

Apologetics

A 13-week outline lesson plan
By Bradley Cobb

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Apologetics

An Introduction

Apologetics: Week One
Introduction to the Study

What Is Apologetics?

- Intro:
1. Now, seemingly more than in any other time, apologetics is needed.
 2. “Apologetics” comes from “apologia,” which means “a formal, usually written, defense or justification of a belief, theory, or policy”¹
 3. God is being attacked on many different fronts by different people.
 - a. There are some that completely deny His existence.
 - b. Some will acknowledge His existence, but deny the Scriptures are really His Word and are inspired by Him.
 - c. There are literally billions of people in the world today who do not believe that Jesus Christ was the Son of God, and is indeed deity.²
 4. Because of this, and the constant onslaught of teachings that come along with these three topics, we are devoting our time for the next quarter to studying apologetics - the defense of the truth of these things.

I. Why should anyone study apologetics?

A. Everyone should study apologetics to establish or solidify their own faith in God, His Word, and His Son Jesus.

1. Perhaps you are sitting, thinking, “I already believe in God and those other things.”
2. Why do you believe?
 - a. Is it just because that is what you’ve been taught?³
 - b. Or have you weighed the evidence?
3. God never expected people to operate on “blind faith.”
 - a. God sent the ten plagues on Egypt so that They would know that He was the Lord (Exodus 14:4).
 - b. God sent the quail and the manna to the children of Israel in the wilderness so that they would know that He was the Lord (Exodus 16:12).
 - c. Jesus performed miracles so that people would see that He was from God (John 3:2).
4. God has always, since the beginning of time, shown His existence.
5. Our faith must be built on the evidence, not on what someone else has told us.

B. You should study apologetics so that you can teach others.

1. There are many in the world who call themselves “agnostics” who say that there is not enough evidence to prove God exists or to prove that He doesn’t exist.⁴
2. Simply put, these people just don’t know what to think.

¹ Encarta World English Dictionary: “Apologia.”

² This issue is dealt with in lesson 10. As strange as it might seem to some of us, this denial of Jesus’ deity is held by the majority of people living today.

³ Remember that Aquila and Priscilla had to teach Apollos more perfectly the way of the Lord. He did not have all the evidence, and thus was teaching an inadequate gospel (Acts 18:24-26). We must be ready to search the evidence to find out if these things are true (see Acts 17:11).

⁴ The word “agnostic” means “no knowledge.” (Encarta) They believe it is impossible to know if God exists.

3. Most want to know one way or the other, and the only way to prove it to them is to show them all of the evidence.
 4. You would not want a judge deciding a case against you without presenting him with all of the evidence, so why would you not want to teach a lost soul and show them all the evidence for the existence of God?
 5. When you have that faith that is rock-solid because it is based on all of the evidence, you are much more likely to convince someone else to become a Christian.
- C. You need to study apologetics so that you can combat false teachings.
1. In the schools (and everywhere else for that matter), evolution is being paraded as the truth about the origin of man and everything else.⁵
 - a. This denies the existence of God.
 - b. This denies that the Bible is inspired from God.
 - c. This denies that Jesus exists.
 2. We must be able to combat these falsehoods that are being taught to everyone, especially our children.
 3. There are false teachings even within the church that need to be combated with apologetics.
 - a. There are those who say they believe in God, but also claim to believe in evolution.
 - b. This contradicts Genesis 1, Exodus 20:11, 31:17, and others which clearly state that creation began and ended in a total of six 24-hour days.
 - c. This would make Moses a liar or uninspired.
 - d. If Moses was uninspired, so was Jesus who quoted him and who was called the prophet like Moses (Acts 3:22).
 - e. To say evolution is true is to, ultimately, deny the inspiration of the Bible and the deity of Jesus Christ!

II. Can these things really be proven?

- A. Yes! They can be proven!
- B. God gave us everything that pertains to “life and godliness” (II Peter 1:3).
 1. This would include proof that He indeed exists.
 2. If there was no proof God’s existence, there would be nothing on which to base faith.
- C. The heavens declare that God exists (Psalm 19:1).
 1. The fact that there is design in the universe shows that someone had to design it.
 2. The fact that nothing comes from nothing shows that someone had to create the universe.⁶
- D. The complete accuracy of the Bible (even though it had many writers over a period of 1500 years) historically, doctrinally, and scientifically screams out that it is inspired of God.
 1. Skeptics have tried over and over to show the Bible as being historically wrong on

⁵ Nearly every science textbook in public schools teaches the theory of evolution as a fact, and offers no alternative.

⁶ The Law of Biogenesis states that living things can only come from other living things, and not from non-living material. Basically stated, spontaneous generation is impossible.

- something, yet it always turns out that they were wrong and the Bible was right.⁷
2. The Bible has stated scientific facts that were not discovered until thousands of years later.⁸
 3. The Bible predicted specific world events, sometimes tens and sometimes hundreds of years before they happened.⁹
- E. The Bible records all the things we need to believe in Jesus as the Son of God (John 20:30-31).
1. Once we establish the inspiration of the Bible, we can see that Jesus Christ is indeed the Son of God.
 2. The Jews heard Him say this, and they called it blasphemy because they knew it meant that He was claiming to be deity (John 10:24-23).
 3. Jesus truly was God (John 1:1).

- Conc.: 1. We will see in the rest of this study various things that prove the existence of God, the inspiration of the Scriptures, and the deity (God-ness) of Jesus Christ.
2. We will also look at arguments used against these things and show why they are wrong and should not be accepted.
 3. Ultimately, the goal of this study is to make your faith strong and to help bring others to Christ.

⁷ See later lessons on the inspiration of the Scriptures for specific examples.

⁸ Again, see later lessons on the inspiration of the Scriptures for specifics.

⁹ Specifically, the destruction of Jerusalem was predicted by Jesus approximately 40 years before it happened (Matthew 24:2-3); Daniel prophesied the Babylonian Empire would fall to the Persian Empire, which would fall to the Greek Empire of Alexander the Great, and that there would be a fourth kingdom, that being Rome. It was during the days of the Roman Empire that the church would be established. Daniel wrote this hundreds of years before the fact (Daniel 2, especially verse 44).

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Does God Exist?

Part I: Design Demands a Designer

Apologetics: Week Two
Does God Exist? - Part I

Design Demands a Designer (aka The Teleological Argument)

- Intro:
1. Charles Darwin, and others like him, have tried to undermine the very basis of the entire Bible: that God exists.
 2. Because we can not have a true faith in Christ without hearing the evidences (Romans 10:17), it follows that if we want a true faith in God, we must hear the evidences of His existence.
 3. It is no longer a given that people believe in God; for that reason as well, we must know the evidences that prove the existence of God.

I. Design does not happen by accident.

- A. Thomas Edison did not knock over a pile of metal and glass and discover it became a light bulb.
 1. He worked for years on the design for the incandescent bulb.
 2. He failed multiple times with other insufficient designs, but finally found a design that worked.¹⁰
 3. Was this design by accident?
- B. The Wright brothers did not create their airplane by accident.
 1. They were meticulous in figuring out weight, wingspan, horsepower, balance, etc...
 2. They put massive thought into their design.
- C. Nothing that is designed came about by a mere accident.
 1. Design always involves intent.
 2. Intent implies someone involved in the designing.

II. Design does not happen on its own.

- A. A watch did not simply come into existence on its own, let alone the millions of other watches that exist in this world.
 1. The fact that it exists shows that it was made by someone.¹¹
 2. The fact that there is design to it (mechanical, electrical, aesthetic) shows that someone (or more than one person) designed it.
- B. There is design to the earth.¹²
 1. If the earth was not tilted on the 23 degree axis, there would either be no change in seasons, or such extreme changes that no plant life could survive.¹³
 2. If the earth was closer to the sun, mankind could not survive the temperature and exposure to the sun; if the earth was further away, we would all freeze to death.
 3. The earth has a perfect spin, not too fast, and not too slow.
 4. It is 100% perfect for life to be sustained on it.

¹⁰ Roderick, Bill: "Design Demands a Designer" - Sermon given at the Gravel Hill church of Christ 07/06/2008.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Jackson, Wayne. Fortify Your Faith. (Apologetics Press, 1974).

¹³ Gish, Duane, Ph. D. "Have You Been Brainwashed?" - (tract, Creation-Life Publishers, 1974).

- C. There is design to things on the earth.
 - 1. The human body is more complex than any machine ever created (Psalm 139:14).
 - 2. The nervous system is still not fully understood.¹⁴
 - 3. DNA is called the human's blueprint (design).¹⁵
- D. That there is design to the earth and to things on the earth proves that there is a designer.
 - 1. The Darwinist and atheist expect us to believe that the perfect design of the universe, the earth, the human body, and everything else in the world came about by complete accident.¹⁶
 - 2. But they readily concede that the existence of design in a watch proves that someone designed it.

III. Design proves that God exists.

- A. Psalm 19:1 - The heavens declare the glory of God.
 - 1. The fact that the sun and stars exist screams out the existence of God.
 - 2. God created them to be used for "signs and seasons" (Genesis 1:14).
 - 3. The stars were set in the sky to be used as "signposts" for travel. Naval ships still use them to this day along with their GPS equipment.¹⁷
- B. Romans 1:20 - The invisible things are understood by the visible things.
 - 1. We see order (design) in the natural world; therefore, we know there was something behind it.
 - 2. We see the complexity, yet perfect design, of man; therefore, we know someone created it.
- C. Mankind did not create the universe, the earth, nor man himself.
 - 1. Man is by far the most intelligent creature on this planet.
 - 2. It is admitted by all that man could not ever create the universe, the earth, or even plants or animals.
 - 3. Therefore, someone more intelligent than anyone on earth had to have created everything.
 - 4. Who could that be?

- Concl:
- 1. Design does not happen by accident, and never has.
 - 2. Anything designed must, by definition, have someone that designed it.
 - 3. The universe, the earth, and everything on earth show design.
 - 4. Therefore, they all must have been designed by someone.
 - 5. That someone is God.

¹⁴ Harrub, Brad. "The Human Nervous System: Evidence of Intelligent Design [part II]." *Reason and Revelation*, September 2005.

¹⁵ *Evolution/Creation*. Unsigned article

¹⁶ Harrub, "Nervous System."

¹⁷ Roderick. "Design"

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Does God Exist?

