Why I Believe

Jesus is The Son of God

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* Introduction
  + This is not an academic paper. It’s simply the reasons that I, personally, have come to believe that Jesus is the Son of God. My conclusions are based on my own study of this subject, as well as my life experience as a follower of Jesus for the last forty years. It has helped me to write these things down, and I hope that it will help others as well.
* Outline
  1. Historical Reasons
  2. Biblical Reasons
  3. Personal Reasons
* Historical Reasons
  + Historical evidence for Jesus
    - *“Virtually all scholars of antiquity accept that Jesus was a historical figure.”* (Wikipedia, “Historicity of Jesus”)
    - *“Today nearly all historians, whether Christians or not, accept that Jesus existed…”* (Graham Stanton, The Gospels and Jesus, p. 145)
    - Extra-biblical references to Jesus:
      * Roman Historian, Tacitus (AD 56-118; writing ~AD115)
      * Jewish Historian, Flavius Josephus (AD 38-100; writing ~94AD)
      * Babylonian Talmud (late first or second century AD)
      * Roman Historian, Suetonius (~122AD)
      * Hellenized Syrian, Lucian of Samosata (~180AD)
      * Roman Lawyer, Author, and Magistrate, Pliny the Younger (~113AD)
      * Greek Philosopher, Celsus (2nd Century)
      * Syriac Stoic Philosopher, Mara bar Sarapion (late first century)
      * Greek Historian, Thallus (first century; quoted by early third century Historian, Africanus)
        + (Dr. John Oakes, [www.evidenceforchristianity.org](http://www.evidenceforchristianity.org))
  + Historical evidence for the resurrection of Jesus
    - *The Minimal Facts Argument*, by Dr. Gary Habermas
      * Dr. Gary Habermas is a leading scholar on the resurrection of Jesus Christ. He has a doctorate in History and Philosophy of Religion, and has authored or co-authored 21 books on the subject.
      * He is the originator of *The Minimal Facts* argument based on historical facts that even the vast majority of secular scholars (including skeptics, agnostics and atheists) agree to.
      * Here is the basic outline of the argument…
    - There are six minimal facts on the resurrection that even skeptics accept, according to Dr. Habermas:
      1. That Jesus *died by crucifixion*
      2. That very soon afterwards, his followers had *real experiences* that they thought were actual appearances of the risen Jesus
      3. That their lives were *transformed*as a result, even to the point of being willing to die specifically for their faith in the resurrection message
      4. That these things were *taught very early*, soon after the crucifixion
      5. That *James*, Jesus’ unbelieving brother, became a Christian due to his own experience that he thought was the resurrected Christ
      6. And that the Christian persecutor *Paul* (formerly Saul of Tarsus) also became a believer after a similar experience.

*(“Minimal Facts on the Resurrection That Even Skeptics Accept”, by Dr. Gary Habermas, September 28, 2016)*

* + - Fact #4 above is particularly important: “That these things were *taught very early*, soon after the crucifixion.”
      * Using two scriptures (1 Corinthians 15:1-7 and Galatians 1:11-2:2) from well-attested Pauline letters that secular New Testament scholars agree are authentic, Dr. Habermas shows that the resurrection of Jesus from the dead was proclaimed by the early church *as early as 6 months after the event, or at most, no later than two years after the event occurred.*
        + That makes this evidence the most reliable historical material you can find:

Written no more than two years after the event took place

And taken from eyewitness accounts who were still alive to corroborate their testimony.

