 Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain, he covered his face, and with twai,n he covered his feet, and with twai,n he did fly. 3 And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.* The word LORD above is יהוה YHWH Yod He Waw He. /**Yahovah** (yeh-ho-vaw') not Adonai.

Isaiah saw God /YHWH who was the Messiah Jesus according to John. Was Isaiah confused when he said Jesus is YHWH?

**(1 John 5:6-7. 6 [NET2])** *Jesus Christ is the one who came by water and blood – not by the water only, but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies because the Spirit is the truth.<sup>7</sup> For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.*

### **What does it mean, God is Father?**

A title based on a relationship between two beings. One may assume because God created humans, He is their Father. This may be true in a technical sense however, Jesus said, in **John 8:42** *Jesus replied, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I have come from God and am now here. I have not come on my initiative, but he sent me.* **John 8:44** *You people are from your father the devil, and you want to do what your father desires. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not uphold the truth, because there is no truth in*

*him. Whenever he lies, he speaks according to his own nature, because he is a liar and the father of lies.*

**John 8:47** *The one who belongs to God listens and responds to God's words. You don't listen and respond, because you don't belong to God."*

This tells us how God is our Father.

### **Why Jesus refer to God as Father?**

As an earthly being, Jesus' relationship is from Father to Son.

Jesus the son of man and the son of God the son of God. to update.

### **Jesus revealed he is the son of God.**

**Jn 11: 25** At that time Jesus answered and said, **I thank thee, O Father, Lord (GOD) of heaven and earth,** Jesus Referred to Father as God.

**Jn 17:5** And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory **which I had with thee before the world was.** **John 1:1-2; John 10:30; John 14:9;** Jesus lived a glorified life. Where? In heaven. When? Before creation (in eternity).

**(Matt 3:17 [KJV])** *And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*

### **Jesus revealed he is the son of man.**

**(Matt 9:6 [KJV])** *But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house. He was the son of man he told them about.*

**Jn 3:13** *And no man hath ascended to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the **Son of man** which is in heaven. John 6:62; Eph 4:9; Jesus lived in heaven before He came on Earth.*

**Jn 6:62** *What and if ye shall see the **Son of man** ascending **where he was before?** Mark 16:19; Luke 24:50; John 3:13; Acts 1:9; Eph 4:8;*

### **Son of man on his throne of Judgement**

**(Matt 25:31 [KJV])** *When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory **32** And before him shall be gathered all nations: and*

*he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:*

### **Daniel saw the son of man glorified in heaven**

**Lord** in Is 6:1-4 H136 אֲדֹנָי 'Adonay (ad-o-noy') *n-m*. **1.** (*meaning*) **Lord** (used as a proper name of God only). **2.** (*person*) **Adonai, The Lord God of Israel** (which is actually “Yahweh God of Israel” - see Exodus 5:1 and 120 other occurrences).

### **Daniel saw the son of man glorified in heaven**

Dan 7:9 *I beheld till the **thrones** were cast down, and the **Ancient of days did sit**, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his **throne** was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire. 10 [KJV]A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: **the judgment was set, and the books were opened....***

*...13 [KJV]I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they*

*brought him near before him. 14 And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.*

**Isaiah saw the son of man [Jesus] on his throne**

See page 18.

**Jn 12:41** *These things said Esaias, when he saw his glory, and spake of him.*

When did Isiah saw Jesus' Glory? (Isa 6:1-3. 1In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, .....9. The whole world was filled with his glory.

So, this Jesus is that Lord on a throne ruling God's creation.

**Did Jesus come from heaven:**

**John 6:38** For I have come down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of the one who sent me. Although Jesus was in Heaven in the pre-incarnate form -the Word.

**Did anyone witness God's incarnation, Jesus?**  
(God in flesh).

Yes, in the verses of; **John 1:1-3 & 10-14, 1 John 1:1-3**, the incarnation was called Jesus. **Luke 1:30-31, Matt 1: Matt 2:**

**When God became man what happened?**

God the word merged with Mary's human body (not sexually) through the power of the Holy Spirit and from conception in the womb the flesh grew and continued from birth until adulthood. God did not enter the vagina as in the case of a male entering a woman. God is not human and is not limited by humanity's design. All this time God the word was the human person Jesus. **ISLAM**: The Muslim God Allah blew into Mary's vagina. Allah could have children if he had a wife.

**Why are we convinced that the incarnation, Jesus is God?**

His **miracles** (by speaking he raised the dead, he transformed water molecules into wine molecules, healed deformed tissue, cast out demons, healed cancerous tissues and so much more), he came from

heaven, he lived in eternity past, he fulfilled the prophecies about the Messiah, he rose from the dead, he was seen ascending into heaven, If Jesus is not God he cannot be worshipped, he was nothing but flesh and there was no immaculate conception. **Phil 2:6-8, Micha 5:2. Is 9:6, Col 2:9, Col 1:16-17, Heb 1:2, Rev 5 & 8, John 6:63. Philippians 2:5-8; John 1:1; Acts 5:3-4; John 3:16**

### Was Mary actually a virgin?

Yes, there is plenty of evidence of this fact.

**19** Then Joseph her husband, being a just *man*, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily.

**20** But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.<sup>2</sup>

**21** And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.<sup>3</sup> **Luke 1:31; Acts 4:12;**



22 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,

23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.<sup>4</sup> Isa 7:14;

24 Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife:

25 And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS. Luke 2:21;

1. First of all Angel Is the voice of God. God is speaking through the Angel so whatever the Angel says it is God saying it so what we read is what God has said to Joseph that Mary is pregnant by the Holy Spirit. Therefore, God tool Joseph that he caused Mary to get pregnant. What we know now is that the child is not Joseph's child but God's child.
2. The next verse tells us about the child. God tells us that the child will be a male and that

Joseph shall call the child God Saves because he shall save his people from sin. So, Mary's child is actually God's child or son who will be cold God saves.

3. So, God continued to speak through the angel and said, That all of this [God impregnating Maryland and having a son called God saves] was done to fulfil a prophecy that was told by a past Prophet. God tells us which prophecy was fulfilled. So, Christians do not have to try to interpret which prophecy was fulfilled because God told us clearly which prophecy it was. God said that here is the prophecy, and he quoted the Prophet whom he spoke through himself so God is quoting himself. *“look a Virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth his son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which means God with us”*. so here God is revealing The Virgin and the sun whom the Prophet was speaking about. The Prophet was speaking about Mary this is what God told Joseph. So, Christians let the Bible tell them what the Bible says.

4. But if Mary is The Virgin to whom the Prophet was referring, then who are we to argue?

**MUSLIMS:** Now the Muslims argue that the word Virgin does not mean a woman who never had sexual intercourse it means a young lady. let us look at this.

Let's hear Joseph as a testimony.

Mat 1:19-20 **18** Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. [Luke 1:27](#); [Luke 1:34](#);

**19** Then Joseph her husband, being a just *man*, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily.

**20** But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

1. Verse 18 tells us that Mary had one child (Jesus) before she and Joseph had sexual intercourse. And Joseph found out that she

REASON & FAITH APOLOGETICS: VINCENT SMITH

- was pregnant. It also tells us who is the father of the child is, Holy Ghost or God.
2. Verse 19 tells us that Joseph wanted to put away Mary privately when he found out she was pregnant and he knew the baby was not his.
  3. Verse 20 tells us that the Angel of God came and inform him after he had already known And was planning to kill her.
  4. So, from Joseph's testimony, his thoughts and his intended actions prove the child was not his and she was pregnant before they ever had sexual intercourse.

### Let's get Mary's testimony in Luke 1

*31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. Isa 7:14; Matt 1:21;*

*32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: 2Sam 7:12; Ps 132:11; Isa 9:7; Isa 54:5;*

*33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom, there shall be no end.*

*1Chr 22:10; Ps 45:6; Ps 89:36; Jer 23:5; Dan 7:14; Dan 7:27; Mic 4:7; Heb 1:8;*

**34** *Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing **I know not a man?***

**35** *And the angel answered and said unto her, **The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.***

1. In verse 32 the Angel of God told Mary she shall become pregnant with a boy child and she shall call his name God saves which means Jesus and God shall give him the throne of his father David.
2. In verse 34 Mary told the Angel of God how can I give birth to a child And I have never had sex with a man?
3. Verse 35 said God show cause you to become pregnant not a man.
- 4.

## CONCLUSION

The angel said God is the father of the baby. God did not dispute this nor said Mary was not a virgin. Joseph said the baby was not his and he did not

have sexual intercourse with Mary. Mary says she never had sex with another man before God impregnated her. Conclusion Mary was it Virgin before and during the time God impregnated her. Christians do not need to look at any prophecies to prove that Mary was a Virgin or the chosen one, the testimonies are clear. The only reason the Christians look at the prophecy is to find out if Mary was the same Virgin of the prophecy or if there was another Virgin. Christians could misinterpret or misread the Old Testament scriptures but since God through his Angel in the New Testament told us clearly that Mary was the Virgin that the Prophet spoke of then we do not need to look for another Virgin. Since God told us that this event is that event, is the Prophet spoke of then we no longer have to try to interpret the Prophet or to look forward to the fulfilment of the prophecy it has come to pass already. If anyone says that the prophecy was fulfilled in the Old Testament before they are a liar. They will be disagreeing with God, the Angel, Mary, and Joseph the four witnesses. If anyone says that the Virgin was a different woman in the Old Testament, they

are a liar. If anyone says that it was not a prophecy, they are liars.

### **Jesus is Almighty Yahweh God:**

**Isaiah 9:6** For unto us a child is born, unto us a son, is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Might God, The Everlasting

Father, the Prince of Peace. **Col 2:9** For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

**John 1:14; Col 1:19;** The Godhead is a deity. The full deity of God is in Him. fully God fully man.

This is **the risen Jesus** for sure **but was this** also the case of the **pre-crucified Jesus**? Jesus gave up his God nature to become the nature of man so He was not fully God **Phil 2:6**.

### **Why Jesus said He did not know the day and time of His coming again? (Mat 24:36)**

spoke of His humanity & His divinity. **Phil 2:6-8**

*who though he existed in the form of God did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, Phil 2:7 but emptied himself by taking on*

*the form of a slave, by looking like other men, and by sharing in human nature. Phil 2:8 He humbled himself, by becoming obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross!*

The Bible clearly teaches that Jesus is God ([John 1:1, 14](#)), and we know that God is omniscient. So, it seems strange that Jesus would say that He did not know when He would return. The Word was equal to God in knowledge, power and nature (form). It is believed that the emptying of [Phil 2](#) applies to knowledge and nature. He became a servant i.e., one in obedience to another.

Later Jesus prayed to be restored to what He once had before the world was created. ([John 17:5](#) *And now, Father, glorify me at your side with the glory I had with you before the world was created.*)

So, [Phil 2 & Jn 17](#) tells us Jesus was lacking something. This was intentional and voluntary on His part. [Phil 2](#) said, **He emptied himself, he took on the form, He humbled himself....**

**The evidence is that he did all this himself, of his free will. Not forced or made to or was created for.** He accepted the loss of glory and nature. There



are some things that the divine being has that Jesus intentionally left behind.

**Is not knowing the day and time of the end, one of these things Jesus gave up? It seems possible.**

**If so then it may be one of the things He voluntarily, (intentionally- of own free will) decided He did not want to know the day and time. Muslims argue-He could not know because He will have to be God and He wasn't, so this is the reason.** Back to the original question, how can God not know? Be willing not to know. How can a divine being lose some divine features? by being willing to give it up? He became submissive to the will of the Father. Not my will but His will. Being submissive to the father does not mean, not being divine.

The theological concept known as the "**Kenosis**," from the Greek word for "**emptying**." Philippians 2: 7 talks about Christ emptying Himself, taking the form of a servant, and becoming fully human while still being fully divine.

In this self-limitation, Jesus voluntarily chose to set aside certain

in divine privileges, including full omniscience, during His earthly ministry. This wasn't a loss of His divine nature but a willing submission to human limitations to fulfill His role as the perfect mediator and redeemer.

It emphasizes His genuine humanity and the depths of His humility and obedience to the Father. It's a mind-

blowing demonstration of divine love. Does this perspective resonate with your understanding of Jesus' nature?

### **Did Jesus ever see the Father?**

**(John 1:18)** *No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.* **Jn 6:46** *Not that any man hath seen the Father, save (except) he (singular/one person-no one else) which is of God, he hath seen (definitely) the Father.* **Matt 11:27; Luke 10:22; John 1:18; John 7:29; John 8:19;**  
So, yes Jesus saw the Father.



**Jesus' Divine attributes are not shared with us.**

**Omnipresent:** psalms

**Omniscient:** **John 1: 24**

**Omnipotent:** Power to forgive sins: mat 9:6. **Luke 8:25**-Power over nature; **John 17:2**-Power to give eternal life; **Phil 3:21, Thes 4**-Power to transform the body:

### **Can Jesus create**

He created the universe. (**John 1:10** He was in the world, and the world was created by him, but the world did not recognize him. **Col 1:16** For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: **John 1:3** All things were created by him, and apart from him, not one thing was created that has been created. **1Cor 8:6** yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we live, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through who are all things and through whom we live.

