

Jesus Christ?

(Clue: If Superman can withstand flying bullets, why does he have to duck when the gun is thrown at him?)

Four Reasons Why You Should Believe in Jesus

Jesus was a Real Man

The Roman historian *Tacitus*, writing in AD112, and the first-century Jewish historian *Josephus* both mention Jesus and report his crucifixion under Pilate, the Roman Governor of Judea.

Eyewitness Evidence for Jesus

Eyewitness evidence is the way we determine what happened in court cases, whether for murders or car accidents. We do not perform scientific experiments to prove that Captain Cook sailed to Australia; we rely upon eyewitness documents



as the primary evidence for all historical events. The Bible provides exactly the same sort of evidence for Jesus. Jesus' followers constantly emphasized this: 'We did not follow cunningly-devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his greatness'.

Can we trust the Bible?

The Bible was copied by hand down through the centuries. Can we be sure that we have today what the eyewitnesses originally wrote? Yes, we can, because of (1) The **huge number** of copies



of the New Testament documents, (2) the **early date of the copies**, the earliest being the John Rylands Papyrus (pictured, containing John 18, dated about AD125) and (3) the high level of **agreement** amongst these copies (apart from spelling mistakes and

other scribal errors, the manuscripts tell us the same story). This compares far better than other ancient books (see table), yet no one doubts their

Book	Written	Earliest Copy	Time Span (y)	No. of Copies
J. Caesar's Gallic War	50BC	AD900	950	9
Tacitus' Histories	AD100	AD800	700	20
New Testament	AD 50-100	AD125	25	25,000

authenticity. Other non-Biblical 'gospels' were written at least 150 years after Jesus. They are of no more use than someone today writing an eyewitness account of Captain Cook's voyages.

Jesus was more than a Man

Some people consider Jesus to have been a great man, ahead of his time. Others say he was a great communicator and thinker or someone who bravely lost his life for his cause. Some even consider that he was a prophet. Napoleon Bonaparte said, I know men, and believe me ... Jesus Christ is not a man'. The eyewitnesses, those who knew him best, realized that Jesus was much more than this: Jesus was God himself.



Consider what Jesus' contemporaries said:

- 'No man ever spoke like this man' (Jewish soldiers sent to arrest him).
- 'Who can this be, that even the winds and the waves obey him?' (Jesus' disciples, fishermen).
- 'Come and see a man who told me all things that I ever did' (a woman married five times).
- 'You being a man, make yourself God'. (Jews, for whom this was blasphemy, deserving death). Jesus died because he claimed to be God.
- Jesus' friends worshipped him because they realized he was God. 'Doubting' Thomas exclaimed, 'My Lord and my God!' Notice carefully: Jesus accepted their worship.



C.S. Lewis, the one-time atheist, wrote: 'I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about him: "I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept his claim to be God." That is the one

thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic – on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg – or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else he was a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall down at his feet and call him Lord and God. But let us not come up with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to’.

Jesus Rose Again

One common atheist debating trick in the past was to pull out a watch and challenge God to prove His existence by striking the atheist dead within one minute. When nothing happened, the atheist claimed he had proved God did not exist. Jesus was challenged to do similar things: to send lightning from the sky. He refused, saying, “Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it again”. Jesus was saying He would rise again three days after being put to death.



This is the reason why God is not interested in trifling little miracles like lightning-bolts: God has already produced the ultimate proof of His existence. He has come to earth as a real human being, died the worst of deaths, and

risen from the grave – pulling off the ultimate miracle. If we are not willing to consider that, why should God bother to provide any more evidence?

Jesus died for you

The most amazing thing about Jesus is not *who* he was. It is *why* he came. Our Creator laid down his life for his creatures, who added to our many other sinful, shameful deeds the unthinkable: crucifying him. He offers, through his death, forgiveness of sins to all who trust in Him. God loves *you*! What more proof could he have given? You can believe in someone who was prepared to die for you.



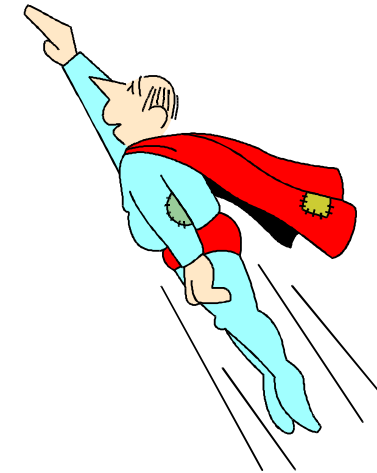
From Party Animal to Inner Peace



Josh McDowell thought Christians were ‘walking idiots’. Then he was challenged to examine Jesus Christ’s claims to be God’s Son. Finally, he accepted the challenge and found the evidence showed just that. His life was changed: from turmoil to peace, from hatred to love. For a free copy of his book, *More than a Carpenter*, send the reply slip to the address below:

Your Name: _____
Address: _____

Yes, please send me a free copy of Josh McDowell’s book, *More than a Carpenter*



***What’s the
difference
between
Superman
and...***