* + - Dr. Habermas quotes Skeptic Scholars:
      * Skeptic New Testament Scholar and Historian, Dale Allison says, *“I’m a skeptic, but I’m sure the risen Jesus appeared to his disciples after his death.”*
      * Duke University Historian and New Testament Scholar, Ed Sanders, (who describes himself as *“a liberal, modern, secularized protestant”, Wikipedia)*, says: *“The following is an historical fact: the earliest disciples saw the risen Jesus.”*
    - Point: Using the same rigorous academic scrutiny applied to any other event in history, the resurrection of Jesus from the dead in ~33AD can reasonably be considered as historical fact. This fact does not require any faith in God or in the inspiration of the Bible to believe. It is completely based on historical evidence that the vast majority of critical scholars, both Christian and Non-Christian, accept.
    - For Dr. Habermas’ full presentation of this convincing argument, see:
      * YouTube video: *“*[*The Resurrection Argument That Changed a Generation of Scholars*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ay_Db4RwZ_M)*”*
      * And there’s much more detailed information at [Dr. Habermas’ website](http://garyhabermas.com/)
* Biblical Reasons
  + The many Messianic Prophecies Jesus fulfilled
    - Here are just a few examples:
      * The Messiah would be a descendant of David
        + Prophesied: 2 Samuel 7:12–16 (10th Century B.C.)
        + Fulfilled: Matthew 1:1; Luke 1:30-33 (1st Century A.D.)
      * The Messiah would be born of a virgin
        + Prophesied: Isaiah 7:14 (8th Century B.C.)
        + Fulfilled: Matthew 1:18-25 (1st Century A.D.)
      * The Messiah would be born in Bethlehem
        + Prophesied: Micah 5:2 [Hebrew Bible verse 1] (8th Century B.C.)
        + Fulfilled: Matthew 2:1–6 (1st Century A.D.)
      * The Messiah would come riding on a donkey
        + Prophesied: Zechariah 9:9 (6th Century B.C.)
        + Fulfilled: Matthew 21:1–7 (1st Century A.D.)
      * The Messiah would bear our sins and suffer and die in our place
        + Prophesied: Isaiah 52:13–53:12 (8th Century B.C.)
        + Fulfilled: Acts 8:30–35; 1 Peter 2:21–25 (1st Century A.D.)
      * The Messiah’s hands and feet would be pierced, and people would cast lots for his clothing, while others would mock and jeer him.
        + Prophesied: Psalm 22:1-18 (10th Century B.C.)
        + Fulfilled: Matthew 27:35-46; John 19:23-24 (1st Century A.D.)
      * The Messiah would be resurrected
        + Prophesied: Psalm 16:8–11 (10th Century B.C.)
        + Fulfilled: Acts 2:24-32; Acts 13:32–37 (1st Century A.D.)
    - Q: What’s the point?
    - A: *“We can be confident that Jesus was the Messiah prophesied in Scripture. In fact, because there are 60 major Old Testament prophecies (with about 270 additional ramifications) fulfilled in one person named Jesus, we can be more than confident. The probability that all these prophecies were fulfilled in one person just by chance is overwhelmingly small.” (Dr. Sean McDowell,* [*“Is There Proof for Jesus as Messiah?”, April 14, 2014*](https://seanmcdowell.org/blog/is-there-proof-for-jesus-as-messiah)*)*
      * Note: For some of the main Jewish objections to these prophecies being fulfilled by Jesus, and an excellent Christian response to those objections, see an article entitled, “Messianic Prophecy” on the *Jews for Jesus* website: <https://jewsforjesus.org/jewish-resources/messianic-prophecy>)
  + Four evidences from the New Testament that Jesus is the Son of God
    - His Miracles
    - His Life
    - New Testament Testimonies
    - The Resurrection
  + One: His Miracles
    - Jesus himself pointed to the miracles that he performed as evidence of who he was.
      * John 10:24-26
      * John 14:11
    - Jesus performed many miracles during his three-year ministry.
      * At least 26 of them are specifically recorded in the Gospels.
      * And many more miracles are alluded to generally (Matthew 4:23-24)
    - We can group Jesus’ recorded miracles into four basic categories:
      * One: Healings
        + fever
        + leprosy
        + long term bleeding
        + a withered hand
        + deafness
        + blindness
        + and paralysis
      * Two: Exorcisms
        + drove out demons
      * Three: Controlling nature
        + multiplied loaves and fish
        + cursed and withered a fig tree
        + turned water to wine
        + walked on water
        + calmed a storm
      * Four: Raising the dead
        + Jairus’ daughter
        + widow’s son
        + Lazarus
    - Let’s look at a few of these more closely:
      * Healings
        + Luke 5:12-15 = Jesus heals a leper

