

What About Creation #9

Just a Man?

Once there were two lawyers riding in a train together. They started to talk about such things as: Is there a God, Is Christ divine, Is there life after death? It did not take very long until the first lawyer made it clear that the second lawyer did not know very much on these subjects. Even though the second lawyer professed to be a Christian, he found himself very ignorant on the most important and basic subjects of Christianity. Later, the second lawyer went on to become governor of New Mexico, and there he wrote a book which he said was the answer to the lawyer he talked to on that train so many years ago. The first lawyer was none other than Robert G. Ingersoll. (A famous skeptic) The second was General Lew Wallace, who in his governor's mansion in Santa Fe, penned his great work Ben Hur, a book built around the life of Christ, as his answer to skeptics. Is Jesus just a man?

The answer to the previous question settles every other question on religion, philosophy, and human life.

What does Jesus claim about himself?

Who does Jesus say that he is? (John 8:58) Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM."

Who uses "I AM" in the Old Testament?(Exodus 3:14) And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

What does Jesus say He is and where does He come from?(John 6:51) I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world."

What does Jesus claim He is and what does He do for his followers?(John 8:12) Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

What does Jesus claim He is and what does He say He alone can do?(John 14:6) Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

With these claims Jesus either is what He says He is, or He is a liar, making Him one of the biggest frauds that has ever walked this earth, or He was a raving lunatic,

making Him one of the craziest persons history has ever witnessed. But He can no longer be just a good man.

What do others say about Jesus?

What did skeptical Thomas say about Him? (John 20:28) And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

What did his relative John say about Him?(John 1:29) The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

What did Peter claim about Him? (Acts 4:12) Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

What did His ex-enemy Paul say? (Acts 26:22-23) Therefore, having obtained help from God, to this day I stand, witnessing both to small and great, saying no other things than those which the prophets and Moses said would come -- that the Christ would suffer, that He would be the first to rise from the dead, and would proclaim light to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles."

Why we can believe these claims

Why die for a lie? Where would the disciples who were cowardly (Matthew 26:56 and John 20:19) get the courage to be martyred unless the resurrected Jesus actually appeared to them? They were afraid of death, so if they made the whole thing up, why would they die for a lie? Why would Paul, a zealous Jewish fanatic, die for something he once despised?

Why not just show the body? The fact that Jesus said He would resurrect bodily would be easy to disprove. If the disciples lied about it, just pull the body out of the tomb. The disciples could not steal the body because of the Roman guard and huge stone covering the tomb.

Was he Historical? Ancient secular writers wrote that He is a real person in history (Cornelius Tacitus, Lucian of Samosata, and Flavius Josephus)

Biggest reason why we can believe – prophecy was fulfilled

Where did it say the Messiah would be born? (Micah 5:2) But you, Bethlehem Ephra-
thah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come
forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From
everlasting." (See Luke 2:1-7)

What would the Messiah's ministry be like? (Isaiah 61:1-3) "The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn, 3 To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified." (See Luke 4:16-21)

How would the Messiah come into Jerusalem? (Zech 9:9) "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey. (See Matthew 21:5)

Who would betray Him? (Ps 55:12-13) For it is not an enemy who reproaches me; Then I could bear it. Nor is it one who hates me who has exalted himself against me; Then I could hide from him. But it was you, a man my equal, My companion and my acquaintance. (See Matthew 26:47-50)

How much was He betrayed for? (Zech 11:12-13) Then I said to them, "If it is agreeable to you, give me my wages; and if not, refrain." So they weighed out for my wages thirty pieces of silver. And the LORD said to me, "Throw it to the potter" -- that princely price they set on me. So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the LORD for the potter. (See Matthew 27:3-9)

What would be His attitude while He is sacrificed for us? (Isaiah 53:4-7) Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth. (See John 1:29; Acts 8:32-35)

What would happen to the Messiah during His death? (Ps 22:16,18) For dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet... They divide My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots. (See Luke 23:33, 24:39; Matthew 27:35)

During His death what would not break? (Ps 34:20) He guards all his bones; Not one of them is broken. (See John 19:36)

Was it a coincidence? It is possible that someone might have fulfilled two or three of the prophecies, but it would be insane to say that about someone who fulfilled all 48 major prophecies of the Messiah. The probability of just one person fulfilling 8 of the prophecies by coincidence would be 1 in 10^{17} . That's a 1 with 17 0's behind it. We can not even think in numbers like that. If there were 100,000,000,000,000,000 silver dollars laid all over Texas, they would cover the whole state 2 feet deep. Now mark one of those dollars and stir them all up, then send a blind man randomly though the state to pick the right one. Also, he has only one chance to pick the right one. What do you think are the chances that he would pick the right one? Just the same as having one man coincidentally fulfill just 8 of the prophecies. What is even more impossible, is for him to do that to 48 of them.

More than a good Man

When I was in high school, I thought Christians were very fake. They were not better than I was morally. The only difference was that they made a proclamation that they were Christian. When I realized that Jesus had to be more than just a good man, I wanted to get to know more about Him. I wanted a personal relationship with this awesome person. Just like the wise men who were not Jewish, and who traveled extreme distances because of a prophecy about a star in Numbers 24:17. I too, after seeing the prophecies of Christ, wanted to do whatever it took to be able to worship him and give him the glory He deserves. The ultimate way to glorify someone is to imitate him. The word Christian means to be like Christ. I therefore wanted to be a real Christian. The good news is that He wants that too. He wants to "save you from sin" not "in sin." There is victory in Jesus. With a personal relationship with Him, He can give you victories in your life too. The question is: Will you let Him?