Part II: The Moral Argument

Apologetics: Week Three
Does God Exist? - Part II

The Moral Argument (aka the Anthropological Argument)

- Intro:
1. As we discussed last week, there are arguments that prove the existence of God.
 2. This week, we shall look at something common to all civilizations: morality.
 3. Because morality exists, it had to originate somewhere.
 4. II Peter 1:3 - God has given all things pertaining to life and godliness; that includes our own moral conscience!

- I. Man has an inherent moral consciousness.¹⁸
 - A. Regardless of where you go, there are some moral laws that are the same in every culture throughout history.
 1. The unwarranted taking of another's life is condemned in every culture.
 2. Selfishness is decried in every culture.¹⁹
 3. Other activities or attitudes are similarly seen as wrong.
 - B. Even children have a sense of right and wrong.²⁰
 1. If someone steals their toy, do they not know it is wrong?
 2. If a boy cuts in line, do the other children not get upset because it is wrong to cut?
 3. If a child hits another, the one hit knows that it was wrong.
 - C. The most devout atheist can claim there is no standard of morals to no avail.
 1. If his children were kidnapped, do you not think that he'd declare that a wrong had been perpetrated?²¹
 2. If his wife was murdered, do you think he would say "it is fine?"
 3. Almost everyone admits that there is evil in this world; but that means good also exists. Something can only be judged evil when compared with the good.²²
 - D. There is a moral code inherent in every person.
 1. It can be abused to where the moral consciousness is almost non-existent.
 2. While it may differ in some respects from culture to culture, the similarities are amazing.²³

- II. Animals do not have this moral consciousness.
 - A. We would not place a bull on trial for goring a man.²⁴
 1. It is obvious that the bull has no moral conscious.
 2. No one would think to force this animal to defend itself in a court of law because of this fact.
 3. The bull might be killed, but that would be only to keep it from being a danger to

¹⁸ Jackson, Wayne. *Fortify Your Faith, "Moral Consciousness."* (Apologetics Press, 1974), pages 20-21.

¹⁹ *ibid.*

²⁰ Northrop, Chuck. *Class Notes: Apologetics.* Bible Institute of Missouri, 2009.

²¹ Jackson. *Moral Consciousness.*

²² Northrop. *Class Notes.*

²³ Lewis, C.S. "Mere Christianity" (Quoted in Jackson, "Moral Consciousness")

²⁴ Northrop, *Class Notes.*

- others, not as a punishment for breaking a moral law.
 - B. We do not hold dogs legally or morally accountable for fathering many puppies.
 - 1. Most people recognize that dogs do not have a moral consciousness in them.
 - 2. Because of that, we would not think to make a dog pay child support.
 - C. If evolution were true, there would be other creatures besides man that had a sense of right and wrong.
- III. This moral code points to the existence of God.
- A. If there is no God, where did morals come from?
 - 1. If evolution is true, at least one other animal must have the same moral code.
 - 2. Evolution claims that small, minor changes occurred throughout many millennia to produce humans.
 - 3. Yet they cannot explain morality (except to deny it, which they do in vain).
 - B. There is no physical or evolutionary answer to explain morals.
 - 1. Evolution states “survival of the fittest.”
 - 2. Yet morality tends to want to help the weak.
 - a. Small children are helped.
 - b. Doctors see it as their duty to save the lives of those who are sick and dying; is that not counter-evolutionary?
 - c. If evolution be true, our attitude should be to let the sick die.
 - 3. There is no “moral center” in the body, no morality gene.
 - C. Morals must, then, have come from God.
 - 1. They were planted in man since the beginning.
 - 2. God said that the Gentiles did “by nature” the things contained in the Law (the moral things). (Romans 2:14-15)
 - 3. Morals have no natural explanation, thus they must have a supernatural explanation: God put them there.
- Concl. 1. Man is unique in that he is the only creature on earth with a moral consciousness.
- 2. This fact has been proven true in our study.
 - 3. It is not physical, and it runs completely opposite of the theory of evolutionists, yet it does exist
 - 4. It was put there by a moral being: God!

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Does God Exist?

Part III: Cause and Effect

Apologetics: Week Four
Does God Exist? - Part III

Cause and Effect (aka the Cosmological Argument)

- Intro: 1. There are laws within science that, when used, can show that evolution cannot be true.
2. One is the law of cause and effect.
3. In effect, this law is the basis for all scientific study.²⁵
4. God confirms this for us in Hebrews 3:4 - every house is builded by some man, but the one who built all is God.
- I. Nothing “just happens” without someone or something causing it to happen.
- A. A tree does not fall without some cause.
1. Someone could have cut it down.
 2. Perhaps termites or some other insect ate away the insides of it.
 3. Ice storms or some other natural disaster could be to blame for the fall of the tree.
- B. Houses don’t just appear.
1. It takes planning and actual building to produce a house.
 2. Whether good or bad, no house just happens without something behind it.
- C. Growth does not happen without some outside influence.
1. Trees do not grow without rain and dirt in which to spread their roots.
 2. People do not grow without nutrition being provided for them.
 3. Clouds will not grow without evaporation.
- D. The logical argument goes as follows:
1. Something cannot come from nothingness.
 2. Something exists.
 3. Therefore, something has always existed.²⁶
- E. Since something cannot come from nothing, the fact that anything exists is proof that there is something (or someone) eternal.
- II. This law of science contains certain rules.
- A. Every effect (thing that happens or exists) must have an adequate cause.²⁷
1. This means that the cause must be something that could make the effect happen.
 2. In simpler terms, a tree will not fall because a baby coughs.
 3. That is not an adequate cause, but an airplane crashing into it would be.
- B. No effect can be quantitatively greater or qualitatively superior to the cause.²⁸
1. The earth could not be created by someone or something smaller and inferior to the earth.
 2. A newborn puppy will not be larger than the mother that gave birth to it.

²⁵ Jackson, Wayne. *Fortify Your Faith: Cause and Effect*. (Apologetics Press, 1974). Pages 16-17.

²⁶ Northrop, Chuck. *Class Notes: Apologetics*. (Bible Institute of Missouri, 2009).

²⁷ Jackson. *Fortify*.

²⁸ *ibid*.

- C. Everything is winding down (the second law of thermodynamics).
1. This law states that everything (matter and energy) are winding down and becoming less and less usable.
 2. All we have to do is look at everything around us to see this is true.²⁹
 - a. Our bodies wear down.
 - b. After a certain distance, light fades out.
 - c. Cars wear down.
 - d. When we have a fire, the material in the log becomes less and less usable as we get heat from it.
 3. If everything is winding down, there must have been some beginning for it.
 - a. If we go backwards, there is no infinite “winding up” that exists.³⁰
 - b. If matter were eternal, it would not wind down.
 - c. The fact that it is winding down shows that it had a beginning.
 - d. This is true of all matter and energy.
- D. Everything material is an effect.³¹
1. This is true, for scientists seek to find out how matter came into being.
 2. The fact that something exists shows that there had to be some cause for it to exist.
 3. Thus, all material things had a beginning.
- E. There is no spontaneous generation.³²
1. You cannot get something from nothingness.
 2. You cannot get life from non-life.

III. The application of these laws prove God exists.

- A. Material is not eternal, thus it had a beginning.
1. Evolutionists like to claim “the big bang” was the beginning of everything.
 - a. They do not, however, have an answer as to where the materials that caused this supposed “big bang” came from.
 - b. There had to have been something to spark the “big bang” if indeed that is what happened (which it is not).³³
 2. The only explanation that exists which can explain the existence of matter is that it was created.
- B. The universe exists, thus it must have been created.
1. The universe is the effect, and it cannot be bigger or greater than that which caused it.
 2. What is bigger and greater than the universe that could have created it?
 3. God is the only answer!
- C. If everything is winding down, someone or something must have put it into motion.

²⁹ Northrop. *Apologetics*.

³⁰ Roderick, Bill. “Natural Evidence for God’s Existence.” Sermon, Gravel Hill church of Christ 12/01/2002.

³¹ Northrop. *Apologetics*.

³² *ibid*.

³³ Atheists still have to account for where the initial material came from in order to cause the supposed “big bang” and how that material somehow got together. It is a never ending cycle: the material came from the “big bang” which required material, which came from some other “big bang,” which required material, and so on. It does not answer the question “where did matter come from?”

1. A pendulum that is swinging will eventually run out of energy and cease movement.³⁴
 2. This pendulum, though, did not start on its own, but had to have been started by someone or something.
 3. The universe and everything in it is winding down, therefore someone or something must have started it.
 - a. As shown earlier, it must have been started by something larger and superior to the universe.
 - b. Again, the only option is God.
- D. There must be a prime mover.³⁵
1. Basically stated, this means that when you trace all the things that happen back as far as is possible, you will come up with one cause behind it all.
 2. An example: a child was caused by its parents, who were caused by their parents, and so on and so forth until you go back as far as is possible and you get to the first humans.
 3. From an earthly standpoint, they would be the prime movers.
 4. The universe could not have created itself, and thus something had to be behind its creation and its being set into motion.
 5. That prime mover is God!
- Concl.
1. Since nothing only produces more of nothing, the fact that the universe exists proves that there was something (or someone) from whence it came.
 2. Since the universe and everything in it is winding down, there was something (or someone) that put it into motion.
 3. Since the effect (in this case the universe) cannot be greater than the cause, that which caused the universe must be greater than the universe.
 4. What (or who) could that be but God?

³⁴ Northrop. *Apologetics*.

³⁵ Jackson. *Fortify*.

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Does God Exist?

Part IV: The Religious Faculty Of Man

Apologetics: Week Five
Does God Exist: Part IV

The Religious Faculty of Man³⁶ (aka the Ontological Argument)

- Intro: 1. In all cultures throughout the ages, man has been incurably religious.³⁷
 2. Man has always searched for a higher being, something beyond themselves.
 3. This may not appear to be a “proof” for the existence of God, but it is certainly a compelling thought that points heavily in that direction.
- I. Mankind has always been religious.
- A. Think of any culture, and you will find some kind of religion that they practiced.
1. American Indians have the “Great Spirit” and many lesser “spirits.”
 2. The Greeks and Romans each had their mythological “gods.”³⁸
 3. The Arabs have “Allah.”
 4. The Egyptians had many pagan “gods” (Exodus 12:12).
 5. The inhabitants of Canaan had Baal and Ashteroth, which many Israelites began to worship (Judges 2:13).
- B. Those who have studied it have said “in all traceable cultures, monotheism always predates polytheism.”³⁹
1. This means that every culture that can be traced began as one that believed in one god before morphing into one that worshipped many gods.
 2. This one god was not necessarily the one true God in every culture.
 - a. Every culture seemed to have their own concept of the utmost deity.
 - b. Some cultures (such as certain Egyptian periods) worshipped the sun as the only god.⁴⁰
 3. Some did indeed worship the only true God.
- C. Mankind, therefore, has always had an inner desire for something beyond himself.
1. David spoke of this when he said “as the deer pants for the water brooks, so my soul pants for you, O Lord” (Psalm 42:1 - NASB).
 2. There is nothing physical to cause this desire, yet it is born into every human and culture from the beginning of recorded history.
- II. Man is incapable of creating something completely new.
- A. Solomon said “there is nothing new under the sun” (Ecclesiastes 1:9).
1. Everything that we can imagine is based upon something we have experienced.
 - a. This could be things we have seen and heard
 - b. It could be things that we have experiences with the other senses.

