

## Evidence for Faith Class

### Eight-week course outline

- Faith and Reason
- Truth and Knowledge
- God's existence and the problem of evil
- The Reliability of the New Testament
- Jesus of Nazareth
- The Bible as God's Word
- Bible Interpretation

## Jesus' Extraordinary Claims about Himself

### Jesus claimed to be the only way to the Father

*I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man comes to the Father, but by me. (John 14:6)*

*Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that enters not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. (John 10:1, 7-9)*

### Jesus claimed to be the light of the world

*Then spoke Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that follows me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. (John 8:12)*

## Jesus' Extraordinary Claims about Himself

### Jesus promised to give eternal life to his followers

*My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. (John 10:27, 28)*

### Jesus said a person must lose his life for him in order to truly find life

*He that finds his life shall lose it: and he that loses his life for my sake shall find it. (Matthew 10:39)*

### Jesus promised to manifest himself to those who love Him

*He that has my commandments, and keeps them, he it is that loves me: and he that loves me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. He that loves me not keeps not my sayings: and the word which you hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me. (John 14:21, 24)*

## Jesus' Extraordinary Claims about Himself

### Jesus explained why some people do not hear God's words

*He that is of God hears God's words: you therefore hear them not, because you are not of God. (John 8:47)*

### Jesus claimed to be the long-promised Savior prophesied in the Old Testament scriptures

*Search the scriptures; for in them you think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. (John 5:39)*

*And he said unto them, These are the words which I spoke unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. (Luke 24:44)*

## Jesus' Extraordinary Claims about Himself

### Jesus claimed to be one with the Father

*I and my Father are one. (John 10:30)*

*Jesus said unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet have you not known me, Philip? He that has seen me has seen the Father; and how say you then, Show us the Father? (John 14:9)*

### Jesus claimed to exist before Abraham

*Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am. (John 8:58)*

### Jesus claimed to be greater than Jonah

*The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and, behold, a greater than Jonah is here. (Matthew 12:41)*

## Jesus' Extraordinary Claims about Himself

### Jesus claimed to be greater than Solomon

*The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here. (Matthew 12:42)*

### Jesus promised he would raise Himself bodily from the dead

*Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and will you rear it up in three days? But he spoke of the temple of his body. (John 2:19-21)*

*Therefore does my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man takes it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father. (John 10:17,18)*

## **Jesus' Extraordinary Claims about Himself**

### Jesus promised to come again

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there you may be also. (John 14:3)

### Jesus promised He would judge the world

The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. (Matthew 13:41,42)

## **Jesus' Extraordinary Claims about Himself**

### Jesus promised He would judge the world (cont'd)

Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. Not everyone that says unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that does the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. Therefore whosoever hears these sayings of mine, and does them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that hears these sayings of mine, and does them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it. (Matthew 7:20-27)

## **Jesus' Extraordinary Claims about Himself**

### Jesus claimed to be sinless

Which of you convicts me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do you not believe me? (Jn 8:46)

Jesus promised to be with His followers to the end of the world  
For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them (Matthew 18:20).

And Jesus came and spoke unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen. (Matthew 28:18-20)

## **Jesus' Extraordinary Claims about Himself**

### Jesus accepted worship

While he spoke these things unto them, behold, there came a certain ruler, and worshipped him, saying, My daughter is even now dead: but come and lay thy hand upon her, and she shall live. (Matthew 9:18)

Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God. (Matthew 14:33)

And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him. (Matthew 28:9)

## **Jesus claimed to be God**

- He accepted worship
- He claimed he could forgive sins
- He referred to himself as the Shepherd
- He gave new commandments ("You have heard it said...but I tell you...")
- He claimed to be the light of the world and the bread of life
- He claimed to be the judge of the world
- He referred to himself as the I AM

## **Who is JESUS?**

Jesus is either a liar, a lunatic, or Lord. Someone who is merely a good teacher or good man does not make such claims.

# Who is JESUS?

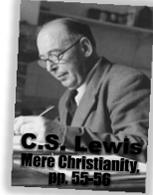
*"I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish things that people often say about Him: 'I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God.' That is the one thing we must not say.*

*A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would rather be a lunatic - on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg - or else he would be the Devil of Hell..."*



# Who is JESUS?

*"...You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to."*



# Jesus Is God

## Evidence for the resurrection

The historical non-theological facts

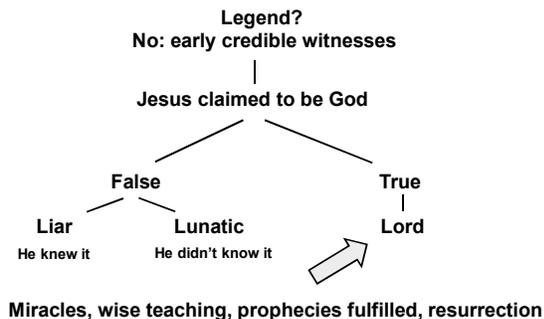
- Jesus was crucified to death on a Roman cross
- Jesus was buried
- The tomb was empty three days after his burial
- The apostles give credible eye-witness testimony to many post-mortem appearances of Jesus
- The disciples of Jesus sincerely believed that Jesus rose from the dead

The best explanation of these historical facts is that Jesus miraculously rose from the dead by the power of God. All other explanations fail.

