

GOSPEL APOLOGIA

Knowing God, Loving God, Serving God

SESSION 1-WHY STUDY APOLOGETICS?

-Brendon Biggs

Biblical Support for Apologetic Training

Why Study Apologetics?

IT'S A COMMAND:

1 Peter 3:15

”But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer (Greek word=apologia-defense) to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect”

The Great Commission

Matthew 28:16-20

Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Romans 10:14 – “And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about Him? And how can they hear about Him unless someone tells them?”

Matthew 9:37-38

Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore, plead with the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest.

1. **Matthew 22:37-38-** “*Love the Lord* your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your *mind*.”

This is the first and greatest commandment.”

2. **Acts 19:8-9-** “Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly there for three months, *arguing persuasively* about the kingdom of God. But some of them became obstinate; they refused to believe.”

3. **Acts 26:24-25**- “Felix interrupted Paul’s *defense*. ‘You are out of your mind! . . . Your great learning is driving you mad.’ ‘I am not out of my mind’ . . . Paul replied. ‘I utter words of sober truth...with confidence’”

4. **2 Corinthians 10:3-5**- “For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh... We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.”

5. Philippians 1:7- “For it is only right for me to feel this way about you all, because I have you in my heart, since both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers of grace with me. . . .”

6. **Philippians 1:16-** “the latter do it out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense [apologia] of the gospel;”

7. **Colossians 4:5-6-** “Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. Your speech must always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person”

8. **Titus 1:9**- “holding firmly the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict *it*..”

9. **Jude 1:3**- “. . . I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.”

Jesus gave evidence:

Acts 1:3- “Jesus presented himself alive to his apostles through many convincing proofs...”

John 10:37-38, John 5:36, John 2:18-21- Jesus provided evidence with His works.

Belgic Confession, Article 2, written in 1561:

"We know him [God] by two means:

First, by the creation, preservation, and government of the universe, since that universe is before our eyes like a beautiful book in which all creatures, great and small, are as letters to make us ponder the invisible things of God...

Second, God makes himself known to us more clearly by his holy and divine Word, as much as we need in this life, for God's glory and for our salvation.

General Revelation-2 Book View

Romans 1:20 –“For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.”

Psalms 19:1

“The heavens tell of the glory of God;
And their expanse declares the work of His hands.
Day to day pours forth speech,
And night to night reveals knowledge.”

Acts 17:16-34 (Paul in Athens) – Paul reasoned with the Greek philosophers

In Isaiah 1:18, God invited Israel saying, “Come now let us reason together.”

God wanted the people of Israel to use their ability to reason and consider the consequences of their behavior.

The objective moral law written on the hearts of man (Romans 2:14-15) can be shown to come from God through philosophical arguments

Example:

1. If God does not exist, objective moral values do not exist.
2. Objective moral values do exist.
3. Therefore, God exist.

Luke 1:1-4

Since many have undertaken to compile an account of the things accomplished among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, it seemed fitting to me as well, having investigated everything carefully from the beginning, to write it out for you in an orderly sequence, most excellent Theophilus; so that you may know the exact truth about the things you have been taught.

1 Corinthians 15:3-8

“For I handed down to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. After that He appeared to more than five hundred brothers *and sisters* at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also.”

The early church defended the faith

1. Peter- Acts 2:32, 3:15; 5:30-32; 10:39-41 by appealing to eyewitness testimony
2. John 20:30-31- John wrote his gospel “So that you may believe...”
3. Luke Acts 1:1-3– “Many convincing proofs...”
4. Paul entered synagogues and reasoned from scripture to prove Jesus was the Christ-Acts 9:22; 17:1-3; 18:4).

Great apologists in early church- Ignatius, Justin Martyr, Irenaeus, Tertullian, Origen, Athanasius, Augustine, Anselm, Aquinas, Bonaventure, Calvin, Descartes, Pascal, Paley.

God created man as a rational being who can think and use that gift for God's glory:

1 Corinthians 10:31 - "Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all things for the glory of God."

1. Confirm faith of believers
2. Persuade nonbelievers
3. Refute systems of false beliefs
4. Improve moral health of a nation
5. Show the world Christianity is not irrational
6. Stand up for truth

Apologetics can provide the unbeliever with good reasons for the existence of God and specifically, the Christian God

Apologetics can show the incoherence of other religions and errors in new religions/cults.

Apologetics can alert a person to false teachings entering the church

Apologetics is pre-evangelism. Part of the gardening process that can lead to a harvest

Apologetics can help the Christian become a good ambassador for Christ

We can show people respect by seeking to understand before we explain truth to them.

Confidence in your intellectual ability can help you remain calm and converse in a respectful fashion.

Many of the new believers are not seen again in church. In addition, some go out and continue with same lifestyle or preach without knowledge

Rather than just decisions for Christ, we need conversions
(Titus 1:16; 1 Timothy 5:22)

Matthew 13:3-9 – Apologetics can help develop deep roots in the faith, so people stay and bear good fruit.

Apologetics helps equip the potential Elder so that they can meet the requirements of elder and teach (1 Timothy 3:2).

Pastors do not have time to provide necessary apologetics teachings in their limited weekly sermons. Members need to study on their own as well.

Many churches have Bible studies for member's growth but the members that are trying to reached their unsaved friends and relatives are often without resources. Apologetics can help with this.

Members experience doubt periodically, and apologetics can help with intellectual reasons to help with doubt that compliments the emotional support that comes from pastors, prayer team leaders and care ministries.

Reminders:

Use Gentleness and respect-1 Peter 3:15

Be Salt and Light -Matthew. 5:13-17

Provide Strong arguments -2 Corinthians 10:5; Colossians 2:8

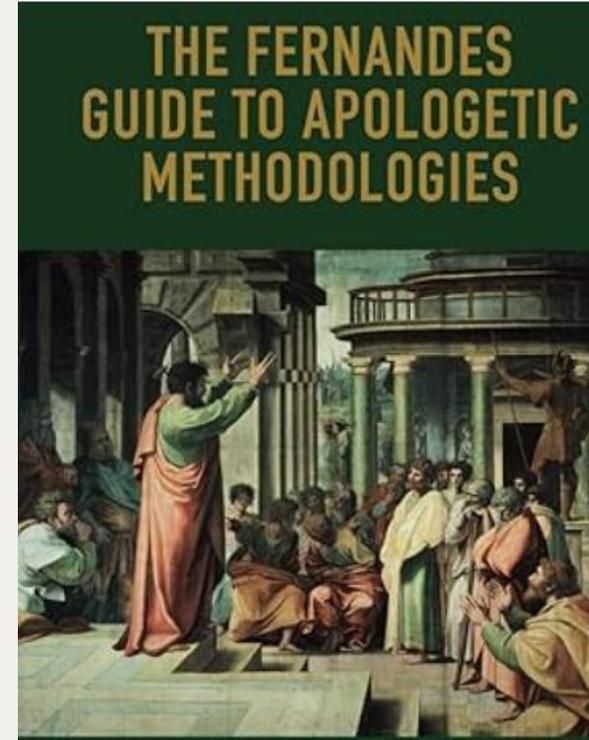
Provide Biblical refutations-Proverbs. 26:4-5

Use Scriptural Authority -2 Timothy 3:16

Apologetic Approaches

There are 17 different approaches to Apologetics. Here are the most common:

- 1) Classical Apologetics – two step approach. The first step is to use traditional arguments for God’s existence and then present historical evidences for Christianity.
- 2) Evidentialism or Historical Apologetics- Uses historical evidence to demonstrate truth of Christianity.
- 3) Cumulative case for Christianity - use of a variety of arguments to build a cumulative case increasing the probability for the case for Christianity.
- 4) Transcendental Presuppositionalism – Starts with the presupposition that all reality is not intelligible without God. God is the necessary precondition for all thought or immaterial realities.



Apologetics is needed because people have doubts

Apologetics is needed per Scriptural command

Bad philosophy needs to be met with good philosophy

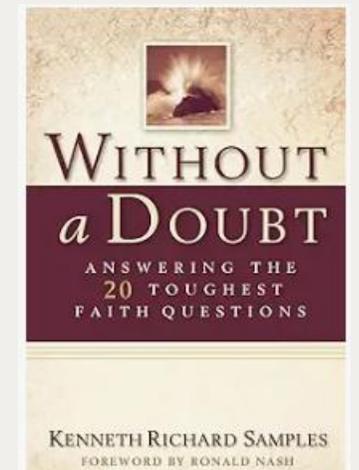
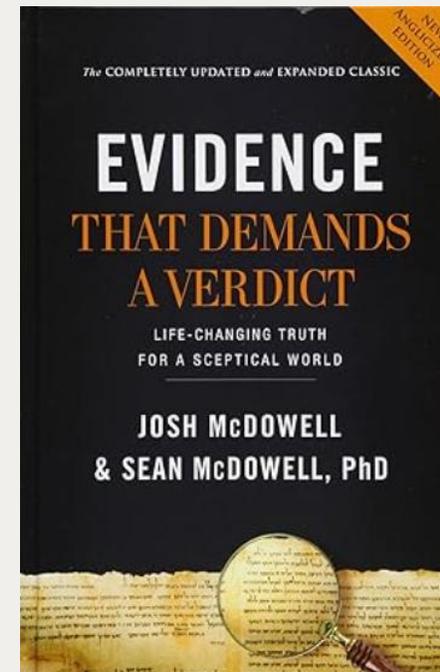
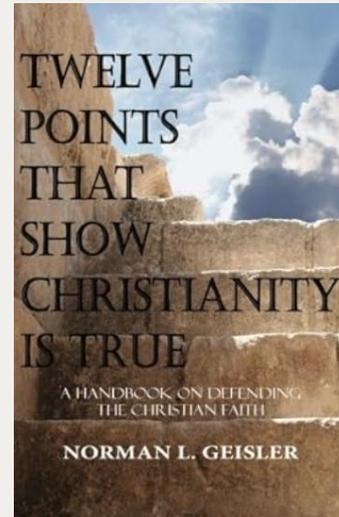
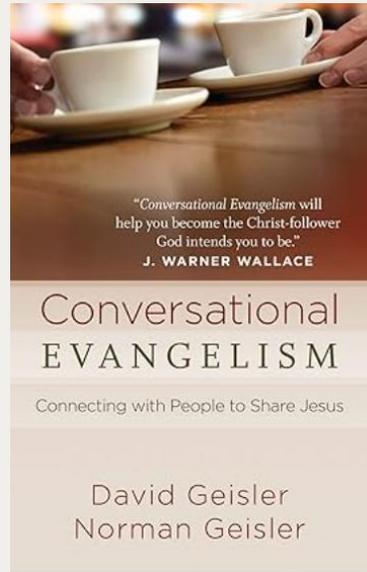
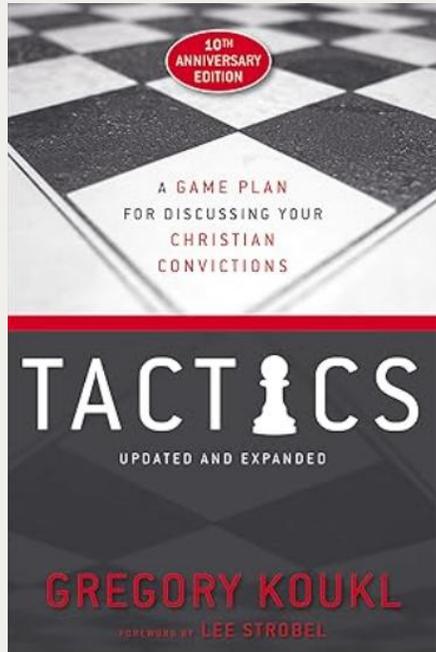
Evidence can help break down intellectual barriers

Apologetics is part of evangelism and the great commission –we must learn how to present the information in a respectful and interesting way

What are the topics in the next sessions?

1. Why we do apologetics
2. Bible Reliability
3. Evidence for the Resurrection
4. Cults- Introduction
5. How to defend against cults
6. Defense of the Trinity

Resources



You can look up these authors and find video resources on the internet/you tube. Watch some!

Dr. Craig's videos: <https://www.youtube.com/user/drcraigvideos>

Science/faith topics: RTB.ORG or <https://www.discovery.org/>

You can also go to <http://crossexamined.org/> and click on the "video" button. He has a bunch of 5 minute Q&A with college students on a variety of subjects.

General apologetic sites: CARM.org, Gotquestions.org,

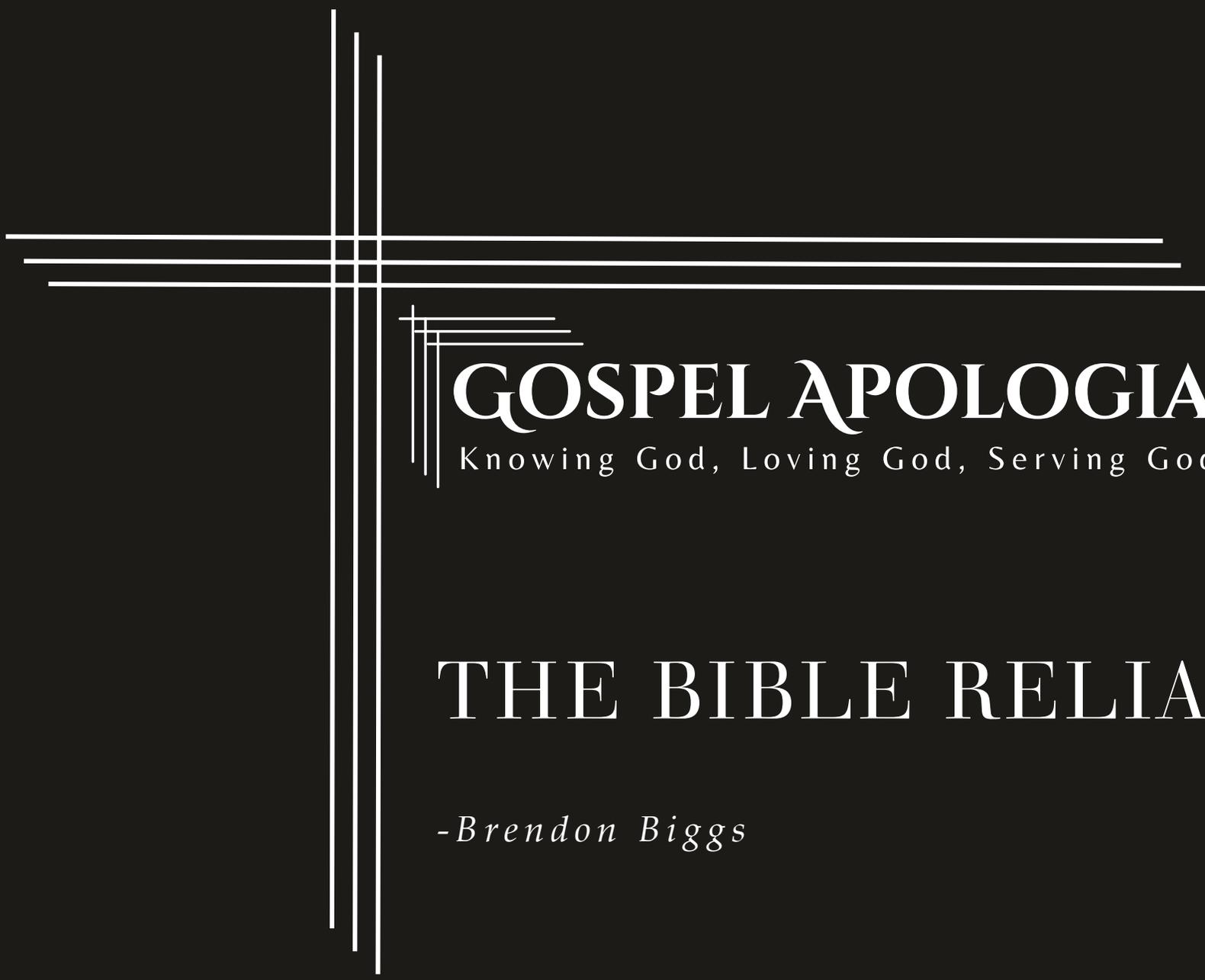
Training material:

<https://www.pedaeducation.com/>

Weekly community Bible and book studies: <https://www.gospelapologia.com/>

1. What questions do you have with Christianity
2. Where do you go to get information?
3. What internet sites or Christian teachers do you learn from?
4. Do you read apologetic books?
5. What topics do you hope I cover?

You can email me your answers: Brendonbiggs@gmail.com



GOSPEL APOLOGIA

Knowing God, Loving God, Serving God

THE BIBLE RELIABILITY

-Brendon Biggs

There are many holy books in the world.

The Quran, the Hindu Vedas, the Book of Mormon, writings of Buddha and Confucius, Greek mythology, etc.

Some are claimed to be based on a single revelation from God to a person.

Some do not include real places and people in history or they are presented as stories which may or may not be real.

Most have internal inconsistencies, errors, or have been shown to be false.

The Bible

The Bible was written:

- over a 1500 year span (from 1400 B.C to A.D. 100)
- over 40 generations
- over 40 authors from many walks of life (i.e. - kings, peasants, philosophers, fishermen, poets, statesmen, scholars)
- in different places (i.e. - wilderness, dungeon, palaces)
- at different times (i.e. - war, peace)
- in different moods (i.e. - heights of joy, depths of despair)
- on three continents (Asia, Africa, and Europe)
- in three languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek)

-all pointing to one truth. Its amazing how applicable it is to us today.

Who Wrote the Bible?

Hebrew 1:1-2

“God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many times and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.”

1. Inspiration—From the mouth of God
2. Canonization—Collected by the people of God
3. Transmission—Copied by scribes of God
4. Translations—Translated by the servants of God

Inspiration

2 Timothy 3:16: “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God...” (i.e., it is **“God-breathed”** or breathed out by God).

2 Peter 1:20-21: “Knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy **never came by the will of man**, but holy men of God spoke as they were **moved by the Holy Spirit.**”

“Thus said the LORD” or the like occurs approximately 1500 times in the Old Testament.

- A. Was it written by a prophet of God? (Heb. 1:1-2; 2Pet.1:20-21; Mt. 5:17-18; Lk. 24:27)
- B. Was he confirmed by an act of God? (Ex. 4:1-9; Jn. 3:2; Heb. 2:4; 2 Cor. 12:12)
- C. Did it tell the truth about God? (Deut. 13:1-5; 18:21-22; Acts 17:11; 1 Jn. 4:1-6)
- D. Did it have the power of God? (Isa. 55:11; Heb. 4:12; Rom. 1:16-17; 2 Tim. 3:17)
- E. Was it received by the people of God? (Deut. 31:26; 1 Thes. 2:15)

HOW DO WE KNOW WE HAVE
an accurate copy of the original NT?

