

NOT
BLIND
FAITH

Verifiable
EVIDENCE

God exists and Jesus Rose from the Dead

Paul Blair

NOT BLIND FAITH

The Verifiable Evidence That God Exists and Jesus Rose from the Dead

How many times have you heard sceptics mockingly accuse Christians of blind faith? Atheists and agnostics equate a person's belief in Christ as the equivalent to believing in the Easter Bunny or Santa Claus.

Although one may become emotional when he or she decides to become a follower of Jesus Christ, Christianity is not based on feelings or emotions. True Christianity is trusting in Christ and what He has done for us, which is based on verifiable evidence that God exists and that Jesus rose from the dead.



The famous intellectual agnostic who converted to Christianity because of the overwhelming abundance of evidence, C. S. Lewis, said, **Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and if true, of infinite importance. The only thing it cannot be is moderately important.**¹

The problem with Christianity in America, and the reason Christianity is becoming irrelevant, is too many professing Christians act as if Jesus is only moderately important. The term “Christian” literally means “follower of Christ”. Every person in the Bible who came face to face with the resurrected Christ was radically changed. I’m afraid we have too many church members and not enough Christ followers in America.

Before proceeding, let me ask an honest question my friend Frank Turek likes to pose.

If Christianity were true, would you become a Christian?

¹ The Collected Letters of C.S. Lewis, Volume 2, HarperCollins, 2009, p. xi
Read more at <http://izquotes.com/quote/111533>

WHAT IS FAITH? *Belief that vs. belief in*

Everyone has faith, and we demonstrate it routinely. For example, I have faith in airplanes. I have seen them fly. I have read about flying. I have met people who have flown. Based upon this evidence, several times a year I invest my faith and trust into airplanes as I travel across the country. **My intellect convinces me to have faith in flying. When I actually board the plane, my intellect becomes faith as I am literally trusting the plane and crew to get me to my destination safely.**

In other words, there are actually two kinds of faith: *belief that* and *belief in*. Just like the airplane example, there is a difference between *belief that* Jesus is the Savior, and *believing in* Jesus as the Savior. *Belief that* is based on evidence. Even the demons believe *that* God exists.² *Belief in* is a personal decision you make to follow Jesus.

So Christianity is anything but a blind faith. It urges us to get evidence *that* it is true, and then *trust* in Jesus for salvation (John 20:31).



Faith is choosing to trust something or someone based upon the evidence.

FACTS MATTER

In every case, faith is only rewarded if it is based upon facts.

If I asked my wife to hand me the hair spray, but she accidentally handed me the bug spray, my faith would be overruled by the facts. It wouldn't matter what I believed was true, all that matters was what actually was true.

If I left the lights on in my car overnight and got in the car the next morning, it doesn't matter how much faith I have in the car starting—the fact the battery is dead would overrule my faith.

² James 2:19, Holy Bible



The facts are the facts. Either God exists, or He does not. Either Christianity is true, or it is not. It is critical our faith be based upon facts and not feelings or theories.

CHRISTIANITY IS A FACTUAL FAITH

The Book of Hebrews, chapter 11, is often called the “Faith Hall of Fame” as it details some champions of faith found throughout the Bible. Verse 1 states a very important set of facts:

***Faith is the substance of things hoped for
the evidence of things not seen.*³**

God can stand our inspection. In fact, throughout the Bible He challenges man to trust Him and proves He is trustworthy. God does not demand or expect blind faith. Hebrews 11:1 identifies two methods of examination.

First: Faith is based on substance. The Greek word for substance is “*hupostasis*”; it means “a foundation” an actual substructure, a real tangible, measurable, firm thing.⁴ It includes evidence from a measurable or scientific perspective. We do not have blind faith. Our faith is built on something tangible.

Second: Faith is based on evidence. Evidence in the Greek language is “*elegchos*” and is a legal term meaning testimony offered that is sufficient for conviction.⁵



The saving Faith upon which God elaborates in Hebrews 11 is based upon two proofs; scientific measurable evidence and eyewitness legal testimonial evidence. Together they build a convincing case.