# NT COPIED FROM Pagan Resurrection Myths?

- Resurrection myths came *after* Christianity not before (*earliest 2nd Century A.D.*).
- NT writers make historical claims- were not writing mythology like resurrection myths.
- Theory can't explain:
  - » Numerous eyewitness details in NT
  - » Embarrassing details of disciples & Jesus
  - » Martyrdom of disciples
  - » Growth of Church (especially in Jerusalem)
  - » Why non-Christian writers tell same story
  - » Jewish, not pagan, founders of Christianity

# Jesus Is God



# The Trinity

1. There is only one God (Deut 6:4; Mk 12:32; James 2:19).
2. There is a plurality of persons in the Godhead (Col 2:9; Rom 1:20; Gen 1:26; 11:7; 1Jn 5:7).
3. God exists in three distinct persons (1Jn 5:7; 2Cor 13:14; Mat 3:13-17; 28:19)—the Father, the Son (the Word incarnate—Jn 1:1,14), and the Holy Spirit.
4. The scriptures teach that
  - a. The Father is God (John 6:27; 1Peter 1:2),
  - b. The Son is God (Jn 1:1; 1Tim 3:16; Isa 7:14 with Mat 1:23; Jn 20:28; Acts 20:28; Heb 1:3,8,10), and
  - c. The Holy Spirit is God (Acts 5:3,4; Heb 9:14; Rom 15:19; Psalm 139:7; Isa 40:13; 1Cor 2:12; Acts 28:25 with Isa 6:8-10; Heb 10:15-17 with Jer 31:31-34; Job 33:4).

# The Trinity

The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit have attributes which can only be ascribed to God, and they perform works which only God could perform.

From the scriptures, one can see the Trinity acting in unity in the following works:

Creation	The Incarnation	The Resurrection	Redemption
Gen 1:3	Gal 4:4	Acts 2:24	Heb 9:14
Jn 1:3	Luke 2:11	Jn 2:19	Heb 9:14
Gen 1:2	Luke 1:35	1Pet 3:18	Heb 9:14

Salvation	Regeneration	Communion
Luke 15:11-24	Luke 10:20	Eph 2:18; 1Jn 1:3
Luke 15:4	Eph 1:7	2Cor 5:19; Jn 16:23
1Cor 6:11	Jn 3:3-6	Eph 2:18; Rom 8:15,16

Note: The three references for each attribute apply to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit respectively.

# The Trinity

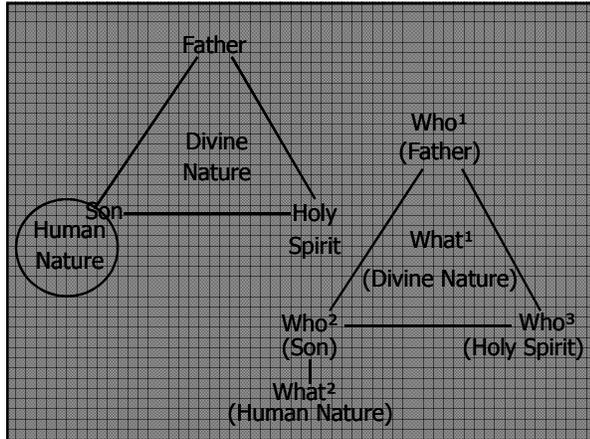
The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit have attributes which can only be ascribed to God, and they perform works which only God could perform.

From the scriptures, the following attributes are common to all three persons of the Godhead.

Eternity	Omnipotence	Omniscience	Omnipresence
Psalms 90:2	Rev 19:6	Psalms 139:1-6	Jer 23:24
Rev 1:8	Mat 28:18	Rev 2:23	Mat 18:20
Heb 9:14	Rom 15:19	Isa 40:13	Psalms 139:7

Holiness	Truthfulness	Goodness	Communion
Rev 15:4	Jn 7:28	Rom 2:4	1Jn 1:3
Acts 3:14	Rev 3:7	Eph 5:25	1Jn 1:3
Luke 1:15	1Jn 5:6	Neh 9:20	2Cor 13:14

Note: The three references for each attribute apply to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit respectively.



