

HOW  
TO KNOW  
& SHOW THE  
BIBLE  
IS TRUE





## HOW TO KNOW AND SHOW THAT THE BIBLE IS TRUE THE BIBLE IS A REMARKABLE BOOK!

**T**he Bible is the most awesome book in the world. This is God's inspired revelation of the origin and destiny of all things. It is the power of God unto eternal salvation, and it is the source of present help for body, soul, and spirit. It is God's will and testament to men in all ages. It is unique, which means "being the only one of its kind; without an equal or equivalent; unparalleled." Josh McDowell says, "*It is on the top shelf all by itself.*" It is unquestionably the world's bestselling book, as there are countless millions in print.

The New Testament is the most highly documented book from the ancient world. It has survived the test of time through centuries of time. It has the best and oldest preserved manuscripts. Consider that the oldest manuscript for Gallic Wars is 900 years after Caesar's day. The two manuscripts of Tacitus are 800 and 1,000 years later, respectively, than the original. The earliest copies of Homer's Iliad date from 1,000 years after the original was authored around 800 BC. However, the New Testament is preserved in manuscripts less than 200 years from the original, and some manuscripts are only 100 years old! The Bible is not just one book. It is a compilation of 66 books written over an 1,800-year span, covering 60 generations. It was written by 40 authors from every walk of life, including kings, peasants, philosophers, fishermen, poets, statesmen, and scholars. It was written in different places. It was written in times of war and times of peace—written in times of joy and times of sorrow and despair. It was written on three continents: Asia, Africa, and Europe. It was written in three languages: Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek.

With all of this, it has only one central theme: God's redemption of man.

### FULFILLED PROPHECY VALIDATES GOD'S WORD

If you are a consistent witness, you will inevitably encounter atheists, agnostics, intellectuals, or pseudo-intellectuals who demand soundly based evidence of Biblical truth. There are those outside Christianity who reject everything about our faith. It has always been interesting to me that these people don't run around "doubting" Homer's Iliad,

or Plato's Republic. They take it at face value that Homer wrote what he wrote, and Plato meant what he wrote.

Fortunately, there is an area of Biblical evidence available that favors the truthfulness of the Scriptures. That area is the accurate foretelling of future events. Herein lies undeniable proof in the integrity of the Word and the existence of Jehovah God and the Lord Jesus Christ who was "God with us." When an event is predicted by a prophet of God and recorded hundreds of years before it comes to pass and when there are visible evidences of that prophecy's accurate fulfillment, one has a basis on which to form proof so strongly validated that it removes all doubt.

George T. B. Davis in his book *Fulfilled Prophecies That Prove the Bible* says, "God himself used that testimony to reveal to men the certainty of His power and might. In Isaiah 41:22-29, the Lord, speaking through the prophet, cites the prediction of future events as evidence of His supreme power."

Predictions of the future abound in both the Old and New Testament, and history bears witness that these predictions have been fulfilled with minute and mathematical accuracy. The evidence that we are sharing in this booklet is irrefutable. It confounds agnosticism and atheism, and it proves beyond a reasonable doubt in the tangible proof that fully satisfies the honest seeker after truth.

TYRE, THE STRONG CITY THAT PERISHED AS PROPHESED  
Prophecy about Tyre from Ezekiel 26:3-5, 12, 14:

*(3) Therefore thus says the Lord God: 'Behold, I am against you, O Tyre, and will cause many nations to come up against you, as the sea causes its waves to come up. (4) And they shall destroy the walls of Tyre and break down her towers; I will also scrape her dust from her, and make her like the top of a rock. (5) It shall be a place for spreading nets in the midst of the sea, for I have spoken,' says the Lord God; 'it shall become plunder for the nations. (12) They will plunder your riches and pillage your merchandise; they will break down your walls and destroy your pleasant houses; they will lay your stones, your timber, and your soil in the midst of the water. (14) I will make you like the top of a rock; you shall be a place for spreading nets, and you shall never be rebuilt, for I the Lord have spoken,' says the Lord God.*

## Facts about Tyre

Tyre was one of the great cities of the ancient world. Its inhabitants, the Phoenician, were the foremost mariners, merchants, and explorers of antiquity. Its ships traded with the known world. The city was strongly fortified and occupied a strategic position on the western shore of the Mediterranean Sea.