³ Hebrews 11:1, King James Version, Holy Bible

⁴ <http://www.biblestudytools.com/lexicons/greek/kjv/hupostasis.html>

⁵ <http://www.sermonindex.net/modules/articles/index.php?view=article&aid=33754>

SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE

Science is defined as the systematic knowledge of the physical or material world gained through observation and experimentation.⁶

With this definition in mind, recognize there is not one single example of life coming from non-life or something coming from nothing in scientific history. And if things could pop into existence out of nothing, by nothing, our confidence in science would be shaken. Science relies on the fact that every effect has a cause. Yet evolutionary scientists expect you to believe **EVERYTHING** came from nothing and by nothing and that **ALL LIFE** came from non-life by blind natural laws – which themselves cry out for an explanation (a lawgiver).

Psalm 19:1 proclaims, *“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.”*

Whether you look in the mirror, or walk through the park on a sunny day, or gaze through a telescope into the heavens, or stare through a microscope into cellular organisms, evidence for the existence of God is everywhere. Something designed, must have a designer. Something created, must have a creator. Something built, must have a builder. Reason demands the existence of a creator. Logic demands the existence of a creator. Experience demands the existence of a creator.

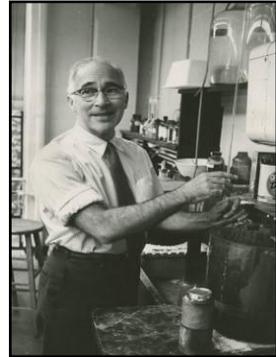
EVOLUTION IS BLIND FAITH!

Every day, classrooms ranging from elementary schools to graduate level college classes are teaching from textbooks the unquestioned doctrine of evolution. But what do the leading scientists who actually write the textbooks and conduct the experiments have to say? Consider the following statements from these brilliant atheists in their own words.

⁶<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/science>

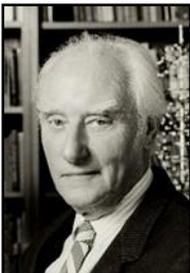
George Wald was a brilliant Harvard scientist and 1967 Nobel Prize winner for Medicine. Consider his following quote from an article entitled "The Origin of Life" published in *Scientific American*, August, 1954, p.46:

"The reasonable view was to believe in spontaneous generation; the only alternative, to believe in a single, primary act of supernatural creation. There is no third position. For this reason many scientists a century ago chose to regard the belief in spontaneous generation as a "philosophical necessity." It is a symptom of the philosophical poverty of our time that this necessity is no longer appreciated.



*Most modern biologists, having reviewed with satisfaction the downfall of the spontaneous generation hypothesis, yet unwilling to accept the alternative belief in special creation, are left with nothing...**One has only to contemplate the magnitude of this task to concede that the spontaneous generation of a living organism is impossible. Yet here we are as a result, I believe, of spontaneous generation.**"*

An amazingly honest assessment! There are only two options: spontaneous generation or divine creation. Spontaneous generation was proven scientifically impossible, but this only left one alternative which Wald refused to believe. Therefore, he chose to believe in what he knew was impossible. Is this science? No, it is blind faith!



Sir Francis Crick was a British molecular biologist, biophysicist, and neuroscientist, most noted for being a co-discoverer of the structure of the DNA molecule in 1953 with James Watson. Together with Watson and Maurice Wilkins, he was jointly awarded the 1962 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.

Crick observed when noting the complexity of design and coding within DNA, *"For life to form by chance is mathematically virtually impossible."*

As a Christian, I would agree.

He continues, *“The DNA evidence speaks of intelligent, information-bearing design. Complex DNA coding would have been necessary for even the hypothetical first so-called ‘simple cell(s).’”*

Crick accurately concludes life could not have begun spontaneously by accident and notes a highly intelligent designer seeded life on planet earth.

Again, I agree with Crick’s belief in intelligent design.

But instead of recognizing the creation account of Genesis, Crick, an avowed atheist, concluded, *“Life did not evolve first on Earth; a highly advanced civilization became threatened so they devised a way to pass on their existence. They genetically-modified their DNA and sent it out from their planet on bacteria or meteorites with the hope that it would collide with another planet. It did, and that’s why we’re here.”*⁷

Really? An alien planet facing destruction placed its DNA on meteorites and sent those meteorites into the universe and one landed on earth. Is this the origin of man? Actually, I thought it was the story of how Superman got here.

