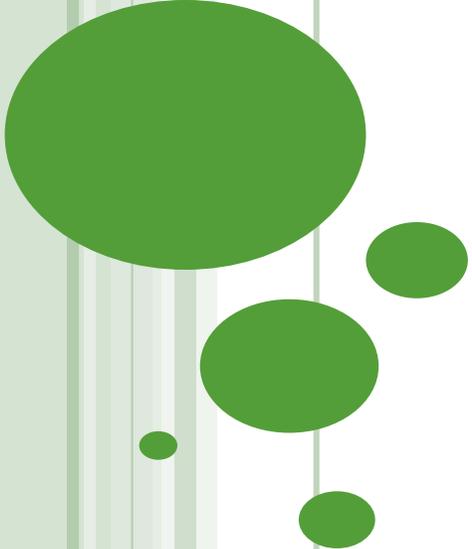


WHO WAS JESUS?

VALIDITY OF JESUS CHRIST

1 John 1:3 That which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

Mark 8:29 Jesus said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”



WHO WAS JESUS?

VALIDITY OF JESUS CHRIST

Confidence in the Deity of Christ

NEW TESTAMENT ASSERTIONS

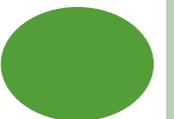
Jesus exhibits characteristics that only God can have

- Self-existent

- John 1:4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.
- John 14:6 Jesus said to them, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

- Omnipresent

- Matthew 28:20 “I am with you always.”
- Matthew 18:20 “For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”

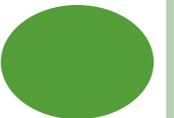


NEW TESTAMENT ASSERTIONS

○ Omniscient

- John 4:16-18 Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come here.” The woman answers and said, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You have well said, ‘I have no husband,’ for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly.”
- John 6:64 “But there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him.
- Matthew 17:22-27 Now while they were staying in Galilee, Jesus said to them, “The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, and the third day He will be raised up.” And they were exceedingly sorrowful...

“Nevertheless, lest we offend them, go to the sea, cast a hook, and take the fish that comes up first. And when you have opened its mouth you will find a piece of money; take that and give it to them for Me and you.”

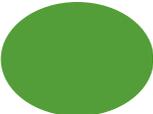


NEW TESTAMENT ASSERTIONS

○ Omnipotent

- Luke 4:38-41 Now He arose from the synagogue and entered Simon's house. But Simon's wife's mother was sick with a high fever, and they made request of Him concerning her. So He stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. And immediately she arose and served them.
- Matthew 8:26-27 But He said to them, "Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?" Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.

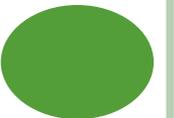
○ Eternal

- 1 John 5:11-12, 20 And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life, he who does not have the Son of God does not have life...And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true; in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life."
 - John 1:4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.
- 

NEW TESTAMENT ASSERTIONS

○ Receives Godly worship and praise

- Matthew 4:10 Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.’”
- Matthew 14:33 Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, “Truly, You are the Son of God.”
- John 5:23 All should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.
- Hebrews 1:6 But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says, “Let all the angels of God worship Him.”
- Revelation 5:13 And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: “Blessing and honor and glory and power Be to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!”



NEW TESTAMENT ASSERTIONS

Confessions of those around Him

○ Peter

- Matthew 16:16 Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

○ Martha

- John 11:27 She said to Him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”

○ Nathanael

- John 1:49 Nathanael answered and said to Him, “Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!”

○ John the Baptist

- John 1:29-34 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”

And John bore witness saying, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him...And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.”

NEW TESTAMENT ASSERTIONS

○ Thomas

- John 20:26-29 Then He said to Thomas, “Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing.” And Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!”

○ Stephen

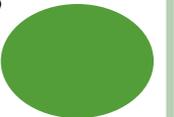
- Acts 7:59 And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.”



NEW TESTAMENT ASSERTIONS

Confessions made by Jesus Himself

- John 5:16-18 “My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working.”
- John 10:30 “I and the Father are one.”
- John 8:19 “If you knew Me, you would know My Father also.”
- John 12:45 “He who beholds me beholds the One who sent me.”
- John 15:23 “He who hates Me, hates My Father also”
- John 5:23 “All may honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.”
- Mark 2:5 Healed the paralytic and forgave his sins
- Mark 14:60-64 In his trial he answers the question “Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?” by saying, “I am.”

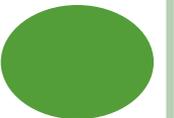


WHO WAS JESUS?

How does the world usually describe Jesus?

- Good man
- Rabbi
- Savior
- Morally upright
- Profound Teacher
- Prophet

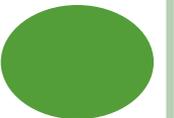
But He claimed to be God!



WHO WAS JESUS?

How can we assess His claim of being God?