Tyre was a famous and flourishing city in the days when Joshua led the Israelites in the invasion of Palestine. He speaks of the "strong city Tyre." Several centuries later Hiram, King of Tyre, sent King Solomon abundant supplies of cedar and fir trees for building the temple of Jerusalem.

## Prophecy of Ezekiel (588 BC)

Centuries later, still in the days of the prophet Ezekiel, God pronounced judgment against the city because of its sins. Ezekiel predicted that the walls and the towers of the metropolis would be thrown down; but what is even more striking is that the very dust would "be scraped from the city." The forecast reads: . . . *they will lay your stones, your timber, and your soil in the midst of the water* (v. 12). (These are called elements of prophecy). This was a most unusual prophecy and, humanly speaking, there seems no likelihood that it would ever be fulfilled.

## Next element of prophecy (573 BC)

After a siege of thirteen years Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, captured Tyre and broke down her walls and towers. But no spoils of consequence fell into his hands at the end of his long-continued siege. The rulers of Tyre had transported their riches to an island about half a mile out in the sea. Nebuchadnezzar simply destroyed the city and left it in ruins. A part of the prediction had been brought to pass, but not all. The stones and dust and timber had not been cast "in the midst of the water." It seems utterly incredible that anyone would take the rubbish of a ruined city and cast it into the midst of the sea.

## Next element of prophecy (333 BC)

Two hundred and forty years rolled by, and still there was no sign of the completed fulfillment of the prophecy. Then Alexander the Great, with his swift legions, swept eastward in all-conquering military

career. He called on the island city of Tyre to open its gates to him. They refused his request. They felt secure in the island citadel. But Alexander quickly devised a plan of attack. He determined to build a causeway from the mainland to the island. He took the “stones” and “timber” and “dust” of the ruined city, cast them in the “midst of the water,” and then marched his legions over the solid roadway and captured the island city. Thus, in due time, God’s Word was fulfilled in minute mathematical detail.

Today, after a period of more than 2,500 years, another part of the prophecy has been fulfilled with the same detailed accuracy. The prediction reads: *I will make you like the top of a rock; you shall be a place for spreading nets, and you shall never be rebuilt, for I the Lord have spoken,’ says the Lord God* (v. 14).

The island of Tyre—which is now a peninsula made by the drifting of sand against the causeway—is a town of no importance with a few thousand inhabitants. Every vestige of the great city of Tyre on the mainland, destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar and cast into the sea by Alexander, has disappeared. Strabo (87 BC), the Greek historian and philosopher, said Tyre was located about three miles south of the causeway near the springs of Ras-el-Ain. These remarkable springs still send forth streams of clear, cold water. In spite of the natural advantage of the abundant water supply and the fertile plains stretching away to the mountains, Tyre has never been rebuilt. Today the seacoast for miles on either side of the springs is precisely as predicted. The fishermen are casting their nets “in the midst of the sea” exactly as was foretold by the Prophet Ezekiel more than twenty-five centuries previous.

Here then is fulfillment of prophecy so unique, so striking, so precise in minute detail, coming to pass thousands of years after the forecast with such hairbreadth accuracy, that only one conclusion is possible—the Bible must be the inspired, supernatural Word of God!

Of course, there are many other prophecies in the Bible too numerous to list. Here are a few others:

- Sidon, the ancient, which still stands though scarred by wars as foretold.
- The curse of Jericho fulfilled throughout the centuries.
- Prosperity predicted for Palestine. The desolate land to become like the Garden of Eden.
- The “Golden Gate” was shut as predicted.

- Ancient Jerusalem plowed as a field.
- Jerusalem build today just as predicted by the Prophet Jeremiah.

Further, there are at least 352 Old Testament prophecies fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Think of those odds and keep reading!

## MESSIANIC PROPHECIES AND THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS

The appearance in this century of some Old Testament manuscripts predating the birth, death, and resurrection of Christ but prophesying these events concerning the Messiah has added additional verification of the inspiration of the Scriptures. Several decades have now passed since the first chance of discovery in 1947 of some more than 2,000-year-old Old Testament scrolls and sectarian manuscripts in some almost inaccessible caves in the Judean Desert very near the Dead Sea. They have come to be known as the Dead Sea Scrolls. This discovery—by a young Bedouin shepherd—has become one of the most astounding archeological finds ever known in history. These writings are the literary remains of a community that lived at Qumran from 135 BC to AD 67 or 68.