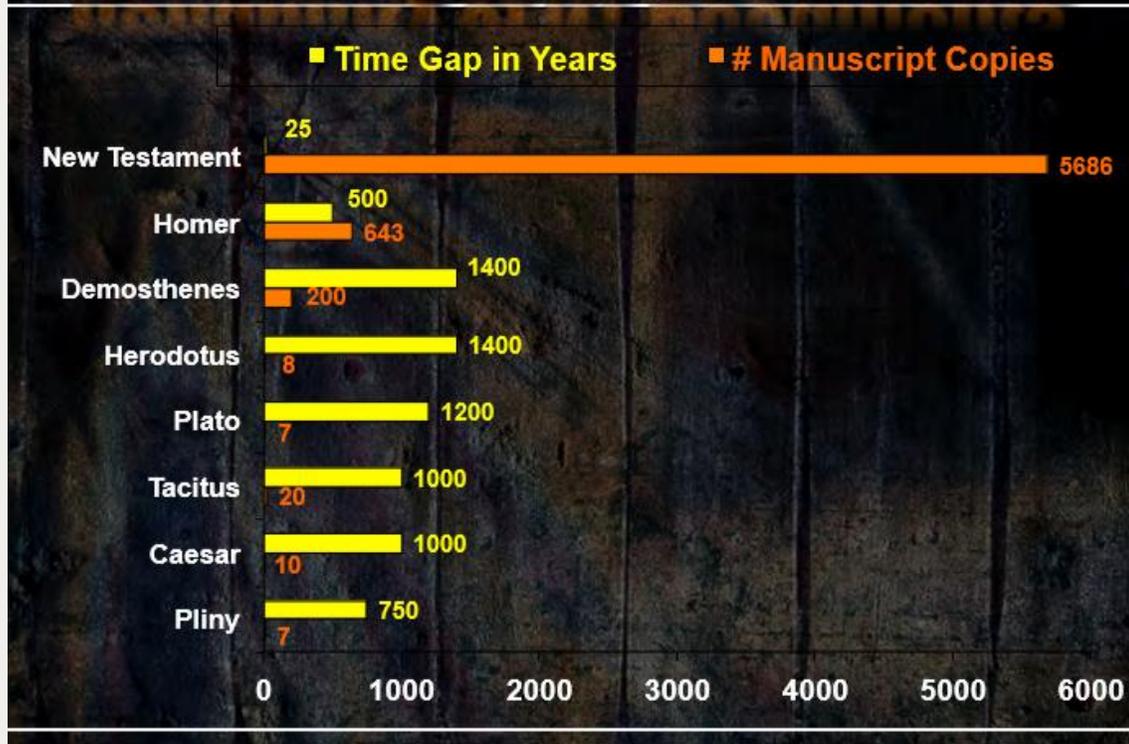
- 1. EARLIER Manuscripts**
- 2. MORE Manuscripts**
- 3. MORE Accurately Copied**
- 4. MORE Abundantly Supported Manuscripts**

the Old testament:

How do we know we have
an accurate copy of the original New Testament?

1. Earlier Manuscripts
2. More Manuscripts
3. More accurately copied
4. More abundantly supported Manuscripts

Reliability of NT Documents



- We have more manuscripts than other ancient classical writers.
- The interval between the original authorship and the date of the earliest New Testament copies is extremely short.

What Books should be in the Bible?

Confirmation of authorship and authority

- 25 of 27 books quoted by AD110
- Gospels and Acts cited during lives of apostles
- Quoted as authoritative and unique
- Collected early in one volume
- Publicly read and expounded
- Commentaries written on them
- Opponents admitted Gospels were written by the disciples
- No other later writings were treated this way

The authors of the four Gospels were either eyewitnesses of Jesus' life themselves or were closely associated with eyewitnesses.

Matthew – confirmed by early church leaders. Wrote to a Jewish audience.

Mark is John Mark (Acts 12:12; 13:13; 15:36-41) and was the cousin of Barnabas and associate of Paul. He wrote for Peter.

Luke- Companion of Paul. Interviewed the apostles and other eyewitnesses (Luke 1).

John- Disciple and had detailed knowledge of first century Jewish culture and customs.

Extra-Biblical Testimony

Basic New Testament storyline confirmed by non-Christian Sources

-Ten ancient non-Christian sources including:

-Historians: Josephus, Tacitus, Suetonius, Thallus, Phlegon

- Government officials: Pliny the Younger, Emperor Trajan, Emperor Hadrian

- Other sources including the Jewish Talmud and Greek writer Lucian

Compiling their references, we get a story consistent with the New Testament...

Extra-Biblical Testimony

Basic New Testament storyline confirmed by non-Christian Sources

1. Jesus lived during the time of Tiberius Caesar
2. He lived a virtuous life
3. He was a wonder worker
4. He had a brother named James
5. He was acclaimed to be the Messiah
6. He was crucified under Pontius Pilate
7. An eclipse on the eve of Passover
8. His disciples believed He rose from the dead
9. Christianity spread rapidly as far as Rome
10. His disciples denied the Roman gods and worshipped Jesus as God.

This is what the New Testament Says!

In addition to thousands of manuscripts we have in our possession that we can use to compare and contrast, the early Church fathers quote the New Testament writings approximately 19,000 times. We can compare these quotes, and they also match the manuscript copies.

Number of Manuscript Copies

Greek: 5,700

Latin: 10,000+

Ethiopic 2,000+

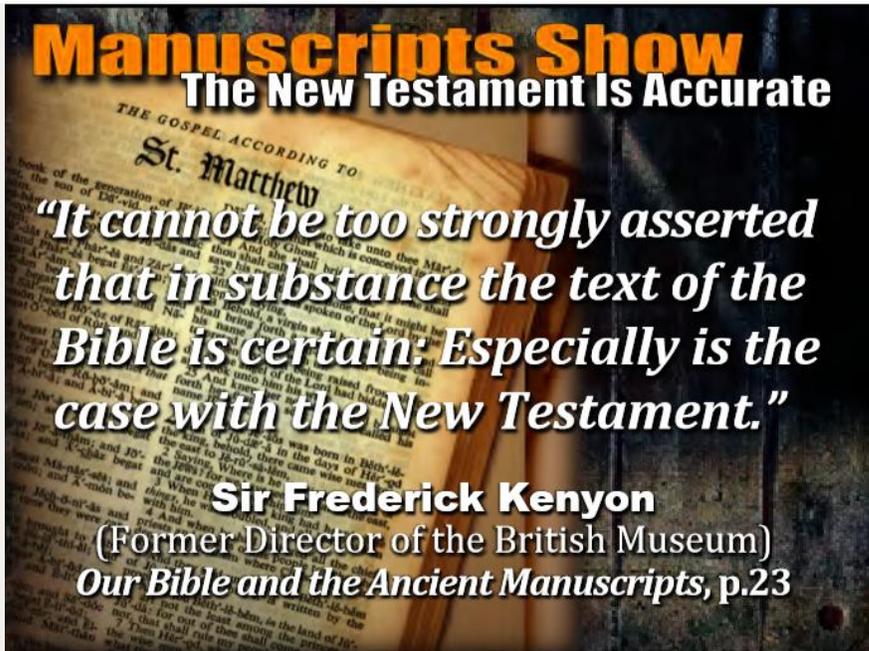
Slavic 4,000+

Armenian 2,500+

Others 500+

Total 25,000

Outline



Manuscript show the New Testament is accurate

“It cannot be too strongly asserted that in substance the text of the Bible is certain: Especially is the case with the New Testament”

-Sir Frederick Kenyon (Former Director for the British Museum)



John Ryland's Library, England: P52 from John ch. 18: oldest existing NT Manuscript. ca. 125AD. 40 yrs from original.

John Ryland's Library, England: P52 from John chapter 18:
Oldest existing New Testament manuscript dated around 125AD
Which is approximately 40 years from the original

-all 3 persons

Surviving Collections

Complete or nearly complete surviving collections

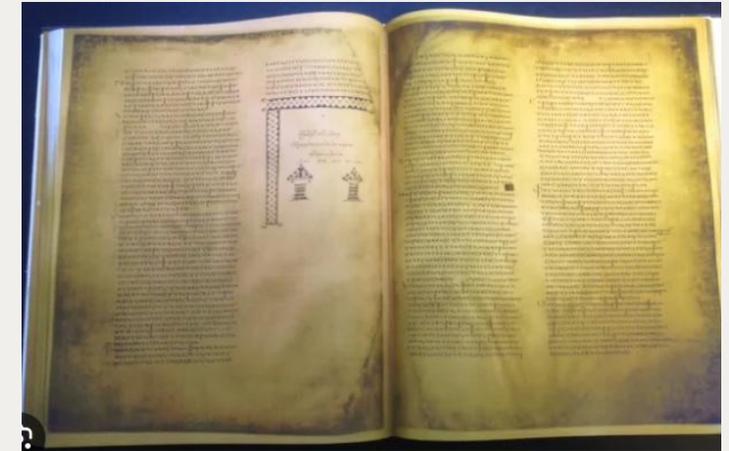
4th century Sinaiticus



4th century Vaticanus



5th century Alexandrian



You can read these online! <https://archive.org/details/CodexAlexandrinus/Codex-Vaticanus-NT/mode/2up>

Eyewitness Testimony

The Gospels are presented as eyewitness Testimony.

Luke 3:1-2

“Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee and his brother Philip was tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene, in the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John, the son of Zechariah, in the wilderness.”

That verse provides:

1. An exact date
2. All eight people are known from history
3. All were known to live at this exact time

2. EYE WITNESS TESTIMONY numerous confirmed eyewitness details

**1. Acts -- 84 historically-confirmed
eyewitness details.**



Eyewitness testimony – numerous confirmed eyewitness details

1. Book of Acts has 84 historically confirmed eyewitness details

2. EYE WITNESS TESTIMONY

numerous confirmed eyewitness details

- 1. Acts -- 84 historically-confirmed eyewitness details.**
- 2. Luke includes several others in his Gospel.**
- 3. John-- 59 historically-confirmed or historically probable eyewitness details.**
- 4. New Testament Documents cite more than 30 people confirmed by secular sources or archaeology.**

How God would come as a God-man.

2. Luke includes several others in his Gospel

3. John has 59 historically confirmed or historically probable eyewitness details

4. New Testament documents cite more than 30 people confirmed by secular sources or archeology

Percent of Accuracy of the New Testament

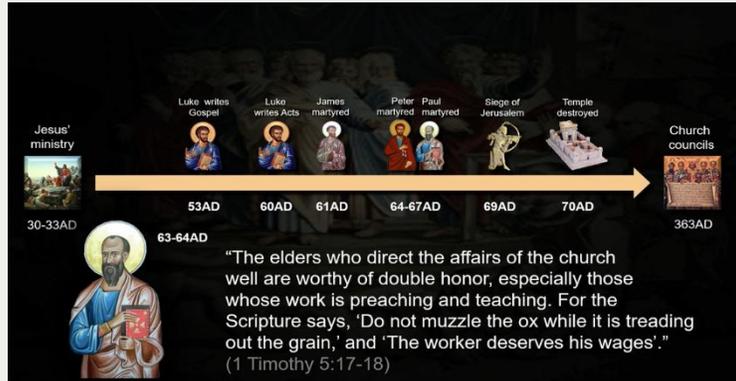
Westcott and Hort estimated that only about one-sixtieth rise above “trivialities” and can be called “substantial variations.” It is 98.33 percent pure.

Ezra Abbott said about 9/20 (95 percent) of the readings are “various” rather than “rival” readings, and about 9/20 (95 percent) of the rest make no appreciable difference in the sense of the passage. Thus the text is 99.75 percent pure.

A.T. Robertson said the real concern is with about a “thousandth part of the entire text.” So, the reconstructed text of the New Testament 99.9 percent free from real concern.

B. Philip Schaff estimated that of the 150,000 variations known, only 400 affected the sense; and of those only 50 were of real significance; and of these not one affected “an article of faith....”

The apostles writings were received and treated as Scripture



ref [Luke 10:7](#) –...that house, eating and drinking what they give you; for the laborer is worthy of his wages...

[Deut 25:4](#) –“You shall not muzzle the ox while he is threshing.”

1 Timothy 5:17-18

This verse says “for the scripture says...”

and it quotes Luke 10:7 and Deuteronomy 25:4

This shows the authors considered both testaments as scripture as equal scripture

The Apostle's writings were received and treated as Scripture

2 Pet. 3:16 -..." as also in all *his [Paul's]* letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as *they do* also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction"

1 Cor. 14:37 - If anyone thinks he is a prophet or spiritual, let him recognize that the things which I write to you are the Lord's commandment.

1 Thess. 2:13 - For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted *it* not *as* the word of men, but *for* what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.

Prophecies

The Bible has hundreds of prophecies that have been fulfilled to demonstrate it is a miraculous book from God

The prophecies include the Book of Daniel chapter 9 which was written between 605BC to 530BC.

Daniel chapter 9 says that the Messiah would come before the Jerusalem temple was destroyed

Prophecies

Daniel chapter 9 says that the Messiah would come before Jerusalem temple was destroyed

Calculating Daniel's "seventy sevens" (Dan 9:24-27)

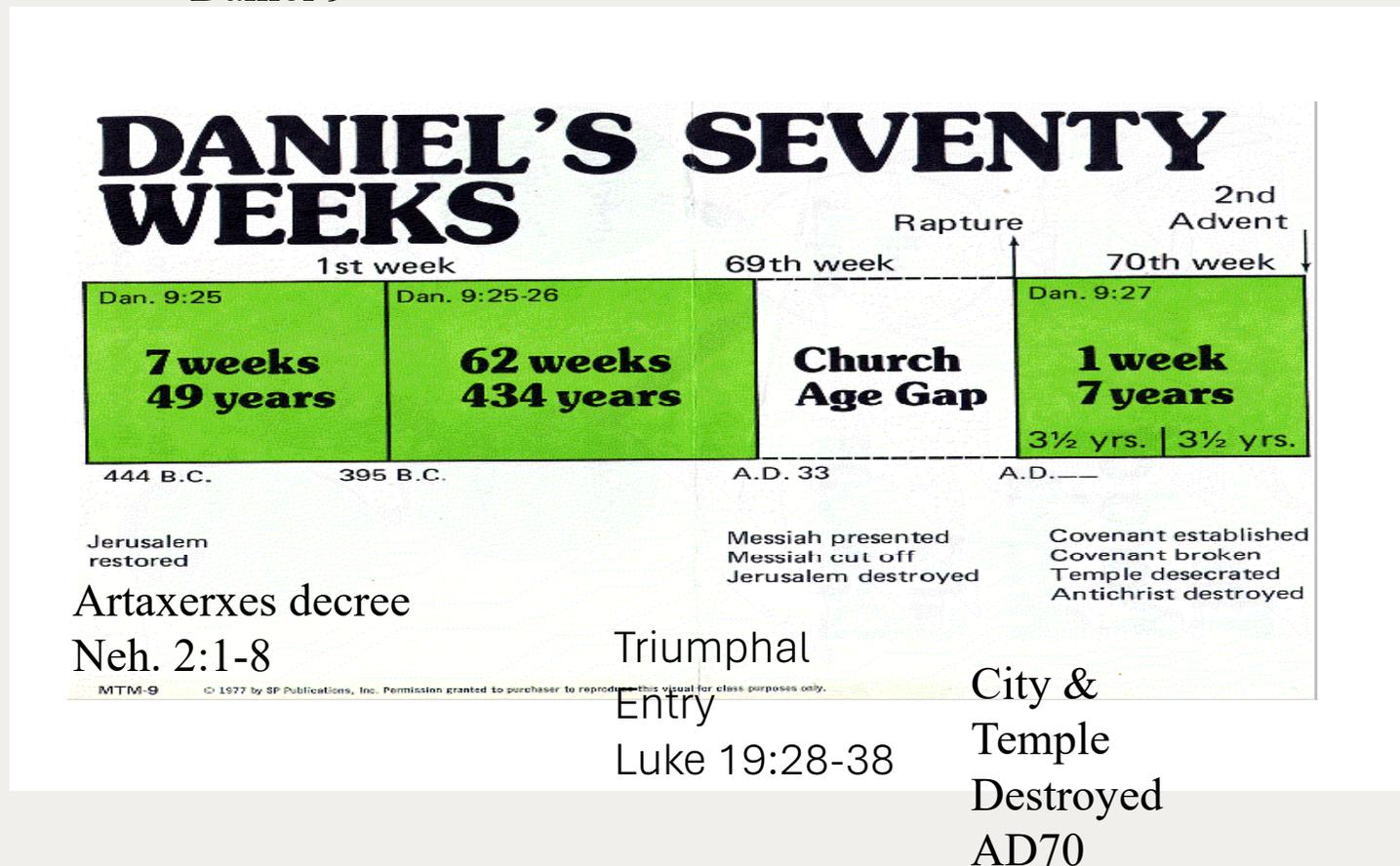
1. This is $7+62=69$ "sevens" = 483 Jewish years from the decree to rebuild.
2. A Jewish year was 360 days.
3. 483 Jewish years equaled 476 Gregorian years
4. The rebuilding of the walls began in 445 BC (Neh. 2:1-8)
5. 476 years from 445 reaches to A.D. 32 or 33 (at Christ's triumphal entry-Luke 19:28-38)

Before Jerusalem was destroyed in AD70

Prophecies

476 Gregorian years

Daniel 9



Israel was in captivity because they failed to keep the Sabbath years for the land as required by Mosaic Law. Leviticus lays out the punishment for such a transgression, and says that the punishment will come in groups of sevens (Lev. 26:18, 24, 28)

Prophecies

Daniel also predicted
4 nations that would conquer
Before the Messiah came

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PROPHETIC VISIONS

	Babylon	Daniel 2	Daniel 7
		Head of gold	Lion
		Breast and arms of silver	Bear
		Belly and thighs of bronze	Leopard
		Legs of iron	Dreadful beast
		Feet of iron & clay	Ten horns
Millen- nium	Revived Rome		

Church Age Gap

Christ, the Conqueror Rev. 19:11-21

John 1:3: "All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made."

Prophecies

All those nations came and Jesus came exactly when Daniel predicted and before the temple was destroyed in AD70

Many other fulfilled prophecies.

