

The Historical Jesus

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Introduction

Preview/Core Statement/Thesis: Jesus is the same person characterized in the Bible. He is a historical figure since the Bible is historically accurate. This knowledge demands a decision to accept him as savior from eternal damnation. He is the payment for the penalty of sin. Jesus in the Bible, in archeology, and in other historical writings is the historical Jesus who said he was God and died for the sins of humanity.

Body

- I. The Bible is reliable and speaks authoritatively about many specifics of Jesus' life like his birth, ministry, death and resurrection from the dead.
 - A. Many sayings of Jesus were confrontational to others at the time since they were maintained despite their effect on their listeners and this is a testimony to the accuracy the evangelists who wrote the Gospels maintained.
 - B. The Gospels and Other books of the Bible are the best source of Jesus we have today.
 - C. Biblical References for the Historical Person Jesus
 1. Jesus was really born in human flesh (Phil.2:6; 1Tim. 3:16; 1John 4:2)
He was born into the lineage and family of King David (Rom. 1:3-4, 2Tim 2:8 Acts 13:23)
He was baptized (Rom 10:9)
His word was preached and people believed his message (1Tim 3:16)
He came from the town of Nazareth (Acts 2:22, 4:10, and 5:38)
John preceded Jesus' ministry (Acts 10:37, 13: 24-25)
His ministry began in Galilee, Expanded throughout Judea (Acts 10:37)
Jesus performed many miracles. (Acts 2:22, 10:38)
He fulfilled Old Testament prophecies (Acts 2:25-31; 3:21-25; 4:11; 10:43; 13-27-37)
This is incredible evidence since we have over 300 prophecies written before Jesus' birth which he fulfilled in his life to a tee.
 2. 1Cor 11:23
Jesus attended a dinner on the evening of his betrayal. He gave thanks and shared both bread and drink and then he said this represented his soon atoning sacrifice for sin
 3. **Acts**
Jesus stood before Pilate (Acts 3:13; 13:28)
Who made a good confession about Jesus (1 Tim 6:13)
Jesus was killed (Acts 3:13-15; 13:27-29)
For mankind's sin (1Pet 3:18; Rom 4:25; 1Tim 2:6)
In spite of his righteous life (1Pet 3:18)
Crucifixion was specified as the mode of death (Acts 2:23; 2:36; 4:10; 5:30; 10:39)
It happened in Jerusalem (Acts 13:27; 10:39)

And was carried out by wicked men (Acts 2:23)
 He was buried (Acts 13:29)
 After being dead 3 days he was resurrected (Acts 2:24,31-32; 3:13, 26; 4:10; 5:30; 10:40; 13:30-37; 2Tim 2:8; Acts 10:40)
 He then appeared to his followers (Acts 13:31)
 He ate with them (Acts 10:40-41)
 His students were witnesses all of that happened (Acts 2:32; 3:15; 5:32; 10:39, 41; 13:31)
 After his resurrection Jesus was lifted up to heaven and was glorified and exalted (Acts 2:33; 3:21; 5:31; 1Tim 3:16; Phil 2:6)
 Jesus commanded his disciples to preach salvation in his name (Acts 2:38, 39; 3:19-23; 4:11, 12; 5:32; 10:42, 43; 13:26, 38-41)
 God approved of Jesus (Acts 2:22-24, 36; 3:13-15; 10:42; 13:32-33; Rom 1:3-4; 10:9-10)

4. The person of Jesus Christ: Jesus was called
 - The son of God (Acts 13:33; Rom 1:3-4)
 - Lord (Luke 24:34; Acts 2:36; 10:36; Rom 1:4; 10:9; Phil 2:11)
 - Christ or Messiah (Acts 2:36, 38; 3:18, 20; 4:10; 10:36; Rom 1:4 Phil 2:11; 2 Tim 2:8)
 - Savior (Acts 5:31; 13:23)
 - Prince (Acts 5:31)
 - Holy and Righteous One (Acts 3:14; 2:27; 13:35)
 - God (Phil 2:6)

II. Throughout the Bible there are references that Archaeologists have found to be historically accurate. This supports the Biblical Jesus and further shows that these accounts are genuine. Some examples are:

- A. The Census of Quirinius in (Luke 2:2)
- B. Peter's House a Roman Bathhouse
- C. The remains of Caiaphas the high priest who petition Jesus' death sentence.
- D. Pilot's head stone inscripted with his name and the title "Perfect of Judea."
- E. Many victims of crucifixions have been found.
- F. Pool of Bethesda (John 5:1f) and "The Pavement" (John 19:13)
- G. Jacob's well has also been found (John 4)

III. Archeology supports the Biblical Jesus but what do other historical writers from his time say of Jesus? Many writing have mentioned and pointed to Jesus. Some writing and accounts are:

- A. Tacitus a Roman historian recorded, "Nero's hatred toward Christians and referred to Christus."
- B. Crucifixions were recorded in many writings Josephus, the Talmud, and the Dead Sea Scrolls.
- C. Suetonius considered Christ (Chrestus) as a Roman insurgent who stirred up seditions under the reign of Claudius (A.D. 41-54):
www.creatingfutures.net/birth.html
- D. Pliny acknowledges the high moral principles of the Christians, admires their constancy in the Faith (*pervicacia et inflexibilis obstinatio*), which he appears to

trace back to their worship of Christ (*carmenque Christo, quasi Deo, dicere*).
www.pax-et-veritas.org/Jesus/olddocs.htm

E. Josephus' account of Christ.

Summary Many historical writings, Archeological findings and Biblical references point to the historical Jesus who said he was God and died for the sins of humanity.

Closure: Now that you have seen, Jesus is not a fictional character, will you trust him in light of his deity and death and empty tomb as the forgiver of your sins and the giver of eternal life?

References

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