Eleven caves were discovered containing nearly 1,100 ancient documents which included several scrolls and more than 100,000 fragments. Fragments from every Old Testament book except for the Book of Esther were discovered. Other works included apocryphal books, commentaries, manuals of discipline for the Qumran community, and theological texts. The majority of the texts were written in the Hebrew language, but there were also manuscripts written in Aramaic and Greek. Among the eleven caves, Cave 1, which was excavated in 1949, and Cave 4, excavated in 1952, proved to be the most productive caves. One of the most significant discoveries was a well-preserved scroll of the entire Book of Isaiah.

The most striking aspect of the many studies done on scrolls is that none have given ample emphasis to the most important facet of the entire discovery—the fact that the retrieval of these Old Testament scrolls adds indisputable authenticity to the Holy Scriptures because every study proved these scrolls predated our Lord Jesus Christ. What makes this so significant is that prior to these scrolls, the most recent existing scrolls date from about 900 AD. Now we have positive proof that the prophecies were given in the Old Testament and fulfilled in the New Testament. The critics have said for years that the

prophecies concerning Jesus could have been written after the fact, after Christ lived on this Earth. The unbelievers have done every kind of test on them to disprove this fact. They have done Paleographic, archaeological and chemical (the “carbon-14 test”) analyses. All have proven the same truth: these manuscripts predate Christ’s birth on this earth. Just think of the Book of Isaiah mentioned above. There are at least 58 prophecies in this book alone, and they found a nearly complete Isaiah that was written at least 100 years before Christ was born. Anyone can go to Jerusalem to visit the Israel Museum and see this scroll today.

## THE COMING OF JESUS

We now turn to the most important prophetic fulfillment topic of all: the coming of Jesus Christ. The simplest way to do this is to compare the Old Testament Scriptures with the New Testament fulfillment.

<b>Event</b>	<b>O.T. Prediction</b>	<b>N.T. Fulfillment</b>
Jesus born of a virgin	Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:22-23
Jesus born in Bethlehem	Micah 5:2	Matthew 2:5-6
Massacre of the innocents	Jeremiah 31:15	Matthew 2:17-18
Jesus as a healer	Isaiah 53:4	Matthew 8:16-17
Jesus rejected by His own people	Isaiah 53:3	John 1:11; 7:5
Jesus’s triumphant entry	Zechariah 9:9	Matthew 21:4
Jesus betrayed for money	Zechariah 11:12-13	Matthew 26:21
Jesus abandoned by His disciples	Zechariah 13:7	Matthew 26:31
Jesus whipped and spat upon	Isaiah 50:7	Matthew 27:26
Jesus crucified between two thieves	Isaiah 53:13	Luke 22:37
Jesus to rise from the dead	Psalms 16:10	Matthew 28:2-7
Jesus would ascend into Heaven	Psalms 24:7	Luke 24:51

This is just a brief list of 12 prophecies of Christ that have all come to pass. It is not difficult to bring the number of prophetic details and fulfillments concerning Christ to between 50 and 60. Remember, the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls, which predates our Lord Jesus by 100 years, contained a complete Book of Isaiah that is virtually the same one we read today. There are at least 55 prophecies in Isaiah alone, and the odds against these 55 prophecies occurring by chance are over 36,028,797,018,963,968 to 1! That is thirty-six quadrillion to one! Yet, these and many more Old Testament predictions have been fulfilled, predictions that now exist in documents which themselves existed up to hundreds of years before the fulfillments. Further, these odds are for 55 prophecies. As mentioned, 332 prophecies have all



been fulfilled concerning Christ. What are the odds of just these 332 prophecies coming to pass? Eight tringtillion (that's an 8 with 93 zeros after it!). Add to all of this, there are 3,268 verses of Bible prophecies of thousands of details that have been fulfilled. In addition, there are 3,140 verses of prophecy that are yet to be fulfilled.

## EVIDENCE OF TRUTH BASED ON FULFILLED PROPHECY ABSENT FROM OTHER RELIGIONS

Fulfilled prophecy is the major proof of the authenticity of the Bible. Isn't it strange that no other world religion contains prophecy? The writings of Buddha are totally lacking in any sort of predictive prophecies. There are none in the writings of Buddha or Confucius. There is only one in the Quran—Mohammad said, "I am going back to Mecca." This is called a "self-fulfilling" prophecy. The one who speaks it is the one who can make it happen!