1. He was not God.
 - a) He knew it.
 - b) He didn't know it.
2. He was God.

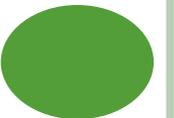


WHO WAS JESUS?

If Jesus was not God, and He knew that He was not God:

- He was deliberately lying
- He was a fool to die for that lie
- He was a hypocrite
- He was a false prophet

To be all those things, He would be unspeakably evil

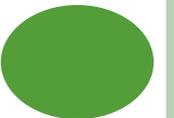


WHO WAS JESUS?

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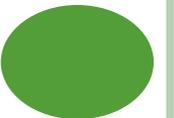
WHO WAS JESUS?

If Jesus was not God, but truly thought He was God:

- He was crazy
- He was delusional

“The discrepancy between the depth and sanity of His moral teaching and the rampant megalomania which must lie behind His theological teaching unless He is indeed God has never been satisfactorily explained. Hence the non-Christian hypotheses succeed one another with the restless fertility of bewilderment.”

– C.S. Lewis

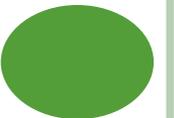


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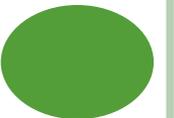
But He claimed to be God!



HE WAS GOD

“Self-deception in a matter so momentous, and with an intellect in all respects so clear and so sound is equally out of the question. How could he be an enthusiast or a madman who never lost the balance of his mind, who sailed serenely over all the troubles and persecutions...who always returned the wisest answer to tempting questions, who calmly and deliberately predicted his death on the cross, his resurrection on the third day, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the founding of his church, the destruction of Jerusalem – predictions which have been literally fulfilled?”

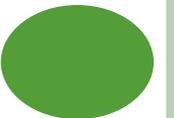
— Philip Schaff

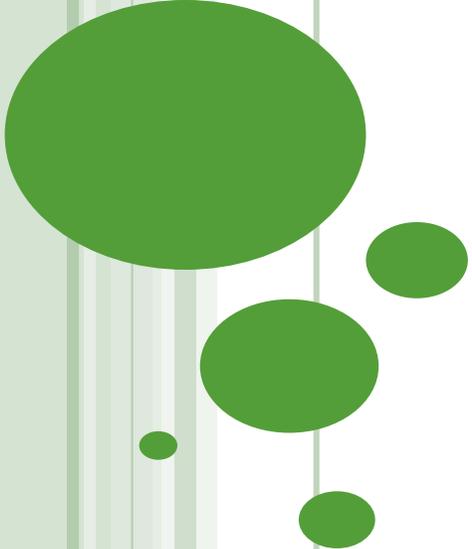


HE WAS GOD

“We can call him a fool, or we can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon, or we can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But we cannot go with such nonsense as he was just a great teacher. He did not leave that option open to us and He never intended to.”

– C.S. Lewis





WHO WAS JESUS?

VALIDITY OF JESUS CHRIST

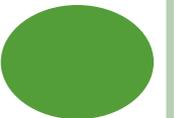
Confidence in the Resurrection of Christ

IS THE RESURRECTION REAL?

Some theories have been proposed to explain away the evidence of the resurrection.

1. The women went to the wrong tomb.
2. Jesus simply swooned or fainted on the cross and didn't actually die.
3. The disciples stole the body.
4. The resurrection was just a legend.
5. The people who saw Jesus after his Resurrection were only hallucinating or dreaming.

These theories fail to explain the empty tomb, the resurrection appearances, or both.



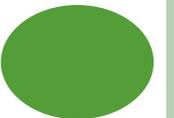
EVIDENCE OF THE RESURRECTION

○ Pre-Resurrection

- Bickered over who would be greater
- Didn't understand the kingdom was not of this world
- Disciples ran and hid
 - Peter – denied Jesus three times
 - Thomas – doubted the Resurrection
 - James, Jesus' brother – never even a disciple during His ministry

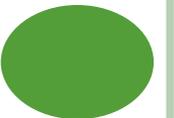
○ Post-Resurrection

- Understood the eternal kingdom and heavenly perspective
- Preached in the face of intense persecution
 - Peter – imprisoned and executed
 - Thomas – preached outside the Roman Empire into Persia
 - James – founded the church in Jerusalem



EVIDENCE OF THE RESURRECTION

- Peter – Crucified (upside down)
- Andrew – Crucified
- Matthew – Killed by sword
- John – Natural death in exile
- James, son of Alphaeus – Crucified
- Philip – Crucified
- Simon – Crucified
- Thaddaeus – Killed by arrows
- James, brother of Jesus – Stoned
- Bartholomew – Crucified
- James, son of Zebedee – Killed by sword
- Thomas – Stoned and stabbed to death
- Stephen – Stoned



EVIDENCE OF THE RESURRECTION

- Paul's conversion

1. It was sincere

- Extended the “right hand of fellowship” from the other disciples

2. His message had been transformed

- Went from being outspoken **against** Christianity to being outspoken **for** Christianity

3. His mission had changed

- Went from hating Gentiles to being a missionary to the Gentiles

4. It led to multiple imprisonments and ultimately his death

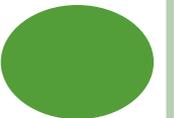
2 Corinthians 11:25-28:

“Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness—besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches.”