³⁶ This was the description of the Ontological argument given by Wayne Jackson, *Fortify Your Faith* (Apologetics Press, 1974), page 14.

³⁷ Northrop, Chuck. *Class Notes: Apologetics* (Bible Institute of Missouri, 2009).

³⁸ Paul and Barnabas were called Zeus and Hermes in Acts 14:12. Depending on the translation, either the Greek names for the gods or the Roman names (Jupiter and Mercury) are used.

³⁹ Jackson, Wayne. *Fortify Your Faith* (Apologetics Press, 1974), page 15.

⁴⁰ Roper, Coy D. *Exodus*. (Truth For Today, Searcy, AR, 2009), pages 665-667

2. Suppose you were to imagine the most horrible monster you could create.
 - a. Every visual aspect of this beast would be based upon something else you have seen or heard described in the past.
 - b. Even the horrible things that it could do would be based on the same things.
 - c. Even in using the furthest stretches of our imagination, we cannot create something completely new.
 3. An atheist once declared that man's imagination created God.⁴¹
 - a. He was then asked to describe what another sense (in addition to sight, smell, touch, taste, and hearing) would do and be like.
 - b. It is impossible to do that without it describing something that already exists in the human senses.
 - c. Man cannot create new things or concepts without using old things or concepts.
- B. This being the case, how did the concept of God arise?
1. The concept of God could not have arisen without something upon which it was based.
 - a. This means that someone, somewhere, had contact with a higher being.
 - b. We see in the Bible that it was not just one person, but many people throughout the ages.
 2. It was based upon the true, real God who indeed made Himself known to humans.
 - a. As was shown earlier, humans can only imagine things of which they have sensed or experienced.
 - b. The fact that a higher being has been conceived (in every culture throughout the ages), proves that there is indeed a higher being.

III. Arguments against this premise.

- A. "People who believe in God are not logical or rational, thus belief in God must not be logical or rational."⁴²
1. There are atheists who believe that only people with serious psychological problems would believe in God.
 2. They claim, then, that this premise is not valid, for it is based on faulty minds.
 - a. How is it, then, that every culture in all ages was completely dominated by people who were psychologically wrong?
 - b. How is it that these atheists which are in a very small, but vocal, minority have set themselves as the standard by which to judge all others in all ages?
 - c. Is it not more logical to assume that THEY are the ones with the psychological problems?
 - d. It has been shown repeatedly that most atheists have in their past a problem with God in some way.⁴³
- B. "This argument is completely subjective."
1. There are some who claim that this argument does not deal with facts, but only feelings, which are completely subjective.

⁴¹ Jackson, pages 15-16.

⁴² Northrop. Class Notes: Apologetics (paraphrase of notes).

⁴³ ibid

- a. It is admitted that feelings are indeed subjective.
- b. But this argument for God's existence is not based on feelings.
2. This argument does deal with facts:
 - a. Nothing can be conceived in the human mind that has not been experienced by humans in one form or another.
 - b. God is indeed conceived.
 - c. Therefore God has been experienced by humans in one form or another.

IV. What kind of God exists?

- A. God is, by definition, that being of which nothing greater can exist.⁴⁴
 1. Perfection is greater than imperfection; thus, God must be perfect.
 2. Omniscience is greater than limited in scope; thus God must be omnipotent.
 3. Order is greater than disorder; thus God must be orderly (logical and rational).
- B. Since nothing greater than God can exist, He is the ultimate creator and ruler over everything else.
 1. As such, we have a responsibility to seek what He wants us to do.
 2. We have a responsibility to obey His commands.

- Conc.: 1. On the surface, this argument may seem flimsy, but it does have weight to it.
2. If you are not convinced by this argument, the question you must answer is: where did the concept of God come from, if not from God?
 3. It would appear obvious that man's seeking after God and worshipping a higher being for all ages in all cultures had to originate somewhere; where could that be if not with God?
 4. While one argument may not thoroughly convince some people, the four arguments that we have studied together these past weeks should be more than enough evidence to convince any honest mind.

⁴⁴ ibid

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Is the Bible Inspired?

Part I: What is Revelation and Inspiration?

Apologetics: Lesson Six
The Inspiration of the Bible: Part I

What is Revelation and Inspiration?

- Intro: 1. Many ideas abound in the world today about revelation and inspiration.
2. This week, we will look at what these words truly mean, as well as some false ideas surrounding them.

I. What is revelation?

- A. Revelation is simply the revealing of something previously hidden or secret.⁴⁵
1. No one can know your thoughts unless you choose to reveal them.
2. Thus, your expression of the thoughts is a revelation, or a revealing.
- B. There is no way to know God unless He reveals Himself to us.
1. There is no way to know a person unless they reveal themselves.
2. The same thing is true with God: if He did not want us to know Him, we would have no way of knowing Him.
- C. God has revealed His existence in two ways.
1. Natural (or general) revelation.⁴⁶
a. This is God revealing Himself and His existence through the things in this world.⁴⁷
b. His existence is revealed through the design of the universe, the movement of things in the universe, the moral code within man, as well as other things.
2. Special⁴⁸ (or Divine)⁴⁹ revelation.
a. While natural revelation helps us to know the existence of God, it does not reveal anything about His will, His character, His nature, or anything else beyond His existence and creative powers.
b. In order for us to know anything else about Him, He must reveal it to us more directly.
c. This He has done in His book, the Bible.

II. What is Inspiration?

- A. Inspiration is the means or method by which God has revealed His true self to humans.⁵⁰
1. This was done by direct revelation to some people.
a. Peter said “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God,” to which Christ responded, “Flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father which is in Heaven” (Matthew 16:16-17).
b. Moses was given direct revelation of all of the events that occurred in Genesis,

⁴⁵ Encarta © World English Dictionary: “revelation.” (Microsoft Corporation 2005).

⁴⁶ Jackson, Wayne. *Fortify Your Faith*. (Apologetics Press, 1974). Pg 47.

⁴⁷ Natural or general revelation include the things discussed in the lessons on the existence of God earlier in this book.

⁴⁸ Northrop, Chuck. *Inspiration, Is the Bible From God or Man?* 1993.

⁴⁹ Jackson. *Fortify*. Pg 47.

⁵⁰ Northrop, Chuck. *Class Notes: Apologetics*. (Bible Institute of Missouri, 2009).

- for Moses was not alive during any of the events he recorded in that book.⁵¹
- c. John, the apostle, was given direct revelation of things that would “shortly come to pass” and recorded it in the book called Revelation.⁵²
2. Other times it was a bringing to their minds, flawlessly, all the things they needed to say.
 - a. Christ told His disciples that when He left, He would send the Holy Spirit to bring to their remembrance all the things they had been taught (John 14:26, 16:12-15).
 - b. Christ told them not to worry about what to say, for their words would be given to them by the Holy Spirit (Luke 12:10-11).
 3. Because of this, we can trust the Scriptures to be correct in all ways.
 - a. God would not have allowed anything false to be put down in Scriptures, or preached by these inspired men.
 - b. That means that even the historical records are completely accurate.⁵³
- B. Some false views of the Bible’s Inspiration.
1. Dictation.⁵⁴
 - a. This view suggests that every single word in the Bible was given to the writers of the Scriptures to copy down.
 - b. If this view were true, we would not be able to see any of the personalities of the writers showing forth, because they would only be like a secretary.
 - c. The fact that the New Testament writers all had different levels of ability in Greek shows through in their writings, as does their personalities.
 - d. Thus, dictation is not how the Bible was inspired.
 2. Thought Inspiration.⁵⁵
 - a. This view states that the thoughts given to the writers are inspired, but not the words themselves.
 - b. If this is the case, how can we really trust anything that the writers said?
 - c. “What good are ‘infallible ideas’ if channeled through ‘fallible words’?”⁵⁶
 - d. Any idea or thought that we have is brought forth in words, and conceived with words in our heads. Thus, when God inspired the thoughts, He also inspired the words to convey those thoughts!⁵⁷
 3. Partial inspiration.⁵⁸
 - a. This is the idea that parts of the Bible are inspired, and others are not (or at least, others are less inspired).
 - b. This is the view that was held by the Jews.

⁵¹ Moses was not born until the events that are recorded in Exodus. The book of Genesis covers approximately 2500 years of history previous to the birth of Moses.

⁵² Revelation 1:1 says that the things revealed to John were things that would “shortly come to pass.”

⁵³ A good portion of the Old Testament is historical, as is the book of Acts, and to some extent the gospels. Sir William Ramsay tried to disprove Luke as a historian, and after retracing the routes in Acts, came to believe that the Bible is indeed inspired.

⁵⁴ Northrop. *Class Notes*.

⁵⁵ *ibid.*

⁵⁶ Jackson. *Fortify*. Pg 52.

⁵⁷ *ibid.*

⁵⁸ *ibid.*

- c. They viewed the Pentateuch as wholly inspired, and then the prophets a little less so, and poetry and history even less, if at all.⁵⁹
 - d. Some take this view today to avoid doctrinal issues found in the epistles of Paul (such as the role of women in the church, mechanical instruments of music in the church, and others).⁶⁰
 - e. The problem is, Jesus quoted from the Pentateuch, the Prophets, and the Psalms quite frequently showing that they all had equal authority as far as inspiration goes.
 - f. Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would guide the apostles into “all truth” which they revealed to us in the epistles (John 16:13).
 - g. Paul said that “all Scripture is inspired by God” (II Timothy 3:16-17).
 - h. Therefore, the Scriptures are not partially inspired.
4. Natural Genius Inspiration.⁶¹
- a. This view says that the writers of the Bible were inspired in the same way Shakespeare was inspired.⁶²
 - b. This then implies that nothing in the Bible is really from God, but just the product of a really creative set of humans, over the course of 1600 years.
 - c. This means that the New Testament writers lied when they claimed to get their message from God (I Thessalonians 2:13).⁶³
 - d. This view would make the Bible worthless.
- C. The True View of Inspiration.
- 1. Verbal Inspiration.
 - a. This means that every word in the Bible was inspired.
 - b. Not just part of the words, but all of the words.
 - c. God used the vocabulary and style of each writer to express His intent, but every words correctly expressed what God wanted expressed!
 - 2. Plenary Inspiration.
 - a. This means that every word in the Bible is equally inspired.
 - b. There is no “levels of inspiration” in the Word of God.
 - c. Even passages that may seem to have nothing to do with God are also inspired.⁶⁴

- Concl: 1. Now that we understand what inspiration is, we must go about proving it.
- 2. Last week we went about showing that from a historical point of view, the Bible has endured and thrived through great attempts at its destruction.
 - 3. Next week we will look at showing that the Bible could only come from God.