This man was “covered with leprosy” (vs. 12)

How very different than the fake healers today who heal people of supposed ailments that cannot be proven. (Example: back-pain, etc.)

You can’t fake healing a leper “covered with leprosy”.

Verse 15 = “Yet the news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses.”

Obviously, the crowds were convinced that Jesus could heal sickness and disease.

Q: Why?

A: Because of healings like this.

* + - * + John 9:1-12 = Jesus heals a man *“born blind”*

The man was *“born blind”,* and yet Jesus enables him to see.

This is an amazing miracle that could not be forged or faked.

The healed man himself testifies to others that Jesus healed him (vs. 11,18)

* + - * Controlling nature
        + John 2:1-11 = Jesus turns water into wine

This miracle could not be forged either.

Water to wine = a miraculous change in chemistry on the spot.

Verses 7-9 = the Servants were witnesses.

Verse 11 = Look at the impact on the Apostles

“What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; *and his disciples believed in him.”*

If Jesus was a fake, the Apostles would have known.

But, instead, they *“believed in him”* and went on to live and die for him.

* + - * + Luke 8:22-25 = Jesus calms a storm

Ever seen any human being stop a storm?

It naturally led to the crucial question of the gospels:

Verse 25 = “In fear and amazement they asked one another, *“Who is this? He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him.”*

* + - * Raising the dead
        + John 11:38-45 = Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead (in front of a large crowd)

Lazarus had been buried for four days (he was certainly dead)

The miracle of his resurrection was witnessed by many people, and many of them put their faith in him as a result:

Vs. 45 = “Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.”

No wonder, this was the last straw for his enemies:

Vs. 47-48 = “Then the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the Sanhedrin.

“What are we accomplishing?” they asked. “Here is this man performing many signs. 48 If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and then the Romans will come and take away both our temple and our nation.”

* + Two: His Life
    - No one ever *spoke* like him
      * John 7:45-46 = “Finally the temple guards went back to the chief priests and the Pharisees, who asked them, “Why didn’t you bring him in?” 46 *“No one ever spoke the way this man does,” the guards replied.”*
        + The temple guards who were sent to arrest Jesus could not bring themselves to apprehend him, because his words were like no other.
        + Q: What was so different about Jesus’ words?
        + A: Author Josh Moody puts it this way: *“Jesus’ teaching, the sheer brilliance of his communication and content, the combination of earthy illustrations and doctrinal depth, clarity and compelling insight all rolled into one, this has never been surpassed, and had never been heard before. Chrysostom was great; Spurgeon was amazing; Whitefield a genius; Cicero remarkable; but in Jesus we meet Someone Other, Beyond, and Better, in a different category altogether.”* (Josh Moody, “No One Ever Spoke Like Jesus”, godcenteredlife.org)
        + English Poet, Charles Lamb, expressed the degree of Jesus’ surpassing greatness this way: *“If Shakespeare were to come into this room, we should all rise up to meet him; but if Christ was to come into it, we should all fall upon our knees.”* (“Jesus - The Same”, Charles Edward Jefferson, pg. 188)
      * Mark 1:21-22 = “They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. 22 *The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority,* not as the teachers of the law.”
        + The authority with which Jesus taught was not the authority of human title, position, or education – it was the authority of one who spoke the very words of God himself (John 3:34).
    - No one ever *lived* like him
      * Hebrews 4:15 = Jesus was “tempted in every way, just as we are—*yet he did not sin.”*
      * John 8:46 = Jesus boldly challenged his adversaries: *“Can any of you prove me guilty of sin?”*
        + Even his enemies could not prove him guilty of sin.
    - No one ever *died* like him
      * Matthew 27:51-54 = “At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split 52 and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. 53 They came out of the tombs after Jesus’ resurrection and went into the holy city and appeared to many people.