Here are more examples

Prophecies

Messianic Prophecies Fulfilled CHART

Old Testament Messianic Prophecies Literally Fulfilled by Jesus of Nazareth

Prophecies Concerning His Birth	Prophecy	Fulfillment
Born of the Seed of Woman	<u>GEN 3:15</u>	<u>GAL 4:4</u>
Born of a Virgin	<u>ISA 7:14</u>	<u>MAT 1:18</u> ; <u>MAT 1:24-25</u>
Son of God	<u>PSA 2:7</u>	<u>MAT 3:17</u>
Seed of Abraham	<u>GEN 22:18</u>	<u>MAT 1:1</u>
Son of Isaac	<u>GEN 21:12</u>	<u>LUK 3:23</u> ; <u>LUK 3:34</u>
Son of Jacob	<u>NEH 24:17</u>	<u>LUK 3:23</u> ; <u>LUK 3:34</u>
Tribe of Judah	<u>GEN 49:10</u>	<u>LUK 3:23</u> ; <u>LUK 3:33</u>
Family Line of Jesse	<u>ISA 11:1</u>	<u>LUK 3:23</u> ; <u>LUK 3:32</u>
House of David	<u>JER 23:5</u>	<u>LUK 3:23</u> ; <u>LUK 3:31</u>
Born at Bethlehem	<u>MIC 5:2</u>	<u>MAT 2:1</u>
Presented with Gifts	<u>PSA 72:10</u>	<u>MAT 2:1</u> ; <u>MAT 2:11</u>
Herod Kills Children	<u>JER 31:15</u>	<u>MAT 2:16</u>

Prophecies

Prophecies Concerning His Nature	Prophecy	Fulfillment
His Pre-Existence	<u>MIC 5:2</u>	<u>COL 1:17</u> ; <u>JOH 17:5</u>
He Shall Be Called Lord	<u>PSA 110:1</u>	<u>MAT 22:43-45</u>
Shall Be Immanuel	<u>ISA 7:14</u>	<u>MAT 1:23</u>
Shall Be a Prophet	<u>DEU 18:18</u>	<u>MAT 21:11</u>
Priest	<u>PSA 110:4</u>	<u>HEB 3:1</u>
Judge	<u>ISA 33:22</u>	<u>JOH 5:30</u>
King	<u>PSA 2:6</u>	<u>MAT 27:37</u>
Special Anointing of Holy Spirit	<u>ISA 11:2</u>	<u>MAT 3:16-17</u>
His Zeal for God	<u>PSA 69:9</u>	<u>JOH 2:15-16</u>

Prophecies

Prophecies Concerning Events After His Burial	Prophecy	Fulfillment
Resurrection	<u>PSA 16:10</u>	<u>ACT 2:31</u>
Ascension	<u>PSA 68:18</u>	<u>ACT 1:9</u>
Session	<u>PSA 110:1</u>	<u>HEB 1:3</u>
Prophecies Fulfilled in One Day	Prophecy	Fulfillment
Betrayed by a Friend	<u>PSA 41:9</u>	<u>MAT 10:4</u>
Sold For 30 Pieces of Silver	<u>ZEC 11:12</u>	<u>MAT 26:15</u>
Money to Be Thrown into God's House	<u>ZEC 11:13</u>	<u>MAT 27:5</u>
Price Given for Potter's Field	<u>ZEC 11:13</u>	<u>MAT 27:7</u>
Forsaken by His Disciples	<u>ZEC 13:7</u>	<u>MAR 14:50</u>
Accused By False Witnesses	<u>PSA 35:11</u>	<u>MAT 26:59-60</u>
Silent Before Accusers	<u>ISA 53:7</u>	<u>MAT 27:12</u>
Wounded and Bruised	<u>ISA 53:5</u>	<u>MAT 27:26</u>
Smitten and Spit Upon	<u>ISA 50:6</u>	<u>MAT 26:67</u>
Mocked	<u>PSA 22:7-8</u>	<u>MAT 27:29</u>
Fell Under the Cross	<u>PSA 109:24-25</u>	<u>JOH 19:17</u>
Hands and Feet Pierced	<u>PSA 22:16</u>	<u>LUK 23:33</u>
Crucified with Thieves	<u>ISA 53:12</u>	<u>MAT 27:38</u>

Prophecies

Prophecies Fulfilled in One Day (Continued)	Prophecy	Fulfillment
Crucified with Thieves	<u>ISA 53:12</u>	<u>MAT 27:38</u>
Made Intercession for His Persecutors	<u>ISA 53:12</u>	<u>LUK 23:34</u>
Rejected By His Own Countrymen	<u>ISA 53:3</u>	<u>JOH 7:5</u> ; <u>JOH 7:48</u>

Hated Without a Cause	<u>PSA 69:4</u>	<u>JOH 15:25</u>
Friends Stood Afar Off	<u>PSA 38:11</u>	<u>LUK 23:49</u>
People Shook Their Heads	<u>PSA 109:25</u>	<u>MAT 27:39</u>
Stared Upon	<u>PSA 22:17</u>	<u>LUK 23:35</u>
Garments Parted and Lots Cast	<u>PSA 22:18</u>	<u>JOH 19:23-24</u>
To Suffer Thirst	<u>PSA 69:21</u>	<u>JOH 19:28</u>
Gall and Vinegar Offered to Him	<u>PSA 69:21</u>	<u>MAT 27:34</u>
His Forsaken Cry	<u>PSA 22:1</u>	<u>MAT 27:46</u>
Committed Himself to God	<u>PSA 31:5</u>	<u>LUK 23:46</u>
Bones Not Broken	<u>PSA 34:20</u>	<u>JOH 19:33</u>
Heartbroken	<u>PSA 22:14</u>	<u>JOH 19:34</u>
His Side Pierced	<u>ZEC 12:10</u>	<u>JOH 19:34</u>
Darkness Over the Land	<u>AMO 8:9</u>	<u>MAT 27:45</u>
Buried in a Rich Man's Tomb	<u>ISA 53:9</u>	<u>MAT 27:57-60</u>

Errors in the Bible?

Do we have the original Bible?

Has the Bible been corrupted?

Many groups will claim this, but this is incorrect. Let us look at some definitions of words they use such as “Corruption” “Errors” and “Variants”

Autograph vs Original Message

A person says “the class will begin at 7 o’clock in the evening”

That is an original message. It is an oral message.

Someone later writes that message down. The first time it is written is called an autograph. In our example, the autograph came after the oral message but is still the original message. No wording has changed.

Autograph vs Original Message

People then make copies of the autograph. If the copies are accurate, the copies are still the original message.

If a person misspells a word, you can identify the misspelled word by looking at copies with no misspelled words. The copy with the misspelled word is still the original message because you have identified the misspelled word.

Autograph vs Original Message

If you find a copy with an added words:

“The class will begin at 7 o’clock in the evening so bring your books”

You can identify the added words by looking at earlier copies with no added words. The copy with the added words that have been identified and marked, is still the original message because you have identified the additions.

Autograph vs Original Message

If you find a copy with revised words:

“At 7 o’clock, the class will begin”

This is slightly different than the original message but that copy preserves the original intent, the original message is preserved.

Autograph vs Original Message

By studying the thousands of manuscripts of the Bible we can be confident we have the original message even when we see some copies with misspelled words or word additions.

Corruption- many added passages that affect the original meaning- the Bible does not have these.

Variant – small word changes that do not affect meaning. Example: “The Lord” vs “The Lord Jesus” or “The Lord Jesus Christ”

Error – Usually a misspelled word. These can be identified and corrected.

Common Apologetic Questions

How do we know the authors of the Gospels wrote the Gospels?

There are no manuscripts ever found that do not have the authors name attached. Some people think they were added later, but we have no evidence they were. All of them were written, received and acted upon by the community of believers in the first century in the area the events occurred as being written by the authors assigned to them.

Free online book: <https://ia801606.us.archive.org/20/items/brant-pitre-the-case-for-jesus-the-biblical-and-historical-evidence-for-christ/Brant%20Pitre%20-%20The%20Case%20for%20Jesus%20-%20The%20Biblical%20and%20Historical%20Evidence%20for%20Christ.pdf>

Common Apologetic Questions

Why are there different versions of the Bible?

There are no “versions” of the Bible that affect the meaning. There are translations into different languages. Some translations are word for word and others thought for thought. We can always check the translation for accuracy by comparing to the thousands of Greek manuscripts.

Summary

The Bible uses: Real names, places, events backed up with archeology

Thousands of manuscripts that can demonstrate the writings were copied and preserved accurately.

Tens of thousands of early church father quotes to further show accuracy

Fulfilled prophecies

Transformational power to change the Roman world from pagan to Christianity without use of force

Summary

Writers were eyewitnesses, or knew the eyewitnesses, and wrote their accounts very close to the actual events

The written accounts were already being taught by oral preaching before they were written down

We have no writings refuting what the authors presented

The authors died for their beliefs and did not gain power or wealth

Summary

Please join us at Gospel Apologia for a multiple session detailed study on the Bible end of October

- **Overview of Bible**
- **Canon development/debate**
- **Old Testament**
- **New Testament**
- **Transmission**
- **“Errors” & “variations”**
- **Translations**

AN INVITATION TO LEARNING
The greater you are resourceful, the better you are useful for God.

We are excited to launch the "Gospel Apologia Crew" - a group dedicated to exploring key areas of Christianity through curated readings in Theology, Apologetics, Evangelism, Philosophy, and Spiritual Formation.

Every Tuesday Class on **Zoom**
Tuesday | 7pm to 8:30pm
Further Details: Rubeeel Shafiq Qasbi (0302-4023779)

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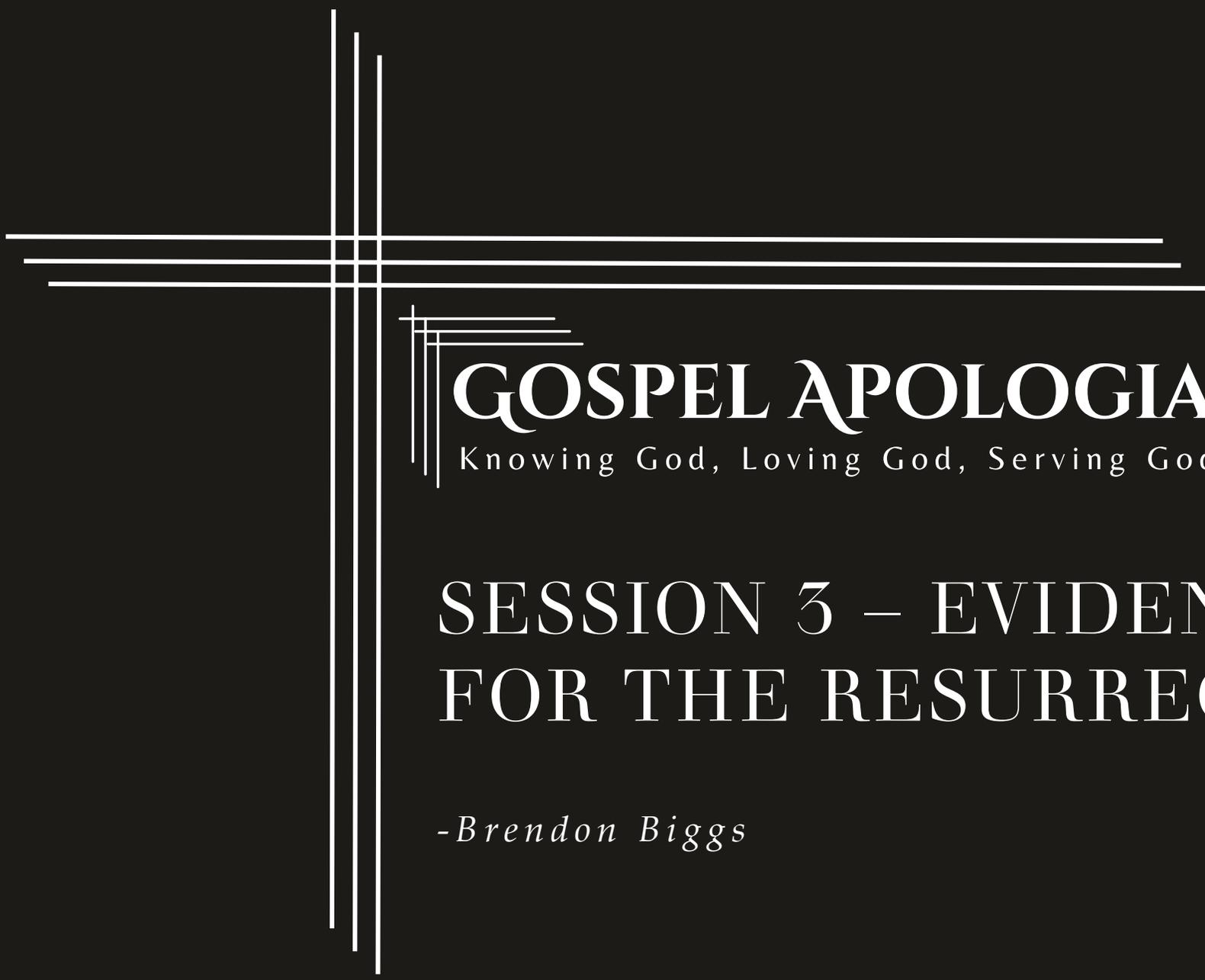
The HOLY BIBLE
DOCTRINE SERIES
THE DOCTRINE OF SCRIPTURES

Waqar Bashir | **Ericsson Riggs**

Every Weekly Lecture on **Zoom**
Tuesday | 7pm to 8:30pm

<https://www.gospelapologia.com/>

Questions?



GOSPEL APOLOGIA

Knowing God, Loving God, Serving God

SESSION 3 – EVIDENCE FOR THE RESURRECTION

-Brendon Biggs

Evidence for the Resurrection

1 Corinthians 15: 3—8

For I handed down to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶ After that He appeared to more than five hundred brothers *and sisters* at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; ⁷ then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; ⁸ and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also

Now if Christ is preached, that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised; ¹⁴ and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain, your faith also is in vain. ¹⁵ Moreover, we are even found *to be* false witnesses of God, because we testified against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, then not even Christ has been raised; ¹⁷ and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.

Christianity is based on the Resurrection

Bible Support for the Resurrection

The New Testament stands the most reliable source of information on the resurrection from any book in the ancient world. The New Testament contains the most manuscript attestation to the history it records (28,000+ copies in various languages, over 5,800 of these are in the Greek language),

The earliest records of the resurrection were written down close to the actual event and the Bible is the most accurately copied manuscripts of any book from the ancient world (99.9% copy accuracy). The early dates and sheer manuscript quantity prohibits myth, distortion and embellishment to filter into the history recorded in the New Testament text. The Bible is reliable and written sources outside the Bible confirm many of the same claims the Bible makes

Thomas wanted to touch Jesus hands and place his fingers in the holes on Jesus before he would believe. Jesus spoke to Thomas after the resurrection and said: “Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who *did not* see, and yet believed” (John 20:29).

Why did Jesus say this to Thomas?

In the next verse, John writes “Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written *so that you may believe* that Jesus is the Christ, the son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.” (John 20:30-31)

In Mark 16:14, Mark writes a similar account “Afterward He appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining *at the table*; and He reproached them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who had seen Him after He had risen.

The answer is that Thomas’s demand that he first poke his fingers in Jesus’ wounds before believing was asking to much. His friends’ report should have been adequate evidence

While we’re here on earth, Paul says, we don’t see Jesus. Some people want to see the evidence and believe, and there are those who *read* the evidence and believe.” Why? Because what they *read* is a reliable record of what others actually *saw*.

12 commonly accepted facts (among all scholars) surrounding the event:

- 1) Jesus died by crucifixion,
- 2) Jesus was buried,
- 3) Disciples doubted and were despaired after Jesus died but later were bold and brave,
- 4) The tomb in which Jesus was buried was discovered empty a few days later,
- 5) Disciples had experiences that they believed to be actual appearances of the risen Christ,
- 6) Disciples were transformed and willing to die for the truth,
- 7) Gospel message was the center of preaching in the early church,
- 8) Gospel proclaimed in Jerusalem where Jesus died,
- 9) Church was established by these disciples,
- 10) Day of worship was changed to Sunday, the same day Jesus was reported risen,
- 11) Skeptical James (Jesus' brother) was converted when he believed he saw the risen Christ, and
- 12) Paul, a persecutor of the church, was converted when he believed he saw the risen Christ.

Evidence

First – Jesus died by crucifixion. The Gospels writers provide evidence of this as well as first century historian Josephus.

Pagan and Jewish writers report that Christians believed Jesus rose from the dead.

In AD116 The Roman historian and senator Tacitus referred to Jesus' execution by Pontius Pilate

“Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus”

Evidence

Here are just a few examples from the Old testament:

Second, Jesus appeared to eyewitnesses on at least 12 different occasions, with Paul declaring some 500 witnesses saw the risen Christ (1 Cor. 15:1-8). These appearances resulted in witnesses seeing, hearing, and/or touching his physical body. The commonly understood and well-practiced legal approach to establishing fact draws upon the testimony of numerous witnesses of any given event. Even the Scripture says, “On the evidence of two or three witnesses a matter shall be confirmed” (Deut. 19:15). The New Testament has 9 different authors who wrote 27 books that either explicitly or implicitly affirm the resurrection.

Evidence –empty tomb

Third, the best explanation for the empty tomb that was guarded and sealed, is that Christ rose. The Romans or Jews could have destroyed Christianity by simply producing the body. They never found a body.

Fourth, the apostles died for what they believed to be the resurrected Christ. They were afraid when Jesus died but after he rose, the Disciples were brave and stood up against the Romans and Jewish leadership and were willing to die. Paul was a Jewish leader who was hostile to Christians but after seeing the risen Jesus, wrote most of the New Testament and was one of the most important figures in the History of the Christian faith.

Evidence –empty tomb –internal evidence

The Jews had interest in where Jesus was buried so someone would have known the correct tomb and could have produced the body.

Jesus was buried by Joseph of Arimathea in a tomb

1. Jesus's burial was attested in 1 Cor. 15-3-5 which is very old
2. Jesus's burial was attested to in Mark from early sources
3. Joseph of Arimathea was part of the Jewish court so it was unlikely this would be a Christian invention
4. The account was not developed over time
5. No other competing story exists

Here are just a few examples from the Old testament:

Evidence –empty tomb –internal evidence

On multiple occasions and under various circumstances, different individuals and groups of people experienced appearances of Jesus alive from the dead.

A list is given in 1 Corinthians which included Peter, the twelve disciples, the 500 and James the brother of Jesus (who did not think Jesus was the Messiah during Jesus's lifetime). The appearances in the Gospels provide independent attestations of these appearances from different people groups at different times and places.

1 Corinthians 15: 3-8 -500 witnesses.

No one has come forward in 1900 years to refute the eyewitness claims. Jews could not refute it. romans did not refute it. Some people will claim it did not happen but they have never shown evidence it did not happen. The easiest evidence is to produce the body. Jews and Romans could not produce the body. The only attempt to refute the claim was recorded in the Bible in Matt 28:13- the disciples stole the bible. This claim failed because the tomb was guarded .