⁵⁹ Clarke, Ted. *Class Notes: Life of Christ - Luke*. (Bible Institute of Missouri, 2008).

⁶⁰ Some today wish to ignore the writings of Paul, James, Jude, and Peter under the guise of ‘only teaching the words of Jesus.’ But, as was shown earlier in this lesson, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to allow the apostles to remember, speak and write His teachings

⁶¹ Jackson. *Fortify*. Pg 52.

⁶² Northrop. *Class Notes*.

⁶³ See also Galatians 1:1; II Peter 1:21.

⁶⁴ This would include Paul’s statement to Timothy to bring his coat and the books (II Timothy 4:13). This will be addressed in another lesson.

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Is the Bible Inspired?

Part II: The Endurance of the Bible

Apologetics: Week Seven
The Inspiration of the Bible: Part II

The Endurance of the Bible

- Intro: 1. Imagine the most powerful people on earth declaring that something must be destroyed, and then trying to follow through with it.
2. This indeed happened less than 300 years after Christ died on the cross.
3. The thing they wanted to stamp out was the Scriptures!
4. Yet, after countless attempts to destroy the Bible, it still stands as God's Word.
- I. Great attempts have been made to destroy the Bible, physically, but to no avail.
- A. Even previous to the birth of Christ, there were attempts to destroy the Hebrew Scriptures (the Old Testament).
1. The Bible records that Jehoiakim, an evil king of Judah, was read a scroll of prophecy telling of imminent destruction unless he and the people repented (Jeremiah 36:20-21).
 - a. After only hearing a small portion of it, he cut it up with a knife and threw it into the fire (22-23).
 - b. God then spoke to Jeremiah and told him to have his scribe write all the things again on another scroll (27-28).
 - c. Even the king of Judah could not eliminate the words of God, for God is greater!
 2. Antiochus IV (the madman⁶⁵), one of the leaders of the Greek Empire after the death of Alexander the Great,⁶⁶ tried to stamp out all traces of Judaism.
 - a. He desecrated the temple and tried to make it a temple to Zeus.⁶⁷
 - b. He also ordered every copy of the Hebrew Scriptures to be destroyed, being cast into a fire.⁶⁸
 - c. Anyone found in possession of the Scriptures, or practicing the Law was to be put to death.⁶⁹
 - d. Yet the Word of God still endures over 2,000 years later!
 3. Remember, the Old Testament was only for the Jews, and these people ruled over the Jewish nation when they attempted to destroy the Scriptures.
 - a. If the king of the Jewish nation could not destroy God's word, than who could?
 - b. If the ruler of the Greek Empire could not wipe out the Word of God, what does that say?
 - c. The Scriptures are truly God's Word and will endure forever (I Peter 1:25).
- B. Attempts have been made to destroy all traces of the New Testament as well.
1. Diocletian, a Roman emperor (AD 284-305), made a series of edicts again Christians.⁷⁰

⁶⁵ Jackson, Wayne. "The Holy Scriptures - Indestructible!" *Reason and Revelation*, Volume 14, Number 12, 1994.

⁶⁶ Clarke, Ted. *Class Notes: The Life of Christ Part I: Matthew*. (Bible Institute of Missouri, 2009).

⁶⁷ *ibid.*

⁶⁸ Jackson. "Indestructible."

⁶⁹ The Apocrypha. I Maccabees 1:56-57.

⁷⁰ Jackson. "Indestructible."

- a. First, he outlawed the assembling of Christians together.
 - b. Next, he ordered all buildings where such meetings took place to be torn down.
 - c. One of the edicts involved the destruction by fire of every copy of New Testament writings.⁷¹
 - d. Yet just a few short years after Diocletian's death, Constantine gave legal protection to those professing Christ, and the Scriptures still endured.⁷²
2. Even those who called themselves "friends" of the Bible set about to physically destroy it!
- a. The Papacy (the Roman Catholic Church) set about to destroy all copies of the Bible owned by those who were not in the hierarchy (those who were not priests, cardinals, bishops, etc...).⁷³
 - b. People possessing copies of the Bible were told that they could not receive forgiveness of their sins until they gave up their copies.⁷⁴
 - c. The Tyndale Bible, made in the mid 1500's, was outlawed by the Catholic authorities, and thousands of copied were burned.⁷⁵
 - d. They believed that ownership of the Bible by a commoner (a non-priest) would do more harm than good, and they forced the issue.
 - e. Obviously, with the amount of Bibles being printed today, the Catholic Church did not succeed in keeping God's Word out of the hands of the common people.
- C. Many made meticulous attempts throughout the years to preserve the writings of Homer, yet there is no complete copy of his writings prior to AD 1200, more than 2,000 years after he lived!⁷⁶

II. Many attempts have been made to destroy the Bible intellectually, to no avail.

- A. Many have tried to say "God is dead" throughout the years.
1. Julian, a Roman Emperor later known as "Julian the apostate," tried to destroy the Bible with "logical" arguments.⁷⁷
 2. Thomas Paine wrote an entire volume trying to discredit the Bible, yet did not even own a copy of the Bible to reference while writing the book!⁷⁸
 3. "God is dead" was a famous slogan in the 1960's and 70's.
 - a. Somehow, all these "intelligent" people cannot stop a "dead" God from spreading His word to the masses.
 - b. God is not dead nor is His Word, but these supposedly "superior" minds continue to die off.
- B. Many have tried to prove that the Scriptures are not reliable.
1. Yet time after time, the Scriptures are shown to be reliable.

⁷¹ Northrop, Chuck. "Inspiration, Is The Bible From God or Man?" 1993.

⁷² Jackson. "Indestructible."

⁷³ *ibid.*

⁷⁴ Schroeder, H.J. Canons and Decrees of the Council of Trent (quoted in Jackson. "Indestructible"). 1950.

⁷⁵ Jackson. "Indestructible."

⁷⁶ *ibid.*

⁷⁷ Jackson. "Indestructible."

⁷⁸ Clarke, Ted. Class Notes.

- a. They are reliable as history.
- b. They are reliable geographically.
- c. They are reliable scientifically.⁷⁹
2. How could this be, if not for God's hand be in the writing and preserving of it?
3. Even those who wish to point out the variant manuscripts cannot answer that question!⁸⁰
- C. Is it not interesting to note that God even foretold of these intellectuals (I Corinthians 3:18-20)?
 1. God makes their supposed wisdom "foolish."
 2. Paul told Timothy to ignore the vain babblings of what was "falsely called 'knowledge'" (I Timothy 6:20 - ESV).⁸¹

III. The Bible is the most translated book in history.⁸²

- A. There are untold numbers of English translations and paraphrases that have been produced over the last 600 years.
 1. Approximately 18,000 copies of the Tyndale version (mentioned above) were printed in a three year span (1525-1528).⁸³
 2. The King James version (1611) is perhaps the best known English version.
 3. There are many others since then.⁸⁴
- B. There is a Bible available for nearly every language on earth.
 1. In most instances, there are Bibles available in each dialect of a nation, making it even more accessible to them (Acts 2:8).⁸⁵
 2. In many languages there sometimes multiple versions.
- C. Thousands of copies of these translations are printed every day!
 1. The Foreign Bible Society in England publishes 32,876 Bibles every day; that is one every three seconds!⁸⁶
 2. This does not even include other Bible Societies that print thousands per day.
 3. Also not included in that number are the Bible publishers who print the Bibles found on store shelves such as Zondervan and Thomas Nelson.⁸⁷

⁷⁹ See later lessons for more details on these and other proofs of the Bible's reliability.

⁸⁰ There are a large number of variant reading in many manuscripts, but over 90% of them are simply spelling differences in names and places.

⁸¹ While not accurate for the most part, the Cotton Patch Version states it well in saying "Don't get bogged down in...spoutings...parading under the name of "higher learning."

⁸² Northrop. "Inspiration."

⁸³ Jackson. "Indestructible."

⁸⁴ There are a multitude of versions, all with varying degrees of reliability. Some of the more popular ones are the American Standard Version, the Revised Standard Version, The New International Version, The New American Standard Version, and the English Standard Version. Suffice it to say, however, that God's Word is indeed available in the language of the common person.

⁸⁵ Some versions translate Acts 2:8 "how is it that we hear in our own dialect?" Young's Literal Translation (1898), God's Word version, and the Amplified version are examples of this. See also Northrop, Chuck. *Class Notes: Acts of the Apostles*.

⁸⁶ Northrop. "Inspiration."

⁸⁷ *ibid*.

4. The Bible is still the best-seller every year.⁸⁸
- D. God's Word is still being made available to everyone in the world, for God's Word will last forever.

- Conc:
1. How is it that the Bible has withstood all attempts by the most powerful men of their time to destroy it?
 2. How is it that the Bible has withstood, and been proven true, against the supposed "greatest minds" of the ages?
 3. Simply put, Jesus was correct when he said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, by My words shall not pass away" (Matthew 24:34).
 4. The Bible is truly God's Word, and He has made sure that no matter what happens on this earth, His Word will be here for us.

⁸⁸ *ibid.* Many wonder why the Bible is never listed on the New York Times best-seller list or other similar lists. It should be noted, that every different version, and every different type of study Bible is considered to be a different book to the publishing world. So, the King James study Bible is considered different than the Open Bible: King James Version, or the Archeological Study Bible: King James Version, or just a simple King James Version with cross-references in the margin. If you take all of the versions of the Bible, they outsell any best-seller on the market by far.

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Is the Bible Inspired?