### **Did Jesus say He is not to be called good?**

No. It was not a rebuke of the rich young ruler nor He denied that Himself was good. If God only is good and the man called Jesus good, does he understand what he is implying about Jesus? He was equating Jesus with God not intentionally though. However, Jesus' response was about the **why/purpose/motive** not whom the man called good but why. What is your purpose or motive for calling me good? Was he sucking up to Jesus? Did he want a favour? Noticed how he approached Jesus, **Mark 10:17** *And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?*

### **Could Jesus be another God created by God? No!**

Jesus was never a God alongside God nor ever became a God after he was raised from the dead. There is only one God. **Deut 5:7: Deut 6:4 & Ex 20:3** it is clear God never created another God and no other God's existed after him at any time. So, Jesus cannot be another God. God said there will be no other Gods after him either.

## Was Jesus a created angel? No!

Jesus created angels. The Bible said that they were created which means they were not eternal (Jesus is eternal) so it is clear that they have not existed for all eternity. This proves they are not God & therefore had to be created by God (Jesus is God the word-creator). **Heb 2:16** *For verily he **took not on him the nature of angels**, but he took on him the seed of Abraham. He did not become an angel but he became a human.* This clearly said He was not an angel nor was human, when He existed in eternity, in his glorious nature, in heaven while equal with God before creation.

Jesus created all things including all of the angels. **Nehemiah 9:6**; **Psalms 148:2, 5**; **Colossians 1:16-17**.

## Was Jesus made/created?

**Jehovah's witnesses** think that **Philippians 2:7** means Jesus was made man. It clearly said he did it himself, i.e. he chose to become a man. To choose to become man means he had to exist before in order to think or plan to do it and not that he existed for the

first time when he became man. **Heb 2:7 and heb 2:9** (Greek word elattoo means to lessen) Jesus who had a greater position, power and authority was lessened for the suffering of death **heb 2:9** (so he can be sacrificed). Jesus already existed for eternity so this cannot mean he was created or made 2000 years ago. So, this is not referring to Jesus's creation /origin but his loss or lessening of status for the salvation of man. **Heb 1:4 & heb 1:8** The word in **1:4** gionomia means generate: **He became** greater than (not “being made” greater) angels and received a greater name than them. **heb 1:8** called him (Jesus) God.

### **Does first born mean created?**

The Jehovah’s Witnesses claim ‘firstborn’ means first child born as in the case of a human or animal. **Col 1:15 [KJV] Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:** they say this is proof Jesus was a creature. If Jesus was God’s first born like a human, then God would have a female and he would have to copulate and she would have to give birth to a child and this took place before all creation. Now, they don’t believe God did such a

thing, so they have been debunked by their own argument.

**Col 1:16** by him all things were created in heaven and on earth visible invisible all things are created through him and for him. To create all things, you need to exist before all things. This means that Jesus existed before all things were created. Also, if you exist before all creation, you can't be the creation/created. **Vs 17** and he is before all things and in him all things are held together. Therefore, the power that sustains all creation /life resides in him. They add the word **OTHER** 4 times. Example, by means of him all **other** things were created the heavens and the earth the things visible and things invisible whether there are Thrones or lordships or governments or Authorities all **other** things have been created also he is before all **other** things and by means of him all **other** things exist. We have the original manuscripts and we can translate and there is no word "OTHER". **Ps 89:19-20** ...one chosen from the people I have found David my servant with my holy oil I've anointed him. This is about David. David was the youngest of eight. **God said, I will make David my first born the highest of the kings of**

**the earth.** He wasn't the first son or first king, So, firstborn means the highest position. So, Jesus as firstborn means he will have the highest position over all creation and all creation will worship him.

### **Prove Jesus lived in eternity past.**

**Micah 5:2** said he is from everlasting, **Jn 1** he is God and he is the word of God, and **Gen 1** said God created the worlds with his spoken word. To create the universe which was the start of time Jesus the creator had to exist before time and the universe which makes him the cause of time and matter and space. Anything before time is eternity so Jesus existed in eternity (**John 17:5 [NET]**) And now, Father, glorify me at your side with the glory I had with you before the world was created.

### **When was Jesus glorified again?**

**Jn 7:39** *(But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)* Isa 44:3; Joel 2:28; Acts 2:17;  
**Jn 21:16** *His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then*



*they remembered that these things were written about Him and that they had done these things to Him*

### **When did the Apostles understand all?**

The Apostles understood the things of Jesus only after He was glorified. **Heb 2:9** *crowned with glory and honour.* **Heb 12:2** *again on His throne at the right hand of God the Father.* **2Jn 14:25-26** These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you. **26** But the Comforter, *which is the Holy Ghost*, whom the Father will send in my name, **he shall teach you** all things, and **bring all things to your remembrance**, whatsoever I have said unto you. **Luke 24:49; John 15:26; John 16:7; John 16:13; Acts 2:4;**

### **Does sinful flesh enter heaven?**

Humankind or after Adams's kind will inherit what Jesus has inherited. **(1Cor 15:50)** *Now this is what I am saying, brothers and sisters: Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.* **51** *Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we*

*shall all be changed, 52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.* The current fleshly body and blood can't go to heaven. It won't last 3 days without water and food because it's perishable and corruptible and **needs to consume perishable items**, that when broken down into blood to feed the cells and strengthen the body. **1 Thes4:** It **must be changed** so that we can last forever and will have no need to consume perishable items.

### **Was Jesus technically sinful?**

All men because they are from Adam/ descendants, they are cursed & condemned to death; the flesh is extremely susceptible to sin or disobeying God. However, Jesus never sinned. **1 Pet 2:22, 2 Cor 5:21**

.....

### **How can God live within and be a part of the flesh?**

1-God can live in the pit of hell and not be affected; Satan visited God's throne daily and cannot affect

God's purity. The word lived in Jesus' flesh **Jn 1:13-14** and went into hades **Ps 16:10** and set the captives free without being tainted.

If you boil water the fire kills the germs cleaning the water but the germs can't hurt the fire. With God, the greater will purify the lesser. A pure God in the flesh purifies the flesh. The flesh cannot contaminate God because He is God Almighty meaning He can do anything and there isn't anything that can affect Him. [NET])By this, you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that **confesses Jesus as the Christ who has come in the flesh is from God, Matt 1:16** and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of **Mary, by whom Jesus was born** (the Christ). (**Rom 9:5** To them belong the patriarchs, and from them, **by human descent**, came the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever! Amen.

**GNOSTICS:** The God of the Old Testament was Satan. Jesus cannot become flesh.

### Was Jesus fully human?

(**John 19:28** After this Jesus, realizing that by this time everything was completed, said (to fulfil the scripture), "**I am thirsty!**"(**John 4:6 [NET]**) Jacob's well was there, so Jesus, since he was tired from the

journey, sat right down beside the well. It was about noon. (**John 11:35 [NET]**) **Jesus wept.**( **Matt 4:1 [NET]**) Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to **be tempted by the devil** .(**Luke 23:46 [NET]**) Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, “Father, *into your hands, I commit my spirit!*” And after he said this he breathed his last .(**Luke 22:44 [NET]**) And in his anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his **sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.**)(**John 19:34 [KJV]**) But one of the soldiers with a **spear pierced his side**, and forthwith came there out **blood and water**. (**Isa 53:9 [KJV];**) he suffered (**Luke 24:46-47**).

### **Was Jesus really human?**

He was the Messiah and the Messiah actually died according to Old Testament. (**Isa 53:9 [KJV]**)*And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.* (**Luke 24:46 [KJV]**)*And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.* He was

beaten, you could touch him, beat him, he cried, he bled, (**1 John 4:2**)

### **Jesus is the son of God.**

The phrase son of God came from Jesus because he referred to God as **ABBA father Mk 14:36**, the Messiah is called the son who is given **Is 9:6**, Jesus said he is the son of God in **John 9:35** **Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God?** and in the **New Testament** Jesus agreed with Peter that he is the son of God **Mat 16:16**, Jesus said, that God told Peter, He Jesus is his son when he revealed it to Peter **Mat 16:16** and finally, God also said publicly this is my beloved son whom I am well pleased **Mat 3:17**. Some say Jesus never called himself the son of God but the above proved he did, he knew and believed he was the son of God. He never disputed it. **Isa 7:14** **Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.** Some people attribute this passage to Jesus' birth there is no need to use this passage as evidence that Jesus was

born of a Virgin and that his birth was miraculous. In **Lk 1:18-25** we have both Mary and Joseph's confession and the angel's confirmation that Mary was a Virgin. **Isa 9:6** **For a child has been born to us, a son has been given to us...** He is called: Amazing Adviser, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. Some people add this to Is 7 and say both are connected. There is good reason to be sceptic about Is 7 being a Messianic prophecy.

### Jesus is equal to God:

**Philippians 2:5** **5** *Let **this mind** be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus* **John 13:15; 1Pet 2:21;** Paul wants us to have a mind just as Jesus is mine one of great humility but we can't understand The debt of his humility until we understand who exactly Jesus is and what he gives up then we can truly understand humility. **6** ***Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:*** **2Cor 4:4; Col 1:15; Heb 1:3;** Paul begins to make a comparison of Jesus previous existence I his current existence. Paul tells us that Jesus was at the highest level of existence when he was in the form of God, the most important thing,

the creator, life and himself. Therefore, what was Jesus' mind like at that time. He did not consider it something to take or keep for himself. **7 But made himself** of no reputation, and **took upon him** the form of a servant, and was **made in the likeness of men**: Ps 8:5; Matt 20:28; John 13:14; Instead he decided to become nothing. **8 And being found in fashion as a man**, he humbled himself, and **became obedient** unto death, even the death of the cross.<sup>1</sup> Heb 2:9; Heb 2:14; Heb 2:17; Heb 4:15; Heb 12:2; and while in the flesh of a man he demonstrated great obedience to the Father God. **9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him**, and given him a name which is above every name: Acts 2:33; Heb 1:4; Also, God exalted him and honoured him with the highest name in all existence. **10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow**, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth; Isa 45:23; Rom 14:11; No new name was given to Jesus, it's the same name that was already given 'Jesus' which means God saves/ God is our salvation. **11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord**, to the glory of God the Father.

## Jesus' pre-existence & location of His existence.

Proof of Jesus' divinity

**Jn 17:5** And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory **which I had with thee before the world was.** **John 1:1-2; John 10:30; John 14:9;** Jesus lived a glorified life. Where? In heaven. When? Before creation (in eternity).

**Jn 6:62** *What* and if ye shall see the Son of man ascending **where he was before?** **Mark 16:19; Luke 24:50; John 3:13; Acts 1:9; Eph 4:8;**

**Jn 3:13** And no man hath ascended to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, *even* the Son of man which is in heaven. **John 6:62; Eph 4:9;** Jesus lived in heaven before He came on Earth.

This passage in **Phil 2: 6-11** also shows us that Christ had a previous existence and it was at the level of God. Therefore, He did not always exist as a man. Jesus said in the gospel of John, (**John 8:58 [KJV]**) Jesus said unto them, **Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.** Indicating he existed long before the Jesus they were seeing and speaking with. **Jn 1:1** also says Jesus is equal to God and pre-existed before His human form. He only became human at a particular point in time.

REASON & FAITH APOLOGETICS: VINCENT SMITH



**col 1:16** To be creator he had to pre-exist before he was Jesus. Jesus said in **John 6:38** *For I have come down from heaven.*

### **Jesus' God nature**

**Phil 2: 6-11; Jn 1:1.** indicates the God nature of Jesus. **Ph 2:6** *Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be **equal with God***: **2Cor 4:4; Col 1:15; Heb 1:3;** Jesus was equal with God while in heaven before creation /eternity. This is His glorified life.

**Heb 2:16** *For verily he **took not** on him **the nature of angels**, but he took on him the seed of Abraham. He did not become an angel but he became a human.* This clearly said He was not an angel nor was human, when He existed in eternity, in his glorious nature, in heaven while equal with God before creation.

**Is 9:6.** *For a child has been born to us, a son has been given to us. He shoulders responsibility and is called: The amazing Adviser, **Mighty God**, **Everlasting Father**, and Prince of Peace.*

## Unity with the father

**1**, *In the beginning, was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **God was the Word**.* 1 John 1:2;

The word (not an angel nor a human) Jesus co-existed with God, was equal with God and was God.