Here are just a few examples from the Old testament:

Evidence –empty tomb –internal evidence

1 Corinthians 15, Paul summarizes the gospel message and reinforces the idea that this message is the same one that was delivered to him by the apostles. In his Letter to the Galatians (written in the mid-50's) Paul describes his interaction with these apostles (Peter and James) and says that the meeting occurred at least 14 years prior to the writing of the letter (Galatians 1:18, cf. 2:1). This means that Paul saw the risen Christ and learned about the gospel accounts from the eyewitnesses (Peter and James) within 5 years of the Crucifixion. This is why Paul was able to tell the Corinthians (in his letter written 53-57AD) that there were still many living eyewitnesses who could confirm the Resurrection accounts.

Here are just a few examples from the Old testament:

Evidence –empty tomb –internal evidence

Mark uses phrases such as “He has risen; He is not here;...(16:6)” and “He is going ahead of you into Galilee there you will see him, just as he told you(16:7)” this implies an empty tomb and physical resurrection

Mark 14 – Mark again uses the phrase “who had seen Him after He had risen.”

If Jesus claimed he would rise and did not, why follow him? Jesus also predicted he would rise on the 3rd day so this prophecy was known. The chief priests captured the disciples and beat them and told them not to speak of the resurrection.

No one would guard the tomb if they thought the resurrection meant spiritual. You cannot guard against a spiritual appearance

Here are just a few examples from the Old testament:

Evidence –empty tomb –internal evidence

The women touched him (Matt. 28:9) as well as Thomas (John 20:24-28) and the disciples were accused of stealing the body (Matt. 28:13). The empty tomb implies bodily resurrection (Mark 16:6, Luke 24:5-6).

Paul saw Jesus but his appearance event was different. Paul was blinded by a great light (Acts 9:4-5; 22:7-8; 26:14-15) and Paul's companions saw a light and fell to the ground (Acts 26:13-14). They also hear sounds of the voice (Acts 9:7) and were startled.

Here are just a few examples from the Old testament:

Evidence –empty tomb –internal evidence

Luke was not aware any discrepancy between Jesus' bodily appearances to the Disciples (Luke 24) and later appearances to Paul. Luke made no effort to change one to fit the other because there was no need for it.

Paul affirms the others saw the risen Jesus so if we accept Paul as an eye-witness, we can affirm the others because Paul did.

Here are just a few examples from the Old testament:

Summary –empty tomb –internal evidence

1. The account was part of very old source material used by Mark
2. Paul refers to the old information in 1 Corinthians
3. The story is simple and lacks legendary development
4. The fact that women's testimony was worthless in the first century Palestine counts in favor of the women's role in discovering the empty tomb.
5. The earliest Jewish allegation that the disciples stole Jesus' body shows that the body was in fact missing from the tomb.

Summary –empty tomb –internal evidence

Response:

The original disciples believed that Jesus was risen from the dead despite them having every reason not to.

1. Their leader was dead. And Jews had no belief in dying and rising, Messiah.
2. According to Jewish law, Jesus' execution as a criminal showed him to be a heretic, a man literally under the curse of the law.
3. Jewish beliefs about the afterlife precluded anyone's rising from the dead before the general resurrection at the end of the world.

Sixth, the widespread, sudden, and dramatic change in the lives and religious practice of devoted Jews who kept the Mosaic Law for centuries. In other words, how do fervent religious Jews suddenly shift from Saturday to Sunday worship, and from abstaining from unclean foods to eating pork with gentiles?

What possibly could transform a group of disappointed and afraid disciples who were devastated at the crucifixion, in hiding for fear of death, and contemplating a rapid escape and/or abandonment of their calling, and return to their former activities, into the most prolific missionary movement of all time?

The resurrection would have the power to do just that, and provide the crowning proof that Jesus was indeed the Son of God (Rom. 1:4).

In the very place where Jesus died and was buried there was an explosion of growth in the Christian movement – which was centered on the claim that the grave was empty and that Jesus had truly risen. This explosion of growth happened mere weeks after the death and resurrection of Jesus in the place where He died.

The Gospel accounts were written, presented, received and acted upon as such by the society they lived in.

Finally, the presence of counter-productive features within the gospel accounts of the death and resurrection of Christ further demonstrates its reliable history.

For example, the gospels reveal Christ's humiliating trial, shameful death at the hands of his persecutors, Christ appears powerless to effect change, disciples are hiding in fear and appear cowardice, lack of strength to carry his own cross, those closest to Jesus betray and deny Him, the disciples are slow in understanding, the disciples do not believe, after rising from the dead Jesus appears first to women who have little legal standing and credibility in the eyes of their culture and law.

According to historians, these crucial features reveal that the writers of the New Testament were more interested in reporting accurate history than deceiving their readers by writing a flawless account of Christ and His followers. We have seen that we have good reason to believe the resurrection of Christ is a historical event. Attempts to explain the resurrection away fails to account for all the data and leave irreconcilable flaws in their argument.

We would expect great things in history to follow if Jesus rose from the dead.

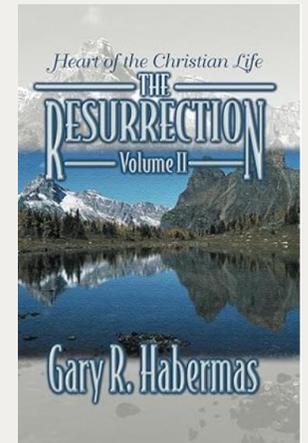
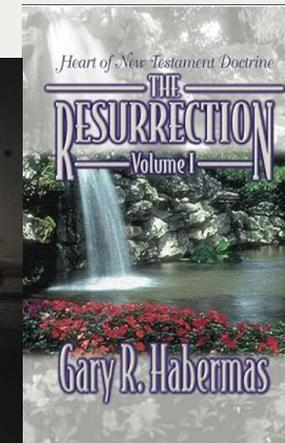
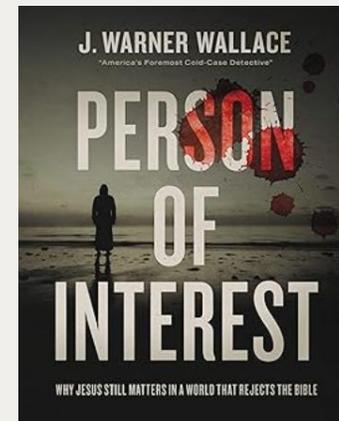
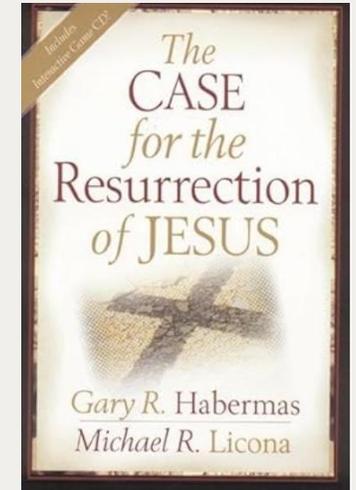
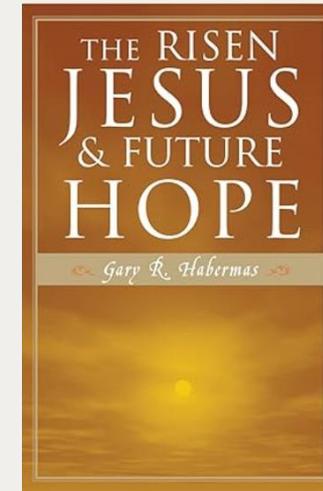
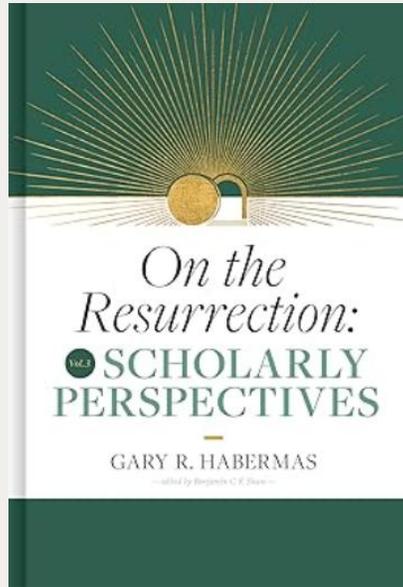
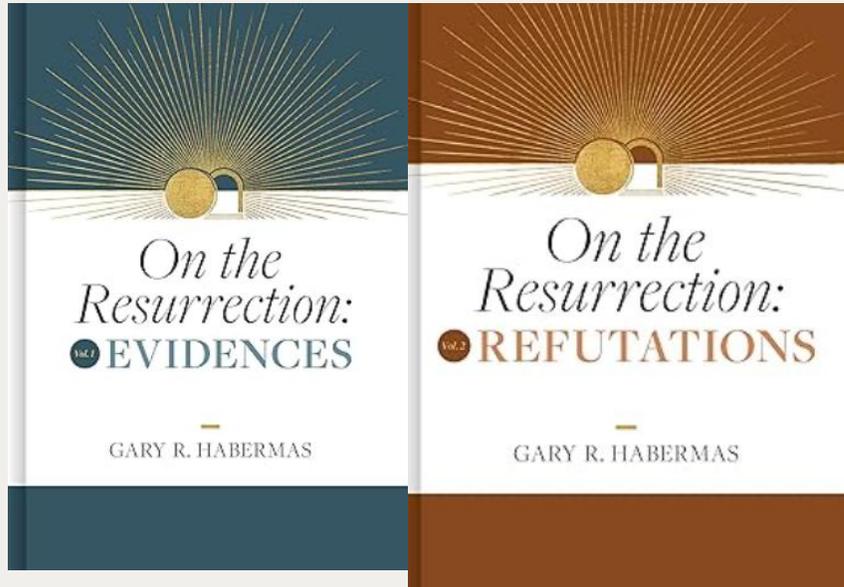
When we look at history, we see the Roman empire converting to Christianity without the use of force, the rise of great literature, science, art, music, great universities, and many other areas that were started to glorify the risen Jesus.

This helped to transform the world to the modern era.

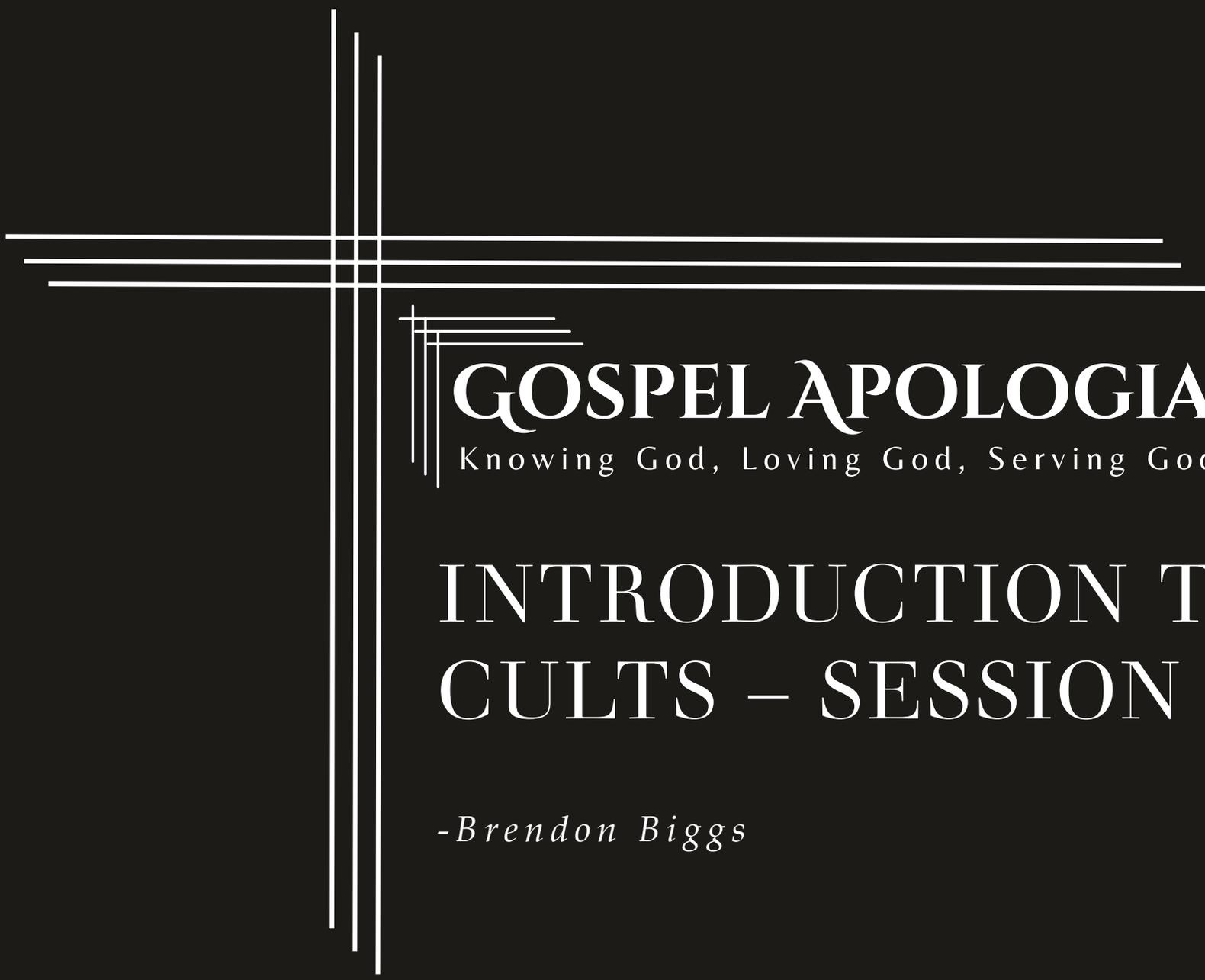
Conclusion: Historical test application

1. It has explanatory scope
2. It has great explanatory power
3. It is plausible
4. It is not written for a deceptive.
5. It is in accord with accepted beliefs
6. It far outstrips any of its rival theories in meeting conditions 1-5.

Resources



You can look up these authors and find video resources on the internet/you tube. Watch some!



GOSPEL APOLOGIA

Knowing God, Loving God, Serving God

INTRODUCTION TO CULTS – SESSION 4

-Brendon Biggs

There are many groups that claim to be Christian or are against Christians who deny the essential teachings of the Christian faith.

They all use very similar techniques to twist Scripture and make assertions to get people to follow their teachings instead of the historical Christian teachings that are backed up by the Bible and church history.

Definitions

Religion- A religion is a system of beliefs and practices that direct a person toward transcendence and thus provides meaning and coherence to a person's life- Winfried Corduan

Cult – Groups that grows out of, and deviates from, a previously established religion. – Ron Rhodes

Heretic – a person that deviates from, a previously established religion. It is in opposition to the Bible

Heterodox –The collective term for opinions or doctrines that vary from orthodoxy, i.e., the official position. It can be more biblical. For example, Martin Luther salvation by grace through faith was against Catholic doctrine but it was more Biblical. Or worship on a Saturday is non-orthodox but it is ok as long as it is not taught as part of your salvation.

Parent –Christianity. A cult of Christianity would be organizations such as Jehovah Witness, Latter Day Saints/Mormons, Unitarians, Oneness,

Parent –Islam. A cult of Islam would be something like the Nation of Islam or Sufi

Parent-Hinduism. Cult would be Hare Krishnas

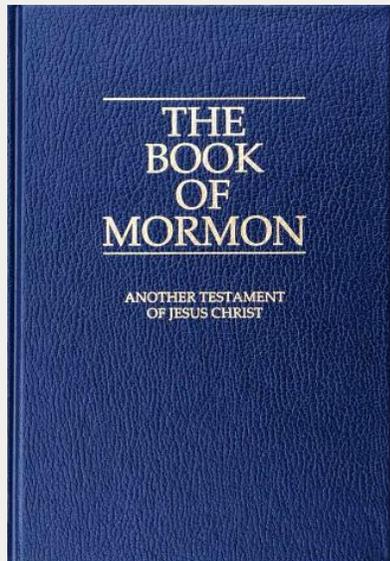
It can be headed by a person or organization.

Due to the negatively associated with the word “Cult,” it better to call a cult a “New Religion”

CULTS

These are the types of organizations that say that the Bible has been read wrong and their organization is the correct teachings. They are wrong.

Mormon/
Latter Day Saints



Jehovah Witness



Church of Satan



Unitarian



Test Everything to Scripture

We treat all groups the same way!

Our standard is the Bible. We test everything to the Bible. The teaching must be consistent and not in conflict with the Bible.

We have great evidence that the Bible is accurate and we have early manuscripts that can prove it has not been corrupted.

Test Everything to Scripture

When Paul spoke to the Bereans in Acts 17:11 they tested what he said to Scripture

We must test all claims that cult groups say to scripture. The old and new testaments are finished. There are no new Scriptures. God said to not add anything to Scripture (Revelation 22:18)

1 John 4:1

“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.”

The Bible warns us of false teachers:

2 Corinthians 11:4-15

“For if one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, *this* you tolerate *very* well!... For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.”

Test Everything to Scripture

“Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits.”

Matthew 24:5

“For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and they will mislead many people.”

Deuteronomy 13: 1-3

“If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or the wonder comes *true*, of which he spoke to you, saying, ‘Let’s follow other gods (whom you have not known) and let’s serve them,’ you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or dreamer of dreams;”

Deuteronomy 18:22

“when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the word does not come to pass or come true, that is a word that the LORD has not spoken; ⁿthe prophet has spoken it presumptuously. You need not be afraid of him.”

Test Everything to Scripture

In Islam there are Sunni Muslims, Shiite Muslims and Sufi Muslims. Typically, the Muslim Country will adopt one of those traditions and not allow other teachings. This is why there are no Islam cults in some Countries.

Christianity may be adopted by a country, but they do not prevent other faith traditions from practicing so it is common for a group claiming to be Christian will come in and try to convert Christians into their false beliefs.

You do not need to study all the different kinds of cults. You just need to remember to test everything to the Bible. If their teachings contradict the Bible, it is false.

We are Christians and we follow Jesus Christ. Our authority is the Bible.
The Bible is our sole infallible rule of faith. We test everything to the Bible.