Is this science? Is there any experimentation, observation or repeatability in which the scientific process could lead one to that conclusion? No. It is not science it is blind faith.

Charles Darwin believed over time the fossil record would prove true his theory of gradual transitional changes from one species to another. However, after 150 years of looking there is no evidence to substantiate Darwin’s claims as Dr. Stephen Gould, a Harvard Professor of Paleontology and Geology, admits:

“The extreme rarity of transitional forms in the fossil record persist as the trade secret of paleontology. The evolutionary

⁷ Crick, Francis and Orgel, Leslie E (1973). "Directed Panspermia" (PDF). *Icarus* 19 (3): 341–346. Bibcode:1973Icar...19..341C. doi:10.1016/0019-1035(73)90110-3. Crick later wrote a book about directed panspermia: Crick, Francis (1981). *Life itself: its origin and nature*. New York: Simon and Schuster. ISBN 0-671-25562-2



*trees that adorn our textbooks have data only at the tips and nodes of their branches; **the rest is inference**, however reasonable, **not the evidence of fossils**....We fancy ourselves as the only true students of life's history, yet to preserve our favored account of evolution by natural selection we view our data as so bad that we never see the very process we profess to study.”⁸*

What an admission! “We never see the very process we profess to study.” The evolutionary trees that adorn textbooks are not based on observation, but by “inference,” in another words, imagination. Is this science?



The famous evolutionary tree which adorns biology textbooks is a myth. It exists no place except in text books. There are no transitional fossils.

Consider the Universe Itself. Genesis 1:1 tells us everything which exists had a beginning from a source outside of time, space and matter as God created time, space and matter. In fact, our passage on faith in Hebrews makes reference to Creation.

Hebrews 11:3 *Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.*



Everything which exists (time, space and matter) had a beginning from outside time, space and matter.

For decades, evolutionary scientists refuted the creation account claiming the “Steady State” theory. The Steady State Theory claimed the universe always was. Since there was no beginning, there was no need for a *beginner*. However, science has proven otherwise. The Bible says, we know by faith, God spoke everything into existence out of

⁸ Stephen J. Gould - "Evolution's Erratic Pace," *Natural History*, vol. 86 (May 1987), p. 14.

nothing. The evolutionists now know everything did come from nothing and everything did have a beginning.



NASA Scientist Robert Jastrow, himself an agnostic, acknowledged, *“Astronomers now find they have painted themselves into a corner because they have proven, by their own methods, that the world began abruptly in an **act of creation** to which you can trace the seeds of every star, every planet, every living thing in this cosmos and on the earth...That **there are what I or anyone would call supernatural forces at work is now, I think, a scientifically proven fact.**”*⁹

Arno Penzias, Nobel Laureate in Physics, 1978, concluded, *“The best data we have [concerning the Big Bang] are exactly what I would have predicted had I nothing to go on but the five books of Moses, the Psalms, and the Bible as a whole.”*¹⁰

We know scientifically time, space and matter had a beginning, where they leapt into existence. It is a miracle no one debates. Evolutionists believe in this miracle just as Christians do—they just refuse to believe in the Miracle Worker. Non-Christian scientists¹¹ like Jastrow even use the word “creation”, they just refuse to accept the idea of a Creator.

As Robert Jastrow summarized in *God and the Astronomers*:

*“For the scientist who has lived by faith in the power of reason, the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled the mountains of ignorance; he is about to conquer the highest peak; as he pulls himself over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries.”*¹²

⁹ A Scientist Caught Between Two Faiths: Interview With Robert Jastrow, Christianity Today, August 6, 1982:

¹⁰ New York Times on March 12, 1978

¹¹ <http://www.leaderu.com/truth/1truth18b.html>

¹² *God and the Astronomers* (1978), p. 116; (p. 107 in 1992 edition)



It is not the science which drives a biologist to believe in evolution, it is the desire to deny the existence of a Deity. If God exists, then man is accountable to Him.