Relative to true Biblical prophecy, when an event is predicted by a prophet of God and recorded hundreds of years before it comes to pass and when there are visible evidences of that prophecy's fulfillment precisely as foretold, then you have one of the strongest attestations possible to the truth. You can depend on God's Word!

## HOW DO I KNOW THE BIBLE IS TRUE?

The proof of science:

- The earth is round just like the Bible says. Isaiah 40:22 says, *It is He who sits above the circle of the earth, And its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, And spreads them out like a tent to dwell in.*
- There is almost an infinite extent of the sidereal (relating to stars or constellations) universe. Our universe is determined by the stars. Isaiah knew this centuries ago when he said, *For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts* (Isaiah 55:9).
- Hydrologic cycle—Ecclesiastes 1:7 says, *All the rivers run into the sea, Yet the sea is not full; To the place from which the rivers come, There they return again.* Perhaps without even understanding, the writer recorded the process of evaporation, condensation, and precipitation long before scientists figured it out.
- Life in the blood—Leviticus 17:11 says, *For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make*

*atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.* This is a fact declared in Scripture more than 3,000 years ago and only fairly recently attested to in science.

- Shape of the world hanging in space—Job 26:7 says, *He stretches out the north over empty space; He hangs the earth on nothing.* The ancients thought the world was flat or square.
- Man made from earth—Genesis 2:7 says, *And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.*

The proof of archaeology:

- Renowned archaeologist Nelson Glueck says, "It may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted (disputed) a Biblical reference."
- Jericho. The strata here and the ruins confirm the destruction of Jericho both the fall of the walls and the fire. It is possibly the oldest city in the world.
- Hebron. Highest city in Israel Important to Abraham (Genesis 13; 18; 23; 19)
- Hazor. Size and location; one of Joshua's key cities (Joshua 11:10).
- Moses in Egypt. Too many examples to cite here (secular and religious).
- The Plagues. Secular records of their occurrence as well as Biblical.
- Sarah's Tomb. Genesis 23. A cave in Hebron has been found, and research says it is the grave of Sarah.
- Rocks of iron and copper. God told Moses the Promised land would have "rocks of iron and copper" (Deuteronomy 8:9). About 20 miles south of the Dead Sea is a large area dotted with ancient furnaces. The region is peppered with heaps of copper slag. Some veins are still visible above the ground.
- Capernaum. Here is a synagogue with inscriptions that date back to Jesus' time and records that confirm His preaching.

## HOW TO DEFEND YOUR FAITH IN CHRIST

**W**hen false witnesses testified against our Lord Jesus Christ, He remained silent. When unfounded charges were brought against Him, He returned no answer, believing His whole life and conduct among the Jews were a better refutation than any answer to the false testimony, or than any formal defense against the accusations. Even now He continues silent before these things, and makes no audible answer, but places His defense in the lives of His genuine disciples, which are a preeminent testimony, and one that rises superior to all false witnesses, and refutes and overthrows all unfounded accusations and charges.

The statement above is from Origen (with a little updating), an early church father. It was taken from the first comprehensive defense of the Christian faith we have and puts the case for defending the Christian faith at its simplest: it is our job as the disciples of Jesus Christ to defend our faith and ultimately our Lord himself. This task has created both fear and confusion with many Christians who either do not see the need to defend the faith or who are too afraid or uninformed to do so.

God empowers us to defend our faith just as He empowers us for the many other things we do in His name.

The purpose of this booklet is to give you both the information you need to defend your faith in Christ and the confidence to carry that defense out. Our first task is to identify the source of doubt and confusion—Satan himself.

### Doubt Comes From the Devil

The eternal enemy of our soul is Satan. He is a fallen creature of God. Because of his previously elevated position as Lucifer, the “Light Bearer,” the “Son of the Morning,” he knows us better than we know ourselves.

Before we discuss the Devil’s role in doubt, we need to learn more about him.

Who he is not:

- Merely an evil force or principle. In the Lord's Prayer, we read, . . . *and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one* (Matthew 6:13). The usual "King James" recitation tells us to be delivered from evil, but it is more accurate to emphasize that Jesus' earthly contemporaries would clearly understand "evil" came in the form of a personal devil.
- Someone's mistake, either human or divine.
- A chemical or biological agent.
- A guy in either a red suit with Persian shoes or a being with hoofs, horns, and tail, who carries with him a pitchfork while supervising the lake of fire.