Topic	Christian Belief
Trinity	Yes. He exists eternally in three persons: The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit, who are one in essence and equal in power and glory. Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Isaiah 43:10, Is 44:6, Is. 44:8, Isaiah. 45:5, 1 Timothy 2:5
Creation	There is one being of God who is creator and maker of the universe. Genesis 1:1; John 1:3; Col. 1:16-17; Ps. 102:25-27; Hebrews 1:1-2; Hebrews 10-12; Psalm 33:8-9; Psalm 148:5; Rev. 4:11
Bible	The 66 books of the Bible is the inspired Word of God, His revealed truth and is the infallible rule of faith for our lives and the standard we test truth claims. Generally most affirm the Chicago Statement on Inerrancy. 2 Peter 1:20-21; 2 Peter 3:16; 1 Corinthians 14:37; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 1:1-2; Deuteronomy 18:18; 1 Corinthians 2:18; John 14:26; John 16:13; Acts 17:11; Matthew 15:3
Human Sinfulness	Man was created by God in His image, free as to choice and responsible to his Creator. Tempted by Satan, he separated himself from God by voluntary disobedience. As a consequence, all men are born with a sinful nature and have need of reconciliation with God. Genesis 1:26, 27; Romans 3:10, 23
Salvation	Man can be saved from the consequence of sin, which is eternal death, by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ and in repentance of sin. Man cannot earn nor work for his salvation. When one is saved he is said to be “born again” by the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. We affirm the 5 Solas: sola scriptura (Scripture alone), solus Christus (Christ alone), sola fide (faith alone), sola gratia (grace alone), and soli Deo gloria (glory to God alone). John 1:11, 12; Ephesians 2:8, 9; 2 Peter 3:9; Romans 5:1-2; Romans 4:1-8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 2:15-3:14
Virgin Birth (birth normal/conception by Holy Spirit)	Yes. Matthew 1:18

Topic	Christian Belief
Humanity of Jesus	Yes. God has revealed Himself to man in the person of Jesus Christ. He is fully man in his added human nature. John 1:14; Phil. 2:8-10; Heb. 2:17-18; Heb. 4:15; Was born-Luke 1:35; 2:6-7; needed food Luke 4:2, needed rest-John 4:6; Needed sleep Luke 8:23; Died-John 19:33
Deity of Jesus	Jesus is fully God in His eternal divine nature. He is fully God and fully man. John 1:1, Titus 2:13; Jer. 17:10/Rev 2:18; Ps. 102:25-27/Heb. 1:10-12; John 1:14
Substitutionary Atonement	Yes. Isaiah 53:5; Hebrews 1:3; 1 Cor. 5:21; 1 Pet. 2:24; 1 Pet. 3:18;
Bodily resurrection of Jesus	Yes. Mark 16:19; Matthew 28; Luke 24:6,9; Luke 24:31-43; Matt. 25:1-30; John 20-21; 1 Corinthians 15:1-8
Return of Christ	The Lord will come visibly again for both salvation and judgment. Acts 1:9-11; Matthew 24:30; 1 Timothy 2:5-8; Matt. 25:31-46; John 5:22-23; John 9:39; 1 Cor. 4:5; 2 Cor. 5:10; Rev. 20:11-15;
The Church	The Greek word for church is Ekklesia which is an assembly of believers (followers of Jesus). The assembly of believers joined to Christ's spiritual body by the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 12:13) at the moment of regeneration (Tit. 3:3-6), when an individual place their faith in the Lord Jesus as their savior (Acts 16:31). If still on earth they are members of a local church that meet regularly (Heb. 10:25) for edification (Eph. 4:12), worship (John 4:24), and participation in the ordinances. Paul addresses most of these in his epistles (e.g. "to the church of God which is in Corinth"- 1 Cor. 1:2). The local building is the physical church and the invisible Church is the Spiritual House – Christ is the chief cornerstone and the apostles are the foundation. 1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 2:11-21; Matthew 16:18; Acts 1:8; Eph. 2:20

Here are just a few examples from the Old testament:

Christian Essential Beliefs

Core Christian doctrines:

God

There is one God who is creator and maker of the universe. He exists eternally in three persons: The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit, who are one in essence and equal in power and glory.

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

Jesus

Second person in the Trinity. God has revealed Himself to man in the person of Jesus Christ. He is fully God and fully man, the eternal and only begotten Son of God, conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin, sinless in His life, making atonement for our sins by His death on the cross and vindicated by God in His bodily resurrection, ascended to heaven to sit at God's right hand as our Intercessor and as our Advocate.

John 1:1; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 1:8; 1 Timothy 2:5- 6)

Holy Spirit

Third person in the Trinity. God is present in the world today in the person of the Holy Spirit who draws us to faith in Jesus and who bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God. He indwells the believer which empowers him to manifest the likeness and character of Christ. He gives spiritual gifts to the church for our mutual edification.

Acts 5:3-4; John 16:7-15; Romans 8:16; Ephesians 4:7; 1 Corinthians 12:7

The Bible is the inspired Word of God, His revealed truth and is the infallible guide for our lives.

2 Peter 1:20, 21; 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Christian Essential Beliefs

Mankind

Man was created by God in His image, free as to choice and responsible to his Creator. Tempted by Satan, he separated himself from God by voluntary disobedience. As a consequence, all men are born with a sinful nature and have need of reconciliation with God.

Genesis 1:26, 27; Romans 3:10, 23

Sin and Salvation

Man can be saved from the consequence of sin, which is eternal death, by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ and in repentance of sin. Man cannot earn nor work for his salvation. When one is saved he is said to be “born again” by the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit.

John 1:11, 12; Ephesians 2:8, 9; 2 Peter 3:9

Test Everything to Scripture

Jesus warns people against using mans traditions.

Scripture has final authority because it is a direct revelation from God and carries the very authority of God (Galatians 1:12).

2 Tim 3:15-17- "...All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work"

Matthew 5:18-19- "for truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke of a letter shall pass from the Law, until all is accomplished"

John 10:35- "Scripture cannot be broken"

Mark 7:13- "Neglecting the commandment of God you hold to the traditions of men."

Colossians 2:8 "See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ"

Test Everything to Scripture

Cults will add works to the gospel, change scripture, give false teachings, and say they have new prophets and new revelation from God. They sometimes have new books to the Bible. They are very deceptive. They will use the same words that Christians use but they have different meanings. You must ask them to provide their definition to the words.

They deny Jesus is God and the Holy Spirit is God – we will cover this in session 6

They deny the Trinity – we will cover this in session 6

They say you must do works to be saved and belong to their organization

They do not let their members research claims on their own

They threatened people that leave their church

They have false prophecies

They often will write a new books and add them to the Bible or use a new corrupted translation of the Bible – Mormons have their Book of Mormon and Jehovah Witness have their New World Translation bible.

Gospel

The true Gospel
Ephesians 2:8-10

“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this *is* not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.”

Galatians 1:8

“But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed”

Cults try to add works as a requirement for salvation. Cults believe In Jesus plus works or Jesus plus belonging to their organization

We do not need an organization. Only Christ is the mediator (1 Timothy 2:5), not an organization.

Gospel- “Romans Road”

“Romans Road,” which can be distilled into a one-minute summary.

Our Problem: "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

God’s Solution: "But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

Our Response: "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9).

Example- Jehovah Witness

	Christian Teaching	Watchtower/Jehovah Witness Teaching
Authority	Bible alone	Watchtower society
God	Trinity	No Trinity
Who is Jesus?	God. Second person of Trinity	Michael the arch angel/ a created being
Jesus death	Died as the God-man	Died as a man
Jesus resurrection	Physical	Spiritual
How will Jesus return?	Physical in the future	He already came back spiritually in 1914
How are you saved?	By grace alone through faith	By good works and deeds
Who goes to Heaven?	All Christians	144,000
Hell	Yes	No

Example- Mormons/Latter Day Saints

	Christian Teaching	LDS/Mormon Teaching
Authority	Bible alone	Latter Day Saints/Mormon church. New Book of Mormon
God	Trinity	3 Separate gods. God was a man who became a god.
Who is Jesus?	God. Second person of Trinity	Jesus is the Father's greatest Spirit-son. He is spirit brother of Lucifer/. Jesus is progressing to become a god.
Who goes to Heaven?	All Christians	Celestial kingdom (highest) , terrestrial kingdom (average Mormon or good people), telestial kingdom (evil people). Satan, demons and apostatized Mormons in hell. Evil people (non-Mormons) go to hell for period then released into telestial. humans can become angels who then become god. Same species

More Resources

<https://www.pedaeducation.com/powerpoints>

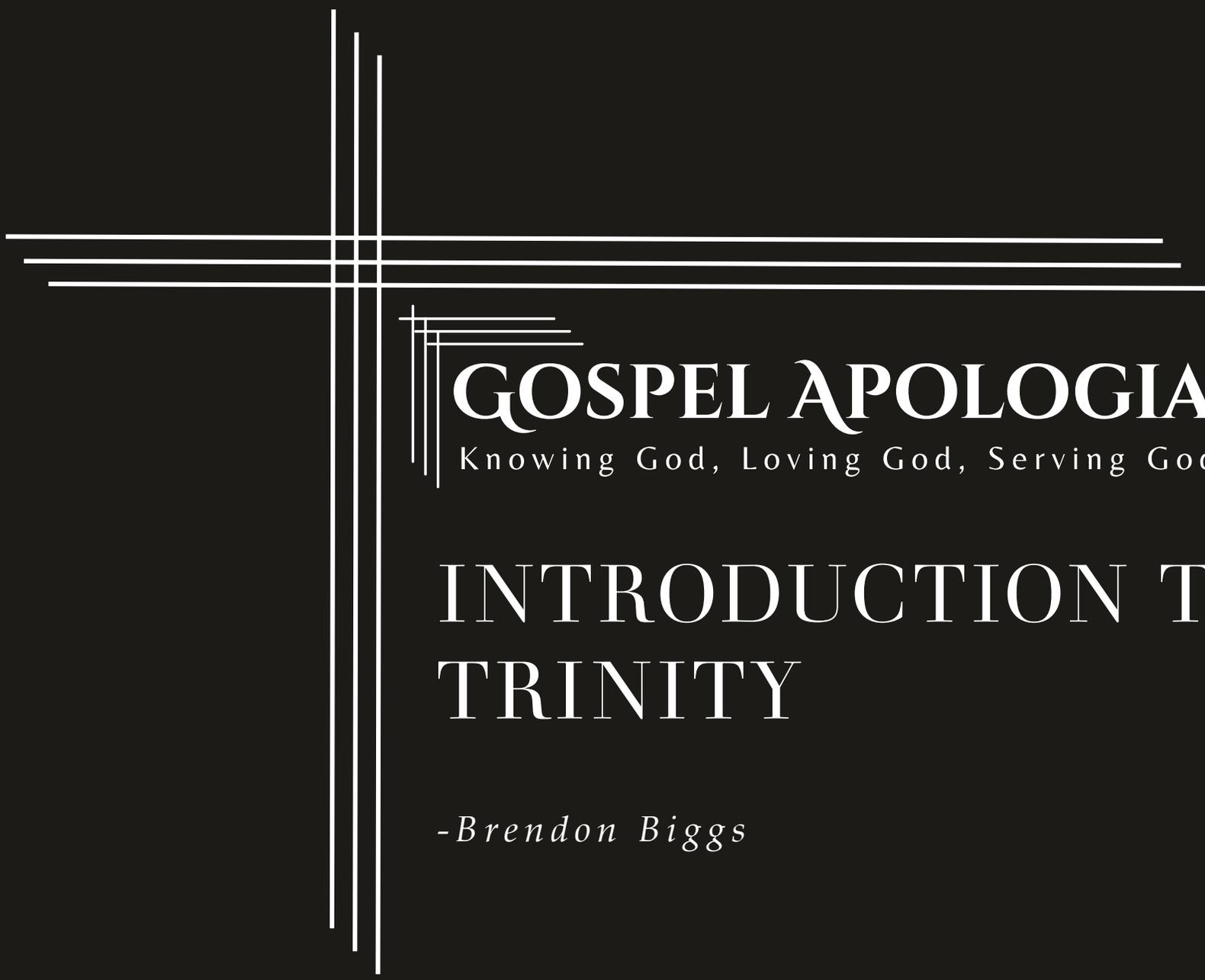
Next Session - Apologetics

We will cover the main attacks from Cults and how to respond next session

Always ask them how they came to their conclusions or to give evidence for their assertions

Always ask “if I show you that you are wrong, would you change your view?”

When you show them a verse, it is ok if they want to go study it and meet with you again at a later date. Give them time to think about it. Do not try and give too much information at one time. Plan for multiple meetings.



GOSPEL APOLOGIA

Knowing God, Loving God, Serving God

INTRODUCTION TO THE TRINITY

-Brendon Biggs

There are many ways to learn about the Trinity. Some people use Greek terms that are found in the early Church creeds.

The early Church creeds are very useful in explaining how God can be a Trinity and I will discuss those later.

However, I want to start with the Bible. Jesus did not tell us to go to the Greek philosophers to find out about him.

He said to go to the Scriptures and Moses.

Lets look at what Jesus said.

John 5:46

“For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote of Me.

John 5:39

"You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is these that testify about Me".

Luke 24:44, Jesus says, "These are my words which I spoke to you, while being yet with you: that all things must be fulfilled, that have been written in the law of Moses, and the prophets, and the Psalms, concerning Me,"

The entire Bible is a Jesus book. the trinity runs throughout the Bible. From the beginning book use of "US" to the 3 persons in the tabernacle, to all the appearances of the Son and Spirit.

Luke 24:25-27 -Road to Emmaus

He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” ²⁷And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

There is one being of God who exists in three distinct persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Christians believe there are no partners with God because we believe there is only one God in all existence.

The Trinity means 3 in 1. There are examples in our world of things that are 3 in 1

Time - The past is distinct from the present, which is distinct from the future. Each is simultaneous. They all share the same nature of the category of time.

Space - Height is distinct from the width, which is distinct from depth, which is distinct from height. They all share the same nature of space.

Matter/Material -Solid is not the same as a liquid, which is not the same as gas, which is not the same as solid. They all share the same nature of matter.

Trinity in the Bible

The Teaching of the Trinity is in the Bible

- 1) There is one, and only one, God (Deuteronomy 6:4-9, 1 Timothy 2:5).
- 2) The person of the Father is God (2 Peter 1:17).
- 3) The person of the Son is God (John 1:1, Titus 2:13)
- 4) The person of the Holy Spirit is God (Acts 5:3-4)
- 5) The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are distinct and simultaneously distinguishable persons (Luke 3:22).
- 6) The three persons (Father or God; and Son or Christ or Lord; and Holy Spirit or Spirit) are frequently listed together in a triadic pattern of unity and equality (John 14:26, Matt. 28:19 & 2 Cor. 13:14).

Trinity in the Bible

Throughout the Bible we see references to “Us” and “we” and “our” which are plural terms used for Yahweh.

God says He cannot be seen yet there are times when he is seen. How can this be?

God was present in the Ark inside the Tabernacle behind the veil, yet at other times he was talking with Moses and prophets.

Genesis 1:1 and the following verses: the name of God (“Elohim”) in the Hebrew text has the grammatical form of the plural number.

Genesis 1:26: “And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.”
The plural number here indicates that God is not just one Person. Angels do not create. Only God creates (Isaiah 44:24).

Genesis 3:22: “And the Lord God said, Behold, Adam is become as one of us, to know good and evil.”

Genesis 11:6-7: Prior to the confusion of tongues at the building of the tower of Babel, the Lord said: “Let us go down and confound their language.”

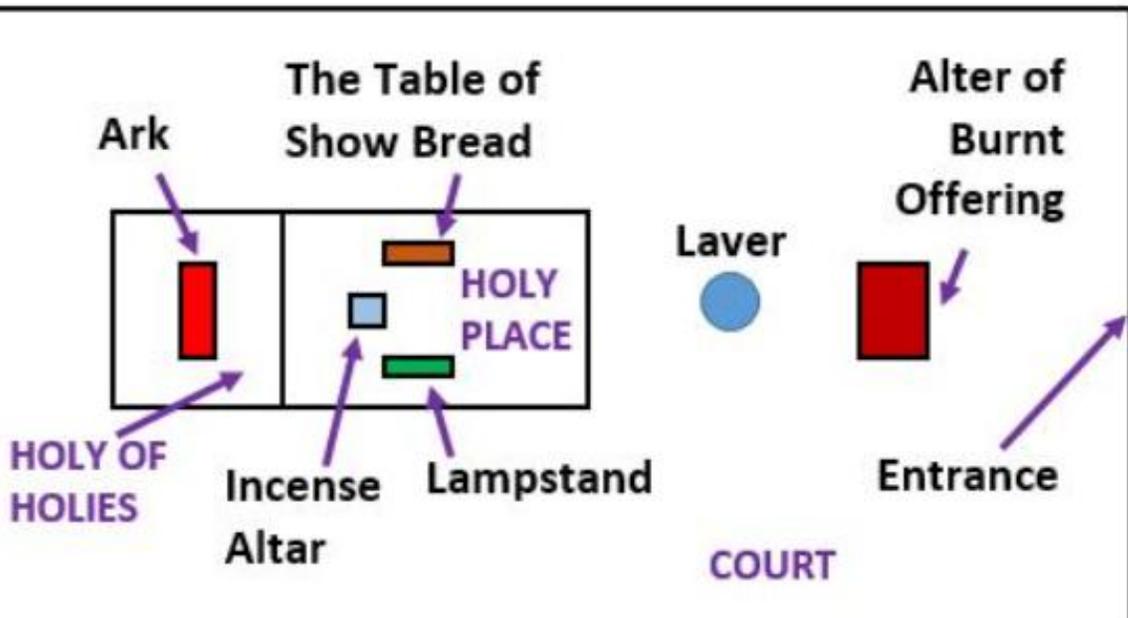
Trinity in the Bible

The tabernacle –the formation of the troops form a cross!



Trinity in the Bible

THE TABERNACLE



If we look at the furniture as the Ark (father) and bread table (Son, and the Lampstand (Holy Spirit), they are there in Exodus 25 BEFORE the construction of the Tent (Heavens) and Courtyard (earth) in chapter 26!

Just like the Trinity was there before all things!

The priests had to clean themselves and perform rituals before entering the Holy of Holies where God's presence was.

But then other times, God appeared to them while they were outside! Lets look at some verses.

Exodus 34:18–23 – On the **top** of the Mountain, there is Somebody called “the LORD”, whose face cannot be seen

Exodus 33:7–11 – The basic pattern of meeting at the **base** of Sinai in the Tent of Meeting: seeing the LORD face-to-face, “as a man speaks to his friend”

Exodus 19:10 and 11 – The LORD says that “the LORD” is going to come down to Mount Sinai. See this again in **19:20–22**, and **verse 24**. The LORD clearly speaks about the LORD as a distinct Person.

What’s going on?

But note **also** how we have...

an **Unseen** LORD in the Heavens, or on top of Sinai, **hidden** in thick darkness ...

and a **Seen** LORD who **appears** and speaks **face-to-face** ...

and the Spirit of God who lives within people.

Exodus 35:30 and 31 – cf. **36:1 and 2** where the Spirit is the LORD.

Isaiah 48:16 and 17 is the best Trinitarian verse in the whole Bible, because each Member of the Trinity is presented in a perfect expression of Their role and function. **Who is** the identity of the Divine Speaker?

“Come near to Me, listen to this:

From the beginning I have not spoken in secret,

From the time it took place, I was there.

And now the Lord GOD has sent Me, and His Spirit.”