Consider the stark admission by Dr. Richard Lewontin, an evolutionary Marxist and Biologist from Harvard:



“Our willingness to accept scientific claims that are against common sense is the key to an understanding of the real struggle between science and the supernatural. We take the side of science in spite of the patent absurdity of some of its constructs, in spite of its failure to fulfill many of its extravagant promises of health and life, in spite of the tolerance of the scientific community for unsubstantiated **just-so stories**, because we have a prior commitment, a commitment to materialism. It is not that the methods and institutions of science somehow compel us to accept a material explanation of the phenomenal world, but, on the contrary, that we are forced by our a priori adherence to material causes to create an apparatus of investigation and a set of concepts that produce material explanations, no matter how counter-intuitive, no matter how mystifying to the uninitiated. Moreover, that materialism is an absolute, for **we cannot allow a Divine Foot in the door.**”¹³

Actually, if the Bible were true, then we would find three things in nature.

First, we would find whole *kinds* appearing in the fossil record rather than transitional forms. This is exactly what we do find as Dr. Stephen Gould from Harvard previously acknowledged .

Second, we would find evidence of a global catastrophe through fossilization and rapid burial. Dead things don't become fossils. They rot, get eaten by scavengers or get washed away by the elements. For things to fossilize, one

¹³ Billions and billions of demons (review of The Demon-Haunted World: Science as a Candle in the Dark by Carl Sagan, 1997), The New York Review, p. 31, 9 January 1997:

necessary component is rapid burial. There are thousands of fossils from around the world like this one pictured. Here we see a fish eating another fish buried in an instant and frozen in time.



Third, we would find evidence of a global flood. In 1953, when Sir Edmond Hillary scaled Mt Everest his expedition discovered fossilized clams at an elevation of around 24,000 feet. Similar finds of fossilized sea creatures have been found at elevation on mountain ranges around the world. How did they get there?

Richard Lewontin admitted evolution is an “*unsubstantiated, just so story*” because science cannot allow “*a divine foot*” in the door. Likewise, Harvard scientist George Wald confessed to “*choosing to believe the impossible*” because the only alternative was divine creation. That is not science. That is blind faith. The evidence reasonably points to a beginning and a beginner.

As previously stated, even atheists believe in a miracle when they point to the Big Bang. They just refuse to believe in the Miracle Worker because with the existence of God, comes consequences.

As the famous humanist philosopher and author Aldous Huxley professed in his book *Ends and Means*:



*"I had motives for not wanting the world to have meaning, consequently assumed it had none, and was able without any difficulty to find satisfying reasons for this assumption. **The philosopher** who finds no meaning in the world **is not concerned exclusively with a problem in pure metaphysics; he is also concerned to***

prove there is no valid reason why he personally should not do as he wants to do. For myself, as no doubt for most of my contemporaries, the philosophy of meaninglessness was essentially an instrument of liberation. The liberation we desired was simultaneously liberation from a certain political and economic system and liberation from a certain system of morality. We objected to the morality because it interfered with our sexual freedom.”¹⁴

As these many atheist scientists and philosophers profess with their own words, they are not driven by science. They are driven by the philosophy of meaninglessness. If there is no God, then they can establish their own standards for morality without accountability to a Creator. Unfortunately for them, their faith is not based upon the facts.



**Scientific evidence is on the side of the Bible.
Christian Faith is based on “substance.”**

GOD HAS GIVEN US LEGAL TESTIMONIAL EVIDENCE

The Jews weren't looking for someone to die for them. They were expecting a Messiah to deliver them from Roman bondage. This is even what Jesus' disciples were expecting as they were constantly bickering amongst themselves over who would sit on Jesus' right and left hands once he assumed the throne in Jerusalem.

But Jesus, in fulfillment of Zechariah 9:9, Isaiah 53:6, and Daniel 9:26, came the first time to die for our sins. He is coming again as King of kings and Lord of lords.

Regarding the purpose of His first coming 2000 years ago, Jesus clearly and repeatedly said, He was going to be killed in Jerusalem. But Jesus also said, He wasn't going to stay dead. Just as Jonah was in the belly of the whale for three days and three nights (Matthew 12:40), so would Jesus be in the grave.

¹⁴ End and Means, New York: Garland Publishers, 1938, P. 270

Matthew 20:17-19 *And Jesus going up to Jerusalem took the twelve disciples apart in the way, and said unto them, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and unto the scribes, and they shall condemn him to death, And shall deliver him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify him: and the third day he shall rise again.*¹⁵

There are ample extra-Biblical historical records documenting the existence of Jesus of Nazareth – his baptism by John, his crucifixion by Pilate, the miracles he worked and even the fact that his disciples believed he rose from the dead and were willing to die for that belief. These are historical facts substantiated by secular historical sources outside the Bible.¹⁶ The question is what happened to the body?