Who he is:

- He is a real person. *Satan rose up against Israel and incited David to take a census of Israel* (1 Chronicles 21:1). He is referred in Scripture as a personal being.
- He stands up against people to resist them as any other person can. *Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings* (1 Peter 5:8-9; also see Zechariah 3:1-2; Psalm 109:6).
- He was created as an angel, has fallen, and now has power on the earth. *How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! You said in your heart, "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High." But you are brought down to the grave, to the depths of the pit* (Isaiah 14:12-15). His influence in the affairs of the world—political, social, economic, military—is vast.

Ways in which the Bible describes Satan:

- Snake or adder: *And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel* (Genesis 3:15, also see Psalm 91:13; 2 Corinthians 11:3; Luke 10:19, Revelation 12:9, 20:3).
- Crocodile: *In that day, the Lord will punish with his sword, his fierce,*

- great and powerful sword, Leviathan the gliding serpent, Leviathan the coiling serpent; he will slay the monster of the sea (Isaiah 27:1).*
- *Great Red Dragon: Men worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, "Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him? (Revelation 13:4, see also Revelation 12; 16:13; 20:2).*
  - *Angel of Light: For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough (2 Corinthians 11:4).*
  - *Roaring Lion: You will tread upon the lion and the cobra; you will trample the great lion and the serpent (Psalm 91:13, see also 1 Peter 5:8).*
  - *Birds: As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up (Matthew 13:4, see also v. 19).*
  - *Scorpions: I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you (Luke 10:19).*
  - *Wolf: The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it (John 10:12).*

Satan's goals:

Short Term

- The greatest and most important work of Satan now among people is to counterfeit the doctrines and experiences of God as revealed in Scripture in order to deceive Christians. There are many ways this can happen. Obvious things include such things as counterfeit prophets (Deuteronomy 13; 18), but there are many others. For instance, the corner bar is a counterfeit church!
- He wants to make you doubt your faith in God and in his Holy Word, the Bible. He continually sows doubt about God and His Word.
- He ultimately wants to destroy you: *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full (John 10:10).*

Long Term

- To be worshiped as God.
- He was unceremoniously ejected from Heaven for it (Isaiah 14:12-15, cited earlier).

- He deceived Adam and Eve with a lie that they could become gods: *"You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.* When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it (Genesis 3:4-6).
- He tried to get Jesus to worship him: *So if you worship me, it will all be yours* (Luke 4:7).
- He will set himself up as a god in the temple in the last days (Revelation 13).

#### Satan's friends:

- Satan cannot do his work without willing accomplices in the human race. Their goal is to tear down your faith in Christ. They always have many "hard" questions.
- What makes you think there ever was such a person as Jesus Christ? He is a myth!
- If there ever was such a person as Jesus, how could He be God?
- You don't believe a mere Jew who died on a cross 2,000 years ago can help us in any way today, do you?
- The Bible was just written by man.
- The Old Testament stories are myths (no crossing of the Red Sea, no Jonah in the whale, etc.)
- If God made us, who made God?
- Why does Christianity have to be the only way to God? (It is the culture that makes religion to be relative.)
- When you die, you turn to dust! No life hereafter.

#### How can we know the truth?

Confronted with this, we must ask ourselves: How can we really know the truth about God and Christ? We hear it, we read it, we believe it, but what makes us really sure?

The disciples were confronted with this question: *When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets." "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"*

*Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven (Matthew 16:13-17).*

There are actually two questions:

1. *Who do people say the Son of Man is?* is philosophical. This is an important "general" type of question, a kind of opinion poll.
2. *Who do you say I am?* is personal. It is the question we must answer for ourselves.

The only way we can ultimately answer the second question is by the revelation of Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit directly to us. At some point, whether dramatically or subtly, God reveals Himself personally to all of us, and we must then choose. When the downcast disciples shuffled their way on the road to Emmaus, a disguised but resurrected Jesus . . . *opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures (Luke 24:45).* This is the complete picture; we have a direct encounter with God, but one informed by His Word, otherwise we end up like the Sadducees: Jesus replied, "You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God" (Matthew 22:29).

## PROCLAIMING THE REAL JESUS WILL THE REAL JESUS PLEASE STAND UP?

**W**hen Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked His disciples, Who do people say the Son of Man is? They replied, Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets. But what about you? he asked. Who do you say I am? (Matthew 16:13-15). Up until now we have considered the following:  
How to defend your faith in Christ. We have found that our faith is based on fact and is defensible.

