

Who do you say that I am?

Welcome

Intro: True story, in 2008, Sen. Ernie Chambers sued God. He accused the Almighty of untold death and horror and threatening to cause more still. He was seeking a permanent injunction against the Almighty. Imagine that. God on trial.

Mark 14:43-63

Is Jesus truly the Son of God, the Promised Messiah, and the Savior of the world?

1. Evidence Leading up to Jesus.

Explain: Before Jesus was born, long before Jesus walked the earth, God was preparing the way. God announced his coming through the prophets. One thing that is unique about the Bible is the Bible is a prophetic book. About **25%** of the Bible is prophecy. The Bible has about 2000 prophecies that have already been fulfilled, with hundreds more yet to come. The Bible contains about 300 prophecies about the Messiah, and Jesus fulfilled them all.

- **Micah 5:2** – The Messiah would be born in Bethlehem.
- **Isaiah 7:14** – Born of a virgin.
- **Isaiah 53** – He would be a suffering servant who would die for the sins of many.
- **Psalms 22:16**, They would pierce His hands and feet
- **Zechariah 11:12–13** – Betrayed for 30 pieces of silver.
- **Isaiah 53:9**, He would be buried with the rich.
- **Exodus 12:46**, Not a bone would be broken.
- **Psalms 16:10**, Resurrection

Illustrate: Chances- 1 in 10¹⁷ power, cover Texas with quarters two feet deep... (300) Jesus didn't just arrive; God told us He was coming. These prophecies function like fingerprints at a crime scene. No other person in history matches—only Jesus.

Cultural Readiness: God not only predicted His coming but prepared the world for His arrival. **Galatians 4:4**, “In the fullness of time...”

- **Roman roads** connected the empire—perfect for spreading news.
- **Greek language** unified communication—perfect for writing the New Testament.
- **Jewish synagogues** were scattered throughout the empire—ready to hear the gospel.
- **Spiritual hunger** was deep—people across the ancient world were longing for truth.
- **Pax Romana (27 BC- 180 AD)** 200-year period of peace and religious tolerance

Apply: Jesus came at the one moment in history when the world was perfectly prepared.

2. Evidence from the Life of Jesus. Mark 14:62

Jesus claimed to be God. Jesus was a very unique person. Jesus claimed to be God. If someone you know begins to say about themselves the kinds of things Jesus said, you would either avoid them like the plague or attempt to get them mental health support.

- ***I and the Father are one.* John 10:30**

- ***I am the way, the truth, and the life.* John 14:6**
- ***Before Abraham was, I AM.* John 8:58**
- ***If you have seen me, you have seen the Father.* John 14:9**

Mark 14:61-62

In John's gospel Jesus uses this "I am" language up to **45 times**. This **I Am** title comes from Moses and the Exodus story. The Jewish people understand, Jesus is saying, I am the God who met with Moses and delivered Israel, and I have come to deliver you. Yet rather than writing him off, everywhere he went, huge crowds flocked to see Him.

Mark 14:63-63, Jesus was crucified because He claimed to be God. (**Liar, Lunatic, Lord**)

His miracles confirmed his claim:

- He healed the sick, walked on water, calmed storms, and raised the dead.
- His miracles were public, verifiable, and witnessed by thousands, even by His enemies.

His sinless life and teaching

- Jesus never sinned (**Hebrews 4:15**). Even His enemies couldn't bring a charge.
- His teachings were revolutionary:
 - *"Love your enemies"*
 - *"Blessed are the meek"*
 - *"Greatest among you is the servant of all."*
 - *"Lose your life to find it."*

His death and resurrection- Jesus predicted His own death and resurrection (**Mark 8:31**)

It has been 2000 years, how can we know Jesus rose from the dead?

- **Eye Witnesses:** 500 witnesses, which may not sound like many but that was actually 1% of the population of Jerusalem. Paul says, **these people are still alive**, if you do not believe me, go ask them yourself.
- **Disciples' transformation:** When Jesus was arrested, all the disciples fled; they ran for cover, and they were afraid. However, over the next 30 years, these same men and often their families were whipped, beaten, and crucified for preaching that Jesus rose from the dead. They saw Him crucified, which would motivate them to go around the world preaching that Jesus rose from the dead. They saw the resurrected Christ and were filled with the Holy Spirit.
- **Empty Tomb/missing body-** **Matthew 27:62-66**, Pilot agrees to guard the tomb and body of Jesus and yet, despite the guard, the tomb is empty.
 - Disciples took the body. They were afraid and they were martyred
 - Jews took the body. They would have presented the body to end Christianity
 - Romans took the body. Romans were guarding the body, paid with their lives, would have presented it to end Christianity.
- **Conversion of Paul.** In his 2nd letter to the Corinthians, Paul wrote, "Five times I was given 39 lashes by the Jews. Three times I was whipped by the Romans and once I was stoned. I have been in 3 shipwrecks and once was 24 hours in the water. I have been in danger from fellow Jews and from Gentiles." Paul also was in prison at least three times and died for preaching the resurrection of Jesus.

The evidence is convincing if you are open minded: Jesus rose from the grave, Jesus is God!

John 20:31, *"But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name."*

3. Evidence after the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus. John 14:12

Explain: Before Jesus left, He told his disciples, "I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father." After Jesus leaves, the story is over, right? You cannot erase Jesus. He left a mark on everything. From a small town in Galilee, His message spread to every corner of the earth.

- Our calendar is based on His birth (B.C. / A.D.).
- **Books-** So much was written about Jesus in the first century that if we did not have any scripture, we could reconstruct the gospels from the writings of Christian and non-Christian historians. Furthermore, Jesus is the most written-about person in history. **109,000,000**, twice George Washington.
- **Art-** The same is true in regard to art. If we did not have scripture, we could recreate the gospel narrative from paintings. All the famous art masters painted Jesus and images from His story. This cannot be said about any other person or religious leader.
- **Music-** Almost every artist
- **Movies-** Jesus Film, 1,800 languages and seen by more than 8 billion people.
- **Education-** In order to make disciples of all the nations, people had to be educated, and part of discipleship was to help people know the truth. Christians have built schools around the world. This is why universities like Oxford, Harvard, and Yale were started by Christians.
- **Science-** **Chart**, 65% of Nobel Prize winners are Christians, 21% Jewish, 7% atheist or Agnostic.
- **Hospitals, orphanages, charities:** Red Cross, Salvation Army, World Vision—founded by Jesus-followers.
- **Human rights:** Inspired by the dignity and value Jesus placed on every person.
- **Religion-** Every religion before and after Jesus modified itself in response to Jesus, to be more like Him or to merge Him somehow into their worldview. However, none of these worldviews are mentioned by the Biblical writers or appear to have any influence on Jesus.
- **Billions** have called Him Savior and Lord.

Jesus never wrote a book, never led an army, never held office, did not have social media. Yet He changed the world more than anyone else ever has.

Invitation: **Matthew 16:13-17a**, who do you say Jesus is?

Book Recommendations: Person of Interest by Warner Wallace, Unimaginable by Jeremiah Johnston, Case for Christ by Lee Strobel, I do not have Enough Faith to be an Atheist by Geisler