**Jn 10:30** *I and my Father are one.* Isa 54:5; John 5:19; John 14:9; John 17:5;

**Jn 14:9** *Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou *then*, Shew us the Father?*  
John 10:30;

## Return to heaven from where he came.

**Mk 16:19** *So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven and sat on the right hand of God.* Luke 24:50-51; Acts 1:9;

**Eph 4:8** *Wherefore he saith, **When he ascended on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.***

**Heb 1:3** *Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all*

*things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; 2Cor 4:4; Phil 2:6; Col 1:15;*

**Jesus is the creator of the heavens and the earth therefore he is God: Jn 1:3, col 1:16** This makes him God since God created the heavens and the earth **Gen 1:1; Job 38:4; Ps 19:1...***The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament showeth his handiwork.*

### **Who died on the cross?**

Jesus the flesh. Is it right to claim that Jesus's death on the cross resulted in the death of God? No. God is a necessary being. **col 1:17** said he sustains all things (in the universe) so he cannot die or the universe will collapse. The body and the flesh were the only things needed for sacrifice. Blood was needed for the covering or atonement of sins. **Hebrews 10:5-7** *Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me:* Only the body was needed for the sacrifice. The spirit could do it without the body. After death in **Phil 3:21** Jesus' same body was

transformed similar to the transformed body they will receive. ‘Christ could not disconcert his divine nature but he could die with concerning human nature. What is human death? It is the separation of the soul from the body when the body ceases to be a living organism. The soul survives the body and will someday be reunited with it in a resurrected form. That’s what happened to Christ. His soul was separated from his body and his body ceased to be alive. He became temporarily a disembodied person.’

On the third day, God raised him from the dead in a transformed body”. Craig, William Lane

## Jesus is the Head of the church

**(col 1:18)** *And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.* (He is the head of the body a new creation brought about by his resurrection.)

## Christ was begotten so what

1. Some argue that “firstborn of creation”

**Colossians 1:15–20**, means he was born and he

REASON & FAITH APOLOGETICS: VINCENT SMITH

was created. To be the firstborn of all creations would mean a woman gave birth to him before the other creations were created. It means a created woman will have to exist before Jesus and all other creation in order to produce the firstborn of all creation. It will also mean she was not born. Obviously, this is not what Paul is saying. This is figurative language. He is pre-eminent of all who are born. He gets the inheritance of God as the firstborn.

2. Jesus cannot be the first of the creation because in order for the creator to become created He would have had to exist before Himself in order to create Himself. Which does not make logical sense.

3. In fact, Israel and David are called by God, His firstborn. Firstborn means Heir not order of creation.

**MUSLIMS:** Some argue since he was **begotten by Mary**, it means he had a beginning which was at the point of birth. False. To be born or begotten or birthed means you had to be alive in the womb before your birth or begetting. Therefore, Christ existed before his begetting /birth. A silly argument by Muslims.

## Who raised Jesus from the dead? THE TRIUNE GOD:

**Acts 2:24** *Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it. JESUS: (**John 2:19** [NET]) *Jesus replied, “Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up again.” **John 10:18** *No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again.***

*This commandment have I received of my Father. HOLY SPIRIT: **Romans 8:11** (“*But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.*”).* Jesus did not Himself administer the ordinance of baptism, but his disciples did it by his direction and authority, **John 4:2**. What one does through his agents he is lawfully said to do; therefore, Jesus baptized. Since Jesus is God as we prove earlier, we can say the father, the spirit & the son raised him will not be a contradiction.

## Will God or Jesus judge the world?

**John 5:27** and he has granted the Son authority to execute judgment because he is the Son of Man.

**John 5:22** Furthermore, the Father does not judge anyone, but has assigned all judgment to the Son,

### **Is the Father superior to Jesus?**

**John 14:28** You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away and I am coming back to you.’ If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I am.

**Phil 2:6** who thought he existed in the form of God did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, **2:7** but emptied himself by taking on the form of a slave, by looking like other men, and by sharing in human nature. **2:8** He humbled himself, by becoming obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross!

So, Jesus in his incarnate state humbled Himself to the point of losing His equality with God the Father and becoming less than equal.

### **Jesus in India**

Professor Nicolas Natovitch claimed he went to India and stayed at the Hemis monastery and there

he translated manuscripts about Issa/ Jesus. Learned that Issa was a man from Palestine who spent years teaching Indians and returned home to Palestine and was crucified. The Professor subsequently published the book the hidden life of Jesus. English officers in India researched the locals who could not confirm a person named Natovitch nor the Chief Lama of Hemis said he never met a Natovitch and denied there were ever any such manuscripts. No one was allowed to translate manuscripts. Will a young 13-year-old Jesus leave home for India? He said His Father's house was in the temple. None of the manuscripts can be found today. Buddha's only record is the sayings of Buddhists. The book never said Jesus became a Buddhist.

If this were true it would not have affected Jesus' credibility as the son of God or His divinity. The Indians did not say Jesus was their student but he taught them. But it would contradict Jesus who said the time has not come for the Gentiles to know the truth.



### *Chapter 3*

## **THE DIVINE AUTHORITY OF THE NAME OF JESUS**

If a Roman soldier arrest you in the name of Cezar and you refuse then because Cezar's name has the authority of Cezar the head of the Roman Empire it means that the whole host of the Empire will be brought to bear on you because every knee bends and every head in the Empire bows (respects and honours) at the name.

Likewise, it is so with the name of Jesus. It carries the authority, weight, power, and teeth of the Godhead and the host of heaven. Why, because every head bows and knee bends in heaven to the name. It serves a purpose; it gets things done and is functional. It is not a useless appendage.

Jesus does not have another name that has no function or is useless to His followers. Neither does he have another name that has all authority but no one knows of it or cannot speak it and is no help to them. The only name Jesus has that he declared to His followers is Jesus. They know it (Jesus) and it is functional meaning it works or serves a purpose.

REASON & FAITH APOLOGETICS: VINCENT SMITH

## The word Jehovah or Yahweh?

Vowel points – when the Jews got to the letters Y, H, W and H they put 3 vowels from another word Adonai to remind them to say Adonai because they did not pronounce the YHWH. The European scholars did not know what the **three vowel points** mean and put them between the YHWH e.g.

YeHoWaH came up with **Jehovah**. So, Jehovah is a made-up word. These vowels were added between the 5th and 10th century AD by the Masoretes (Masoretic texts) found near the Dead Sea. John Wycliffe the was first to translate it to **Yehovah** and Anglicans the were first to use **Jehovah**.

<p><b>Hebrew</b>  <b>(<u>Strong's</u> #3068)</b>  <b>YEHOVAH</b>          יהוה</p>	<p><b>Hebrew (Strong's</b>  <b>#136)</b>  <b>ADONAY</b>          אֲדֹנָי</p>
--	--

י	Yod	Y	א	Aleph	<u>glottal stop</u>
·	Simple sheva	E	ח	Hataf patah	A
ה	He	H	ד	Dalet	D
·	Holam	O	ו	Holam	O
ו	Vav	V	נ	Nun	N
ה	He	H	י	Yod	Y

Spelling of Tetragrammaton and connected forms in the Masoretic Hebrew text (vowel points in red).

YHWH intended to be pronounced as Adonai:

יְהוָה

In the best Biblical manuscripts and scholarly editions:

יְהוָה

Adonai, with its slightly different vowel points:

אֲדֹנָי

*Note that when the prefixed prepositions לְ and בְ are attached to יְהוָה, the šewa vowel diacritic becomes pataḥ – , normal when preceding a consonant with ḥateph-pataḥ – (rather than becoming hireq . , normal when preceding a consonant with another šewa) – בִּיהוָה*

YHWH intended to be pronounced as Elohim:

יְהוָה

In the best Biblical manuscripts and scholarly editions:

יְהוָה

Elohim itself:

אֱלֹהִים

## **Jesus is common so it can't be Holy?**

Jehovah's Witnesses and some Christians advance this claim. However, the claim is false. Jesus means God saves this is the yodh, he, waw, he (Yod Vah ha Vah/YHWH).

Yeshua is common- commonality does not invalidate the name or Jesus' divinity. Because many people were named Jesus, does this make them holy or make the name Jesus unholy? No. This is a logical fallacy. A very poor argument. Joshua became common because God gave the name to His new leader after Moses. Everyone wanted to associate with the leader and commander of the Jewish nation.

If a person calls his son Jesus or Yahweh or Yahweh becomes a common name, they will have the same name but its significance is not equivalent. Both Jesus and Mary can pray but do they yield the same results? They both have prayer in common but one lacks the power. Do people invalidate the power of and the name of Yahweh if they name their children Yahweh or Jehovah? Absolutely not. The name **Jehovah** – there are **over** 10,778 people who have this name according to the below website. See link

REASON & FAITH APOLOGETICS: VINCENT SMITH

<https://www.thebump.com/b/jehovah-baby-name> Based on the arguments advanced, Jehovah is a common name and therefore no longer a valid name of God.

### **The person determines the uniqueness of the name!**

Jesus had the common name of Yeshua but He was the only true Yeshua. If a million sinners carry the name Jesus, can they make Jesus a sinner? Of a million Jesus' only this one is the Messiah.

Jesus being the Christ (the God-man messiah) makes the name special and is one with its authority and power. Being the Messiah makes his name and Him authentic and being God or YHWH makes the name authentic. This does not happen to everyone and anyone who gives themselves this name to glorify themselves because of its popularity or to associate with Jesus. Naming oneself Jesus does not add divinity, perfection, creation power or unity with God, makes one eternal, all-knowing, self-existent or changes your state of being.

### **It matters who gave you the name.**

Jesus said he was given the name by Father **Jn 17:**  
The angel Gabriel told Mary the name He was

REASON & FAITH APOLOGETICS: VINCENT SMITH

given **Lk 1:31**. Your parents naming you just isn't the same as God naming you or giving you the name YHWH. The name YHWH was given to Jesus so that it may be manifested on the Earth.

### **YHWH or YHWH our saviour**

In the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow. There is no other name in heaven higher than the name YHWH our saviour. If God said so, then who are we to deny God what He wants for Himself or for the Godhead to be known by? Is YHWH greater than YHWH our saviour? It is the same thing. This is why there is no name greater than the name of Jesus. Not YHWH our creator, healer, or provider but the most meaningful name of God for us humans is God our saviour. Whenever we say Jesus, it is to remind us of this fact. Did God derogate the name YHWH by adding the word saviour to His name? Absolutely Not. By adding saviour it binds or connects Him with those whom He saved. Most people say the word Jesus as if is a casual name like Bob. No, it is a holy name. It is God's name, that same name that the Jews believed is too Holy to pronounce.

REASON & FAITH APOLOGETICS: VINCENT SMITH

## Declared or hidden name?

Jesus said I have declared your name to those you have given to me **Jn 17:6**. The disciples knew Jesus' name. Jesus said baptise in my name. What was the name the Apostles and disciples baptised in? Paul was baptised in the name of Jesus **acts 19:5**, Apostles were baptised in Jesus' name in **Acts 2:38**. Why did Paul not baptise in the name of YHWH which is so sacred it's not to be called? If Jesus had another name, why did he not 'declare' it to the Disciples, Apostles, us the readers, opps but he said He did. Why did the apostles never use it in their preaching, teaching and baptisms although being expressly told to use it, is it a secret and if so how can you ask someone to say your name but don't tell them what it is? Jesus did manifest the name, 'YHWH is the saviour' of the people **Jn 17:6**.

## Can and should you pray in Jesus' name?

Yes or no. *If you ask Me for anything in My name, I will do it.* **Jn 14:14**. What is this name? why pray in the name of Jesus if the



name is not Jesus? So, what is the name you must use when praying? When you say the name Jesus you are saying YHWH saves its not the same as or equivalent to BOB or are you meaning the guy Jesus who lives down the road, which is meaningless? When you say the name of Jesus you are not calling on every person whose name is Jesus you are calling specifically on God and God who knows the mind of man knows whom you mean. Why don't we pray in the name YHWH. Yet we can say the name 'YHWH' our saviour/ Jesus for this is not sacred?

### **In the name of Jesus/ YHWH our Saviour.**

Every time you say Jesus you are saying YHWH.

**Acts 2:38** Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the **name of Jesus** Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

**Acts 3:6** Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have to give I thee: In the **name of Jesus Christ** of Nazareth rise up and walk.

**Acts 4:10** Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the **name of Jesus** Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, *even* by him doth this man stand here before you whole.

**Acts 4:18** And they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus.

**Acts 4:30** By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the **name of thy holy child Jesus**.

**Acts 5:40** And to him they agreed: and when they had called the apostles, and beaten *them*, they commanded that they should **not speak in the name of Jesus**, and let them go.

**Acts 8:12** But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and **the name of Jesus Christ**, they were baptized, both men and women.

**Acts 8:16** (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were **baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus**.)

**Acts 9:27** But Barnabas took him, and brought *him* to the apostles, and declared unto them how he had

seen the Lord in the way, and that he had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the **name of Jesus**.

**Acts 9:29** And he spake boldly in the **name of the Lord Jesus**, and disputed against the Grecians: but they went about to slay him.

**Acts 15:26** Men that have hazarded their lives for the **name of our Lord Jesus Christ**.

**Acts 16:18** And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.

**Acts 19:5** When they heard *this*, they were **baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus**.

**Acts 19:13** Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the **name of the Lord Jesus**, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preached.

**Acts 19:17** And this was known to all the Jews and Greeks also dwelling at Ephesus, and fear fell on them all, and the **name of the Lord Jesus was magnified**.