Part III: Internal Proofs (part I)

Apologetics: Week Eight
The Inspiration of the Bible: Part III

Internal Proofs: Part I

- Intro:
1. After looking at what inspiration really is, we now need to look to see if we can find things inside the Bible that show it is inspired.
 2. We have already seen some evidence from outside of the Bible (the survival and thriving of the Bible throughout various attempts to destroy it) that points to a divine hand being in it.⁸⁹
 3. Are there things in the Bible that can show it is indeed from God and not the work of men?
 4. If the Bible contains things that are beyond the capability of man to know, it must be created by a being beyond man: God.
 5. Does the Bible contain such things? Yes!

I. The Unity of the Bible.

- A. The Bible was written by approximately 40 men.⁹⁰
 1. They were from different backgrounds and cultures.⁹¹
 - a. Some were kings.
 - b. One was a doctor.
 - c. One was a tax collector.
 - d. One was a former member of the Egyptian royal family.⁹²
 2. They wrote in different languages.
 - a. Most of the Bible was originally written in Hebrew.⁹³
 - b. The majority of the New Testament was written in Greek.⁹⁴
- B. The Bible was written over a 1600-year period⁹⁵
 1. The earliest books were written around 1400 BC.⁹⁶
 2. The latest books were written in the later half of the first century.⁹⁷
- C. The Bible covers over 4,000 years of human activity.
 1. Genesis alone covers over 2,000 years.⁹⁸

⁸⁹ See previous two lessons.

⁹⁰ The Open Bible: Expanded Edition: Introduction (Thomas Nelson, 1986).

⁹¹ Northrop, Chuck. Class Notes: Apologetics (Bible Institute of Missouri, 2009).

⁹² See the first two chapters of Exodus.

⁹³ Chappell, Darin, Class Notes: Survey of the Bible (Bible Institute of Missouri, 2008).

⁹⁴ *ibid.*

⁹⁵ Jackson, Wayne. Fortify Your Faith. (Apologetics Press, 1974). Pg 58.

⁹⁶ Open Bible: Genesis introduction.

⁹⁷ There are differing views on when John wrote his gospel, epistles, and the book of Revelation. Some, as Foy E. Wallace, say that they were written pre-AD 70, and others, as seen in the Open Bible introduction of Revelation, say as late as AD 96.

⁹⁸ If you look at the genealogical listings in Genesis and add the ages each person was when they had the next person in the genealogy, it adds up to about 1,656 years by the time of the flood. Add to that the time until the death of Jacob in Genesis 49, it is around 2253 years.

2. The Exodus took place around 1440 years before Christ,⁹⁹ after they spent 400 years in Egyptian captivity.
3. The epistles of Paul were written in the AD 60's

D. Yet it all agrees!

1. Given the differing backgrounds and educations of the writers of the Bible, how is it possible that they could come up with works that perfectly join together and agree with each other?
2. Given that they were written over the course of 1600 years by people who did not know or conspire with each other, how could the book be so perfectly united?
3. Given that there are no actual contradictions in the Bible, how can someone account for this when it would be basically impossible for any group of 40 men (even if they were friends) to sit in different rooms and each write books that are in perfect agreement with each other.

E. The Bible, then must have had divine help to be written!

II. Historical and Geographical Accuracy of the Bible.

A. Over and over again, the Bible has been proven to be historically accurate.

1. Some have claimed in the past that the Hittites, mentioned in the Bible, never really existed, but later archaeological discoveries have shown that the Bible was right!¹⁰⁰
2. Luke mentions many ruling figures throughout his writings, all of which were actual people who reigned.

B. Even miracles have been historically attested to.

1. The Bible speaks of a global flood (Genesis 7-8).
2. Between 250-300 other historical accounts of the flood have been discovered in ancient records "among the Babylonians, Egyptians, Chinese, American Indians, Mexicans, Celts, etc."¹⁰¹

C. The Bible speaks of many areas of land and water and elevation.

1. It speaks of going "up" to Jerusalem from Galilee, showing that the author knew that to get to Jerusalem, one had to climb quite an elevation (Acts 18:31).
2. It speaks of east and west, flawlessly.
3. It speaks of Jerusalem to Gaza being "south" (Acts 8:26).

III. Scientific Accuracy of the Bible.

A. The Bible speaks of scientific facts long before they were ever known.

B. The Bible speaks of the earth as being spherical at a time when the thinking was that the earth was flat (see Psalm 8:27, Isaiah 40:22); in fact, many during Columbus' day thought the earth was flat as well.

C. The Bible speaks of water currents as "the paths of the sea" (Psalm 8:8) 2500 years before they were discovered by modern scientists.

D. The Bible says that every animal and plant reproduced "after its own kind" expressing

⁹⁹ Roper, Coy D. Exodus. (Truth For Today: Searcy, AR. 2009).

¹⁰⁰ Northrop, Apologetics.

¹⁰¹ Jackson, pg 60.

what scientists have called “the Law of Heredity.”¹⁰²

- Conc.
1. There was no way for the writers of these books to have the perfect understanding of everything and the perfect transmission of it without help from above.
 2. There is no way to have this scientific knowledge thousands of years before modern science discovered it without help from above!
 3. The Bible is inspired!

¹⁰² Jackson, pg 64

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Is the Bible Inspired?

Part IV: Internal Proofs (part II)

Apologetics: Week Nine
The Inspiration of the Bible: Part IV

Internal Evidences: Part II

- Intro: 1. Having now looked at some various internal evidences that are beyond the capabilities of man to produce, we will now look at what is called the “strongest argument” for the inspiration of the Bible.
2. This argument deals with the foretelling of future events with 100% accuracy.
 3. Most weathermen, with sophisticated equipment, would be thrilled with an 80% accuracy rate.

I. What is Prophecy?

A. Predictive prophecy has been defined as “history written in advance.”¹⁰³

1. It is a foretelling of events to come.
2. Many people have claimed this ability, even today.

B. True prophecy is noteworthy.

1. For something to be true predictive prophecy, it cannot be vague.¹⁰⁴
 - a. Some people, especially politicians, speak in vague generalities, but rarely in specifics.
 - b. If you speak in generalities, it is hard to be wrong, for just about anything can be twisted to fit your statements.
2. There must be proper timing.¹⁰⁵
 - a. The prophecy must be made far in advance of the fulfillment.
 - b. Would it have been prophecy for someone to say Jesus would be born of a virgin after Mary was already with child? No.
 - c. It was prophecy for Isaiah to state just that hundreds of years before the event (Isaiah 7:14).
3. There must be exact fulfillment.¹⁰⁶
 - a. The fulfillment of the prophecy must be clear.
 - b. Many people have twisted the prophecies in Revelation to mean everything from the Roman Catholic Church to the first Gulf War in the 1990’s.¹⁰⁷
4. Above all, it must be something beyond the power of man to foresee.
 - a. Predicting the weather is not prophecy, for man can foresee that, based on past experiences.
 - b. Predicting the king of a future world-wide empire, by name, before he is even born is true prophecy.¹⁰⁸

II. Examples of prophecy.

¹⁰³ Jackson, Wayne. Fortify Your Faith. (Apologetics Press, 1974). Pg 64.

¹⁰⁴ Northrop, Chuck. Class Notes: Apologetics (Bible Institute of Missouri, 2009).

¹⁰⁵ Jackson, Fortify, pg 64.

¹⁰⁶ *ibid.*

¹⁰⁷ This author remembers hearing a radio “preacher” saying that Revelation even prophesied the Scud missiles.

¹⁰⁸ Isaiah 45:1 mentions Cyrus, the king of the Persian Empire by name before he was even born. Cyrus allowed the Jews to return to Palestine and begin to rebuild the temple. See also Isaiah 44:28.

- A. The history of the Jewish people (Deuteronomy 28:47-68).
 1. The Jews were told, by God through Moses, that if they did not obey Him, they would be conquered by another nation whose language they didn't understand.
 - a. The northern tribes were conquered by the Assyrians.
 - b. The southern tribes were conquered by the Babylonians.
 - c. The Jews that had returned were later conquered by the Romans.
 2. The conquerors would not regard young or old, but would kill without discretion.
 - a. This was true of the Babylonians (II Chronicles 36:17).
 - b. This was true of the Romans.¹⁰⁹
 3. Israel would be scattered across the earth.
 - a. The Babylonian captivity was called "God's scattering of the Jews."¹¹⁰
 - b. That they were scattered is evidenced by the listing of nation from which the Jews came to celebrate the feast of Pentecost (Acts 2:5-11).
- B. The coming of Jesus Christ.
 1. God prophesied that a human (son of woman) would crush the head of Satan (Genesis 3:15)
 - a. This is a prophecy of Jesus defeating Satan and death on the cross.
 - b. The prophecy was recorded by Moses 1400 years before the birth of Christ.
 - c. The actual prophecy occurred almost 4,000 years before the birth of Christ!
 2. He would be of the line of David (II Samuel 7:12-ff).
 - a. The lineage of his legal father shows it (Matthew 1:1-17).
 - b. The lineage of his mother shows it as well (Luke 3:23-38).
 - c. This prophecy was made over 1,000 years before Christ!
 3. He would be born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14).
 - a. Seeing as that had never happened in the history of mankind, it was a bold prediction, yet it was true because God said it!
 - b. This was fulfilled when Mary gave birth to Jesus (Matthew 1:18-ff).
 4. His kingdom would be established during the days of the Roman Empire (Daniel 2:44).
 - a. While Jesus was on earth, He preached "the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 4:17).
 - b. "At hand" means "very near."
 - c. It was established on the Day of Pentecost after Jesus' resurrection while the Roman Empire was still in control.
 - d. This prophecy was made around 500 years before Rome even became a world power!
 5. It has been noted that the odds of one person fulfilling just 8 of the 300+ prophecies about the Christ was 100,000,000,000,000,000 to 1.¹¹¹
 - a. To better understand this, imagine the entire state of Texas, covered two feet deep in silver dollars.¹¹²

¹⁰⁹ Josephus, *Wars of the Jews* 3.7.1

¹¹⁰ Jackson, *Fortify*, pg 66.

¹¹¹ Stoner, Peter. *Science Speaks*. (unknown publishing data).

¹¹² *ibid*.