*54 When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, “Surely he was the Son of God!”*

* + - * + Even a Roman Centurion and his guards, who witnessed Jesus’ death on the cross and all the supernatural events that surrounded it, came to the conclusion that Jesus was the Son of God (vs. 54).
  + Three: New Testament Testimonies
    - A) The Apostle’s Testimonies
      * The Apostle Paul said Jesus was God
        + He called Jesus *“our great God and Savior” (Titus 2:13)*
        + He said Jesus was *“in very nature God”* and had *“equality with God” (Philippians 2:5-6)*
        + And he said of Jesus, *“The Son is the image of the invisible God…all things have been created through him and for him.” (Colossians 1:15-16)*
        + And hesaid, *“For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form” (Colossians 2:9)*
      * The Apostle John said Jesus was God
        + “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and *the Word was God*. **2**He was with God in the beginning.**3***Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made*…*The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us*. We have seen his glory, the glory of *the one and only Son, who came from the Father*, *full of grace and truth*…For the law was given through Moses; *grace and truth came through Jesus Christ*. *18 No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and[b] is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.” (John 1:1-3, 14, 17-18)*
      * The Apostle Peter said Jesus was God
        + “To those who through the righteousness of *our God and Savior Jesus Christ* have received a faith as precious as ours…” (2 Peter 1:1)

“The grammar of the ancient Greek demonstrates that Peter said that Jesus Christ is our God and Savior. Peter clearly thought that Jesus was and is our God and Savior.” (Commentator David Guzik on this passage)

* + - B) Jesus accepted the disciple’s worship
      * The Apostle Thomas worshipped Jesus as God, and Jesus accepted that worship.
        + John 20:28-29 = “Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!” 29 Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

Note: Compare this to:

Acts 14:11-15, where Barnabas and Paul adamantly refused worship since they are only human beings.

And Revelation 19:9-10, where an Angel adamantly refused John’s worship:

“At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “Don’t do that! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers and sisters who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God!” (Vs. 10)

* + - * The disciples worshiped Jesus after he calmed the storm
        + Verse 32-33 = “And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. 33 Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

Note: the term, “Son of God”, is saying Jesus is Divine. Just as the son of a human is a human, so the son of God is God.

Jesus’ enemies understood it this way

John 10:31-33 = “Again his Jewish opponents picked up stones to stone him, 32 but Jesus said to them, “I have shown you many good works from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?”

33 “We are not stoning you for any good work,” they replied, “but for *blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God.”*

John 19:7 = “The Jewish leaders insisted, “We have a law, and according to that law he must die, *because he claimed to be the Son of God.”*

And Jesus’ disciples understood it this way as well (Colossians 1:15-20; 1 John 5:20; Revelation 1:14-15, 17-18; 2:18; 22:13)

* + - C) Jesus’ own testimony about himself
      * Jesus confirms that he is the Son of God
        + Matthew 16:15-17 = “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

16 Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

17 Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven.”

* + - * Jesus claims to have been given all authority in heaven and on earth
        + Matthew 28:18 = “Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”
      * Jesus claims to have the Divine authority to forgive sins
        + Mark 2:5, 10 = “When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, “Son, your sins are forgiven…But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.”

Q: What’s the significance of this claim?