# Jesus Is God

What God teaches is true

If Jesus is God, his view of scripture is correct and should be accepted.

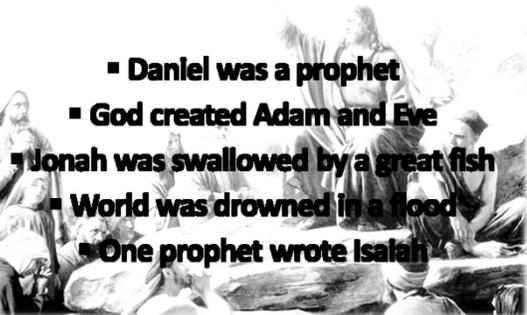
Jesus had a high view of scripture, addressing scripture as God's word.

## SEVEN THINGS JESUS TAUGHT about the Old Testament

1. It Is Divinely Authoritative (Mt. 4:4, 7, 10).
2. It Is Imperishable (Mt. 5:17-18).
3. It Is Infallible (Jn. 10:35).
4. It Is Inerrant (*without error*) (Mt. 22:29).
5. It Is Historically Reliable (Mt. 12:40; Mt. 24:37-38).
6. It Is Scientifically Accurate (Mt. 19:4-5).
7. It Has Ultimate Supremacy (Mt. 15:3, 6).

## Christ vs. the Critics

Christ Affirmed      Critics Deny



- Daniel was a prophet
- God created Adam and Eve
- Jonah was swallowed by a great fish
- World was drowned in a flood
- One prophet wrote Isaiah

## JESUS AFFIRMED the Old Testament

1. *Beginning at Moses... he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.* (Luke 24:27)
2. *The Scriptures . . . testify of Me.* (John 5:39)
3. *From . . . Abel to Zechariah...* (Mt. 23:35)
4. *Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets...* (Matthew 5:17-18)
5. *"It is Written..."*  
The authority of the Old Testament is cited that way 92 times in the NT.

## JESUS PROMISED the New Testament

Jesus promised the Holy Spirit would teach the apostles "all things" and lead them into "all truth".

*"But the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you." – (John 14:26)*

*"However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come." – (John 16:13).*

## WHAT BOOKS should be the Bible?

*"The Canon is a list of authoritative books more than it is an authoritative list of books."*  
Bruce Metzger, Princeton University

### DISCOVERING THE CANON

- Was it written by a prophet of God?
- Was the writer confirmed by acts of God or someone who was confirmed as an eyewitness (e.g. Paul confirmed Luke)?
- Was it accepted by the people of God?

Note: Canon is not required for proving resurrection

## WHAT BOOKS should be the Bible?

### Confirmation of Authorship & Authority

- 25 of 27 books quoted by 110 A.D.
- Gospels & Acts cited during lives of apostles
- Quoted as authoritative and unique
- Collected early in one volume
- Publically read & expounded
- Commentaries written
- Opponents admitted Gospels written by disciples
- No other "gospels" were treated this way

## OBJECTION: What about the Other "Gospels"?

- Gospel of Thomas
- Gospel of Peter
- Gospel of Judas



## The "Gospel" of Thomas

- Forgery written 100 years after NT Gospels.
- Half of Thomas contains blended sayings from the 4 NT Gospels; the sayings are in Syriac and originated in 175 A.D.
- Females are not worthy of life. Must become men to be saved.



## The “Gospel” of Peter



- Forgery, found in a 9th century monk's coffin in Egypt in 1880
- Could be forgery ancient church historians warned was attributed to Peter.
- Anti-Semitic (*not written by a 1st Century Jew*).
- Author is ignorant of first century practices and rulers
- Has embellished resurrection account with a talking cross and Jesus' head stretching to the clouds.

## The “Gospel” of Judas



- Forgery, cited by Irenaeus (2nd century Bishop) as fictitious.
- Does not teach monotheism.
- Says humans are divine.
- Judas was a hero.
- Salvation is by special knowledge (Gnosticism).

## CONCLUSION:

Jesus taught the preservation of scripture, including the Old Testament, His own words, and more truth that He would give his apostles after he left.

He said he would send the Holy Spirit and build his invincible church to carry the record of himself throughout all generations.

By the providential guidance of the Holy Spirit, Jesus' church has been able to recognize, preserve, and teach the Old and New Testament scriptures.

## CONCLUSION:

All other major worldviews and religions contradict some of the major teachings of Biblical Christianity (e.g., major teachings such as God is transcendent and immanent, all people need salvation, Jesus is truly God and truly man, Jesus died for the sins of the world, Jesus rose bodily from the grave, and salvation is only by the grace of Christ through faith in Christ—not by works).

Therefore, Biblical Christianity is the one and only true faith. All biblical doctrines are true. All teachings that contradict biblical doctrines are false.