RESURRECTION CONSPIRACY

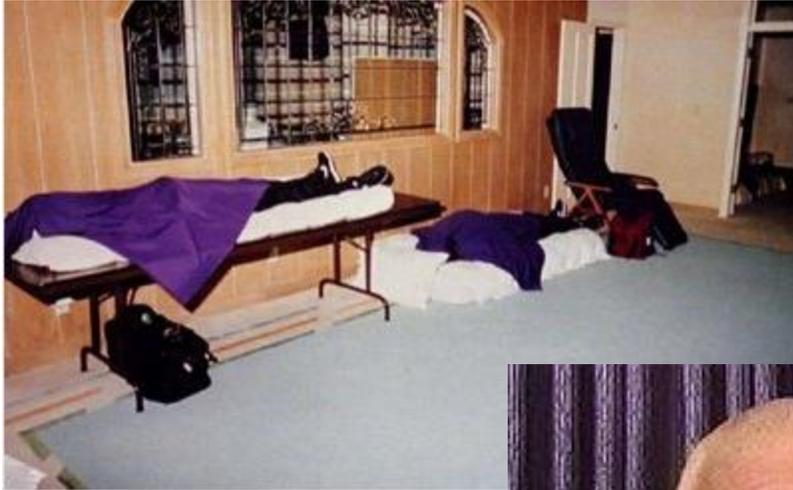
Was the idea of a resurrected Christ just a conspiracy?

- Would they have died for a lie?
- Do people ever die for a lie?



HEAVEN'S GATE

- On March 19, 1997, Marshall Applewhite claimed that a space craft was trailing the comet Hale-Bop. He convinced 38 followers to commit suicide so that their souls could board the supposed craft. Applewhite believed that after their deaths, a UFO would take their souls to a “level of existence above human,” which Applewhite described as being both physical and spiritual.



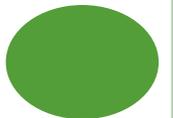
www.documentingreality.com



www.documentingreality.com



www.Wikipedia.com/marshall_applewhite

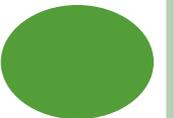


PEOPLE'S TEMPLE

- Founded by Jim Jones in the late 70s, People's Temple was a community of Jones's followers. Known as "Jonestown," it was built to escape American capitalism and to live in communism. In 1978, a California Congressman went to investigate their activities and interview its cult members. As he was leaving, a group of Jones's guards opened fire, killing the Congressman and four others. Jones then told his congregation they wouldn't be able to stay in the commune and had them sacrifice their lives to "preserve" their church. Jones convinced his 909-member community to drink Flavor Aid laced with cyanide.



Photo by David Hume Kennerly/Getty Images



ISLAMIC JIHAD

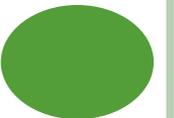
- The most well-known and recent examples of dying for a deeply held belief would be the Islamic jihadists of Al Qaeda or ISIS.
 - Consider the network of terrorists who boarded those planes on September 11, 2001 willing to die in order to further the claims of their religion.
 - They believed their death brought them closer to Allah and would assure them of a heavenly afterlife because of their devotion to the cause



Carmen Taylor/AP file photo

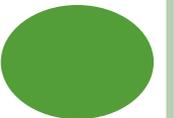


www.Wikipedia.com



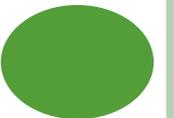
RESURRECTION CONSPIRACY

How are those examples different from the disciples dying for the cause of the deity and resurrection of Jesus Christ?



CONCLUSION

- Jesus clearly asserted His claim of being the Son of God
- We must make a decision about Jesus – we can't stop at Him just being “good.” He was either:
 - Evil
 - Crazy
 - Lord
- The Resurrection was REAL
 - Explains the change in the apostles' behavior and the sincerity of Paul's conversion
 - People do not die for what they know to be a lie
- Because the resurrection was real, we know that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior.



CONCLUSION

- Because we know there is a God and that we have offended this God by every aspect of our behavior, we must find a way to reconcile ourselves to this God
 - But we find there is nothing in our power that can do that
 - Therefore, we must rely on the reconciliation that God Himself provides
- He tells us about this reconciliation in the New Testament, which we know to be true and reliable
- And that reconciliation comes only through the deity, the death, and the resurrection of Jesus Christ
- Now you must answer the question: What will you do with this man who is called Christ?