- b. Then take one of them and mark it, then throw it back into the pile, stir it around and around.
 - c. Then blindfold someone and give them one chance to pick the right one.
 - d. Those are the odds of someone accidentally fulfilling 8 of the Messianic prophecies.
 - e. Jesus fulfilled all 300+ of them! The only answer to those odds is that God's hand was in it all, showing the Bible is inspired.
- C. Other historical events prophesied in the Bible.
- 1. The fall of Babylon and rise of the next three world powers (Daniel 2)
 - a. Daniel prophesied that Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom would fall and be replaced by an inferior kingdom (the Persian Empire).
 - b. A third kingdom (Greece) was foretold in this chapter, as was the fourth (Rome).
 - 2. The name of the Persian king who would allow the Jews to return to build the temple.
 - a. Cyrus, as mentioned earlier, was not even born yet when Isaiah made this prophetic statement (Isaiah 44:28).
 - b. He issued a decree allowing the Jews to return to Palestine to rebuild the temple (Ezra 1).
 - 3. The destruction of Jerusalem.
 - a. Jesus foretold that Jerusalem would be destroyed by the Roman armies (Matthew 24:1-34).
 - b. That came to pass in AD 70, when Titus laid siege to it, killing over one million Jews.¹¹³
- Conc.
- 1. There is no way that the Bible could record such predictions as these and many others without it being the work of God.
 - 2. Whether referring to people, places, or times, the Bible's prophecies are always 100% accurate.
 - 3. Man has no way of doing that; therefore, the Bible is inspired of God.

¹¹³ Clarke, Ted. *Class Notes: Matthew*. (Bible Institute of Missouri, 2008).

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Is Jesus Really God?

Part I

Apologetics: Week Ten
The Deity of Christ: Part I

Is Jesus Really God?

- Intro. 1. Throughout this study, we have shown that indeed there is a God, and that the Bible is His inspired revelation for us.
2. The final thing we will be focusing on in this series is the question “Is Jesus God?”
3. In this first lesson on this topic, we will look at various views of Jesus and His deity.
4. It is important to know what others are saying about Christ so that we can be better prepared to study with these people and show them the truth in God’s Word.

I. Some claim that Jesus is “a god,” not “the God.”

- A. The “Jehovah’s Witnesses” claim that Jesus was the first being created by God.¹¹⁴
1. They say Jesus “was created before the other sons of God’s family.”¹¹⁵
2. They teach that Jesus was a perfect man “nothing more, nothing less.”¹¹⁶
3. This religious group even went so far as to produce a new translation of the Bible that agrees with their false views.
- B. Their doctrine about Jesus Christ being created is in direct opposition to John 1:3 — “**all things were created by Him**, and without Him was not anything made that was made.”
1. This verse states clearly that everything that was created came from the Word (Jesus - see John 1:14).
2. So, unless Jesus - while not existing - created Himself, this doctrine is false.
- C. Their doctrine contradicts other clear statements of the inspired word of God.
1. Philippians 2:6 - Paul states that Jesus was “in the form of God” or “in very nature God” (NIV).
2. John 20:28 - Thomas called Jesus “my Lord and my God” and was not rebuked or corrected by Christ.
3. Hebrews 1:5-8 - God speaks to “**the Son**” and says to Him “thy throne, **O God**, is forever and ever.”
- D. The inspired Word of God contradicts this false doctrine.

II. Some claim that Jesus is the only God.

- A. Basically stated, some religious groups (specifically the Oneness Pentecostals) consider Jesus to be the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit all at the same time.¹¹⁷
1. This doctrine holds that there really is no Father, Son, or Holy Spirit; but that Jesus alone is God and He just “appeared” to men as three entities.¹¹⁸

¹¹⁴ New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures—specifically their translation of John 1:1 - “and the Word was a god”. (Watchtower Bible and Tract Society: New York)

¹¹⁵ *The Truth That Leads To Eternal Life* (Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society: New York, 1968). Pg 47.

¹¹⁶ Jennings, Alvin. *Traditions of Men Versus the Word of God*. (Star Bible Publications: Ft. Worth, TX. 2001). Pg 94.

¹¹⁷ Clarke, Ted. “Answering False Doctrines Relating To The Gospel Of John, No. 1.” *1999 Annual Denton Lectures*.

¹¹⁸ *ibid.*

2. They speak of “the Word” (John 1:1-18) as being a thought in God’s mind and not a separate personality.¹¹⁹
 - a. John 1:1 clearly states that “the Word was God.”
 - b. If the Word was only a thought, then they must conclude that God is only a thought.
 - c. Even they would not agree to such an absurd idea, but that is the logical conclusion of their doctrine.
- B. To say Jesus is the one and only God is to deny clear Bible teaching on the matter.
 1. At Jesus’ baptism, the Holy Spirit descended on Him, and the Father spoke from Heaven (Matthew 3:16-17).
 - a. If Jesus is all there is of God, then Jesus spoke of Himself from heaven while descending upon Himself while John was baptizing Him.
 - b. If Jesus is all there is of God, why would He call Himself His own Son?
 - c. If we follow their doctrine, Jesus is stating that He is proud of Himself (well-pleased).
 2. When Jesus prayed in the garden, He said “not my will, but thine, be done” (Luke 22:42).
 - a. If Jesus is all there is of God, why was He in agony, praying to Himself?
 - b. When Jesus said “not my will, but thine,” He showed for all of us that He did not want death, but the will of the Father was that He die on the cross.
 - c. If Jesus is all there is to God, how is it that His desire and the Father’s will were different in this instance?
 - d. Please note: Jesus, while on earth, did not look forward to the pain and death that He knew were coming. He was never against God’s will; but, as all humans, He did not want to go through pain.
 3. Jesus repeatedly stated that He did speak of His own authority, but spoke what God told Him to speak (John 5:30, 12:49, 14:10).
 - a. How could Jesus say He did speak of His own authority if He was the entirety of God?
 - b. The only possible explanation is that Jesus is NOT the entirety of God.
- C. This is a false teaching on the nature and deity of Christ Jesus.

III. Some claim that Jesus never existed in the first place.

- A. There are those that proclaim that Jesus was a fictional character with no historical evidence to support His existence.
 1. In doing this, they try to undermine the reliability of the Bible.
 - a. In our four-week study on the inspiration of the Scriptures, we determined that the Bible was inspired of God.
 - b. In that, we know it is reliable.
 2. They say this, apparently, without doing much research into the things of which they speak.
- B. There is ample evidence for the existence of Christ.
 1. The Bible itself is a reliable witness, though some will say it is biased.

¹¹⁹ *ibid.*

- a. Since the Bible is inspired, everything in it can be believed as truth.
- b. It speaks of Jesus as someone who literally was on earth (John 1:14).
2. Josephus refers to Jesus as a historical figure, even calling Him the Christ.¹²⁰
 - a. Josephus was a Jew, and as such would not have a vested interest in promoting Jesus.
 - b. Yet the fact that Jesus is mentioned proves He did exist.
3. The Jewish Talmud refers to Christ.
 - a. They are openly hostile towards Jesus, but still confirm His existence.
 - b. They speak of Him as a blasphemer¹²¹
4. Many other historical sources confirm the existence of Jesus.
- C. This claim is false as well.

IV. Some claim that Jesus came to earth, but was not the Messiah nor God.

- A. The Jews today still reject Jesus as being the promised Christ.¹²²
 1. They still await a Messiah that will rule over them in Jerusalem on an earthly throne.¹²³
 2. Jesus was not what they expected, so they rejected Him when He came to earth 2,000 years ago.
- B. The Muslims believe Jesus was a prophet, but not the Son of God.
 1. It is interesting that this is the case, for they do not follow what this prophet said.
 2. They believe Jesus was born by the “power of God,”¹²⁴ but was not the “Son of God.”¹²⁵
- C. Still others claim He was simply a good man who taught people how to live better.
 1. This makes Jesus no more important than anyone living then or now.
 2. This is in contradiction to the Scriptures which say He is sitting at the right hand of God (Acts 2:33).
- D. Jesus came to earth, and was indeed the Messiah and God!

- Concl. 1. Through this lesson, we have looked at what some people say about the deity of Jesus Christ, as well as comparing it to what the Bible says.
2. This was merely an overview to introduce the topic; next week, we will look at proving the deity of Christ by the inspired word of God.

¹²⁰ Josephus, Flavius. *Antiquities of the Jews* 18.3.3 (E-Sword electronic version).

¹²¹ Northrop, Chuck. *Class Notes: Apologetics*. (Bible Institute of Missouri, 2009).

¹²² Olbricht, Owen. *Studies in Denominational Doctrine: Book One*. (Gospel Light Publishing: Delight, AR, 1972). Pg 5.

¹²³ *ibid.*

¹²⁴ Jennings. *Traditions*. Pg 184

¹²⁵ Qur'an 72:3-4

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Is Jesus Really God?

Part II: His Pre-Existence

Apologetics: Week Eleven
The Deity of Christ: Part II

The Deity of Christ: His Pre-Existence

- Intro:
1. Last week, we looked at some of the various ways some religious groups view Jesus Christ.
 2. This week, we will be looking at one aspect of what the Bible says regarding Christ.
 3. This should help prove beyond all doubt that Jesus was a man, but actually God.

- I. Jesus existed prior to being born in Bethlehem.
 - A. Jesus stated frequently that He existed prior to His birth.
 1. He said He came “from the Father” (John 16:28).
 2. He told the apostles He “came down from heaven” (John 3:13; 6:38).
 3. He said He was the bread “from heaven” (John 6:33).
 - B. John the baptizer attested to this fact.
 1. He said that Jesus was “from heaven” (John 3:31).
 2. He stated that Jesus existed “before” him (John 1:15), even though John was six months older than Jesus (Luke 1:24-35).
 - C. None of these statements could be true if Jesus came into being when He was born of Mary in Bethlehem.
 - D. Jesus existed prior to His birth, therefore He must be something beyond normal humans.
 1. Some claim that He is an angel.¹²⁶
 2. The only other option is that He is God.
- II. Jesus existed before creation.
 - A. Everything created was made by Jesus Christ.
 1. Everything was created by “the Word” (John 1:3).
 2. The Word became flesh and dwelt on earth (John 1:14).
 3. The Word was the only begotten of the Father (John 1:14).
 4. This “only begotten” was His Son, sent to earth (John 3:16).
 5. Therefore, everything was created by Jesus, the only begotten Son of God (Colossians 1:16).
 - B. Jesus could not have created Himself.
 1. There is no such thing as spontaneous generation.
 - a. Something cannot arise from nothing.
 - b. There is no way for someone or something to create itself, for it would have to exist in some form to create anything.¹²⁷
 2. Since Jesus created everything that was created (John 1:3), He could not have been created, because that would put Him creating Himself—an impossibility.
 3. Therefore, Jesus is eternal, having never been created.