¹⁷ This is what the LORD says, *He who is* your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel:

“I am the LORD your God, who teaches you to benefit,

Who leads you in the way you should go.”

Trinity in the Bible

PS 45:7

Therefore God, Your God, has anointed you with oil
of joy above Your companions.

In Psalm 45 the Anointed One - the Christ/Messiah - is explicitly identified as God Himself.

God is anointed by God.

God is anointed WITH God BY God!

The Father fills the Son with the Spirit - and this is how this Psalm is understood by the New Testament also.

In Psalm 51:11 to have the Spirit of God is to have the very presence of God Himself.

Psalm 45:6 and 7 is also very powerful – especially if we understand the deep structures and intent of the Psalms as a whole. God is on a Throne, enduring forever; **the God of this God anoints** the God on the Throne with “the Oil of gladness” ...

The “oil” reference is important in the light of **1 Samuel 16:13** – when David was anointed to be king, he was filled with the Spirit of the LORD.

PS. 45:6-7

“Your throne, God, is forever and ever;
The scepter of Your kingdom is a scepter of justice.
You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You
With the oil of joy above Your companions.”

The LORD walks on earth in Genesis 3:8

Abraham meets with the Word of the LORD and this Divine Word takes Abraham outside to look at the stars.

Hagar meets the Angel of the LORD - and understands that this Divine Messenger is sent from God but is also God Himself.

She does not just hint at this, but declares it openly and plainly.

Trinity in the Bible

In Proverbs 30:4 the Name of the Creator and His Son is vital -

“Who has ascended into heaven, or descended? Who has gathered the wind in His fists? Who has bound the waters in a garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is His name, and what is His Son’s name, if you know”

What's the Son's name? Jesus answers that:

John 3:13

No one has ascended into heaven, except He who descended from heaven: the Son of Man.

Trinity in the Bible

In Daniel 7:33-34 the Ancient of Days shares His throne with the Son of Man as an equal - and when Jesus referred to Himself as “the Son of Man” his religious opponents reacted as if He had committed blasphemy, because they understood the divinity of the Son of Man (Mark 14:61-64; Matthew 26:63-66).

“...the high priest asked Him, “Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?”

And Jesus said, “I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven.” And the high priest tore his garments and said, “What further witnesses do we need? You have heard his blasphemy.”

Trinity in the Bible

4Q521 or the Messianic Apocalypse is one of the Dead Sea Scrolls found in the Cave 4 near Qumran before Jesus was born.

[the heavens and the earth will listen to His Messiah ["anointed one"], and none therein will stray from the commandments of the holy ones.

Seekers of the Lord, strengthen yourselves in His service!

All you hopeful in (your) heart, will you not find the Lord in this?

For the Lord will consider the pious (hasidim) and call the righteous by name.

Over the poor His spirit will hover and will renew the faithful with His power.

And He will glorify the pious on the throne of the eternal Kingdom.

He who liberates the captives, restores sight to the blind, straightens the bent]

And forever I will cleave to the hopeful and in His mercy...

And the fruit...] will not be delayed for anyone.

And the Lord will accomplish glorious things which have never been as [He...]

For He will heal the wounded, and revive the dead and bring good news to the poor

...He will lead the uprooted and knowledge...and smoke (?)

Similar to Luke 7:22

Source: Michael Brown: "Answering Jewish Objections to Jesus p. 98-101

Trinity in the Bible

PS. 110:1

A Psalm of David. The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at My right hand Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet."

Matt. 22:41-45

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question: "What do you think about the Christ, whose son is He?" They said to Him, "*The son of David.*" He said to them, "Then how does David in the Spirit call Him 'Lord,' saying,

- 'THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD,
"SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND,
UNTIL I PUT YOUR ENEMIES BENEATH YOUR FEET"'?
- "If David then calls Him 'Lord,' how is He his son?" No one was able to answer Him a word, nor did anyone
- dare from that day on to ask Him another question.

Heb. 1:13

But to which of the angels has He ever said,

"SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND,

UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES

A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET"?

Trinity in the Bible

Colossians 1:15 - Jesus Christ “is the image of the invisible God”.

John 1:18 - “No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, He has made Him known.”

Jesus Himself instructs His followers to baptize in THE (singular) name of the (three) Father, Son and Holy Spirit in Matthew 28.

The Lord who was seen in the Old Testament was the pre-incarnate Christ

The authors of the New Testament take old testament verses about God and apply them to each of the 3 persons. Let us look at a few

Trinity in the Bible- New Testament

[Psalm 102:25-27 " Long ago you laid the foundations of the earth, And the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you will remain; Just like a garment they will all wear out. Just like clothing you will replace them, and they will pass away. But you are the same, and your years will never end. "

Psalmist is talking about Yahweh. Eternal, creator, never changing

Heb 1:10-12 And: "At the beginning, O Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the works of your hands. They will perish, but you will remain; and just like a garment, they will all wear out, and you will wrap them up just as a cloak, as a garment, and they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never come to an end."

Heb. 1:3 states that it is the Son who sustains all things by the power of his word. Col. 1:17 says Christ holds up all things. The universe is perishing and wearing out but the Son (the Lord who made it) remains the same. In Jewish thought (Sir. 43:26) it is God's word that all things hold together.

Talking about Jesus. Same, Eternal, Creator, never changing Jesus = Yahweh. Yahweh = Trinity

Trinity in the Bible- New Testament

Is 41:4 and 44:6 say Yahweh is the alpha/Omega or first and last

Jesus is the Alpha and Omega, Beginning (Arche) and end (Rev 1:8; 21:6; 22:13). Notice when the verse says that in Rev 21:16 He says 'I, Jesus...' notice also Yahweh says He is the first and last who died. When did the Father die?

Only the Son died so the Son is the Alpha and Omega first and last.

God created everything (Isaiah. 44:24-myself) and Jesus creates everything. Both are eternal and everlasting alpha and omega.

Trinity in the Bible- New Testament

Jeremiah 17:10

I, the LORD, search the heart,
I test the mind,
To give to each person according to his ways,
According to the results of his deeds.

Who is talking? Yahweh-God.

Rev 2:18

“And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write:
The Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and feet like burnished bronze, says this:”

Who is talking? The Son of God. Now read all the quotes and get to verse 2:23 says:

“And I will kill her children with plague, and all the churches will know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts; and I will give to each one of you according to your deeds.”

Jesus is talking so Jesus =Yahweh
-God

Trinity in the Bible- New Testament

Jeremiah 31:33-34

“For this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,” declares the LORD: “I will put My law within them and write it on their heart; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. They will not teach again, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them,” declares the LORD, “for I will forgive their wrongdoing, and their sin I will no longer remember”

Who is talking? Yahweh God the Lord

Hebrews 10:15-17

And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us; for after saying,

“THIS IS THE COVENANT WHICH I WILL MAKE WITH THEM

AFTER THOSE DAYS, DECLARES THE LORD:

I WILL PUT MY LAWS UPON THEIR HEARTS,

AND WRITE THEM ON THEIR MIND,”

He[Holy Spirit] then says,

“AND THEIR SINS AND THEIR LAWLESS DEEDS

I WILL NO LONGER REMEMBER.”

Who is speaking? The Holy Spirit so Holy Spirit = Jehovah-God

Jeremiah 31:33-34

Isaiah 6:8-10

Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?” Then I said, “Here am I. Send me!” And He{the Lord} said, “Go, and tell this people: ‘Keep on listening, but do not understand; And keep on looking, but do not gain knowledge.’ Make the hearts of this people insensitive, Their ears dull, And their eyes blind, So that they will not see with their eyes, Hear with their ears, Understand with their hearts, And return and be healed.”

Who was talking? Yahweh

Acts 28:25-27

And when they disagreed with one another, they *began* leaving after Paul said one *parting* statement: “The Holy Spirit rightly spoke through Isaiah the prophet to your fathers, ²⁶saying, ‘GO TO THIS PEOPLE AND SAY, “YOU WILL KEEP ON HEARING, AND WILL NOT UNDERSTAND; AND YOU WILL KEEP ON SEEING, AND WILL NOT PERCEIVE; ²⁷FOR THE HEARTS OF THIS PEOPLE HAVE BECOME [c]INSENSITIVE, AND WITH THEIR EARS THEY HARDLY HEAR, AND THEY HAVE CLOSED THEIR EYES; OTHERWISE THEY MIGHT SEE WITH THEIR EYES, AND HEAR WITH THEIR EARS, AND UNDERSTAND WITH THEIR HEART AND RETURN, AND I WOULD HEAL THEM.”’”

Who did Paul say was talking in Isaiah? The Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit=Yahweh.

Exodus 3:14- Yahweh identifies himself as "I Am"

John 8:58-59: "Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM." Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by."

John 5:23- we honor the Son "JUST AS WE HONOR THE FATHER." -we honor the Father by worship.

All of John 5 is "like Father, like Son."

Isaiah 6- Isaiah saw God on the throne but John 12 says it was the Son who was on the throne. They share the same throne

Greek Terms and Creeds

We have seen just some of the Scriptures which show the various names of God and the roles of each of the 3 persons.

There were Greek philosophers who were trying to explain the trinity using their vocabulary. The early church did not like some of those terms because they did not agree with scripture. The church debated use of those terms and developed creeds that placed boundaries on the words. They defined them in ways that were agreeable with scripture. Creeds and councils did not invent the Trinity. The Trinity was already in the Bible. The creeds were helpful when people were using Greek terms.

Greek Terms and Creeds

Crucial to this whole perspective on the Law and the Prophets is appreciating that the doctrine of the Trinity is **not** an advanced, complex version of the biblical doctrine of God, taking hundreds of years of development.

No!

The Trinity is the most **basic** and most **ancient** understanding of God.

Greek Terms and Creeds

It is not good to simply reach for quotations from the early Church fathers UNLESS we first understand how they understood the Bible and how they spoke about the Living God in **more** Biblical language and **less** philosophical language.

The second and third century Church leaders, obviously, did not use the more “technical” words and phrases that were settled in the 4th century. They **mean** the same things... but express them in a much, much wider range of words and phrases.

Modern people may **use** the technical words and phrases... but not really understand what they are saying, and may not actually intend the deep Trinitarian faith that the 2-3rd century Church leaders believed!

Irenaeus (120/30 - 200/201)

“The Lord, nor the Holy Spirit, nor the apostles, have ever named as God, definitely and absolutely, him who was not God, unless he were truly God; nor would they have named any one in his own person Lord, except God the Father ruling over all, and His Son who has received dominion from His Father over all creation, as this passage has it: “The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit Thou at my right hand, until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool.” Here the [Scripture] represents to us the Father addressing the Son; He who gave Him the inheritance of the heathen, and subjected to Him all His enemies. Since, therefore, the Father is truly Lord, and the Son truly Lord, the Holy Spirit has fitly designated them by the title of Lord.”

Against Heresies Book III Chapter VI

Tertullian (145–220)

“We as we indeed always have done (and more especially since we have been better instructed by the Paraclete, who leads men indeed into all truth), believe that there is one only God, but under the following dispensation, or οἰκονομία, as it is called, that this one only God has also a Son, His Word, who proceeded from Himself, by whom all things were made, and without whom nothing was made.

Him we believe to have been sent by the Father into the Virgin, and to have been born of her—being both Man and God, the Son of Man and the Son of God, and to have been called by the name of Jesus Christ; we believe Him to have suffered, died, and been buried, according to the Scriptures, and, after He had been raised again by the Father and taken back to heaven, to be sitting at the right hand of the Father, and that He will come to judge the quick and the dead; who sent also from heaven from the Father, according to His own promise, the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete, the sanctifier of the faith of those who believe in the Father, and in the Son, and in the Holy Spirit.”

Tertullian (145–220)

“We as we indeed always have done (and more especially since we have been better instructed by the Paraclete, who leads men indeed into all truth), believe that there is one only God, but under the following dispensation, or οἰκονομία, as it is called, that this one only God has also a Son, His Word, who proceeded from Himself, by whom all things were made, and without whom nothing was made.

Him we believe to have been sent by the Father into the Virgin, and to have been born of her—being both Man and God, the Son of Man and the Son of God, and to have been called by the name of Jesus Christ; we believe Him to have suffered, died, and been buried, according to the Scriptures, and, after He had been raised again by the Father and taken back to heaven, to be sitting at the right hand of the Father, and that He will come to judge the quick and the dead; who sent also from heaven from the Father, according to His own promise, the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete, the sanctifier of the faith of those who believe in the Father, and in the Son, and in the Holy Spirit.”

Irenaeus (130-202) in *Against Heresies* IV:10:1 said

"the Son of God is implanted everywhere throughout Moses' writings.

At one time, indeed, speaking with Abraham when about to eat with him;
at another time...bringing down judgment upon the Sodomites [Genesis 18:2-33 & 19:1-27];
and again when He becomes visible and directs Jacob on his journey [Genesis 31:11 & 32:24-30] — and speaks with Moses from the bush [Exodus 3:2-4]."

Tertullian (155-220) in *Against Marcion* (III:9:1). said - "Christ...did Himself...appear to Abraham."

Eusebius (260-339) in his *Church History* I:2:1-13 remarked: "The Lord God...appeared as a common man to Abraham while he was sitting at the oak of Mamre [Genesis 18:1f]. And he, immediately falling down, although he saw a man with his eyes, nevertheless worshipped Him as God...and confessed that he was not ignorant of His identity when he uttered the words: 'Lord, the Judge of all the earth, will You not execute righteous judgment?' [Genesis 18:25]."

Victorinus of Pettau was writing in the 270's AD (he died in 304) and in his book "On the Creation of the World" states clearly that "the Author of the whole creation is Jesus. His name is the Word."

The Nicene Creed is simply trying to define the **lowest** Christology that is possible for Church around the world, down through the ages - IF we are going to make sense of the Bible.

The Nicene Creed is not about Christians trying to find their way INTO the doctrine of the Trinity. They already had the Trinitarian faith of the Bible.

BUT rather, the Nicene Creed was about Christians trying to keep OUT pagan philosophy from getting INTO the doctrine of the Trinity.

The council of Nicaea was NOT an attempt to impose a new “Trinitarian Faith” onto the official religion of the Roman Empire

The Christian Churches were far, far beyond the reach of the Roman empire - in Africa, India, Arabia, East Asia and even Northern Europe and Russia. It just was not possible for Constantine to impose his own political solutions on Churches that were on different continents.

The reason for the crisis was the internal war against the NEW teaching of Arius - that was based on an innovative view of God and Jesus - an intrusion based on Greek philosophy rather than Old Testament theology or the teaching of Jesus Himself.

Greek Terms and Creeds

Arius' started from the Greek philosophical idea that God cannot be connected to the physical world - not true and pure deity.

Therefore, Jesus CANNOT be true and pure and eternal deity BECAUSE He became flesh and mixed with the physical world.

Therefore, Jesus either cannot REALLY have been mixing with the physical world [an option tried by the much earlier Docetic heretics]... OR... Jesus cannot REALLY be God in the same eternal, pure sense that the Father is God.

Therefore, Arius tried to define Jesus as a divine creature... who is not God in the eternal sense that the Father is.

Greek Terms and Creeds

Arius was seen as a departure from the EARLIER Church faith - and the global Church reacted so strongly against him because ARIUS was the one trying to introduce a NEW doctrine of God - a new Christology.

It was a crisis because Arius was tapping into the underlying Greek philosophy that was so strong and so tempting for many...

The battles around the wording of the Nicene Creed are about how to express this ancient faith in the best way - NOT the attempt to develop a new understanding of Jesus or God.

The conflict is around how to balance the equality AND hierarchy of the Trinity.

Greek Terms and Creeds

Arius held to the classic Greek philosophical notion that the divine being is a monad - an indivisible singularity - and this divine “monad” is beyond and above physical being.

Therefore, if Arius had **this** doctrine of divinity, it was very hard to fit Jesus into that kind of philosophy.

He could find a way to describe Jesus as a “divine creature” through whom the real God made everything... BUT, Arius could not fit the REAL Jesus of the Bible into that Greek philosophical view of God.

Jesus will fit in the truly ancient theology of Moses - but not the more recent theology of Plato.

The problem is not that Greek philosophy - whether Platonic or Aristotelian - is intrinsically evil... BUT that **whatever** philosophical tradition we use to express the reality of Jesus and the Trinity, **Jesus has to be in the driving seat.**

For Athanasius and the faithful bishops at Nicaea, they wanted to start with Jesus and allow **Him** to shape and determine how they used their Greek words.

For Arius, and many others since, they allowed alien theology and pagan philosophical assumptions to control the meaning of these words.

Nicaea is NOT about Greek philosophy but about expressing the ancient theology of Moses in Greek language, as best as they could.

Names for God in Bible

God

LORD

Yahweh (YHWH/Jehovah): The sacred personal name revealed to Moses, meaning "I AM WHO I AM"

Alpha and Omega:

El Elyon: God Most High, highlighting His supreme sovereignty.

El Shaddai: God Almighty, all-sufficient provider.

Adonai: Lord, Master, signifying authority.

Elohim: A plural form of God, emphasizing His creative power.

Immanuel: God With Us, pointing to Jesus.

The LORD of Hosts (Yahweh-Sabaoth): Emphasizes His power over heavenly armies.

The Rock (Tzur): A symbol of His unshakeable strength and refuge.

The Ancient of Days: A title for God's eternal, unchanging nature (Daniel 7).

Mighty God

God Almighty

Holy Spirit

Spirit of Yahweh

Counselor

Advocate

Many More!

Creed terms

God

LORD

Father

Son

Spirit

Essence

Substance

Subsistence

person

being

Limited terms!

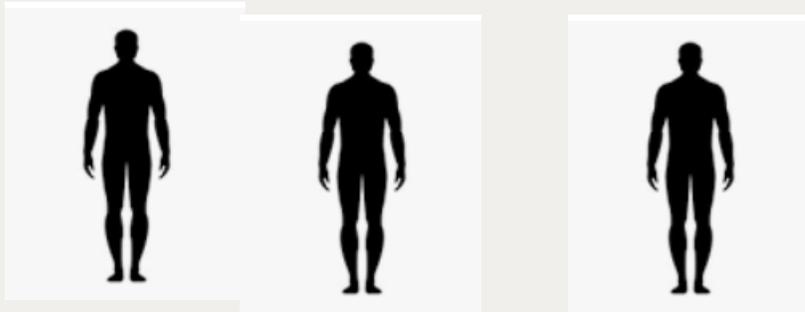
Vocabulary

A being is what you are. We are physical human beings.
Human beings is what we are.

A person is the non-physical part about you that makes you who you are.