**Acts 21:13** Then Paul answered, What mean ye to weep and to break mine heart? for I am ready not to be bound only, but also to **die at Jerusalem in the name of the Lord Jesus.**

**Acts 26:9** I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth.

**1Cor 1:2** Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called *to be* saints, with all that in every place **call upon the name of Jesus** Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:

**1Cor 1:10** Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and *that* there be no divisions among you; but *that* ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

**1Cor 5:4** In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ,

**1Cor 6:11** And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but **ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus**, and by the Spirit of our God.

**Phil 2:10** That at the name of Jesus **every knee should bow**, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth;

**Col 3:17** And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, **do all in the name of the Lord Jesus**, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

Mat 28: **Matt 28:19** Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, **baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, (Jesus) and of the Holy Ghost:**

**Matt 7:22** Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not **prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name** done many wonderful works?

**Matt 10:22** And ye shall be **hated of all men for my name's sake:** but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.

**Matt 12:21** **And in his name shall the Gentiles trust.**

**Matt 18:20** For where **two or three are gathered together in my name**, there am I in the midst of them.

**Matt 19:29** And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother,

or wife, or children, or lands, **for my name's sake**, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.

**Matt 21:9** And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna to the Son of David: **Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord**; Hosanna in the highest.

**Matt 24:5** For **many shall come in my name**, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

**Matt 24:9** Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.

**Mark 9:38** And John answered him, saying, Master, **we saw one casting out devils in thy name**, and he followeth not us: and we forbad him, because he followeth not us.

**Mark 16:17** And these signs shall follow them that believe; **In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;**

**John 1:12** But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name:

**John 2:23** Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover, on the feast *day*, many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did.

**John 3:18** He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

**John 5:43** I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive.

**John 10:25** Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me.

**John 12:28** Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, *saying*, I have both glorified *it*, and will glorify *it* again.

We are to imitate what we were taught by the Apostles and in the Holy Scriptures. Prayer, baptise, heal, trust and believe in the name of Jesus. Even if Jesus' other name was just YHWH or Batman this is not what was declared to the Apostles and then unto us.

## Additional reading- going deeper

**Christ in the OT- Moses saw Jesus, - 2<sup>nd</sup> temple  
Joshua is a type of Jesus, -Jesus proves he is the  
Messiah.**

### Moses saw Jesus.

Hebrews 11: 23-<sup>24</sup> *By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter.* <sup>25</sup> *He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.* <sup>26</sup> *He regarded disgrace **for the sake of Christ** as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.* <sup>27</sup> *By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because **he saw him who is invisible**...* He saw Jesus, the Messiah. **1 Cor 10: 1-11 10** *For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea.* <sup>2</sup> *They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea.* <sup>3</sup> *They all ate the same spiritual food* <sup>4</sup> *and drank the same spiritual drink; for **they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ.*** Jesus the Messiah was with them.



## Jude said **Jesus** brought the Israelites out of Egypt

Jude (google the oldest Jude manuscript P72)

**Jude 1:4-5** <sup>4</sup> *For certain individuals whose condemnation was written about<sup>[a]</sup> long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny **Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord** (Yaweh).* <sup>5</sup> *Though you already know all this, I want to remind you that **Jesus** [(P72 has Jesus) translations that use late manuscripts says **our Lord**<sup>[c]</sup> ] *at one time delivered his people out of Egypt, but later destroyed those who did not believe.**

Verse 4 says **Jesus our sovereign and Lord**. This is the context for verse 5 so we know the Lord here is Jesus also. So, Jesus is the one who brought them out of Egypt and destroyed them in the desert.

Proof Jesus is the God of the Old Testament and his followers claimed he was God.

**below is the Greek Text of Jude 5 with Identified Word for Jesus:**

- Ὅτι Ἰησοῦς λαόν ἐκ γῆς Αἰγύπτου σώσας, δεύτερον τοὺς μὴ πιστεύσαντας ἀπόλεσεν.
- **Word for Jesus:** Ἰησοῦς (pronounced "Iēsous")
- **Translation:** For it was **Jesus** who saved the people out of the land of Egypt, and later destroyed those who did not believe.

### **A Priest was chosen as an example of the coming Messiah.**

Zechariah 3: 8 (**Zech 3:8 [NET2]**) *Listen now, Joshua the high priest, both you and your colleagues who are sitting before you, all of you are a sign that I am about to introduce my servant, the Branch.*

Zerubbabel the high Priest is a descendant of David and was helped by Joshua of the Tribe of Levi. So, the scripture is referring to Joshua and not Zerubbabel shall be a sign of the branch (in Rabbinic Judaism the term branch is a title for Messiah). Instead of Zerubbabel the

**A Priest was crowned king-the coming Messiah will be both king and Priest.**

Zechariah 6:9-15 <sup>9</sup> *The **word of the LORD** came to me: <sup>10</sup> “Take silver and gold from the exiles Heldai, Tobijah and Jedaiah, who have arrived from Babylon. Go the same day to the house of Josiah son of Zephaniah. <sup>11</sup> Take the silver and gold and **make a crown, and set it on the head of the high priest, Joshua son of Jozadak.** God is making Joshua the High Priest, a king not the descendant of David Zerubbabel. This is preparing the way to make Joshua both a Priest and a King. The branch of righteousness the Christ. <sup>[a]</sup> <sup>12</sup> Tell him this is what the LORD Almighty says: ‘Here is the man whose name is the Branch, and he will branch out from his place and build the temple of the LORD. <sup>13</sup> It is he who will build the temple of the LORD, and he will be clothed with majesty and will sit and rule on his throne. Wow a high Priest shall sit on the throne and reign as king. **And he<sup>[b]</sup> will be a priest on his throne. And there will be harmony between the two.**’ <sup>14</sup> The crown will be given to Heldai, <sup>[c]</sup> Tobijah, Jedaiah and Hen<sup>[d]</sup> son of Zephaniah as a memorial in the temple of the LORD. <sup>15</sup> Those who are far away will come and*

*help to build the temple of the LORD, and you will know that **the LORD Almighty has sent me to you.***

Who is speaking here who is being sent? Well, verse 9 above tells us. “The **word of the Lord** came to me”. Jehovah God sent me the word to Prophecy this to you. *This will happen if you diligently obey the LORD your God.*” So, Joshua is a sign that when the branch of righteousness comes, he will rule as king and high Priest uniting the spiritual and physical. When Messiah comes, he will be a Priest like Joshua and he will be given a crown to reign. These are two signs that a correct Messiah, not a false Messiah, had come. Also, what does Joshua’s name mean? It is God our salvation.

### **Joshua and Jesus’ name means God our salvation.**

**Jeremiah 23: 5-6** God said, “*I will raise up a righteous branch for David a king who will reign as king.*” The Hebrew name for Joshua is Yehoshua, and the short form is Yeshua. In Ezra 3:2 he is called Jeshua. Jesus’ name in Hebrew is Jeshua/ Yeshua.

### **Both are the sons of Jehovah who is Righteous.**

So, Joshua/Jeshua the High Priest is the son (ben) of **Jozadak** [meaning, Jehovah who is righteous]. So, Joshua who also is the same as **Jesus is the son of Jehovah who is righteous.**

Remember above in Zec 3:8 Joshua is the symbol or sign of the branch and he is called Lord (Jehovah) is our righteousness.

**Joshua helped to build the 2<sup>nd</sup> Physical temple.**

*(1Cor 3:16 [KJV]) Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?*

*(1Cor 3:17 [KJV]) If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.* So, Joshua builds a physical temple in the OT which represents the spiritual temple when the Messiah comes in the New Testament which is the Holy Spirit in us.

**Jesus build the spiritual temple**

Eph 2:19-22 the spiritual temple *(Eph 2:19 [NET2]) So then you are no longer foreigners and noncitizens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of God's household, (Eph 2:20 [NET2]) because you have been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with*

*Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. (Eph 2:21 [NET2]) In him the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, (Eph 2:22 [NET2]) in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.*

Jesus is the branch prophesied of in Zechariah whom Joshua represented that will be a king and priest who will build God's temple.

## Chapter 4

# Jesus is the Messiah

[1] **The Messiah is the son of David (descendant).** Son of David is the Messianic title. **(Isa 16:5 [KJV])** And in mercy shall the throne be established: and **he shall sit upon it in truth in the tabernacle (house) of David**, judging, and seeking judgment, and hasting righteousness.

[2] The Pharisees said the **Messiah is the son of David-** **(Matt 22:41 [KJV])** While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, **42** Saying, What think ye of Christ? whose son is he? They say unto him, **The Son of David.**

[3] God's angel called **Jesus' Father Joseph son of David-****(Matt 1:20 [NET2])** *When he had contemplated this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.*

**The Messiah will be born in Bethlehem.**

**(Mic 5:2 [KJV])** *But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.*

### **The Messiah will die-**

Daniel tells the Messiah will die and when. About 30AD. **(Dan 9:26 [NET2])** Now after the sixty-two weeks, **an anointed one will be cut off** and have nothing. As for the city and the sanctuary, the people of the coming prince will destroy them. But his end will come speedily like a flood. Until the end of the war that has been decreed there will be destruction.

### **How the Messiah will die**

**(Ps 22:16 [KJV])** *For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet.*

It came to pass-

**John 20:27 [KJV]** Then saith he to Thomas, *Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side:*



and be not faithless, but believing. (Acts 2:23 [KJV]) Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:

### **When the Messiah will die**

(Dan 9:25 [KJV]) Know therefore and understand, *that* from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince *shall be* seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.

(Dan 9:26 [KJV])

And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof *shall be* with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.

### **The Messiah shall rise from the dead:**

(Ps 16:10 [KJV]) For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to

see corruption. I will not remain in the grave, I will not decay, I will live.

### **David is not the Messiah.**

(Acts 2:29 [KJV]) Men *and* brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day. So, Peter confirmed that David's bones were still with the Jews and buried still in the grave and he decayed and he did not live so David was not speaking of himself but of the Christ.

### **The Messiah shall sit at the right hand of God.**

(Ps 110:1 [KJV]) A Psalm of David. The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.

### **The Messiah is Divine**

(Matt 22:41 [KJV]) While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them,

(Matt 22:42 [KJV]) Saying, **What think ye of Christ? whose son is he?** They say unto him, *The Son of David.*

(Matt 22:43 [KJV]) He saith unto them, **How then doth David in spirit call him Lord, saying,**

REASON & FAITH APOLOGETICS: VINCENT SMITH

**(Matt 22:44 [KJV]) The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool?**

**(Matt 22:45 [KJV]) If David then call him Lord, how is he his son?**

They had homework. How could David call his earthly son which is a human, Lord, a title for a divine being who sits in heaven? The Messiah is a son of man but how can David be seeing the same Messiah the son of a man sitting at the throne of God and how can David call a human Lord, a title reserved for the God of heaven? If they accept that Jesus is the Messiah then they have to accept that he is who David saw and if they accept who David saw they must accept Jesus as their Lord.

## Chapter 5

### EVIDENCE FOR THE RESURRECTION

#### *Did Jesus die?*

Those who said he fainted their theory was blown up when the soldier stabbed him on the cross in front of witnesses. His whipping was too severe. And the whip had pieces of sharp bone as well, which would 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. It was just terrible.”* Dr Alexander Metherell.

#### *Four important things about Jesus’ resurrection.*

1. Jesus’ **burial**
2. The disappearing body
3. His **post-mortem appearances**
4. The origin of the disciples’ belief in his resurrection

**Fact #1: Jesus died and was buried:** no one disputes this fact. You can't resurrect if you were not dead. **John 19:38-42**. Since Jesus was buried, it means Jesus died.

**Fact #2: the tomb was empty,** and the body wasn't found. Any of these two could have been made up but together makes a strong argument. The body was heavily guarded and any attempt to remove the body would have involved an attack on Roman guards and a battle at the grave with disciples. This would have caused the full force of the Romans to descend on the disciples to quell any attack on the Romans. No such thing occurred. We would have heard of disciples being slaughtered by Romans. Jesus' dead body was never found in another location or anywhere by anyone. **If the Sanhedrin or Romans had it, they would provide it to immediately squash the Apostles' claims. Therefore, the lack of a dead body means there is no evidence that Jesus remained dead.**

**Fact #3: His post-mortem appearances.** The variety and character of the resurrection appearances. He appeared to men, women, groups,

REASON & FAITH APOLOGETICS: VINCENT SMITH

individuals, 500 people, outdoors, Judah, Galilee, country, city, close up, distance, morning, evening, indoors, ate, drank, spoke, touched, talked, sitting, standing, walking, **John 20:6, 1 Cor 15:5-8, Mat 28:9, Luke 24:26**, He was seen by Paul. **Acts 9:**

**Fact #4: The origin of the disciples' belief in his resurrection.**

- If you had already stole a dead body, why would you go to its grave to anoint it? Likewise, if you knew it was a trick and he was alive why go to the grave to perfume a dead body that is not there?
- Why would Peter and John after hearing he was alive run to the grave if they had hidden his body or knew he was alive?
- Why would Thomas ask to see evidence that he is alive if he knew he was not dead?
- Why would Thomas suddenly believe when he saw and touched the wounds?
- Why did his apostles who were on the road to Emmaus say he was only a dead Prophet

and then suddenly believe he was alive when he then taught them the scriptures?