A: The teachers of the Law understood the significance of that statement:

Vs. 7 = “Why does this fellow talk like that? He’s blaspheming! *Who can forgive sins but God alone?”*

* + - * Jesus calls himself:
        + “the bread of life” (John 6:35; 41; 48; 51)
        + “the light of the world” (John 8:12; 9:5)
        + “the door” (John 10:7, 9)
        + “the good shepherd” (John 10:11, 14
        + “the resurrection and the life” (John 11:25)
        + “the way, the truth, and the life” (John 14:6)
        + “the true vine” (John 15:1, 5)
      * Jesus claims to have come down from Heaven
        + John 6:38, 41-42 = “For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.

…41 At this the Jews there began to grumble about him because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” 42 They said, “Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, ‘I came down from heaven’?”

* + - * Jesus claims to have existed before Abraham
        + John 8:57-58 = “You are not yet fifty years old,” they said to him, “and you have seen Abraham!”

58 “Very truly I tell you,” Jesus answered, “before Abraham was born, I am!” 59 At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds.”

* + - * Jesus claims to have existed “before the world began”
        + John 17:5 = “And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.”
    - This gives rise to Josh McDowell’s famous argument for the deity of Jesus entitled, *“Lord, Liar or Lunatic?”,* which comes from an argument by C. S. Lewis.
      * *C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity: “A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either 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. 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 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.”*
  + Four: The Resurrection
    - There are many evidences that point to Jesus rising from the dead in the New Testament. I’ll briefly mention ten here.
    - One: Jesus said he would rise from the dead
      * Mark 8:31 = “He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again.”
      * We’ve already established that Jesus was either a liar, a lunatic or Lord.
        + If he’s Lord, then this statement cannot be a lie or a delusion. He rose from the dead because he said he would.
    - Two: Jesus’ tomb was found empty; his body is still missing
      * Jesus was buried and three days later his body was missing from the tomb.
      * Despite vigorous efforts to find it over the last 2000 years, Jesus’ body has never been found; it is still missing.
    - Three: The Apostles could not have stolen the body
      * Matthew 27:63-66 = “The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. 63"Sir," they said, "we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise again.' 64So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first."  65"Take a guard," Pilate answered. "Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how." 66So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard.”
        + Josh McDowell, [“Evidence that Demands a Verdict”](https://www.amazon.com/Evidence-That-Demands-Verdict-Life-Changing/dp/1401676707/ref=asc_df_1401676707?tag=bngsmtphsnus-20&linkCode=df0&hvadid=80264466333891&hvnetw=s&hvqmt=e&hvbmt=be&hvdev=c&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=&hvtargid=pla-4583863992865661&psc=1):

*“The situation at the tomb after the resurrection is significant. The Roman seal was broken, which meant automatic crucifixion upside down for those who did it. …The depression and cowardice of the disciples provide a hard-hitting argument against their suddenly becoming so brave and daring as to face a detachment of soldiers at the tomb and steal the body.”*

* + - Four: The inability of the Jews or Romans to produce the body
      * *“The theory that the Jewish or Roman authorities moved Christ’s body is no more reasonable an explanation for the empty tomb than theft by the disciples. If the authorities had the body in their possession or knew where it was, why didn’t they just produce the body when the disciples began preaching the resurrection in Jerusalem? …Such an action would certainly have destroyed Christianity.” (Josh McDowell, ibid)*
    - Five: The guards inexplicably abandon their post and run away
      * Ancient historians tell us that for a Roman Guard Unit to abandon their post was punishable by death.
      * So, why did these soldiers allow Jesus’ body to be stolen?
        + Matthew 28:2-4 = “There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. 4The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.”
    - Six: Jesus appears to women first (a poor lie, but a great truth)
      * Mark 16:9 = “When Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had driven seven demons.”
        + Note: Matthew’s gospel says that “the other Mary” was with Mary Magdalene as well (Matt 28:1-10).
    - Seven: The many convincing proofs over a 40-day period
      * Acts 1:3 = “After his suffering, he showed himself to these men [the Disciples] and gave *many convincing proofs* *that he was alive*. He appeared to them over *a period of forty days* and spoke about the kingdom of God.”
    - Eight: The Apostles change from cowardly to courageous
      * Harvard Law professor, Simon Greenleaf, a man who lectured for years on how to break down testimony and determine whether or not a witness is lying, writes: *“It was therefore impossible that they (the apostles) could have persisted in affirming the truths they have narrated (in the gospels) had not Jesus actually risen from the dead, and had they not known this fact as certainly as they knew any other fact.” (Josh McDowell, Ibid)*
    - Nine: Jesus appears to a hostile witness – Saul of Tarsus, who was later known as the Apostle Paul
      * Some critics assert that Jesus appeared only to those who wanted to see him (believers). But that’s not true.
      * Saul (Paul) was “a hostile witness” (a legal term meaning someone with the opposite motivation of their testimony).
      * But he became Christ’s number one witness after he saw the risen Lord (Acts 26:9-23).
    - Ten: The 500 eyewitnesses that could be cross-examined at the time
      * 1 Corinthians 15:3-6 = “For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. 6After that, *he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.”*
        + Josh McDowell, ibid:

*“Several very important factors are often overlooked when considering Christ's post-resurrection appearances to individuals. The first is the large number of witnesses of Christ after that resurrection morning. One of the earliest records of Christ's appearing after the resurrection is by Paul. The apostle appealed to his audience's knowledge of the fact that Christ had been seen by more than 500 people at one time. Paul reminded them that the majority of those people were still alive and could be questioned. Dr. Edwin M. Yamauchi, associate professor of history at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, emphasizes: "What gives a special authority to the list (of witnesses) as historical evidence is the reference to most of the five hundred brethren being still alive. St. Paul says in effect, 'If you do not believe me, you can ask them..." Let's take the more than 500 witnesses who saw Jesus alive after His death and burial, and place them in a courtroom. Do you realize that if each of those 500 people were to testify for only six minutes, including cross-examination, you would have an amazing 50 hours of firsthand testimony? Add to this the testimony of many other eyewitnesses and you would well have the largest and most lopsided trial in history.”*

* + - Summary of these ten evidences that Jesus rose from the dead:
      1. Jesus said he would rise from the dead
      2. Jesus’ tomb was found empty; his body is still missing
      3. The Apostles could not have stolen the body
      4. The inability of the Jews or Romans to produce the body
      5. The guards inexplicably abandon their post and run away
      6. Jesus appears to women first (a poor lie, but a great truth)
      7. The many convincing proofs over a 40-day period
      8. The Apostles change from cowardly to courageous
      9. Jesus appears to a hostile witness – Saul of Tarsus (Paul)
      10. The 500 eyewitnesses that could be cross-examined
    - Dr. Doug Jacoby
      * *“In light of all of the evidence, it takes more faith not to believe in the resurrection than to accept it as true.” (*[*“True and Reasonable”*](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/963733.True_and_Reasonable)*, pg. 105).*
    - Summary of this section
      * Four evidences that Jesus is the Son of God:
        + One: His Miracles