After three days the stone was found removed, the body was gone, but the grave clothes were still in place. Now there are four possible explanations to explain the missing body.

- 1) **Swoon theory**
- 2) **Mistaken/Wrong Tomb theory**
- 3) **Stolen body theory**
- 4) **Jesus rose from the dead**

Swoon Theory. Jesus body, once in the cool of the grave, got better and simply got up, moved the stone and escaped. According to the Biblical account, Jesus received 351 lashes with barbed whips, was physically beaten by soldiers, had a crown of thorns with barbs nearly 2” long pressed into his forehead, was nailed to a cross and had a spear pierce his heart to assure his death before being removed from the cross.

His death was corroborated in multiple official Roman documents including a report by Tacitus, a Roman politician and historian, who recorded, *“Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of*

¹⁵ Matthew 20:17-19, King James Version, Holy Bible

¹⁶ F.F. Bruce, *Jesus & Christian Origins Outside the New Testament*

*Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilate.*¹⁷

Roman soldiers were experts in death. It is unreasonable to believe they were mistaken in declaring him dead if he was not. Furthermore, to allege Jesus, after all the physical abuse and loss of blood, got better while lying in the tomb, and found the strength to move a 3,000 pound stone¹⁸ covering the tomb's entrance is also beyond reason. Finally, to think the stone could be moved away without alarming the trained soldiers guarding the tomb should remove all doubt this theory is absurd.

Mistaken/Wrong Tomb theory. While the Swoon Theory is the most absurd, this one is the most laughable. Imagine the situation. Jesus had been the biggest thorn in the flesh of the Sanhedrin (the Jewish ruling body) and the Priesthood (the Jewish religious leadership) for around three years. Jesus had humiliated them and outwitted them time and again causing them much embarrassment before the public. They had been plotting for years to kill Jesus and now finally they were successful. Their public enemy number one was dead.

According to the Bible, the leadership knew their problems with Jesus were not yet over, as He had promised to rise from the dead after three days.

Matthew 27:62-66 *The chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate, Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again. Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first. Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way, make it as sure as ye can. So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch.*¹⁹

¹⁷ Tacitus (55-115 C.E.), The Annals, XV: 44

¹⁸ http://www.knowtruth.com/christ/resurrection/fact5_tomb_empty.php

¹⁹ Matthew 27:62-66, King James Version, Holy Bible

They were finally successful in killing their biggest enemy. All they had to do to crush any belief in Jesus was to produce His dead body four days after his death and prove He had not risen from the dead. They placed a watch of Roman soldiers to guard the tomb and sealed it with an official seal which invoked the full authority and power of Caesar and the Roman government. Considering this, how unreasonable is it to suggest the reason they could not produce the body was they forgot where Jesus was buried?

The Sanhedrin were composed of the most intellectual men in Judea and the Roman Legionnaires were the finest fighting force on the planet. Apparently, we are supposed to believe they were really the Keystone Cops.

The Stolen Body Theory. While the Swoon Theory is the most absurd, the Mistaken/Wrong Tomb Theory the most laughable, the Stolen Body Theory is the most unlikely.

The gospel accounts consistently describe the disciples as fully expecting Jesus to assume the Throne of David and re-establish the literal Kingdom to Israel immediately. They were recorded as constantly bickering amongst themselves as to who would have the greatest positions of authority in this Kingdom.

At the time of the arrest of Jesus, the Bible says all his disciples fled in order to save their own lives. In fact, one person fled in such fear he ran out of his clothes in order to escape.

Mark 14:50-52 *And they all forsook him, and fled. And there followed him a certain young man, having a linen cloth cast about his naked body; and the young men laid hold on him: And he left the linen cloth, and fled from them naked.*²⁰

Additionally, during the mockery of His trial, while Jesus was still alive, even His most outspoken and courageous disciple, Peter, denied knowing Him on three different occasions within one night.