- Why would his brother James who spent maybe 30 years with Jesus when he was alive and did not believe him to be the Messiah but suddenly believed he was alive when he saw him after he was dead?
- Why tell the Pharisees he was alive and risk death for you and your family and children if you know you stole the body and kept it in a box? How is it possible that the same men with Jesus were able to heal, speak in tongues, prophesy and perform the same miracles as Jesus after Jesus was dead, the dead cannot transfer power, neither do living people able to transfer power.

Therefore, the origin of the disciple's belief could not be grounded in a scheme but genuine faith after experiencing genuine shock and surprise when the undeniable death they previously witnessed and believed with all its evidence was ultimately shattered with overwhelming evidence that they saw the same dead man alive again. Thus, causing

doubting Thomas who said in **Jn 20:25**, “I will never believe it” (that he is alive) to say when he saw him alive, “My Lord and my God”, **Jn20:28**. Jesus said to him, “Do you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

### *Other people were resurrected, so what?*

A miracle alone means nothing but done for a reason or in a context helps us understand the miracle’s purpose. Lazarus’ resurrection say’s nothing about Lazarus but it proved Jesus was backed by God and was the messenger of God. Jesus’ resurrection proved the things Jesus said about himself, which is he was the son of God, Lamb of God, Judge and Messiah. If he makes these claims and God backs him up by raising him from the grave, then he is all he said he is. God could have left this blasphemer in the greave.



*Did other parts of the world witness some of the events of the death of Jesus?*

**Thallus** (Greek: Θαλλός), was an early historian who wrote in Koine Greek. Some scholars believe that his work can be interpreted as the earliest reference to the historical Jesus, and argue that it was written **about 20 years** after the Crucifixion. He wrote a three-volume history of the Mediterranean world from before the Trojan War to the 167th Olympiad, c. 112-109 BC. Most of his work, like the vast majority of ancient literature, perished, but not before parts of his writings were repeated by Sextus Julius Africanus in his “*History of the World*.”

*Julius Africanus, quoting the historian Thallus said in his 3<sup>rd</sup> history book commented about why he thought there was darkness, earthquakes, rocks breaking and greaves opening around the same time of the year Jesus died. In the account of Jesus’ crucifixion in the Gospel of Mark we read something similar, “And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour” (Mk 15.33).*

Are there corroborating extra-biblical references to this fact? Here begins a fascinating and articulated historical chain. In his *Chronicle* from about the year

800 AD the Byzantine chronicler Georgius Syncellus cites a passage from a book, no longer extant, entitled *A History of the World* (which means the book was around for about 800 years, which was written around 220 by the church father Julius Africanus, himself an able historian, who in turn reports that the Roman historian Thallus, who wrote on the history of the Ancient Near East, tries in the third book of his *History*, a work also no longer extant, to explain away the darkness at the time of Christ's death was due to a solar eclipse. We shouldn't be overly troubled by this chain of citations of works now lost, for in many cases we know of what ancient authors wrote only through such citations, and there's no reason to think that Syncellus or Africanus do not accurately cite the works known to them. What is unfortunate is that Africanus does not quote Thallus' words, leaving us in the dark, so to speak, about what he said. Here is the passage **from Africanus reproduced by Syncellus:**

On the whole, world there pressed a most **fearful darkness; and the rocks were rent by an earthquake, and many places in Judea and other districts were thrown down.** This darkness Thallus

in the third book of his *History*, calls, as appears to me without reason, an eclipse of the sun. The Hebrews celebrate the Passover on the 14th day according to the moon, and the passion of our Saviour falls on the day before the Passover, but an eclipse of the sun takes place only when the moon comes under the sun. And it cannot happen at any other time but in the interval between the first day of the new moon and the last of the old, that is, at their junction: how then should an eclipse be supposed to happen when the moon is almost diametrically opposite the sun? Let that opinion pass however; let it carry the majority with it; and let this portent of the world be deemed an eclipse of the sun, like others a portent only to the eye. Phlegon records that, in the time of Tiberius Caesar, at full moon, there was a full eclipse of the sun from the sixth hour to the ninth—manifestly that one of which we speak. But what has an eclipse in common with an earthquake, the rending of rocks, and the resurrection of the dead, and so great a perturbation throughout the universe? Surely no such event as this is recorded for a long period. But it was a darkness induced by God because the Lord happened then to suffer.

Africanus, who cites Thallus on other matters as well, is exercised to expose as erroneous Thallus' explaining the darkness as due to a solar eclipse. He points out that such an explanation is unreasonable because Passover always occurs at the time of the full moon, and the full moon cannot come between the earth and the sun. So the explanation, according to Africanus, must be that the darkness was miraculous.

### *Jesus' 5 appearances*

The appearances are some of the convincing truths. Appearances to five individuals and others to groups. **Peter, John, James** the brother of Jesus, **Paul and Marry** Magdalene. John (revelation) and Paul speaks in the first person while other persons [gospel writers] reported what the other three said. Peter (1 Pet 1:3) said Jesus rose from the dead and Paul and confirms Peter saw the risen Jesus.

(Mormonism -Joseph Smith and four others claim to see Maroni (angel) appear to them. Note three witnesses changed their testimonies over time which means their testimonies are thrown out. Catholics also see Mary appear).

What is unique about Jesus' resurrection, is that it made it possible for **Jesus' to transfer supernatural power to ordinary men after he was dead**. Jesus' disciples (who could not work miracles) suddenly was able to and was **witnessed by 1000's** demonstrating the same power Jesus had which they all claimed a resurrected Jesus gave it to them. For him to give them his power he had to be alive.

Paul's sighting of Jesus is also believable because we have no record in literature of anyone **projecting an enemy apparition** and Paul was an enemy of Jesus. He was not expecting Jesus to appear, especially during the day while he was wide awake and travelling.

### *Supposed resurrection contradictions.*

#### **(John 20:1 [NET])**

Now very early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, **Mary Magdalene** came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been moved away from the entrance. **John 20:2** So she went running to Simon Peter and the other disciple whom Jesus loved and told them, "They have taken the Lord

from the tomb, and **we** don't know where they have put him!"

**(Matt 28:1 [NET])** Now after the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, **Mary Magdalene and the other Mary** went to look at the tomb.

**(who went to the tomb? Mary and other Mary)**

**Mark 16:1 [NET])** When the Sabbath was over, **Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome** bought aromatic spices so that they might go and anoint him.

These statements are different but not contradictory, they are supplementary. **Matt 28** tells of one person who was left out by John who did not care to mention the others. **Mark 15** fills in all the others matt and Mark did not care to mention. Clearly, the key word in **John 20:1** is “**we**” which means there was a plural not singular presence at the tomb. John identified the woman who related the incident to the Apostle, he was not saying there was only one woman.

### *Strips of linen vs whole linen cloth*

(1) [Luke 23:53](#) Then he took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and placed it in a tomb cut out of the rock, where no one had yet been buried.

[Luke 24:12](#) But Peter got up and ran to the tomb. He bent down and saw **only** the strips of linen cloth; then he went home, wondering what had happened.

The word **only** by the same writer suggests he knew there were two clothes but only one remained. The other is absent not because the same writer erred but by intentionally telling us only one cloth was present to suggest that the other was intentionally removed. It does not mean that only was always there.

(2) It may also mean that the body was not there only the cloth.

### *The Grave Clothes*

All the accounts credit Joseph of Arimathea with wrapping Jesus' body in a linen cloth (*sindōn*) or linen cloth wrapping (*othonion*). Two words are used here for the grave wrappings.

"**Strips of linen**" (NIV) or "**linen clothes**" (KJV) is *othonion*, "(linen) cloth, cloth wrapping." There is some debate between the translation of strips of linen (NIV) or larger cloth wrappings. "Fine linen" (KJV) or "linen cloth" (NRSV, NIV) is *sindōn*, presumably a large piece of linen in which the body was carried from the cross to the tomb, and then wrapped around him.

Though some see a conflict between "strips of cloth" and a large linen cloth, I don't see any. When you compare **Luke 23:53** (*sindōn*) with **Luke 24:12** (*othonion*) it appears that Luke, at least, is using the terms synonymously.

The position of the grave clothes in the tomb attracted the apostles' attention and caused Peter and John to believe:

"Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb.

Bending over, he saw the strips of linen (*othonion*) lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened." (**Luke 24:12**)

"[The other disciple] bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings (*othonion*) lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen (*othonion*) lying there, as well as the



burial cloth (*soudarion*) that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen (*othonion*). Finally, the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed." (**John 20:6-8**)

The "napkin" (KJV) or "burial cloth" (NIV) that had been on Jesus' head was folded separately. Ladd says that this was "a separate piece of cloth which was wrapped over the head and under the chin to prevent the jaw from sagging."<sup>4</sup>

What was so startling? That the linen was lying there neatly.

### *Stolen body vs not stolen*

If Jesus' body had been **stolen**, grave robbers wouldn't have taken the time to unwind the shroud. The shroud would have helped them carry the body more easily.

If Jesus had been in a coma and revived, somehow he would have had to unwind the grave shroud in order to walk free.

The presence of the grave clothes neatly folded on the shelf was mute testimony that Jesus' body had slipped free of the grave clothes without disturbing

them whatsoever. It was not the empty tomb that convinced the apostles. As Michael Perry puts it, "It seems to be the evangelist's intention to suggest that Peter saw the grave clothes like a chrysalis out of which the risen body of the Lord had emerged."<sup>5</sup> The grave clothes didn't need to be unwrapped to let Jesus out, he passed from the grave clothes while they were still rolled up around his body.

### *Touched or not touched Jesus*

**John 20:13** They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" Mary replied, "They have taken my Lord away, and I do not know where they have put him!" **John 20:14** When she said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. **John 20:15** Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Because she thought he was the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will take him." **John 20:16** Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "*Rabboni*" (which means Teacher). **John 20:17**

Jesus replied, “**Do not touch me**, for I have not yet ascended to my Father. Go to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

**Matt 28:9** But Jesus met them, saying, “Greetings!” They came to him, **held on to his feet** and worshipped him.

**John 20:27** Then he said to Thomas, “**Put your finger here** and examine my hands. Extend your **hand and put it into my side**. Do not continue in your unbelief, but believe.”

**John 21:13** Jesus then cometh, and taketh bread, and giveth them, and fish likewise. **John 21:15** So when they had dined,...

**Luke 24:30** And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed *it*, and brake, and gave to them. **Luke 24:42** And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb.

**Luke 24:43** And he took *it* and did eat before them. **Mark 16:14** Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat,.

Some argue that telling Mary don't touch means don't become emotionally attached for I will leave

you. After harmonizing Matt and John, Mary may have turned and touch his feet so this is why He then warned her not to touch Him. **Jn 20:27** Jesus indicated that He can be touched and Mary's touching Him is the proof. Whether or not Thomas bothered to touch Him we don't know. Scriptures showed Jesus handled food and eat food after his resurrection. I believe people make the claim Jesus was not touched because it would make Him unclean. But which is more powerful? God or sinful man. We know through scripture when people touch Jesus, change occurs in them, not in Jesus, e.g. they are healed.

### *Why did she not recognise him?*

**John 20:16** Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "*Rabboni*" (which means Teacher). Apparently, she may not have been looking at him directly because it said after he called her name then she **turned** and **looked** at him.

### **The number of angels**

**Matt 28:2; Mark 16:5; Luke 24:4; John 20:1-2, 12**

**An angel of the Lord on the stone** ([Matthew 28:1-2](#)) - "Now after the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the grave. 2 And behold, a severe earthquake had occurred, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and **rolled away the stone** and sat upon it."

**A young man** ([Mark 16:5](#)) –

"And entering the tomb, they saw **a young man sitting** at the right, wearing a white robe; and they were amazed." If we harmonize the two scriptures; [They saw the angel who rolled the stone and then on the inside they saw the second angel. Also, the angel did not roll the stone to release Jesus but to let the witnesses see the evidence before they got there.](#)

**Two men** ([Luke 24:4](#)) - "And it happened that while they were perplexed about this, behold, **two men suddenly stood** near them in dazzling apparel." Two angels appear near them. [This is consistent that they were two messengers. Standing or sitting is the discrepancy.](#)

**Two angels** ([John 20:1-2,12](#)) - "Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came early to the

tomb, while it was still dark, and saw the stone already taken away from the tomb. 2 And so she ran and came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him...12 and she beheld **two angels in white sitting**, one at the head, and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had been lying." *Consistent in that two angels were present.*

### *Resurrection propaganda or real?*

When Jesus rose from the dead the Gospel writers said some denied Jesus, the stayed in locked room, some went to the grave for proof, some doubted and some asked for proof.