The Bible—a book like no other. We have found that the Bible, far from being the irrelevant document its enemies say it is, is a book like no other, and that its uniqueness points to its divine origin. Fulfilled prophecy. This is further proof of the veracity of the Bible. We found out that the Bible contained prophecy of future events that have been fulfilled, beating all of the odds in doing so. So now we come back to the question on which eternity hangs: who is Jesus Christ?

We have said before that Jesus Christ is the most important figure in human history. This hasn't stopped people from having all kinds of opinions as to who Jesus really is. It hasn't even stopped them from saying their idea of Jesus is the real Jesus. Today when people speak of Jesus, they may or may not be talking about the same person that you are. And they may not know it!

This is nothing new. The Scripture we start with shows this kind of speculation was going on even when our Lord was on this earth. People then had all kinds of opinions as to who Jesus was. Our Lord was simply asking His disciples to report the results of "opinion polls" on the subject. This process has continued until this day. Let us take a look at what some people "say the Son of Man is." The Jew denies Jesus was the Messiah and is still looking for the Messiah to come. As was the case with the Pharisees of old, he believes Jesus was a schismatic who has caused him difficulty, both during His time on earth and by His followers afterward.



The Muslim believes Jesus (Isa) to be a great prophet and a unique person, but denies He is God or that God can have a Son, and denies He was crucified.

The Hindu believes Jesus was one of many thousands of inspired teachers, and that Christianity is one manifestation of the "universal religion," a concept that is picked up in Freemasonry and, to some extent, in the New Age movement. Some Hindus and New Agers believe Jesus traveled to India and lived there to learn from the swamis of His day.

The Buddhist believes the teachings of Jesus can be useful for right conduct, but also that His promise of eternal life is useless because his objective is to overcome the desire to exist and thus to cease to exist, the state referred to as "nirvana."

The Christian Scientist presents us with a "dual" Jesus: Jesus was a human being but Christ is the divine idea, and His resurrection was, in fact, the third day of His "ascending thought."

The Jehovah's Witness rejects Jesus as God like the Muslim, and believes Jesus was "the greatest man that ever lived" and, in reality, the archangel Michael. He believes the Resurrection was a strictly Spiritual process.

The Mormon believes Jesus is one of three Gods which are "separate in personality, united in purpose, in plan, and in all attributes of perfection," the first spirit child of Elohim. They also believe Jesus was both the spiritual brother of the devil and a polygamist.

The Moonie believes Jesus' original mission was cut short by His crucifixion, and thus a failure, and that He (or, more to the point, the Rev. Sung Yung Moon) must come again out of the East to finish the job.

The Liberal isn't sure Jesus existed! He is convinced the Bible is devoid of factual content, and that the existence of Jesus is unknowable. Liberals have led theological academia on two searches for the "historical Jesus," once in the nineteenth century, and the second in the "Jesus Seminar" movement of the 1990's, the latter of which tries to depict Jesus as a revolutionary in their own mold.

We see that, just as in the days of the disciples, there are many opinions about Jesus. But the question our Lord asked then is still relevant today: *Who do you say I am?* Probably the first response we should consider is that which Peter gave him: Simon Peter answered, *You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.*" Jesus replied, *Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven* (Matthew 16:16-19).

Peter's response was not a human opinion, but from the Source—God himself. This is ultimately the only opinion that really matters. We need to know and proclaim the "real Jesus:"  
Jesus is God. *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God* (John 1:1).  
Jesus is one God with the Father and Holy Spirit. *I (Jesus) and the Father are one* (John 10:30).

Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary and became man, sharing our condition. *All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"—which means, "God with us* (Matthew 1:22-23). *Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin* (Hebrews 4:14-15).

Jesus was crucified: *And sitting down, they kept watch over him there...When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, "Surely he was the Son of God!"* (Matthew 27:36, 54).

Jesus rose from the dead: *Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."* Thomas said to him, *"My Lord and my God!* (John 20:27-28).

Jesus ascended into Heaven, and will return: *After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven (Acts 1:9-11).*

We have seen in the course that God's Word is true just as God is true. We have discovered how to defend our faith in an intelligent, rational, and convincing way. Our task now is to go forth in the power of the Holy Spirit and proclaim the real Jesus!

# HOW TO KNOW & SHOW THE BIBLE IS TRUE

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