²⁰ Mark 14:50-52, King James Version, Holy Bible

Considering one of the Twelve betrayed Jesus unto death and the other eleven ran away while He was still alive in order to save their own lives, why would these remaining eleven, who had shown to be self-serving cowards, somehow now summon the courage to risk their lives to steal His now dead body? And for what reason? They were Jews—they already thought they were God’s chosen people. They had no motive to make up a story about the resurrection.

What is the likelihood of a group consisting of at least four fishermen and a tax collector with a combined two swords between them²¹ being able to outmuscle a watch of well trained, combat veteran Roman Legionnaires?

Remember, they did not have explosive devices or automatic weapons. These eleven ordinary men would have been faced with hand to hand fighting to overpower these well trained combat veterans. Maybe it is possible, but it is very unlikely.

But this theory does not explain the radical transformation in the lives of these eleven.

JESUS ACTUALLY ROSE FROM THE DEAD

Remember, the NT documents admit the disciples as so consumed with self-interest they were fighting amongst themselves over who was most important. Consistent with their self-interest, after Judas’ betrayal the remaining eleven disciples all fled and hid when Jesus was arrested with Peter openly denying he even knew Jesus on three different occasions. One follower ran out of his clothes in order to escape – trying to save his skin.

So why were they all willing to die horrible deaths rather than recant their belief that Jesus had risen from the dead? Between the NT documents and other ancient historical writers we find all these disciples suffered horrible torture or martyrdom including beheadings, impalement, crucifixion and stoning.

²¹ Luke 22:38, King James Version, Holy Bible

According to the nationally renowned cold case homicide detective and now Christian apologist, J. Warner Wallace, there are three main reasons why someone would want to engage in a lie: (1) Financial gain, (2) Passion (often sexual), (3) Gain power.

The Apostles received none of these things!!

All they had to do in order to save their lives was recant their faith in Jesus being risen from the dead.

If they had somehow somehow overpowered the Roman guard and stolen the body and they knew Jesus had not really risen from the dead, then what did they get out of their lie?

Did they receive the adoration of women or fame? No, they received infamy.

Did they receive power? No, they faced prison.

Did they receive wealth? No, they received poverty, suffering and death.



Many people have died for a lie, but they died thinking it was the truth. Why would these men die horrible deaths for what they knew wasn't true?



If the Jews or Romans knew where the body was, they could have crushed this new sect called Christians by refuting the resurrection.



It is unreasonable to believe eleven cowardly civilians could overpower a watch of Roman combat veterans.



Thousands of Jewish men were crucified by the Romans. Why does the entire world measure time around the birth of THIS humble man named Jesus?

"The only logical answer is the tomb was empty and Jesus appeared to His disciples alive just as He had promised."

BELIEF IN CHRIST IS THE ONLY LOGICAL CONCLUSION

The Hebrew Scriptures prophesied the coming of the promised Messiah and went into great detail about His birth, life, death and resurrection. These prophecies were made beginning in Eden 4000 years before Jesus' birth and continuing through Malachi 400 years before His birth.²²

Oxford scholar Alfred Edersheim, a Messianic Jewish Christian and Bible scholar, compiled a list of 456 identifying characteristics and prophecies of the promised Messiah fulfilled by Jesus.²³

Dr. Peter Stoner, professor emeritus of science at Westmont College, calculated the probability of one man fulfilling just eight very specific major prophecies. His figures were then reviewed and verified by a committee of the Executive Council of the American Scientific Affiliation.²⁴

Stoner looked at these eight very specific prophecies:

1. Born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2).
2. A messenger was sent to prepare the way (Malachi 3:1).
3. Made a triumphant entry into Jerusalem as a king riding on a lowly donkey (Zechariah 9:9).

²² Copies of the Old Testament Scriptures that dated to 100 BC were found amongst the Dead Sea Scroll find of 1948. When compared with what was previously the oldest Masoretic Hebrew Text of the Old Testament which dated 1000 AD, the Scriptures were proved to be accurate and unchanged.

²³ The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth, Alfred Edersheim, <http://www.ccel.org/ccel/edersheim/lifetimes.toc.html>

²⁴ American Scientific Affiliation, H. Harold Hartzler, Ph.D., Secretary-Treasurer, Goshen College, Ind. (Peter Stoner, Science Speaks: Scientific Proof of the Accuracy of Prophecy and the Bible, 1944, Foreword).