Healings

Exorcisms

Controlling Nature

Raising the Dead

* + - * + Two: His Life

No one ever spoke like him

No one ever lived like him

No one ever died like him

* + - * + Three: New Testament Testimonies

The Apostles’ testimonies

Jesus’ acceptance of the Disciple’s worship

Jesus’ own testimony

* + - * + Four: The Resurrection

Ten evidences from the New Testament record

* Personal Reasons
  + One: God has revealed himself to me
    - To come to know God is a spiritual endeavor, not merely an intellectual one. It requires a supernatural revelation from God to the individual, according to Jesus.
      * “At that time Jesus said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and *revealed them* to little children. Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do. “All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and *no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him*.” (Matthew‬
      * He went on to say, “This is why I told you that *no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled them*.” (John 6:65)
      * “We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God.” (John‬
  + Two: Jesus’ teachings work
    - I’ve seen how Jesus’ teachings and way of life work - in my own life and the lives of many others – showing that his teachings are from God, and not man.
      * “Jesus answered, “My teaching is not my own. It comes from the one who sent me. Anyone who chooses to do the will of God *will find out* whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own.” (John‬
  + Three: The radical transformation of my life and the lives of other Christians
    - I’ve seen the evidence of the Holy Spirit at work in my life and the lives of others. I’ve seen radical transformation that cannot be explained any other way. And I’ve seen the fruit of the Holy Spirit in my life and the lives of others. I know of no other power available to mankind that gives the internal transformation of the Holy Spirit.
      * “At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior” (Titus‬
      * “The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.” (Galatians‬
  + Four: Christianity, as a world view, explains life better than any other religion or secular theory
    - I am aware of no other explanation of life that fits better than the explanation given by the New Testament. When I compare Christianity with secularism, or any other world religion as an alternative, Christianity stands head and shoulders above the rest.
      * “From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him. “You do not want to leave too, do you?” Jesus asked the Twelve. Simon Peter answered him, *“Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.”*

(John‬ 6:66‬-

* + Five: I have a personal relationship with Jesus that is undeniable for me
    - I know Jesus. We have a personal relationship. You would sooner convince me that my wife of almost 40 years is actually an undercover Russian spy than that Jesus is not the Son of God who has saved and rescued me again and again in my life. There are many ways of “knowing”. Just like most people “know” they love their spouse or children, I know I love Jesus and he loves me. My faith is logical and reasonable - but it’s also personal. And that’s a valid way of “knowing” as well.
    - Yes, the historical proof for Jesus and the resurrection, and the other many, many biblical evidences above satisfy my mind that my faith is not simply wishful thinking, but that it is grounded in historical fact and powerful evidence. But I also know Jesus personally. He has revealed himself to me - over and over again - and he has changed my life radically for the better. I could no sooner deny this truth than I could deny my own existence. And I want that very much for others.
      * “I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, *may give you* *the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.* *I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened* in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.” (Ephesians‬
* Conclusion
  + Summary
    - My faith in Jesus is best described by three major categories of reasoning:
      1. Historical Reasons
      2. Biblical Reasons
      3. Personal Reasons
    - Historical Reasons
      * Historical Evidence for Jesus
      * Historical Evidence for the resurrection of Jesus
    - Biblical Reasons
      * The many Messianic Prophecies Jesus fulfilled
      * Four evidences from the New Testament that Jesus is the Son of God:
        + One: His Miracles

Healings

Exorcisms

Controlling Nature

Raising the Dead

* + - * + Two: His Life

No one ever spoke like him

No one ever lived like him

No one ever died like him

* + - * + Three: New Testament Testimonies

The Apostles’ testimonies

Jesus’ acceptance of the Disciple’s worship

Jesus’ own testimony

* + - * + Four: The Resurrection

Ten biblical evidences for the resurrection:

Jesus said he would rise from the dead

Jesus’ tomb was found empty; his body is still missing

The Apostles could not have stolen the body

The inability of the Jews or Romans to produce the body

The guards inexplicably abandon their post and run away

Jesus appears to women first; a poor lie, but a great truth

The many convincing proofs over a 40-day period

The Apostles change from cowardly to courageous proclaimers of the gospel

Jesus appears to a hostile witness – Saul of Tarsus, who became known as Paul

The 500 eyewitnesses that could be cross-examined

* + - Personal Reasons
      1. God has revealed himself to me.
      2. Jesus’ teachings work.
      3. The radical transformation of my life and the lives of other Christians.
      4. Christianity, as a worldview, explains life better than any other religion or secular theory.
      5. I have a personal relationship with Jesus that is undeniable for me.
  + Obviously, there is much more that could be said about this subject. But these are more than enough reasons for me, personally, to not only believe in Jesus as the Son of God, but to continue to give my life to him as my Lord and Savior, and to face eternity with him by my side.