

1 Peter Series

Lesson #098

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Dean Bible Ministries

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GIVING AN ANSWER – PART 16

LORD, LIAR, OR LUNATIC?

*PREDICTING HIS OWN
RESURRECTION*

1 PETER 3:15

1ST PETER

**LIVING IN LIGHT
OF ETERNITY**

**Developing a base set of answers to
common questions:**

CAN WE TRUST THE BIBLE?

WHO WAS JESUS?

DID JESUS REALLY RISE FROM THE DEAD?

Developing a base set of answers to common questions:

CAN WE TRUST THE BIBLE?

WHO WAS JESUS?

PROPHECIES FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

DID JESUS REALLY EXIST?

WERE JESUS' CLAIMS CONFIRMED?

DID JESUS REALLY RISE FROM THE DEAD?

Matt. 16:13, “When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, ‘Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?’

Matt. 16:14, “So they said, ‘Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’ ”

Matt. 16:15, “He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’

Matt. 16:16, “Simon Peter answered and said, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’ ”

**Jesus:
Lord, Liar, Lunatic**

“I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing 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 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 mad man 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 up with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.”

~C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

“This testimony, if not true, must be downright blasphemy or madness. The former hypothesis cannot stand a moment before the moral purity and dignity of Jesus, revealed in His every word and work, and acknowledged by universal consent. Self-deception in a matter so momentous, and with an intellect in all respects so clear and so sound, is equally out of the question.”

~Philip Schaff, *History of the Christian Church*

“How could He be an enthusiast or a madman who never lost the even balance of His mind, who sailed serenely over all the troubles and persecutions, as the sun above the clouds, who always returned the wisest answer to tempting questions, who calmly and deliberately predicted His death on the cross, His resurrection on the third day, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the founding of His Church, the destruction of Jerusalem— predictions which have been literally fulfilled?”

~Philip Schaff, *History of the Christian Church*

“A character so original, so complete, so uniformly consistent, so perfect, so human and yet so high above all human greatness, can be neither a fraud nor a fiction. The poet, as has been well said, would in this case be greater than the hero. *It would take more than a Jesus to invent a Jesus.*”

~Philip Schaff, *History of the Christian Church*

Contributions of Judeo-Christianity

- **Hospitals, which essentially began during the Middle Ages.**
- **Orphanages, developed from Christianity.**
- **Universities, which also began during the Middle Ages. In addition, most of the world's greatest universities were started by Christians for Christian purposes.**
- **Literacy and education of the masses.**
- **British Common Law and the freedoms of Britain.**
- **The abolition of slavery, both in antiquity and in modern times.**
- **Modern science.**
- **The discovery of the New World by Columbus.**
- **The colonization of America.**
- **The freedoms enshrined in the Constitution.**
- **Representative government, particularly as it has been seen in the American experiment.**
- **The separation of political powers.**
- **Benevolence and charity; the Good Samaritan ethic.**
- **Higher standards of justice.**
- **The elevation of the the value of every human life.**
- **The civilizing of many barbarian and primitive cultures in Europe, Africa, India, South America.**
- **The codifying and setting to writing of many of the world's languages.**
- **The greater development of art and music. The inspiration for the greatest works of art.**
- **The countless lives transformed from liabilities into assets to society because of the gospel.**
- **The eternal life received by many.**

What did Jesus Claim About Himself?

Mark 14:60, “And the high priest stood up in the midst and asked Jesus, saying, ‘Do You answer nothing? What is it these men testify against You?’”

Mark 14:61, “But He kept silent and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked Him, saying to Him, ‘Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?’ ”

Mark 14:62, “Jesus said, ‘I am. And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven.’”

Mark 14:63, “Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, ‘What further need do we have of witnesses?’”

Mark 14:64, “ ‘You have heard the blasphemy! What do you think?’ And they all condemned Him to be deserving of death.”

TWO ALTERNATIVES

His Claims were FALSE

His Claims were TRUE

(Two Alternatives)

He is the LORD

He KNEW His claims were FALSE

He did NOT KNOW His claims were FALSE

(Two Alternatives)

You can ACCEPT

You can REJECT

He made a DELIBERATE MISREPRESENTATION

He was a LIAR

He was SINCERELY DELUDED

He was a HYPOCRITE

He was a LUNATIC

He was a DEMON

**He was a FOOL
for He died for it**

Matt. 27:43, “He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now if He will have Him; for He said, ‘I am the Son of God.’ ”

John 10:25, “Jesus answered them, ‘I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father’s name, they bear witness of Me. ...’”

John 10:30, “ ‘I and My Father are one.’”

John 10:31, “Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him.”

John 10:32, “Jesus answered them, ‘Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?’

John 10:33, “The Jews answered Him, saying, ‘For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God.’ ”

John 5:17, “But Jesus answered them, ‘My Father has been working until now, and I have been working.’”

John 5:18, “Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.”

John 8:58, “Jesus said to them, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.’”

John 8:59, “Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.”

John 8:19, “Then they said to Him, ‘Where is Your Father?’ Jesus answered, ‘You know neither Me nor My Father. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also.’”