If you are going to convince someone that this is the appointed one, the son of God, the saviour of the whole world then why at its crescendo will you cast doubt in the minds of the readers? You seal the deal. You convince the reader so that you guarantee followers. This is very, very bad propaganda.

Even if it was true that some doubted you just don't say that. Everyone in your story is supposed to stand and cheer the risen saviour. Unless it is not a

story which has one goal to do whatever it takes to convince people to accept Jesus as alive including purposely hiding the truth. Should the writer be bent on convincing an audience to believe thought that we will doubt like the others on the hill and want to hide it from us?

Or did the writer not care about whether the people doubted or believed because he witnessed a genuine resurrection and his only concern was capturing all the responses to this real-life phenomenon? He did a fantastic job at telling the truth and revealed all the true human responses to a resurrection. He did not hide any responses.

If some were afraid or ran off, he would have captured that too. These natural genuine human responses only show the believability of the resurrection does not take away from it. Instead of casting doubt about Jesus's power, it makes us believe also.

As subtle as the note in this gospel may be, it is very powerful.

When a writer is trying very hard to convince someone that a story is true, they omit things that cast doubt. But then you have this perfect story with

no flaws in it and immediately a red flag goes up and you become suspicious.

I submit to you that this writer was inspired by the Holy Ghost to tell the truth. God wants us that when we share the gospel with people, they are not to be forced to believe but are to be told the truth and nothing but the truth.

For it is the truth that will set them free

*Jesus' burial days cannot be accounted for.*

The challenge with determining when Jesus died and how to count the days he was buried centres around two things, when the women bought the **spices** and when was the **1st sabbath**.

Thursday	Thursday	Friday	Friday	Saturday	Saturday	Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> day of week	Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> day of week
Arrested Night	Day- crucified 9-after 3pm	Night Buried	Morn Grave	Night Grave	Morn Grave	Night 6pm Grave	morn Grave/ rose
		Special sabbath		Reg wk sabbath		after sabbath women bought spices 6pm	& visit grave
		Begin	End	Begin	End	Begin	End



Wednesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Thursday	Friday	Friday	Saturday	Saturday	Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> day of week	Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> day of week
Arrested Night	Day-crucified 9-until 3-5pm	Night Buried	Morn Grave	Night Buried	Morn Grave	Night Grave	Morn Grave	Night 6pm Grave	morn Grave/ rose
		Special sabbath		Women bought spices		Reg wk sabbath			visit grave
				Begin	End	Begin	End	Begin	End



[case 1]

In the first case, we have the consecutive Sabbaths. Jesus was arrested Thursday night and was crucified the next morning Thursday from the 3<sup>rd</sup> hr of the day **9 am until 3 pm (9<sup>th</sup> hr)** before the Friday evening start of the Sabbath at the **12<sup>th</sup> hour (6 pm)**. Around **noon** Thursday there was darkness (**Luke 23:44**). About the **9<sup>th</sup> hour/3 pm** Jesus cried out my God why have you forsaken me (**Mat 27:46**)? Then sometime later between **3 pm and 6 pm**, He said, into your hands I commend my spirit (**Lk 23:46**). The next two days were Sabbaths, Friday and Saturday. After the Sabbath after 6 pm, the women bought the spices that Sunday evening. (*it won't be difficult to get spices in the evening from a follower of Jesus under the circumstances*). They waited until Sunday morning when they could see how to apply the spices. This gives 3 days & 3 nights in the grave.

[Case 2]

In the second case, Jesus was crucified on Wednesday and buried on Thursday. The spices are bought between the Sabbaths and Jesus 3 days & nights end on the Sabbath the day before. Jesus

REASON & FAITH APOLOGETICS: VINCENT SMITH

would have to wait until Sunday morning to meet the ladies.

Either case can work unless you insist in [1] spices can't be bought in the evening don't matter if it was from a friend of Jesus. In [2] you insist that Jesus had to be in the grave until just before the ladies arrived.

### *Swoon theory*

This theory supposes that Jesus fell unconscious on the cross and in the tomb, he regained enough strength and escaped. To survive this he would have to survive massive loss of blood, at least 3 days without water and food, unwrap himself, roll away a massive tomb stone that would normally take two men to roll. Appear in a locked room before his disciples.

Roman soldiers / executioners had a reputation to uphold. **This was a very important and public execution they could not afford to mess up. This would cost them their lives and embarrass the governor.** Joseph and others would not have wrapped and spiced him if he was not dead.

### *Substitution /Replacement theory*

Muslims teach that Jesus did not die because he was sinless or innocent and therefore God put another man (who was innocent) in his place while Jesus was taken away to be with God/Allah. This person appeared to look like Jesus. This is easily a contradiction. They argue Allah will not kill an innocent man but by replacing Jesus with an innocent man Allah contradicted himself.

### *Impersonation theory*

Someone replaced Jesus (non-Muslim source). It would be difficult to pretend to be Jesus with the Pharisees, John and Jesus' mother around. 1000s of people knew what he looked like. Too many eyewitnesses for this to be pulled off.

### *Jesus appeared to die.*

Qur'an Sura 4:157 *"They did not kill him or crucify him, rather it only appeared so to them."* In this quote the Muslims are saying Allah is a deceiver. Jesus actually died according to the Qur'an. **Sura 19:33 Jesus said the day I was born and the**

**day I die.** Since Muslims say Jesus never lied and he is a prophet of God. Then he is telling the truth that he died. **Abu Huraira** reported Allah's Messenger (saw) as saying: **Sahih Muslim** [collection of Hadiths/sayings of Mohammed] (Vol 4, pg 1261) *The **satan** touches every son of Adam on the day when his mother gives birth to him with the exception of **Mary and her son (Jesus)**.*

### No burial theory

Jesus was not buried but put in a mass grave per Roman customs. **Mat 27:64** The Pharisees told the Romans to guard the tomb not a mass grave. This is why Romans not guard the mass grave site instead? Why Roman soldiers guard and sealed a tomb if no one was in it? Guarding a tomb implies one was purchased or owned and a body was in it.

### Mass hallucination theory

Everyone who claimed to see Jesus hallucinated out of an **earnest expectation** to see him. The disciples earnestly did not expect to see him. **Mark 16: 10-11** *“and when they heard that **he was alive***

and had been seen by her, **they did not believe**) and *(Mark 16:14 [NET2]) Then he appeared to the eleven themselves, while they were eating, and he rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen him resurrected.* The verses prove it was a complete shock to the disciples and their reluctance to believe.

*(Luke 24:1 [NET2]) Now on the first day of the week, at early dawn, the women went to the tomb, taking the aromatic spices they had prepared.* Why would the female disciples go to anoint a dead body if they expected him to be alive. The authorities would be able to produce the body to disprove the hallucinations. The disciples did not defend Jesus and they ran away at his arrest. How could so many 500 people have hallucinations at one time.

### **The stolen body**

This was suggested by the Pharisees in [Mat 27:64](#) who had to make a case for Pilate to guard Jesus' body. They argued the disciples may steal the body. Later in [Mat 28: 11-15](#) after the body was reported

missing by the guards, the Pharisees paid them to spread the propaganda that the disciples stole the body. Jesus was dead and the disciples were fearful for their own lives. Some denied they knew Jesus. They distanced themselves from him for fear that they too will be next to be executed. Stealing his body that was guarded will certainly mean death. Why die for a dead man. There was no reason to boldly preach if they knew he was dead. To have all of them, including his mother on board would prove quite challenging.

Why spend so much time taking off wrapping or linen and folding it. This would increase the chances of being caught and foiling the whole plan. It is more likely a thief would make haste. It also implies that someone was like a thief took off the linen. So, it would be obvious his body was stolen.

**The women went to the wrong tomb.**

**(Mark 15:47 [NET2])***Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where the body was placed.*

### **Jesus body is still dead, but his soul rose.**

The body was missing. The gospel is presented as hard facts not metaphorical language. The body was a literal real body that was missing. If only the soul rose then the authorities would have presented the dead body and made a public spectacle of it. This would have been more believed by the public than the disciples' story and they would have been the laughed at or stoned to death. A dead body would be able to be presented but no one was ever able to present a body.

The Romans never pursued the disciples for a **missing** body. They don't seem to be convinced it was stolen despite what the Pharisees said.

## *Chapter 6*

### *HISTORICITY OF JESUS*

#### **Sources and their credibility:**

1. Eye-witness accounts.
2. External scientific sources -archaeology & geography.
3. Non-Biblical historical books & letters.
4. Jesus compared to famous but questionable historical persons.

#### **1-Why trust the gospel accounts:**

- a. Early written eyewitness accounts of Jesus are accepted as historical because they were written just a few years after Jesus died. Whereas, the earliest accounts of Alexander the Great were written over 400 years after his death. **Two of the Gospel writers (Matthew & John) were eyewitnesses to their accounts while Luke and Mark were not.** However, Luke was an eyewitness to the accounts of Paul and the Apostles, not Jesus.



- b. History has shown that it takes at least two generations to pass before a myth can enter a historical account.** That's because, as long as there are eyewitnesses to an event, errors can be refuted and mythical embellishments can be exposed. All the Gospels of the New Testament were written during the lifetime of the eyewitnesses, with some of Paul's Epistles being written as early as A.D. 25.
- c.** The letter **1 John 1:1** *1 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 **handled**, of the Word of life; Luke 24:39; John 1:1; John 1:14; John 20:27; 2Pet 1:16; **2** (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) **3** That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus*

*Christ. 4 And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.*

This is clear that John the writer was an eyewitness of Jesus's life in a personal and intimate way, not from a distance.

- d. Paul directly appeals to contemporary eyewitnesses to verify his testimony 1 Corinthians 15:6. Luke who was not an eyewitness but lived in the time of the eyewitnesses, declared his motives and intentions for writing the life of Christ, he said he wrote for historical purposes. So, it was not for theological or persuasive purposes.
- e. Why trust Luke's accounts? He was most likely alive at the time of Jesus and he most definitely personally knew the eyewitnesses who saw Jesus. So, writing a biography of Jesus was easy, just ask the eyewitness. This makes Luke a credible source. What can be said for Luke can be said for Paul? Paul also saw or spoke with the risen Jesus.

## **2. External scientific sources -archaeology & geography.**

### **Geographical evidence**

Are the places where Jesus was said to be and visited real? 93% of the place names have been found archaeologically. There is a real Jerusalem and Bethlehem. They are all traceable today.

### **Coinage and inscriptions**

The bone of Caiaphas the high Priest who judged Jesus was found, The bones of James Jesus' brother were found, and the inscription of Pilate.

**Why are there no statues of this man who was so influential:** the early Christians would never have built or permitted any to be built and besides no one outside of Christianity would have built one. However, there is a huge one in Brazil and the Catholics have produced many crosses with a man on them.

### 3-What non-Biblical external historical writings are there about Jesus:

1. Josephus (37-100 AD=63years). Defected to Rome just before Jerusalem was destroyed. (no mention of Jesus 2<sup>nd</sup> coming) The historian Josephus wrote, “*He convened a meeting of the Sanhedrin and brought before them a man named James, the brother of Jesus, who was called the Christ, and certain others. He accused them of having transgressed the law and delivered them up to be stoned.*” Flavius Josephus is the most famous Jewish historian. In his *Antiquities*, he refers to James, “the brother of Jesus, who was called Christ.” There is a controversial verse (18:3) that says, “*Now there was about this time Jesus, a wise man if it is lawful to call him a man. For he was one who wrought surprising feats...He was [the] Christ...he appeared to them alive again the third day, as the divine prophets had foretold these and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning him.*” One version reads, “*At this time there was a wise man named Jesus. His*

*conduct was good and [he] was known to be virtuous. And many people from among the Jews and the other nations became his disciples. Pilate condemned him to be crucified and to die. But those who became his disciples did not abandon his discipleship. They reported that he had appeared to them three days after his crucifixion and that he was alive; accordingly, he was perhaps the Messiah, concerning whom the prophets have recounted wonders.”* Flavius Josephus THE ANTIQUITIES OF THE JEWS: L.18, C.3.  
<https://www.fulltextarchive.com/page/The-Antiquities-of-the-Jews24/>

- A. **Josephus** also wrote two books on **Herod the Great** the same king of Judea that attempted to kill Jesus as a young child.
- B. He tells us where John the Baptist was beheaded, at Macirus. So, he confirms John the Baptist Jesus' cousin was killed by Herod.
- C. Josephus said James the brother of Jesus who was the Bishop of

Jerusalem 29yrs after Jesus died was stoned by the Sanhedrin in the absence of the Roman governor. Again, evidence that Jesus was a real person with a real brother and that he was so popular that saying James was stoned meant little but saying he was Jesus' brother tells us everyone knew who Jesus was.

D. Josephus gives us the name of Herod's daughter Salome who asked for the head of John the Baptist but the N.T. Doesn't.