God is one being and 3 persons

Vocabulary



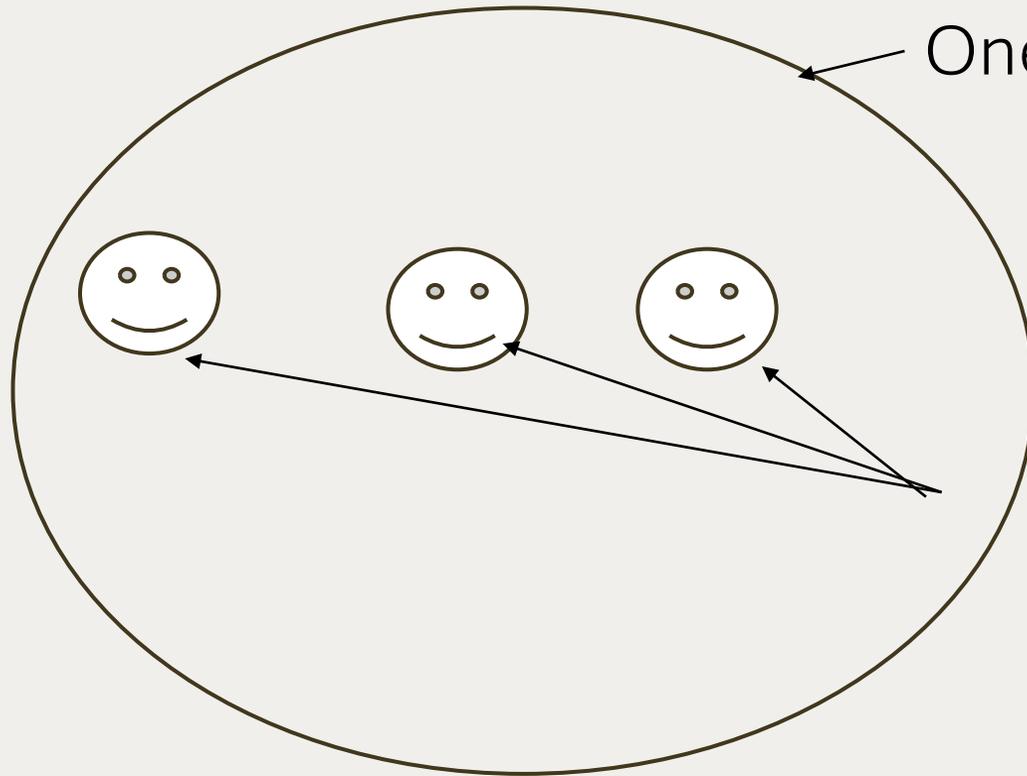
Three people would be three human beings

Three separate god beings is polytheism

One God being is monotheism

Vocabulary

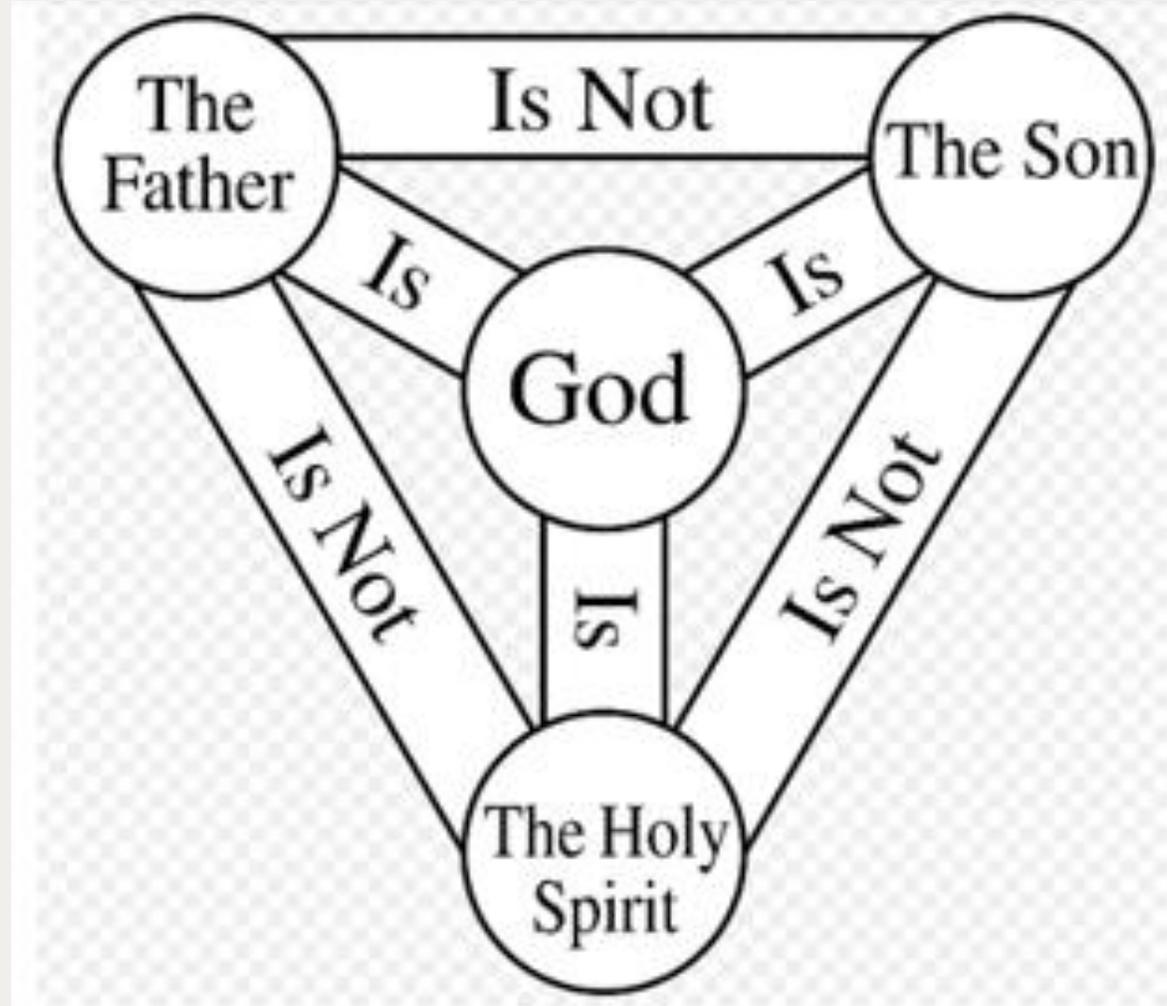
We are not familiar with the
immaterial or non physical world



One soul/spirit/essence

3 Persons or minds share same soul
They share the same immaterial being
or essence or nature

Greek Terms and Creeds



The 3 persons share
one nature
or one substance or
one essence

Nature

Nature refers to

- the total of all the essential qualities of a thing,
- The nature makes it what it is.

Greek Terms and Creeds



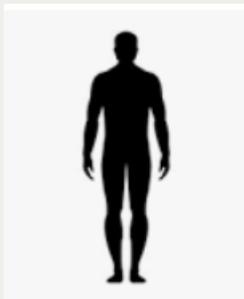
A fish has a fish nature



A dog has a dog nature



A bird has a bird nature



A human being has a human nature

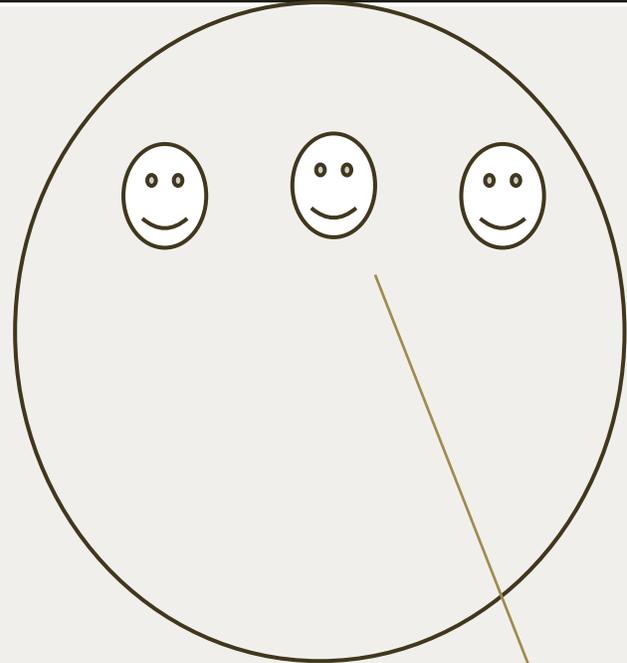


God has a Divine nature

A Human nature is finite, flesh, limited

A Divine Nature is all knowing, everywhere present, all powerful, eternal

Greek Terms and Creeds



All 3 persons share a divine nature

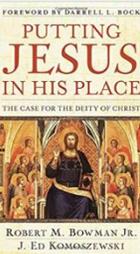
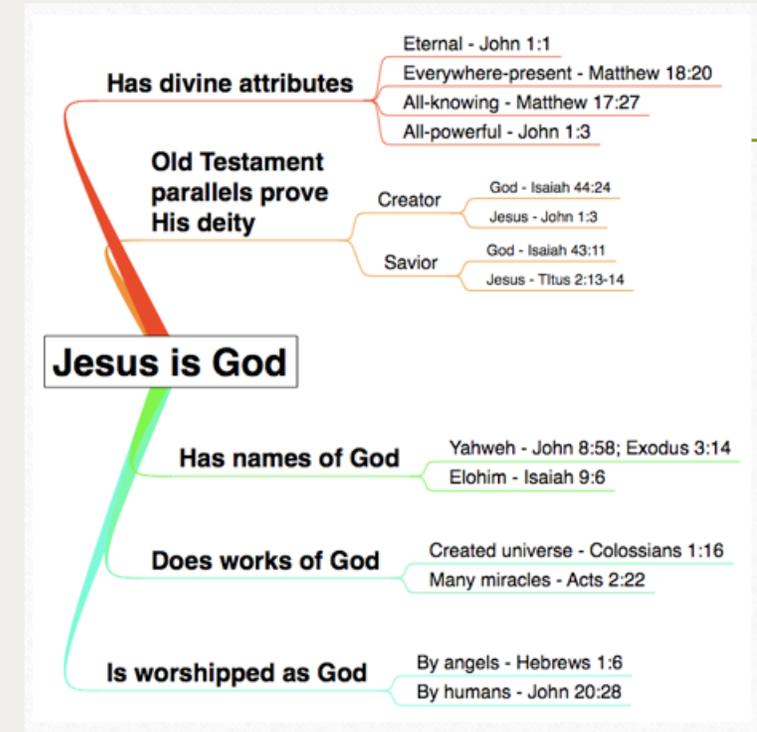
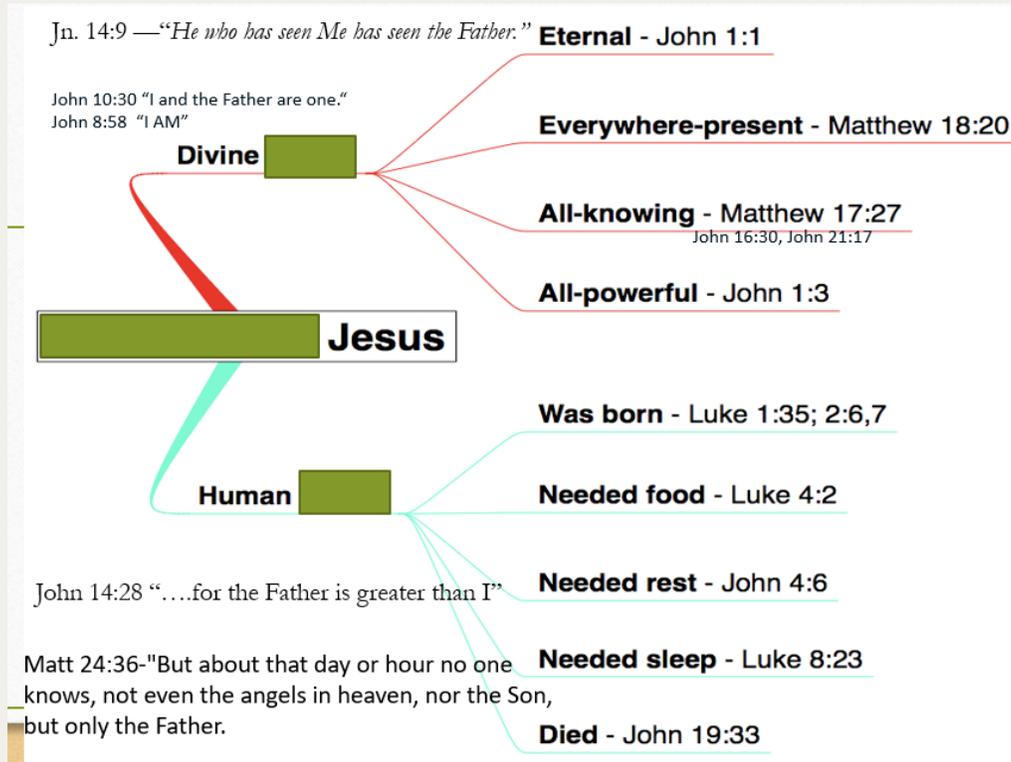
The Son added a human nature
and became man

Jesus is the Son in his added
human nature



Jesus is Fully God and Man

HANDS- Jesus shares Honor with God, Atttributes of God, Names of God, Deeds of God and Seat of God

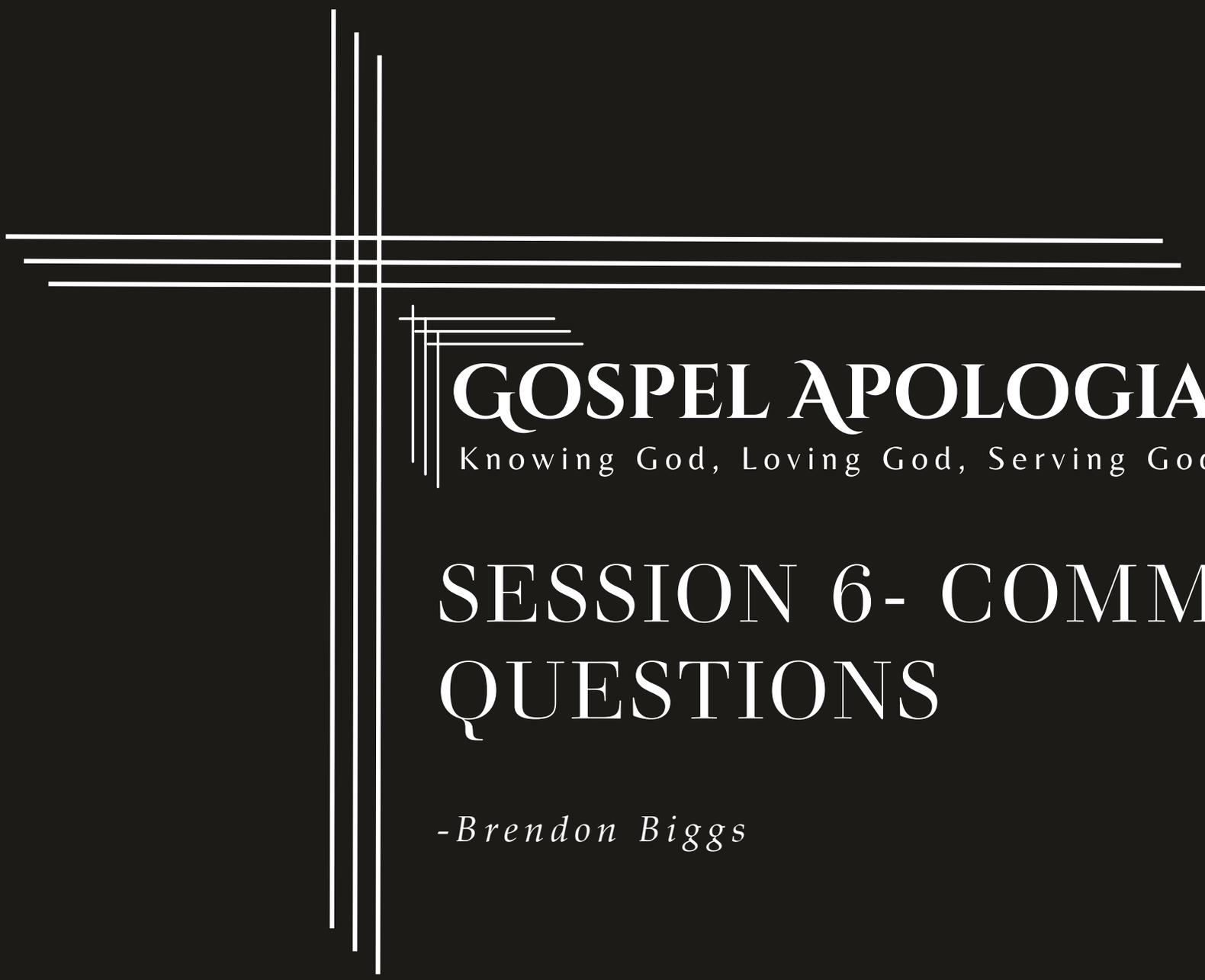


JW's focus is on the human nature. Get them focused on the deity. Memorize John chapter 5. Jesus acts like God.

The Holy Spirit is not a Force

- i. He has a will - 1 Cor. 2:11
- ii. He speaks - Acts 13:2
- iii. He loves - Rom. 15:30
- iv. He can be grieved - Eph. 4:30
- v. He convicts of sin - John 16:8
- vi. He creates - Gen. 1:2; Job 33:4
- vii. He gives gifts - 1 Cor. 12:8
- viii. He Intercedes - Rom. 8:26
- ix. He teaches - John 14:26
- x. He testifies of Jesus - John 15:26
- xi. He baptizes - 1 Cor. 12:13
- xii. He guides - John 16:13
- xiii. He encourages - Acts 9:31
- xiv. He empowers - Micah 3:8
- xv. He gives joy - Rom. 14:17
- xvi. He comforts - John 14:16-26

Questions?



GOSPEL APOLOGIA

Knowing God, Loving God, Serving God

SESSION 6- COMMON QUESTIONS

-Brendon Biggs

Common Questions and Claims

1. Claim: God doesn't change His nature so he cannot become human- Malachi 3:6.

Malachi 3:6- “For I, the LORD, do not change;...”

Answer: God does not change His nature - God has ALWAYS, eternally been Father, Son and Spirit. Remember how Jesus prayed in John 17:1-5 - when He spoke about the glory that He had with the Father before the universe began.

This verse from Malachi is also talking about Israel turning from Yahweh and not keeping his statutes (v. 7). It is not talking about restricting God from becoming human by adding a human nature to the Son.

Common Questions and Claims

2. Claim: God Almighty is Greater than Jesus. (John 14:28). Nothing can be Greater than God.

Answer: The Father is greater than the Son in one sense - that the Father sends the Son to do what the Father wills for Him. But, any son is the same nature as his father. When a tiger gives birth to a tiger, they are both 100% tiger. So, in John 5:18 the religious authorities wanted to kill Jesus because He was "calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God". The LORD is sent by the LORD with the LORD - and they are united together, the ONE Living God.