John 8:20, “These words Jesus spoke in the treasury, as He taught in the temple; and no one laid hands on Him, for His hour had not yet come.”

Mark 14:61, “But He kept silent and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked Him, saying to Him, ‘Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?’

Mark 14:62, “Jesus said, ‘I am. And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven.’

Mark 14:63, “Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, ‘What further need do we have of witnesses?’

Mark 14:64, “ ‘You have heard the blasphemy! What do you think?’ And they all condemned Him to be deserving of death.”

John 19:7, “The Jews answered him, ‘We have a law, and according to our law He ought to die, because He made Himself the Son of God.’ ”

“If Jesus was a liar, a con man, and therefore an evil, foolish man, then how can we explain the fact that He left us with the most profound moral instruction and powerful moral example that anyone has ever left? Could a deceiver—an imposter of monstrous proportions—teach such unselfish ethical truths and live such a morally exemplary life as Jesus did? The very notion is incredible.”

~Josh McDowell

“I know men; and I tell you that Jesus Christ is not a man. Superficial minds see a resemblance between Christ and the founders of empires and the gods of other religions. That resemblance does not exist. There is between Christianity and whatever other religions the distance of infinity. ... Everything in Christ astonishes me. His spirit overawes me, and His will confounds me. Between Him and whoever else in the world, there is no possible term of comparison. He is truly a being by Himself. His ideas and sentiments, the truth which He announces, His manner of convincing, are not explained either by human organization or by the nature of things. ...”

~Napoleon Bonaparte

“The nearer I approach, the more carefully I examine, everything is above me—everything remains grand, of a grandeur which overpowers. His religion is a revelation from an intelligence which certainly is not that of man. ... One can absolutely find nowhere, but in Him alone, the imitation or the example of His life. ... I search in vain in history to find the similar to Jesus Christ, or anything which can approach the gospel. Neither history, nor humanity, nor the ages, nor nature, offer me anything with which I am able to compare it or to explain it. Here everything is extraordinary.”


~Napoleon Bonaparte

So, Who IS Jesus?

John 11:27, “She said to Him, ‘Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.’ ”

So, Who IS Jesus?

John 20:28, “And Thomas answered and said to Him, ‘My Lord and my God!’ ”



The Resurrection of Jesus

Matt. 28:1–10

Mark 16:1–11

Luke 24:1–12

John 20:1–18

“I have come to the conclusion that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is one of the most wicked, vicious, heartless hoaxes ever foisted upon the minds of men or it is the most amazing fact of history.”

~Josh McDowell

John 8:58, “Jesus said to them, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.’”

John 8:59, “Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.”

“The resurrection cannot verify Jesus’ claim to be God unless He was resurrected in the body in which He was crucified. That body was a *literal, physical body*. Unless Jesus rose in a material body, there is no way to verify His resurrection. It loses its historically persuasive value.” (emph added)

~Norm Geisler

Rom. 1:3, “concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh,

Rom. 1:4, “and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.”

Peter's Sermon in Acts 2:17–40

Acts 2:29, “Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. [Psa. 16:8–10]”

Acts 2:30, “Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne,”

Peter's Sermon in Acts 2:17–40

Acts 2:31, “he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption.

Acts 2:32, “This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses.”

Peter's Sermon in Acts 2:17–40

In this message Peter shows:

- 1. The resurrection was prophesied in the Old Testament**
- 2. The resurrection was witnessed to by the apostles**
- 3. The resurrection became the foundation for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit**
- 4. The resurrection authenticates Jesus' Messianic and royal claims**

“Our Saviour’s resurrection ... is truly of great importance in Christianity; so great that His being or not being the Messiah stands or falls with it: so that these two important articles are inseparable and in effect make one. For since that time, believe one and you believe both; deny one of them, and you can believe neither.”

~John Locke

“The resurrection of Christ is therefore emphatically a test question upon which depends the truth or falsehood of the Christian religion. It is either the greatest miracle or the greatest delusion which history records.”

~Philip Schaff, *History of the Christian Church*

John 2:18, “So the Jews answered and said to Him, ‘What sign do You show to us, since You do these things?’”

John 2:19, “Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.’”

John 2:20, “Then the Jews said, ‘It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?’”

John 2:21, “But He was speaking of the temple of His body.

John 2:22, “Therefore, when He had risen from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this to them; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had said.”

Matt. 12:38, “Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered, saying, ‘Teacher, we want to see a sign from You.’”

Matt. 12:39, “But He answered and said to them, ‘An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.”

Matt. 12:40, “ ‘For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.’ ”

Matt. 16:21, “From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.”

Matt. 17:9, “Now as they came down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, ‘Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man is risen from the dead.’ ”

Matt. 17:22, “Now while they were staying in Galilee, Jesus said to them, ‘The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men,

Matt. 17:23, “ ‘and they will kill Him, and the third day He will be raised up.’ And they were exceedingly sorrowful.”

Matt. 20:18, “Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death,

Matt. 20:19, “and deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock and to scourge and to crucify. And the third day He will rise again.”

Luke 9:22, “saying, ‘The Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.’ ”

Mark 9:10, “So they kept this word to themselves, questioning what the rising from the dead meant.”