4. Betrayed by a friend resulting in wounds in the hands (Zechariah 13:6).
5. Price of betrayal was 30 pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:12).
6. The blood money was used to buy a potter's field (Zechariah 11:13).
7. Offered no defense at his trial (Isaiah 53:7).
8. His hands and feet were pierced (Psalm 22:16).

These were chosen because of their extreme specificity. There was nothing vague about these eight selected prophecies. The statistical estimate of one man fulfilling all eight of these prophecies accidentally was a staggering one in 10 to the 17th power.²⁵

In an attempt to grasp this number, imagine filling Texas (over 260,000 square miles) with silver dollars two feet deep. If you took one silver dollar and painted a red "x" on it and tossed it into the middle of the state and mixed up the silver dollars. Imagine then, being lowered by helicopter in some random location within the state and, while blindfolded, reaching blindly into the silver dollars and pulling out the one marked with the red "x".

Those are the odds of one man being so unlucky as to accidentally fulfil those eight specific prophecies by chance.

Dr. Stoner expanded his calculations and determined the odds of one person by chance fulfilling 48 of these prophecies. The statistical odds skyrocketed with a probability of one in 10 to the 157th power. (NOTE: According to the famous French mathematician Emile Borel, once one goes past one chance in 10 to the 50th, the probabilities are so small it is deemed impossible.)

²⁵ Peter Stoner, *Science Speaks*, Chicago: Moody Press, 1969

To grasp that number, consider the estimated number of electrons in the known universe is 1×10^{80} .²⁶ In order to arrive at the sum of 10 to 157th electrons, we would need 1×10^{77} **UNIVERSES** full of electrons.

So imagine instead of silver dollars, we used electrons and took one electron and painted a red “x” on it and threw it into the middle of 1 x 10,000 billion, billion²⁷ universes and mixed them up. Then, we launched a spaceship and flew at the speed of light for 100 years and reached out arbitrarily by chance and grabbed the one electron marked with the “x”.

That absurd illustration is only considering the *by chance* fulfillment of 48 prophecies.

Now, consider the odds of fulfilling all 456 of the 456 prophecies identified by Alfred Edersheim.

Christians do not have blind faith. **It is factually and statistically impossible Jesus wasn't the promised Savior of the World!**



As Dr. Stoner concluded, “Any man who rejects Christ as the Son of God is rejecting a fact proved perhaps more absolutely than any other fact in the world.”²⁸

Believe and then, believe.

The man Jesus of Nazareth is a fact of history.

According to F.F. Bruce's book, *Jesus & Christian Origins Outside the New Testament*, if you had no Bible and only had the historical accounts of Josephus, Tacitus, Lucian, Thallus,

²⁶ <http://io9.com/5876966/what-if-every-electron-in-the-universe-was-all-the-same-exact-particle>

²⁷ Calculations by Dr. Terrill Hulson

²⁸ Dr. Peter Stoner, *Science Speaks*, Chapter 3 http://sciencespeaks.dstoner.net/Christ_of_Prophecy.html

Suitonius, Pliny the Younger, and the Jewish Talmud, then you would learn this of Jesus:

1. Jesus lived during the time of Tiberius Caesar.
2. He lived a virtuous life.
3. He was a wonderworker.
4. He had a brother named James.
5. He was acclaimed to be the Messiah.
6. He was crucified under Pontius Pilate.
7. An eclipse and earthquake occurred when he died.
8. He was crucified on the eve of the Jewish Passover.
9. His disciples believed He rose from the dead.
10. His disciples were willing to die for their belief.
11. Christianity spread rapidly as far as Rome.
12. His disciples denied the Roman gods and Worshipped Jesus as God.²⁹

Jesus' life is a fact of history. Jesus' death on the cross is a fact of history. The testimony of the empty tomb is a fact of history.

This simple Jewish man, a carpenter by trade, never conquered a city, amassed a fortune, or travelled the world. This Jewish man was crucified by the Romans, as thousands of other Jewish men were, **yet this man's life was so significant that the dating of world history revolves around his birth. Why was he so special?**

²⁹ F.F. Bruce, Jesus & Christian Origins Outside the New Testament

Because of the empty tomb! He is the Son of God who died for our sins and rose from the dead. The Bible proclaims Jesus rose from the dead proving our penalty for sin was paid in full and because Jesus lives, we too will live forever with Him by trusting in Him as our Savior and surrendering to Him as THE LORD.