2. **Cornelius Tacitus:** Born 56 AD and died 120 AD he reports on the fire of Rome in the year 64 burned by Nero. Tacitus was 14 when the fire happened. The first-century Roman historian Tacitus mentioned that Christians are named after a Christ who was crucified by "one of our Governors Pontius Pilate and the pernicious movement was almost eradicated but suddenly gained new vigour". This is proof of Pontius Pilate, Jesus, Jesus' crucifixion, his crucifixion at the hands of Pontius Pilate, and the short cessation for 50

days after the crucifixion. Then on the fiftieth day, the Holy Spirit came on Pentecost and revived and empowered the disciples and enlivened them just as Tacitus said. This is evidence that the idea of a real man referred to as Christ existed and many believed him. It lends support to the resurrection claim and the Holy Spirit filling on the day of Pentecost. This is an authentic non-Christian non-Biblical historical source.

3. **Suetonius (Roman historian)**, chief secretary to Emperor Hadrian; wrote that during the reign of Claudius was a big riot in Rome over the claims of Christ.
4. **Thallus** (Greek: Θαλλός), was an early historian who wrote in Koine Greek. Some scholars believe that his work can be interpreted as the earliest reference to the historical Jesus, and argue that it was written **about 20 years** after the Crucifixion.

Julius Africanus, quoting the historian Thallus said in his 3<sup>rd</sup> history book commented about why he thought **there was darkness, earthquakes, rocks breaking and greaves opening around the same time of the year Jesus died.** In the account of

Jesus' crucifixion in the Gospel of Mark we read something similar, "And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour" (**Mk 15.33**).

**5. Lucian of Samosata, 125 – after 180** a second-century Greek writer; Lucian was a satirist whose main objective is to delight his audience even if the references to the Christians and Jesus are contained in a personal letter to a friend and are not part of a public speech. From this satirist and playwright of the second century, we have two quotes from a play entitled "The Passing of Peregrinus." The hero of the tale, Peregrinus, was a Cynic philosopher who became a Christian, rose in prominence in the Christian community, and then returned to Cynicism. Lucian's attack is not so much on Christianity but on the person of Peregrinus, who took advantage of the Christians' simplicity and gullibility. [Alli.Luc, 99]

The first quote tells of Peregrinus, who learned "*the wondrous lore of the Christians,*" *became one of their leaders and was revered as a god, lawgiver, and protector, "next after that other, to be sure, whom they (the Christians) still worship, the man*



*who was crucified in Palestine because he introduced this new cult to the world."* [Harm.Luc, 13]

**Lucian** admits that Jesus was worshipped by Christians, introduced new teachings, and was crucified for them. He said that Jesus' teachings included the brotherhood of believers, the importance of conversion, and the importance of denying other gods. Christians lived according to Jesus' laws, believed themselves to be immortal, and were characterized by contempt for death, and renunciation of material goods.

The second quote, regarding these same Christians: *"Then, too, their first lawgiver persuaded them that they are all brothers...after they have thrown over and denied the gods of Greece and have done reverence to that crucified sophist himself and live according to his laws."*

**5. Pliny the Younger (governor of Asia Minor)**, 61 – c. 113 in *Letters* 10:96, writes to Emperor Trajan in year 110 asking what to do with the Christians who rise early Sunday mornings and sing hymns to Christ as if he were a God. He recorded early

Christian worship practices including the fact that Christians worshipped Jesus as God and were very ethical, and he includes a reference to the love feast and Lord's Supper.

<https://archive.org/details/letterswithengli01plinuoft>

**6. *The Babylonian Talmud*** (Sanhedrin 43a)

confirms Jesus' crucifixion on the eve of Passover and the accusations against Christ of practicing sorcery and encouraging Jewish apostasy. [The Babylonian Talmud is the culmination of the oral teachings of the scribes and Pharisees that Christ so adamantly rebuked. It is a long collection of books that weren't put into writing from **70 AD until around the 6th century A.D.** It is composed of the Mishnah and Gemara, the rambling of rabbis over the ages.] it is quoted as saying, **On the eve of the Passover Yeshu was hanged. For forty days before the execution took place, a herald . . . cried, "He is going forth to be stoned because he has practiced sorcery and enticed Israel to apostasy."**

We have also Jewish Rabbinic traditions that give us the warrant by the Sanhedrin for Jesus' arrest. **"he must be stoned for sorcery and leading Jews to apostasy"**. Jesus was not stoned so is this

REASON & FAITH APOLOGETICS: VINCENT SMITH

wrong? This is correct because the Jews could not crucify anyone so their punishment would be stoning if they caught him. So, this was their future intention if they caught him. This evidence is also especially important because they mentioned his supernatural abilities which they called sorcery. To the Jews, miracles come from God while sorcery comes from demons, so they are the same thing only with help from different supernatural sources. But here is admittance to his supernatural abilities.

**7. Mara Bar-Serapion** (the letter was composed sometime after 73 AD) confirms that Jesus was thought to be a wise and virtuous man, was considered by many to be the king of Israel, was put to death by the Jews, and lived on in the teachings of His followers.

**8. Gnostic writings** (*The Gospel of Truth*, *The Apocryphon of John*, *The Gospel of Thomas*, *The Treatise on Resurrection*, etc.) all mention Jesus.

**9. Justin Martyr:** in the second century talked about the well-known place where Jesus was born.

**10. Mark's Gospel:** said Jesus was sleeping on the pillow of "the" boat not 'a' pillow because it was part of the boat's rigging. There is a part of the 1<sup>st</sup>-

century Galilean boat that is referred to as the pillow.

### **We can almost reconstruct the gospel just from early non-Christian sources:**

Jesus was called the Christ (Josephus), did “magic,” led Israel into new teachings, and was hanged on Passover for them (*Babylonian Talmud*) in Judea (Tacitus), but claimed to be God and would return (Eliezar), which his followers believed, worshipping Him as God (Pliny the Younger).

### **4- Jesus compared to famous but questionable historical persons**

**Alexander the Great:** the earliest accounts of Alexander the Great were written over 400 years after his death. the *Universal History* was written by the Greek historian Diodoros Sikeliotes (lived c. 90 – c. 30 BC). *The Histories of Alexander the Great*, written by the Roman historian Quintus Curtius Rufus (fl. c. first century AD). the *Anabasis of Alexander*, written by the Greek historian Arrianos of Nikomedia (lived c. 86 – after c. 146 AD). *The Life of Alexander the Great*, written by

REASON & FAITH APOLOGETICS: VINCENT SMITH

the Greek biographer and Middle Platonist philosopher Ploutarchos of Chaironeia (lived c. 46 – c. 120 AD). the *Epitome of the Philippic History of Pompeius Trogus*, written by the Roman historian Iustinus (fl. c. second century AD), based on an earlier history written by the Roman historian Gnaeus Pompeius Trogus (fl. c. first century BC).

## Other questions about Jesus

### **Why didn't many historians write about Jesus:**

Well, they did not know him and unless Christianity was their religion or he was of interest to them they won't. He would have had to be a ruler of a nation a warrior or a person of that import to write about. You don't write about just another religious leader in an insignificant town. Many people wrote about his religion which began to impact nations and Emperors after he was dead. Only when it reached

REASON & FAITH APOLOGETICS: VINCENT SMITH

the ears of importance that it grab the historian's attention.

### **Matthew and Luke's genealogies don't match**

I will advance what looks obvious to me. Luke traces the line through David's son Nathan **Luke 3:31** and Matthew traces the line through David's son Solomon **Matthew 1:6**. The one family split with one going left and the other going right producing many descendants. These descendants or family finally meet as 'strangers' again at Joseph and Mary. When we trace backwards we see what looks like two different families that connected as one family in the distant past as children of David.

**“Gospel accounts of Jesus' birth don't match therefore it's an allegory”.**

**Refuting Rev Rogers.** He mentioned many pagan teachings and then said they impacted Christianity. He used the teaching of Judaism and some pagan beliefs to show that the world had an end of December (Christmas time) celebrated. He said John was intentionally addressing these Sun God

myths when he said Jesus was light. This is pure conjecture.

### **Christmas in the New Testament?**

He said it is in the NT because John was speaking directly to the pagans who were worshipping the Sun God who celebrates the time of the winter Solstice.

1. Scripture suggests Jesus was born around September which is still summer in Jerusalem so we don't know that people were celebrating winter at that time. So, what would make him believe the Sun God was the purpose of the writing of the Gospel of John.
2. There is nothing in the text to indicate that the celebration of the Sun God was being refuted by John. Or that he was comparing or contrasting Christ to the Sun God.
3. What we do know is that Jesus the creator of life is also life itself. Men's hearts were evil (darkness) and now they can live in the light (righteously) which is Jesus (life). So, Jesus brought righteousness (light) so that men may leave evil (darkness) and become righteous through eternal life (Jesus).

4. Where did John get this idea of light from? **(John 8:12 [KJV])** Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, **I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.** Jesus was not refuting the Sun God myths because he was speaking to Jews.
5. Anyone can apply John's message to the Sun God if they wish but cannot say for certain that, that is what John was doing. It's nothing but speculation. John would have concluded Jesus was lightly based on Jesus' teachings of himself (calling himself light). He was simply not comparing world religions. Jesus was being polemitic.

### **Biblical Historicity?**

He adds much of the Bible does not contain historical facts. He suggests Matthew and Luke are not to be taken literally because of a time of birth discrepancy in a 12yr difference.

### **Book of History**

The Bible remains a book of history. These records of Herod agree. Luke disputes his first claim but Matthew agrees with Luke's first claim. So,



Matthew clarifies the historicity of the birth and Luke's discrepancy.

### **The “12year” discrepancy**

He said, “they were never meant to be taken literally” because of the 12-year discrepancy. Luke said Cyrenius conducted a tax while he was the ruler of Syria at the time of Herod the Great but Herod died in 4 BC and Cyrenius ruled in 6 AD, giving us a 12yr gap.

### **According to historical documents**

Either Luke got the name of Syria's ruler wrong and it was a different ruler in 4 BC with another census. There are no other records of a known census in 4 BC but Luke recorded one. So, the census Luke referred to in Herod's time B.C. may be the wrong one if Christ was born in 4 BC. For Luke to be correct Cyrenius (Quirinius) who ruled 4-6 AD would also have to be ruler in 4 BC and also conducted a census in 4 BC. This means he may have ruled twice or Luke erred. Some argued that Luke chapter 2 verse 2 should read “before” Cyrenius was governing Syria instead of “first”.

**Conclusion:** Luke and Matthew are in agreement that Jesus was born during King Herod's reign. It seems Luke made an error about Cyrenius. The

Reverend Rogers ignored this agreed time of 4 BC between the two books and accepted the disagreed times of 4 BC and 6 AD not as an error but as justification for not believing the books are not real but allegorical. Why would he take this approach over the other to conclude scripture is not a historical account? hmm.

### **Song: “Hark the Herald angel sing”**

**Refute of Rev Rogers** He quotes the song verse, *“Hail the Sun of righteousness, and said Jesus is the true Sun and **Jn 1:4** bears this out. **John 1:4 [KJV]**In him was life, and the life was the light of men. I don’t think he is saying Jesus is a sun that is being worshipped but that he is the true light. However, the Sun is the true physiological light of the world. John is not comparing Jesus to the light of the Sun but to any type of light e.g., a flame, candle, torch etc. **(Matt 5:14 [KJV])***Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. **(Matt 5:15 [KJV])**Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in**

*the house. Jesus said we are the light of the world”.*

This insistence that light in John’s texts is referencing the Sun as a comparison is not true. He built a whole theology around the Sun’s light, the worship of the Sun, and the December celebrations and replace all of that with Christ’s coming to interpret John’s scriptures in that way. *“In another song, “waken by the solemn warning, Let the earth-bound soul arise, Christ her Sun all ills/ sloth dispelling shines upon the morning skies”.*

These songs are not scripture and should be not used to interpret scripture for they are interpolations themselves. Nothing wrong with taking poetic license in a song but interpretation and poetry are different things. One cannot say because a song said Jesus is the sun therefore, He is the sun.

### **How shall we see Christmas?**

He can only speak for those like him who see Christ as analogous to the sun and Christmas as a sacrament to the sun on the winter solstice, but He is not the Sunlight that disappears and darkness

comes and we need to pray for the light to return. Other Christians put a star on a tree to symbolise the light of Bethlehem but he is not a physical starlight either so this is only metaphorical. Jesus brought grace and truth therefore, the correct understanding of Christ as the light (wisdom) of the world (humans, not the plants/animals/land call earth) is that he brings knowledge and wisdom that changes the sinful (dark) hearts of men, enlightening (increasing knowledge) them of their sin and folly and pointing them to the truth (light) and salvation. So, He as light is analogous to light because light penetrates and illuminates darkness so that we can be made wise (see) with the truth.

### **Was Jesus a human figure?**

He was the Messiah and the Messiah died according to Old Testament. **(Isa 53:9 [KJV])***And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.* **(Luke 24:46 [KJV])***And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:***47** *And that repentance and remission of sins*

*should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. He was beaten, you could touch him, beat him, he cried, he bled, (1 John 4:2)*

## *Chapter 7*

### *RESPONDING TO 'JESUS IS NOT REAL' claims.*

Was Jesus a historical figure? Below is written evidence only. However, archaeological evidence is also used as proof that Jesus is a historical person. Written sources may be internal (Biblical) and or external (non-Biblical).