Also in Revelation 1:8 The Almighty Lord God is coming. Is the Father coming? In Rev 1:18 a few verses down God says he is the First and Last which is what Yahweh is called in IS 44:6 and then he says "I was dead and behold I live forever more and I hold the keys of death and hades. The Father did not die. The Son did, So an almighty title is used by the Son.

Is 44:6
Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts"
"I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god.
Only God can be the first and last. The Son claims that title as well as Rev. 21:6 and 22:13.

Revelation 22:13
¹⁵I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end...I, Jesus (v 16)"

Common Questions and Claims

3. **Claim:** No one is "Good" including Jesus. Only God is " Good" (Luke 18:19). This must mean they are two separate entities.

Answer: Luke 18:19 is a powerful verse. Jesus reminds us that if we really think that Jesus is good, then we must acknowledge that He is God.

He is claiming he is God because he is good.

Common Questions and Claims

4. Claim: Jesus said he doesn't know when the Hour will come. Only God Knows. (Mark 13:32). Is the Father hiding information from other two?

Answer: Jesus says that only the Father knows the date of the end of the world - because God the Son always does the will of His Father. When the Father wills for the Son to end the world, the Son will end the world. Jesus describes how He will end the world many times - bringing the day of judgement. Only God can do this.

Also, this is a Jewish wedding theme. The decision when the groom can go get the bride is up to the Father so a son has to trust the Father. Jesus wants us to trust like he trusts. The Son is not ontologically inferior to the Father just because roles are different. Just like human Father and Sons. See Matt 14:2-3-He is making room for everyone and will come to get them.

4. Continued

A father gets to decide when the room is finished for the Son's bride. The Son trusts the Father. It does not mean the Father is ontologically superior. Just like a human father is not ontologically superior to his son. They relate to each other and have different roles. The verse is showing the Son has allowed the Father to determine the time from a place of respect and submits to his authority as the practice in this tradition sets forth. Remember Phil 2:8-10 where God the Son submits?

Jesus just got done telling them about future events leading up to this verse so he obviously is omniscient. He is using this familiar motif to teach them that he will return just like a groom guarantees his return, and that they need the kind of trust he has with his Father. This in no way is a verse that shows inferior ontological status. It is about trust.

With the true and living God of the Bible, you can be assured Jesus will come get you:

Jesus says (John 14:2-4):

“In My Father’s house are many rooms; if that were not so, I would have told you, because I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I am coming again and will take you to Myself, so that where I am, there you also will be. And you know the way where I am going.”

4. Continued

Verse 24- “You heard that I said to you, ‘I am going away, and I am coming to you,’”

A church is where you worship God. Jesus establish HIS church (Matt. 16:18) and the church is called "the bride of Christ" (Eph 5:24-27) and after Jesus prepares the rooms, the Father announces the end and the groom (Jesus) goes and gets his church for the wedding feast (Rev 19:-9; 21:1-2).

Just like the Old Testament. God has a covenant with his people and when they worshipped false gods, he compared it to adultery.

Wedding themes are found throughout the Bible. This theme shows both the person of the Father and the Son as God. Remember the true and living God is relational. They enjoy working together and glorifying each other and trusting each other. The Fathers house yet the Son builds the rooms and has the church where people worship him and the Father and Spirit. We honor the Son just like the Father (John 5). Like Father, like Son.

Common Questions and Claims

5. **Claim:** Jesus said that " OUR God is One God" (Mark 12:29).

The actual Hebrew is

“Hear, Israel! Yahweh is our God, Yahweh is one(Eclad)!

Answer: Deuteronomy 6:4 states that the LORD is a unity - Hebrew "echad". It does not mean God is a singularity but that God is a compound unity. "Echad" is the word used to describe how Adam & Eve are ONE flesh (Gen. 1:27). Echad is used for morning and evening making ONE DAY (Gen. 1:5), a husband and wife being ONE FLESH (Gen. 2:24), and ONE CLUSTER of grapes (Num. 13:23).

Most translation replace “Yahweh” the divine name, with LORD.

So the NT writers say Lord they are referring to Yahweh:

1 Corinthians 8:6

Paul is recasting the Shema (Deuteronomy 6:4) in Christian terms. Paul has rearranged the words in such as way as to produce an affirmation of both one God, the Father, and one Lord (Yahweh), Jesus Christ and redefined the "God" of the Shema as "One God, the Father," and the "Lord" of the Shema (i.e. Yahweh) as "One Lord, Jesus Christ."

Remember the specific God is Israel is Yahweh or the Lord. This is the highest name and the name for all generations (Ex. 3:15) and is assigned to Jesus.

Common Questions and Claims

6. **Claim:** Jesus also said "My God and your God" (John 20:17)

Answer: Jesus refers to His Father as "God" - but remember that the Father also refers to the Son as "God" also - Hebrews 1:8, quoting Psalm 45:6-7. Look it up and you will see that the God of verse 6 has a God in verse 7 - but they are also a unity together - one God.

The LORD is sent by the LORD with the LORD - and they are united together, the ONE Living God.

As we said Jesus refers to His Father as God - just as the Father refers to the Son as God - BUT, John 20:17 is important because His relationship to the Father is not the same as ours. The Father is our God - but we are creatures. The Father is also God to Jesus - BUT Jesus is also God and has been with His Father for eternal ages.

In the OT, the very specific name for God is Yahweh. It was so Holy the name that was used was "LORD".

Joel 2:32 Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord (Yahweh) will be saved

Romans 10:13 For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord (Kurios/Jesus) will be saved

Isaiah 45:23 (Septuagint) "To me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall confess to God(Yahweh)"

Common Questions and Claims

7. **Claim:** Jesus bowed his face down to the ground to God Almighty Matthew(26:39)

Answer: When God the Son became a human being like us, He lived a perfect human life. He has always talked to His Father for everlasting ages - and so He carried on talking to His Father, showing us how human beings are supposed to pray with reverence. Remember God the Son addresses His Father as God many times - but God the Father can also address the Son as God.

The verse does not say he faced down to the ground every time he prayed. He “fell on his face and prayed,…” this was a moment of torment, not a formula on the position to pray. In Mark 7:34-35 he looked up while he prayed. In fact if you google all the verses where Jesus prayed, I believe this is the only one where he fell to his face so it cannot be the formula for normal prayer.

Common Questions and Claims

8. **Claim:** Jesus was tempted by Satan for 40 days (Matt.1:4), while God Almighty cannot be tempted (James 1:13)

Answer: Yes, Satan tried to tempt Jesus, but those temptations had no effect at all on Jesus - because (as James 1:13 says) God has no evil desires, so there is nothing inside God to respond to Satan's temptations. The fact that Jesus never did anything sinful proves that He is the Holy God - whereas the Quran identifies Muhammad as a sinner: Quran 40:55, 48:2, and 47:19.

There is external tempting and internal. God of the Old Testament was tempted by the people and God told people to stop doing it (Ex 17:2; Deut. 6:16; Mal 3:15). But God does not desire anything against his nature so he is not subject to internal temptation. Same with Jesus. He was tempted externally but never gave in internally since he is God incarnate.

9. Claim: Jesus said he is a man (John 8:40)

Answer: Yes, Jesus is both fully human and fully divine. That is the most basic Christian confession. There are dozens of verses in the Bible that tell us that Jesus was 100% human but also verses where he was divine.

Common Questions and Claims

10. Claim: The Bible says God is neither a man nor a son of a man (Numbers 23:19)

Answer: Numbers 23:19 simply states that God does not lie or change His mind as human beings do.

Num. 23:19- "God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should change His mind" This is emphasizing His unchanging faithfulness and reliability in keeping His promises and fulfilling His word. Same with the Son.

A son of man can just be a human. But THE Son of Man is the divine being from Daniel who is God in human form.

Common Questions and Claims

11. **Claim:** The Bible says no one can see God (1 John 4:20) but people saw Jesus

Answer: Many, many people saw God BUT nobody has ever seen God the Father (John 1:18, 5:37, Jn. 6:46, 1 Tim.6:15-16). Whenever people saw God they were meeting God the Son who is the visible form of God.

1 Kings 3:5 - "The LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream, and God said, "Ask, and ..."

Genesis 26:2 - "The LORD appeared to Isaac"

Genesis 26:24 - "That night the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am the God of your father.."

Genesis 17:1 - "When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am God ..."

Deuteronomy 31:15 - "Then the LORD appeared at the tent in a pillar of cloud..."

So who was the person of God, who is not the Father, who was seen?

The Son before his incarnation!

Common Questions and Claims

12 –Claim: The Bible says God is the living and everlasting (Habakkuk 1:12).

Answer: Jesus Himself declares His power over death when He appears to John at the beginning of Revelation. Notice how He declares Himself to be the First and the Last - which is what only the LORD God is all through the Old Testament.

Revelation 1:17-18 - "I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever!"

John 17:5- Jesus existed before all things and created all things (John 1:3).

Common Questions and Claims

13 Claim: Jesus always confessed he is just a prophet sent by God (Matthew 21:10-11)

Answer: Jesus is the anointed One - the Messiah. According to the Old Testament that means He must be a Prophet, a Priest and a King - and He is all three to perfection.

However, in Matthew 21:10-11 it is the crowds who say Jesus is a prophet. It is not the words of Jesus Himself. Jesus also confessed he was other things besides a prophet such as the Son of man from Daniel 7 (Mark 14:62-64) who shares the same throne as God and rides on the clouds as only God can do, and the Son of God, and the great "I AM" from Exodus 3:14 which is why the Jewish leaders wanted to kill him for blasphemy.

Common Questions and Claims

14 Claim: God Declare Himself to be God but Jesus did not (Ezekiel 20:20)

Answer: Yes, the LORD God often declares that He is the LORD God. In Ezekiel 20, He says this several times - verses 5, 7, 19, 20 etc.

Notice that the LORD God says this in Isaiah 48:17 - "I am the LORD your God" - but read carefully verses 12-16 of Isaiah 48.

"I am He; I am the first and I am the last. My own hand laid the foundations of the earth...

Come near me and listen to this: From the first announcement I have not spoken in secret; at the time it happens, I am there.

And now the Sovereign Lord has sent me, filled with his Spirit."

14 Continued

NOTICE - the LORD God who declares "I am the LORD your God" says that the Sovereign LORD has sent Him, filled with His Spirit".

The Living God is more than one LORD - He is a UNITY of the Father, Son and Spirit.

The LORD is sent by the LORD with the LORD.

15. **Claim:** Jesus told them his real mission was to preach not sacrifice (Mark 1:38)

Answer: Mark 1:38 states that Jesus has come to preach, but it does not say that preaching is the ONLY thing He does. Jesus ALSO healed the sick, fed the hungry, raised the dead, controlled the weather and drove away the demons. He ALSO gave His life as a sacrifice for sinners.

Remember what Jesus Himself said in Mark 10:45 - "even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

On the cross Jesus said "It is finished" (Jn 19:30). This meant he was the final unblemished lamb that was sacrificed once and for all (Heb. 10:10).

Common Questions and Claims

16. **Claim:** Jesus desired Mercy not Sacrifice (Matthew 9:13)

Answer: Yes, we cannot offer any sacrifice to atone for our sins. He does not want us trying to make any sacrifices for our sins because He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

Note that Jesus is quoting from Hosea 6:6 - because even the animal sacrifices of the Old Testament did not take away human sin. Those old sacrifices were only signs pointing to God's own sacrifice of Himself.

Read Hebrews chapter 10.

Common Questions and Claims

17. Claim: Jesus refers to himself as Servant: (Matthew 10:24, 24:45, 12:18-20, John 13:16 Acts 2:22, 3:13, 3:26, 4:27, 5:42, 17:24-31, Isaiah 42:1, 45:1, I Corinthians 15:28). More than 10 times.

Answer: There are many times that Jesus says that He is a servant. In fact, there are many prophecies about Him in Isaiah 53 that describe Him as the Suffering Servant. It is actually a sign of His divine glory and greatness.

Remember what He said in Mark 10:43-45 - "whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be the slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."

The Living God of the Bible does not need human beings to serve Him - because He has everything He needs. Rather, He shows His greatness by coming down to serve us.

God is the greatest being so He must demonstrate the greatest kind of love so Jesus must be God to demonstrate this. In fact Jesus said "No Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends"(Jn. 5:13). Jesus demonstrated that.

Common Questions and Claims

18. Claim: Jesus referred himself as Prophet:(Matthew 8:20 13:16,21:11, Mark 6:15, 6;4, 9;37, Luke 7:16, 9:19, John 13:17, 7:16, 6:14, 7:40). 13 times.

Answer: Yes, Jesus is the perfect Prophet - filled with the Spirit, as we explained earlier.

However, you seem to have mixed up some of these Bible references. Some of them have nothing to say about prophets.

Matthew 8:20 - "the Son of Man has no place to lay his head." When Jesus calls Himself the "Son of Man" He is stating that He is Divine - the divine Son of Man who is the equal of the Ancient of Days in Daniel 7. Matthew 13:16-17 - Jesus states that the ancient prophets wanted to see Jesus!

In Mark 6:4 Jesus acknowledges that He is a prophet. That fact seems to be a problem for you, but it is not at all a problem for us. We all love the fact that God the Son became a human being and was the greatest prophet.

In Mark 6:15 other people think that Jesus is just a prophet - but those are not the words of Jesus. He claimed to be much more.

18. Continued

Mark 9:37 doesn't mention a prophet, but Jesus says that when we welcome Jesus into our lives, He is united with His Father so that both the Father and the Son come to us together.

In Luke 7:16 the people think that Jesus is BOTH a prophet AND He is God who has come to help them.

In Luke 9:19 the crowds think that Jesus is a prophet who has come back from the dead.

John 13:17 doesn't say anything at all about Jesus being a prophet.

John 7:16 states that Jesus speaks only what the Father has sent Him to speak.

The LORD is sent by the LORD with the LORD - and they are united together, the ONE Living God.

In John 6:14 the crowds believe that Jesus is the special Prophet who the Law and the Prophets speak about - the same is true of John 7:40.

Common Questions and Claims

19. Claim: Jesus referred himself as Son of Man: (Matthew 5:9, 17:22, 8:20, 18:11, 26:2, Luke 9:22, John 5:27). 7 times.

Answer: Jesus is not just “a Son of man.” He calls himself “The” Son of man. When Jesus calls Himself the "Son of Man" He is stating that He is Divine - the divine Son of Man who is the equal of the Ancient of Days in Daniel 7. Notice how God has more than one throne in Daniel - one for the Ancient of Days and another equal throne for the Son of Man.

Notice in Mark 14:62-64 how the high priest is so shocked when Jesus calls Himself the Son of Man.

Also- notice the cloud rider phrase in Daniel 7 and in Mark. Only God rides on the clouds.

Psalm 68:4: A call to praise God, identifying Him as the one who rides the clouds, often connected with His name YAH (Yahweh).

Psalm 104:3: A poetic description of God using clouds as His chariot, symbolizing His dominion over creation.

Isaiah 19:1: Prophecies God's judgment on Egypt, with His arrival on a swift cloud causing idols to tremble and hearts to melt.

Nahum 1:3: States, "clouds are the dust beneath His feet," further emphasizing God's control over the elements.

Common Questions and Claims

20. Claim: Referred himself as a Slave: (John 13:16, Matthew 10:24)

Answer: Yes, Jesus shows us how to serve one another with deep love and humility. The Living God Himself does this. Notice Philippians 2:5-11. God the Son had true equality with God, but He became a servant - a slave. He obeyed what His Father sent Him to do, even dying a terrible death - and this gives Him glory and honor! You might be offended that God became a servant, but to us Christians, it makes us love and worship Him even more.

21. Referred himself as a Student: (Matthew 10:24)

Answer: In Matthew 10:24, Jesus actually is referring to His disciples as students and Himself as the Master. The full context of that saying is found also in Luke 6:40; John 13:16 and John 15:20. God in his divine nature does not need to learn. However, God the Son added a human nature (Jn 1:3; Phil 2:8-10) and did not hold onto his divine prerogatives while he was in his added human nature, so he did learn (Lk 2:52). However sometimes he showed his omniscience by telling the future and people knew he knew all things (Matt. 17:27; Jn 16:30; Jn 21:17).

Common Questions and Claims

22. Claim: 2 Chronicles 6:32 -The foreigner (Prophet Mohammad) who is not from your people Israel, when he comes from far country for your great names (99 names), when they come and pray towards this house (KAABA) in far country (Saudi/ Mecca).

Actual verse:

2 Chron. 6:32-33

“As for the foreigner who does not belong to your people Israel but has come from a distant land because of your great name and your mighty hand and your outstretched arm—when they come and pray toward this temple, then hear from heaven, your dwelling place. Do whatever the foreigner asks of you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your own people Israel, and may know that this house I have built bears your Name.

Answer: 2 Chronicles 6:32-33 is saying that foreigners need to be welcomed to the temple so that they will learn the name of the LORD - Yahweh. The house referred to is not the Kaaba in Mecca but the temple that Solomon has just built. His prayer is for the dedication of the temple in Jerusalem.

22. Continued

Also read the verses prior

2 Chron. 6:30-31

“...then hear from heaven, your dwelling place. Forgive, and deal with everyone according to all they do, since you know their hearts (for you alone know the human heart), so that they will fear you and walk in obedience to you all the time they live in the land you gave our ancestors.”

So God alone knows the human heart. Yet in the New Testament, it is Jesus who knows the human heart as only God can:

John 2:25: "He did not need any testimony about mankind, for he knew what was in each person" (NIV).

Mark 2:8: Jesus perceived their thoughts and reasoning, showing He knew their hearts when He forgave the paralytic.

Revelation 2:23: "I am he who searches minds and hearts" (NIV). Jesus speaks of His own ability to search heart

Common Questions and Claims

24. Claim: Jesus said he can do nothing by himself (John 5:19, John 5:30)

Answer: Yes, there are many more verses where Jesus states that He cannot do or say anything other than what the Father sends Him to do and say.

Notice how this proves the divinity of Jesus because Jesus states that **WHATEVER** the Father does, is done by Jesus.

“Jesus gave them this answer: “Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; He can do only what He sees His Father doing, because **WHATEVER** the Father does the Son also does.”

Like Father, like Son. Which is why we honor and worship the Son just like we honor and worship the Father (John 5:23).

I cannot make a major purchase without my wife’s permission and she cannot make one without me. It is not because one person is ontologically superior. We agree to do things together because we are in a relationship. We are one in agreement. The Son does not do anything that the Father and Spirit have not already agreed to. They are all in agreement and are united. He is saying that God the Father agrees with everything he is doing. They are united (John 10:30).

Questions?