These are the facts, about Jesus. The facts are important. But even the demons know the truth. In fact, they tremble from it.

James 2:19 *You believe that “God is one”? Good for you! The demons believe it too — the thought makes them shudder with fear!*³⁰

It's not enough to believe about Jesus. Are you willing to trust Jesus' sacrifice for your salvation and bend your knee to Him as your LORD?

But step one precedes step two. You must believe about Him, before you can decide to TRUST IN HIM.

You first must recognize what the truth is – then you surrender your life to it. You can know all about airplanes and never take a flight, because you refuse to trust in one. You can know all about Jesus, but never bend your knee to Him as Savior and Lord.

The facts are these:

- Evidence from science and philosophy shows the universe had a beginning out of nothing.
- Since space, time and matter had a beginning, the cause must be spaceless, timeless and immaterial. That is God!
- God created the universe from nothing, which is the greatest miracle in the Bible. Since that miracle is true, every other miracle recorded in the Bible must at least be possible.

³⁰ James 2:19, The Complete Jewish Edition, Holy Bible

- God created man unique from all other creation. Man was created to have a personal relationship with God.
- Man was given free will. God demonstrated His love for man, but man is not forced to love or worship God in return.
- All men, beginning with Adam, have sinned. Sin separates us from a perfect and Holy Creator.
- If we die separated from God, we will spend eternity separated from God.
- God loved us so much, He provided the payment for the penalty of our sin. The wages of sin is death – Romans 6:23. The Creator stepped into creation as the man: Jesus Christ.
- Jesus died on the cross paying for our sins and rose from the dead proving our sins were paid for and He was and is the Son of God.

Jesus said in John 3:16-18:

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. 18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.³¹



The choice is ours. We can either place our trust in Jesus and confess He is our Lord and Savior, or reject Him. God won't force you into Heaven against your will.

³¹ John 3:16-18, King James Version, Holy Bible

The Apostle Paul said in Romans 10:9-13:

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 11 For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed (disappointed). 12 For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. 13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.³²

Christianity is not simply a creed to recite, a club to join or a ritual to follow. Christianity is a restored relationship with a Holy God by trusting in Jesus Christ as your Savior and walking with Him as Lord.

It begins with a conscious decision on your part. Praying is talking to God. If you want to trust Jesus as your Savior and Lord, then simply bow your head and ask Him. You might say something like this:

Heavenly Father, I know that I am sinner and fall short of your perfect standards, but I know that you love me and that Jesus died for me – He gave His life to save mine. Jesus I ask you to forgive me of all my sins and I surrender my life to follow you as my Lord. Thank you Jesus for saving me. Amen.

The prayer of faith is not magic words, but a heart's cry.

Next, call the best Christian you know and tell him/her what you have done. Then, go to a solid Bible believing church (there are many that aren't) and tell the minister you would like to make your profession of faith in Jesus public by being baptized.

All this is the beginning of a new life. You will want to read your Bible, pray daily and attend church weekly for fellowship, accountability and to grow in your faith and knowledge of Jesus. Then, tell others about the Jesus you know and love and above all, let them see Jesus in you!

³² Romans 10:9-13, King James Edition, Holy Bible

For prayer, more information about your new life in Christ or to order more books, contact:



Reclaiming America for Christ
1230 N. Sooner Road
Edmond, OK 73034
(405) 796-PRAY * info@ra4c.org

Suggested resources for further study:

- *More Than a Carpenter*, Josh McDowell
- *I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist*, Norm Geisler and Frank Turek
- *Cold Case Christianity*, J. Warner Wallace
- *Mere Christianity*, C. S. Lewis
- *The Case for Christ*, Lee Strobel
- *Christianity for Skeptics*, Dr. Steve Kumar and Dr. Jonathan Sarfati
- *Evidence that Demands a Verdict*, Josh McDowell

NOT BLIND FAITH: The Verifiable Evidence That God Exists and Jesus Rose from the Dead – authored by Pastor Paul Blair with the assistance of Dr. Frank Turek and Dr. Jim Burkett. Edited by Aliph Peterson.