Christianity was stolen from Africa, we had it first. Just like how they stole our religion and fathers.

Do any Christians want to respond? Any Christians hiding in the bushes. No response.

Welcome to Apologetics

You are going to be shocked when you hear Christians and ex-Christians say things about your Bible and your religion. They will tell you; that you are ignorant and brainwashed.

**Jesus was a copy of Ptolemy** is the above claim  
How will you respond to what I said?

REASON & FAITH APOLOGETICS: VINCENT SMITH

Questions to ask,

- 1- **What** or who is your source?
- 2- **When** did the white man steal it? What year.
- 3- **Who** were these white men?
- 4- How did they steal it?

### **Claim**

Jesus was invented in 305 BC. Ptolemy, I Serapis Soter was the Pharaoh of Egypt. His title was Soter meaning saviour. He was called Christos the Christ the chosen one. His followers were called Christians. The headpiece meant he was the sun god or the son of god. In AD 33-34 after Jesus died the apostles copied this and mythologized Jesus.

To respond to this, **you must first do your research** to confirm the dates, places, people, geography, religious history, timeline of Egyptian History, biblical information on Christianity in Egypt etc. You have to do your due diligence as an apologist. A half-hearted response may only make things worse for you or the audience around you if

the person destroys your poorly supported arguments.

### Quick research skill

Look for keywords from the claim based on who, what, when, why, etc. formulate a question or hypothesis.

- a. Type your question in google.
- b. Go to Wikipedia, type your place, person or question etc; read and when found an interesting passage look for a citation marker; click number/marker; it takes you to the citation below; click citation; it takes you to the book; buys the book or read if free.
- c. Look for a book on amazon.com, good reads or Encyclopedia Britannica, <https://www.researchgate.net/> <https://www.jstor.org/> etc.
- d. Look for a free PDF of the book.

### Cezar's Jesus

You are watching the discovery channel and six Doctors of History one by one tell that they have

REASON & FAITH APOLOGETICS: VINCENT SMITH



evidence that Cezar invented Jesus. I call the Christian response, discovery shock. Some Christians believe it once it's on TV or because several Doctors were speaking. The story goes like this, when the Romans Vespasian Flavius and his son Titus went to destroy Jerusalem, they were joined by a turncoat Jewish commander called Josephus. Who is said to convince Vespasian to not kill him by saying the Jewish messianic prophecies started the war and claimed Vespasian was going to become Emperor. After Nero died and Vespasian became emperor, he freed Josephus and gave him the family name Flavius. The claim says Cezar got Josephus to write the Gospels of Christ while arguing that the message of Titus to the senate to have his father Vespasian deified, was that his father was the Messiah. **How do we refute this? With thorough objective research.**

The claims are laughable since the Messiah of the gospels is a Jew a non-Roman and an enemy of the Roman beliefs. The gospels clearly show Rome in charge of the crucifixion of the Messiah not worshipping the Messiah. The Messiah died. It doesn't account for Paul and the other Apostles'

REASON & FAITH APOLOGETICS: VINCENT SMITH

letters that support a risen God who was born in Jerusalem by a virgin. It's a sloppy assembly not of historical facts but speculations by unknown people.

### **Jesus was a stolen copy of Horus**

A simple comparison shows that people have redacted the Horus myth to make it fit the Jesus narrative. Since Horus is older than Jesus, then Jesus would naturally seem to be a forgery. But how do we know this unless we **Apologists do thorough research?**

Below are a few ways we know the Horus myth was redacted.

1. Isis was never called “Mary.” This is an Anglicanised name.
2. Isis was not a virgin.
3. Horus was born during the month of Khoiak (Oct/Nov), not December 25.
4. No kings at Horus' birth neither do we don't know how many kings visited Jesus' birth.

5. Horus is not a “saviour” in any way; he did not die for anyone.

### **Jesus was placed in world history by the Gospels and the letters.**

The book of first Corinthians reveals how early it (Corinthians) was written (*confirmed by acts 18:2*)

Jesus was seen, heard and touched, had family, cried, walked, ate and died etc. The Gospels did not paint a mythical or spiritual being only but a historical being.

### **Is Jesus a myth?**

It is believed by Mythicists that the history of Jesus was jeopardized from the start by salvation myths. Yet the gospels give a robust and stubborn historical view of Jesus. Preserved reliable information about his daily life and teachings.

Jesus was a myth with historical places and people to create an illusion He was historical.

“The gospels have reliable historical coordinates that point to a teacher in Palestine. Some Atheist

historians and Atheist mythicists do the same thing they claim the gospels are doing. They say Jesus is a myth first before they look at the historical evidence and then set out to prove he is not historical because their presupposition says a myth can't be real. While other historians say the evidence for historical Jesus is sound but the myth (incarnation/miracles/salvation/resurrection) of Jesus is what is not real. Many Atheists and Mythicists are influenced by conspiracy theories that are even more incredible than the story they are trying to debunk. The idea that Jesus never existed requires the concoction of a myth more incredible to than can be found in the Bible". **Joseph Hoffman, controversy Mythicism and historical Jesus.**

In short, if someone tells you Jesus cannot be real because miracles are not real and resurrection is impossible, Atheists challenged Paul and the Apostle's teachings and that Jesus was a myth.

**Claim.** Miracles are impossible so Jesus never existed.

**Response:** the unbelief in miracles doesn't disprove a man called Jesus existed they just all it proves is that one does not believe in miracles.

## Myths have historical information

**Claim:** Jesus can't be real because mythical people also had families, birthplaces etc.

**Response:** You and I can't be real because mythical people also had families, birthplaces like us etc.

**Paul denies Jesus existed.**

**Response:** NO. but if you don't believe Jesus exists what would convince Paul existed? If Paul did not exist then you cannot use any of Paul's writings to refute the existence of Jesus when you have no evidence the writers ever existed.

### Video critique

In response to the video you sent me with Dr John Henrik Clarke Professor of African history  
[\(20+\) Facebook](#)

He is suggesting Egypt is Africa which is a false claim and therefore he is incorrect in saying Africa fed the Roman Empire. He is purposely misleading. Egypt is a small northern nation independent of the other African territories and cannot represent Africa

REASON & FAITH APOLOGETICS: VINCENT SMITH

in its entirety. So, to say Julius Cesar made Africa the breadbasket when he married Alexander the Great's granddaughter, Cleopatra. She was the white Pharaoh / Queen of Egypt -she was not the pharaoh/Queen of Africa (that's like saying Mandela is the President of Africa). **Egypt, not Africa fed the Roman empire.**

How does he link Roman taxation or oppression to the cause of Religious apostasy? He said they would cause people and he did not identify who these people were.

It is not unusual for people to impose other gods on Egypt. I hope he is not implying that the **Romans** were the only ones. The **pharaoh Amenhotep** (Akhenaten) forced religious reform from the belief in many gods to the belief in one God and removed all the other gods of Egypt.

**Ptolemy** (a white man) the white Pharaoh of Egypt also introduced a new God (Himself) to the Egyptians. Also, consider the **Hyksos** (Asian) people who conquered Egypt. The **Nubians** conquered Egypt. The **Muslims** brought Islam to Egypt.

The only time that the Roman government introduced the Christian God to the world was after

325 AD and that was not through taxation it was through the Catholic Church and Constantine in Rome.

Africa was not disenchanted with the Roman interpretation of Christianity as he mentioned. It was actually a dispute between **two Africans**. The issue was that two Egyptian (a part of Africa) Bishops Arrius of Alexandria along with his supporters from Turkey (Asia), Africa, Europe etc., argued against his major opponent a Bishop also from Egypt (a part of Africa) Alexander I of Alexandria along with his supporters (likely from Africa, Palestine, Europe etc) that led the dispute when they got to Nicea. The disputation over the teaching of the Trinity. The Emperor of Rome at that time Constantine called a conference in the city of Nicea to discuss this hot issue between the Egyptians (part of Africans).

The gentleman in this video is purposely being hyperbolic and misconstruing the facts concerning the event.

Again, he is in error in saying that the Europeans created a European concept of Christianity at the council of Nicea. Coming out of the council of Nicaea was the **affirmation of the Trinity** (*it was*

*not about if Jesus was divine or mere human-not if he was black or white*) led by African Bishop Alexander I of Alexandria Egypt (a part of Africa) and his supporters. It was not a case of Europe versus Africa or white Bishops versus black Bishops as this doctor in the video tried cleverly to fool his audience into thinking.

The idea that African literature was taken out of Christianity again is a deceptive thought designed to create a divide between Europe and Africa. Since the African Theologian Alexander, I of Alexandria who may have championed (so to speak) at Nicea and many Africans continue to add literature to Christianity. St. Gelasius (492-496) of (Egypt/Africa) became Pope after the Nicea council, and St. Augustine 354-430) became Bishop of Hippo and wrote over 200 books, letters, and sermons. There was no divide between Egypt nor Africa and the Europeans.

The video said the physical concept of Jesus did not exist. Did he read the arguments of the council of Nicea? The argument put forward by Arrius's side was that Jesus was a man and the argument by Alexander's side was that Jesus was both a man and divine. None of them disputed the physical Concept



of Jesus in fact, both of them argued that the existing scriptures defended a physical, real, historical anthropomorphic being. This was not an invention that came about as a result of the conference Nicaea nor any time after.

He states that a Pope (he would have to mean Julius II) commissioned the physical concept of Jesus to come into existence through Michelangelo's painting. His point is that this artist created the concept of Jesus in 1512 some 1200 years after the Nicaea conference. This is absurd for obvious reasons, so I am going to assume what he meant was the phenotype that is the features or physical characteristics of Jesus for example type of hair, eyes colour and skin colour.

It is a correct and true fact that the painting and others that portrayed a white, blonde hair individual would later be used as propaganda worldwide which ultimately led to the great **deception of millions concerning Jesus natural skin colour.**

Religion is the Organizational spirituality I agree. Was religion used by Conquerors? Yes, this is a known historical fact. by conquerors, I mean men who used the sword or the gun to conquer another nation or people. It must be stated here

REASON & FAITH APOLOGETICS: VINCENT SMITH

unequivocally that **Christianity was not established by men bearing arms**, swords, guns or any type of physical weaponry but by Jesus the peace maker. However, over 300 years had passed before evil men clothed themselves with the teachings of Christianity to disguise their greedy and personal agenda and to use and abuse it for their purposes to impose it upon other people using weaponry and other forms to conquer other people.

Evil men in the 1500s then used white supremacy and syncretized it with some parts of Christianity taken out of context but served their purpose nonetheless which resulted in a new religion, which was not the purity and genuineness of Christianity, to conquer, subjugate brainwash and oppress people of all colours. **What they sold the people was a false “Christianity”** it was cold political machinery of lies, corruption and deceit built on man’s power.

If we all are individual reflections of the image of God, then God is neither black nor white.

Therefore, if someone tells you, that God, is black don’t believe them because that is in their imagination according to the professor. Based on his hypothesis God cannot be exclusively white,

REASON & FAITH APOLOGETICS: VINCENT SMITH

black, blue, Brown or yellow but a reflection of all of his children. If among my brothers we are white, black, Chinese and Indian looking then there must be more than one God.

He said in our imaginations God is different from us. But what about in reality? **Should we follow reality or our imagination?** If his hypothesis was an attempt to strengthen the argument that God was black then he made a mess of it and failed miserably to do so. Do we want black people to believe in the God of their imagination or their reality?

He said if you are a child of God then in your imagination God is supposed to look like you. Therefore, he justified Michelangelo's painting of a white man, with blue eyes and blonde hair who looked like himself. Also, he is saying we should not accept any other image of God or we become the spiritual prisoner of those people. This Strengthens Michelangelo's actions and his painting of a white God. Michelangelo should not accept any image of God from black people or brown people or from anyone else otherwise he would have become the spiritual prisoner of other people. He wants black people to imaging God as black and they have

no choice but to see a black God. However, this is clearly the problem. Its not up to us to determine what God is. We cannot change God to suit us. We do not know what God looks like. God said make no images of Him.

Oh, and in response to the owner of the Facebook page, he has to bring a video that defends his claim that Jesus did not exist, *“The Bible along with the Koran And every other religious book were all manufactured, none of the characters in those books including your sweet little Jesus never existed.”*

This video was a failure.

You asked for my thoughts –(Vincent smith) 😊

## Citations

[Alli.Luc, 99]

[Harm.Luc, 13]

Flavius Josephus THE ANTIQUITIES OF THE  
 JEWS: L.18, C.3.

<https://www.fulltextarchive.com/page/The-Antiquities-of-the-Jews24/>

<https://archive.org/details/letterswithengli01plinuoft>

*The Babylonian Talmud* (Sanhedrin 43a)

Exell, Joseph S. Matthew (Pulpit Commentary Book 40) (p. 1721). Joseph S. Exell. Kindle Edition.