¹²⁶ Clarke, Ted. Class Notes: Life of Christ III - The Gospel According to John. (Bible Institute of Missouri, 2009). The Jehovah’s Witnesses claim that Jesus is the first created being, an archangel over everything else.

¹²⁷ This topic was dealt with somewhat in lesson three in regards to “where did matter come from?”

C. Jesus must, therefore, be God.

III. Jesus is God.

A. John the apostle gave testimony to this fact.

1. At the beginning, the Word existed (John 1:1).
 - a. This beginning is the same one mentioned in Genesis 1:1.
 - b. The Word is said to have existed when the beginning began.
 - c. As stated earlier, the Word did all the creating (John 1:3).
2. The Word existed with God (John 1:1).
 - a. The wording literally means that the Word was “face-to-face” with God.¹²⁸
 - b. Some falsely claim that the Word is merely a thought.¹²⁹
 - c. A thought cannot be face-to-face with anyone.
3. The Word existed as God (John 1:1).
 - a. The verse, in English reads “The Word was God.”
 - b. The Greek literally reads “and God was the Word.”¹³⁰
 - c. Since we know this Word is Jesus Christ (as seen above), we can clearly see that Jesus Christ is God.

B. Paul the apostle gave testimony to this fact.

1. He stated that Jesus existed “in the form of God” (Philippians 2:6).
 - a. Some translations say “Christ was truly God,”¹³¹ “Christ Himself was like God in everything,”¹³² or “In His very nature He was God.”¹³³
 - b. *The People’s New Testament* says this means Christ was a “partaker of the divine nature.”¹³⁴
2. Jesus came to earth in the form of a man (Philippians 2:7-8).
 - a. This shows that Christ existed before coming to the earth.
 - b. This also shows (along with verse 6) that Jesus was fully God before coming to earth.
 - c. While on earth, was Jesus still God?
3. He said that the fullness of the Godhead dwells in Christ bodily (Colossians 2:9).
 - a. While on earth, He was God in bodily form.¹³⁵
 - b. The verb “dwells” or “dwelleth” is present tense, and that shows continuous action.¹³⁶
 - c. This means that The fullness of the Godhead dwelt in Christ while He was on earth, but also even to this present time; Christ has always been and will always be God.

¹²⁸ Patterson, Max. *An Outline Commentary on the Gospel of John*. (Self-Published).

¹²⁹ See previous lesson for a more detailed discussion on this topic.

¹³⁰ Clarke, Ted. *Answering False Doctrines Relating to the Gospel of John*, No. 1. 1999 Annual Denton Lectures.

¹³¹ Contemporary English Version.

¹³² New Century Version.

¹³³ New International Readers Version (NIrV).

¹³⁴ *The People’s New Testament*. Electronic version for E-Sword (<http://www.e-sword.net>).

¹³⁵ *ibid.*

¹³⁶ NET Bible (New English Translation) Electronic Study Notes (<http://www.Bible.org>)

- Concl. 1. Because Christ existed before being born as recorded in the gospels, we can know that He is not just a human, but something more.
2. Because Christ existed before creation, we know He is eternal, and therefore God.
 3. Because inspired writers state it for us, we know that Jesus is God.

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Is Jesus Really God?

Part III: His Miracles

Apologetics: Week Twelve
The Deity of Christ: Part III

The Deity of Christ: His Miracles

- Intro: 1. In the previous lesson, we established that Jesus is the Son of God because of His pre-existence.
- a. The inspired word says that the Word created everything (John 1:3).
 - b. Jesus is that Word (John 1:14).
 - c. Jesus could not have created Himself, thus He must be God (see Genesis 1:1).
2. This week we will look at the things that proved that He is God while He was on earth: His miracles.
- I. What was the purpose of miracles?
- A. The purpose for miracles, as recorded in the Old Testament, was to confirm the words that they spoke, as well as to confirm them as the messenger of God.¹³⁷
 1. This can be seen in the example of Moses when God first sent him to the Israelites.
 - a. They were in slavery in Egypt when Moses went to them and spoke the words God gave to him to speak (Exodus 1).
 - b. God had give Moses three signs to perform before the Israelites to prove he was sent from God (Exodus 4:1-9).
 - c. The miracles were to prove that he was indeed the messenger of God; if he was lying to them, God would not have allowed him to work the miracles.
 2. This can be seen in the example of Moses facing Korah's rebellion (Numbers 16:28-32).
 - a. Moses said specifically, "if these men die a common death...the Lord has not sent me. But if the Lord make a new thing and the earth open her mouth and swallow them up...you shall understand that these men have provoked the Lord."
 - b. The earth then opened up and swallowed them and their whole families.
 - c. This was a sign, stated by Moses, that came to pass, proving he was from God and confirming the words he had been saying to the people.
 3. God said that He would glorify Joshua in the presence of the people "so that they may know" that He was with Joshua (Joshua 3:7).
 - a. Joshua was able to do great works, including prophesying the waters of the Jordan dividing for them to cross over on dry land (Joshua 3:10-ff).
 - b. Joshua commanded for the sun and moon to stand still during their battle with the Amorites (Joshua 10:12-14).
 - B. This was also the case in the New Testament.
 1. This was true when Jesus sent the apostles out on the Great Commission.
 - a. Jesus mentioned many signs that they would be able to perform (Mark 16:17-18).
 - b. The Holy Spirit, through Mark, stated that the apostles went forth and preached the word, and "confirming the word with signs following."
 2. Paul miraculously blinded Elymas the sorcerer, causing Sergius Paulus to believe

¹³⁷ Northrop, Chuck. *Class Notes: Acts of Apostles*. (Bible Institute of Missouri, 2008).

- that the words Paul spoke were truth (Acts 13:9-12).
3. Philip caused Samaritans to believe by the miracles that accompanied his teaching (Acts 8:5-7).
 4. Peter healed Aeneas, causing “all that dwelt at Lydda and Saron” to turn to the Lord (Acts 9:32-35).
- C. Thus, the miracles were to let the people know that God approved of them and the message they were preaching.

II. Jesus performed miracles.

- A. The miracles proved He was sent by God (John 3:1-2).
1. Nicodemus correctly stated that “no man can do these signs which you are doing, unless God is with him.”¹³⁸
 2. Nicodemus showed that he was not the only one to believe Jesus was from God because of the miracles, saying “we” know this to be the case.”
 3. Jesus, when He raised Lazarus from the dead, prayed to God in front of all the people so that they would know that God had sent Him (John 11:41-44).
- B. The miracles proved God approved of Jesus (Acts 2:22).
1. Peter clearly stated this to those on the Day of Pentecost, showing Jesus was the prophesied Messiah (Acts 2:36).
 - a. Peter stated the obvious: God would not allow someone to work miracles if He did not approve of him.
 - b. To do so, God would be approving sin, which is impossible (I John 1:5).
 2. God stated it clearly at the transfiguration: “This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased. Hear ye Him” (Matthew 17:5).
- C. The miracles proved God approved of Christ’s teachings.
1. This is shown clearly in Christ’s healing of the man with the palsy (Luke 5:18-24).
 - a. Jesus said, before everyone, “your sins are forgiven.”¹³⁹
 - b. To prove that He indeed had the power to forgive sins on earth, He then healed the man.
 - c. This showed that God indeed approved of the teaching of Christ.
 2. This is shown in Christ’s healing of the man with the withered hand (Luke 6:6-10).
 - a. He was in the synagogue teaching at the time (v 6).
 - b. He specifically mentioned that it was lawful to do good on the Sabbath (v 9).
 - c. He then performed the miracle of healing this man’s hand, showing God’s approval of the things Jesus had taught.

III. Jesus Christ Said He was God.

- A. He had called Himself the Son of God.
1. The Jews took up stones to kill Him on the charge of blasphemy (John 10:31-33).
 - a. They said Jesus made Himself God (John 10:33).
 - b. Jesus clarified that they accused Him of blasphemy because He called Himself “the Son of God” (John 10:36).

¹³⁸ McCord’s New Testament Translation of the Everlasting Gospel.

¹³⁹ Ibid.

- c. The Jews understood that for Him to call Himself the Son of God was equal to saying He was God.
 - 2. He told the man whom He healed at the Pool of Bethesda that He was the Son of God (9:35-38).
 - a. He asked the man if he believed in the Son of God, and the man asked who the Son of God was, so that he could believe on Him.
 - b. Jesus said “He is the one talking with you.”¹⁴⁰
 - B. Jesus said He pre-existed, proving His deity.¹⁴¹
 - 1. He stated “before Abraham was, I AM” (John 8:58).
 - a. This statement was made to show the Jews that Jesus had preeminence over Abraham.
 - b. More importantly, it was a clear statement that He was indeed God.
 - c. “I AM” is the name of God as stated to Moses (Exodus 3:14).
 - 2. He said that He and the Father were one (John 10:30; 17:11).
 - 3. He spoke of the glory He had before coming to earth (John 17:5).
 - C. Jesus accepted worship, something reserved only for God.
 - 1. Angels refused worship (Revelation 19:10; 22:8-9), but said to worship God instead.
 - 2. The apostles refused worship (Acts 10:25-26; 14:13-16), but pointed the people to God.
 - 3. Jesus did not refuse worship, but accepted it (John 9:35-38; Matthew 8:2-3; 14:33; 28:9, 16-17).
- Concl.
- 1. Miracles were done to show that the messenger was truly sent from God, and to confirm the words which he spoke were those which God wanted him to speak.
 - 2. Jesus *taught* that He was God.
 - 3. Jesus performed miracles, showing that God sent Him, approved of Him, and approved of His *teachings*.
 - 4. Therefore, Christ’s miracles prove He is God.

¹⁴⁰ Ibid.

¹⁴¹ See previous lesson for a more detailed study of this issue.

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Is Jesus Really God?

Part IV: His Resurrection

Apologetics: Week Thirteen
Is Jesus Really God? - Part IV

His Resurrection

- Intro: 1. So far in this section of the study of apologetics, we have seen some various false doctrines about the deity of Christ, but also looked at some of the ways the Bible proves that Jesus is indeed God.
2. In this, our last lesson, we will look together at another aspect of Christ's time on earth that proves His deity: the resurrection.
3. This is an important issue that many people try to discount or ignore, but it must be addressed.
- I. Jesus died on the cross.
- A. This is important to note, because some today advocate a teaching contrary to the Biblical record.
1. There are those in the world today who say that Jesus did not die on the cross, but merely fainted.
2. They use this "swoon theory"¹⁴² to say that since Jesus never really died, there was no resurrection.
- B. There are many eyewitnesses who declared, without any chance of misunderstanding, that Jesus was indeed dead.
1. All four gospel writers confirmed that Jesus was dead.
- a. Matthew says that Jesus "cried again with a loud voice [and] yielded up the ghost" (Matthew 27:50).
- b. Mark stated that Jesus "gave up the ghost" (Mark 15:37).
- c. Luke reveals that Jesus "gave up the ghost" (Luke 23:46).
- d. John asserts that Jesus "bowed His head and gave up the ghost" (John 19:30).
- e. These witnesses (at least two of which were eyewitnesses) were favorable towards Jesus, but their testimony all agrees.
2. The Roman soldiers confirmed that Jesus was dead (John 19:32-33).
- a. The Jews wanted the three men on the crosses to die so that their bodies would not be hanging there on the Sabbath (John 19:31).¹⁴³
- b. The soldiers broke the legs of the two thieves to speed up their death, but when they got to Jesus, He was already dead (John 19:31-32).
- c. To prove the point, one of them stabbed Jesus' side with a spear, and blood and water came out (John 19:33). This was a sure sign of the death of Jesus.¹⁴⁴
- d. These soldiers were professionals and would have been able to tell when a person

¹⁴² Northrop, Chuck. *Class Notes: Apologetics*. (Bible Institute of Missouri, 2009)

¹⁴³ To the Jews, 6:00 p.m. was the end of one day, and the beginning of the next. Since Jesus died on a Friday at about 3:00, this explains their hurry to get the men down from the crosses as soon as possible, for the Sabbath was only a few hours away.

¹⁴⁴ Edwards, William D. Gabel, Wesley J., Hosmer, Floyd D. "On the Physical Death of Jesus Christ." *The Journal of the American Medical Association*. March 21, 1986, pgs 1462-1463.

- was dead, for it was their job: they were death specialists.¹⁴⁵
- e. These eyewitnesses were neutral towards Jesus, and their testimony unbiased.
3. Pilate confirmed that He was dead (Mark 15:43-45).
 - a. Pilate was amazed that Jesus was already dead.
 - b. He sent for the centurion and inquired of him as to whether Jesus was dead.
 - c. When he knew for sure, he released the body of Jesus.
 4. The chief priests and the Pharisees confirmed that Jesus was dead.
 - a. They came to Pilate the next day and said to Pilate “while He was still alive...” (Matthew 27:63 - ESV).
 - b. They wanted the tomb sealed to make sure the disciples did not steal his body (Matthew 27:64).
 - c. Notice they didn’t say they wanted it sealed to keep Jesus from escaping; they knew He was dead.
 - d. These eyewitnesses were antagonistic towards Jesus, yet they gave the same testimony as the others.
 5. All the witnesses agreed: Jesus was dead.¹⁴⁶
 - a. This eliminates the possibility of the “swoon theory” being true.
 - b. Whether pro-Jesus, Anti-Jesus, or indifferent, all the witnesses spoke of the same fact: Jesus died on that cross.

II. Jesus was buried.

A. Witnesses confirm His burial.

1. Joseph of Arimathaea approached Pilate for the body of Jesus, and buried it in his own tomb (Matthew 27:57-60).
 - a. This tomb had never been used before.
 - b. This was done with the help of Nicodemus (John 19:38-42).
2. The women watched as this was being done (Matthew 27:61, Luke 24:50-55).
3. The Pharisees confirmed He had been buried.
 - a. They asked for Pilate to seal the tomb (Matthew 27:63-64), which was near the place where Jesus was crucified (John 20:40-42).
 - b. They also asked for a guard to be at the sepulchre.
 - c. Pilate told them to go make it as sure as they could and to set a watch (Matthew 27:65-66).
4. All this is shown to confirm that Jesus’ body was indeed buried in a tomb, lest anyone say He was never put there in the first place.

B. The tomb was found empty on the third day.

1. The stone which had been sealed around the opening of the tomb had been rolled back (Mark 16:2-4).
 - a. This was a very large stone that the women knew they could not move on their own.
 - b. When they arrived, the stone was already moved and rolled away from the entrance.

¹⁴⁵ Clarke, Ted. *Class Notes: Life of Christ - The Gospel According to Matthew*. (Bible Institute of Missouri, 2008)

¹⁴⁶ Cobb, Bradley. *The Importance of the Resurrection*. (sermon, 2008)

- c. Matthew records that an angel came from heaven and rolled back the stone (Matthew 28:2).
- d. This is physical evidence supporting the resurrection of Christ.
2. There was no body in the tomb.
 - a. Mary Magdalene was afraid someone had stolen the body and moved it, for she cried “The have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid Him” (John 20:2, 13).
 - b. John and Peter both ran to the tomb and found no body there (John 20:3-5).
 - c. The soldiers—who had fainted at the sight of the angel—knew there was no body there (Matthew 28:11-15).
 - d. The Pharisees paid the soldiers to make up a story about the disciples stealing the body of Jesus.
 - e. all of the witnesses agreed: there was no body in the tomb.
3. Some evidence that shows the body was not stolen.
 - a. If the disciples stole the body, they would not have taken the time to unwrap all the linen cloths from around Him and to fold up the face cloth (napkin).¹⁴⁷
 - b. The same would be true if grave robbers had come.¹⁴⁸
 - c. The linen cloths being there and the napkin being folded by itself attest to the resurrection.
 - d. It shows that whatever happened to the body of Jesus was done orderly and without rush or haste.¹⁴⁹
 - e. So, if the body was not stolen or moved by someone, what happened to it?

III. Witnesses attested to His resurrection.

A. Eyewitnesses saw Him after His resurrection.

1. Mary Magdalene saw Him near the tomb (John 20:15-18).
2. Two disciples saw Him on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-31).
3. Peter met with Him by himself that same day (Luke 24:33-34).
4. The apostles (except for Thomas) saw Him that evening (John 20:19-20).
5. The apostles (with Thomas) saw Him eight days later (John 20:26-29).
6. Stephen saw the Lord at the right hand of God in heaven (Acts 7:55).
7. Saul (whom we know as Paul) spoke to Jesus on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:3-5; I Corinthians 15:8).
8. At one point, 500 people saw Jesus at one time (I Corinthians 15:3-8).
9. All the eyewitnesses testified that He had risen from the grave.

B. Witnesses declared He was risen.

1. The angels declared that Jesus was risen (Matthew 28:5-7; Mark 16:5-6; Luke 24:4-6).
2. Mary Magdalene declared that He was risen (Luke 24:9-11).
3. The 10 apostles declared to Thomas that Christ was risen (John 20:24-25).
4. All the apostles declared that Christ was risen (Acts 2:14, 22-24, 32).

¹⁴⁷ Clarke. John.

¹⁴⁸ NET Bible (New English Translation) Electronic Study Notes (<http://www.Bible.org>).

¹⁴⁹ *ibid.*

5. The Holy Spirit declared that Christ was risen and ascended to heaven (Acts 2:32-33).
- C. The apostles declared that He was risen in the way they lived their lives after the resurrection.¹⁵⁰
1. After Christ died, they were afraid of the Jews and met in secret (John 20:19); however, after they knew of His resurrection, they spoke boldly in the face of the chief priests and Pharisees (Acts 4:5-20).
 2. The night Jesus was betrayed, every one of the apostles fled to save their own lives instead of standing with Christ (Matthew 26:56); yet after the resurrection, they rejoiced to suffer persecution and beating for Christ's sake (Acts 5:40-41).
 3. The Bible tells of two of the apostles being martyred for Christ.
 - a. James was beheaded by Herod (Acts 12:1-2).
 - b. Peter's death for Christ's sake was prophesied by Jesus and recorded by John (John 21:17-19).
 4. No sane person would be willing to go through the years of persecution over something they knew to be false.
 - a. All the apostles knew they had seen Jesus resurrected.
 - b. This is why they could endure the beatings, the harassments, and the threat of death for preaching Christ.
 - c. They would never do this over a lie, especially not for the years and years that they did it.

IV. Consequences of the Resurrection.

- A. Since Jesus prophesied it, it shows He is a true prophet.
 1. Jesus prophesied His own resurrection (Matthew 16:21); even His enemies attested to His prophecy (Matthew 27:62-63).
 2. No one before, nor since, has ever prophesied that they would die and be raised in three days—and it come true!
 3. Thus being a true prophet, the resurrection proves that everything else Jesus prophesied was true as well.
 - a. This includes His prophecy of the destruction of Jerusalem—which came true in AD 70 (Luke 21:20-24).
 - b. This also shows that what He prophesied about the judgment day is also true.
- B. It shows God's acceptance of Jesus Christ and His teachings.
 1. Like the miracles we discussed in the previous lesson, the resurrection of Christ confirms that He was a messenger sent from God.
 - a. God would not have raised Him from the dead had He not been from God.
 - b. Had Jesus been a false prophet, God's raising Him would have shown approval for sin, which is impossible (I John 1:5).
 2. The resurrection confirms that God approved of Christ's teachings.
 - a. If Jesus was teaching falsely, God would not have raised Him from the dead.
 - b. Because God did raise Him, it shows that Christ's words are the authority by which we are to live (Colossians 3:17).
 3. The resurrection confirms that there is life after death.

¹⁵⁰ Northrop. *Apologetics*.

- a. Jesus said He went to prepare a place for the faithful (John 14:1-3).
 - b. There is also a place prepared to eternally punish the unfaithful (Matthew 25:41).
 - c. Thus, for the faithful, the resurrection is an amazing comfort.¹⁵¹
 - d. For the unfaithful, the resurrection is a terrifying thing.
- C. Since the resurrection shows God's approval of the teachings of Christ, it shows that Jesus is God!
1. As we have seen together on multiple occasions throughout this study, Jesus claimed to be God both through His words and His actions.
 2. God raised Him up from the dead, a miracle which confirmed the Messenger and the Message He brought.
 3. The resurrection proves Jesus is God!
- Conc.
1. These outlines are by no means exhaustive on every possible way of proving that Jesus is indeed God.
 2. These are written to show the foundation we have to build on in following the word of God.
 - a. There is a God.
 - b. The Bible is His inspired Word.
 - c. Jesus Christ is His Son, and is God.
 3. Everything taught in the New Testament hinges on those three things being true.
 4. Since they are true, we can know with confidence that if we do the things the Bible instructs us to do, we will go to that place Jesus has prepared for the faithful.

¹⁵¹ Cobb. *Resurrection*.

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