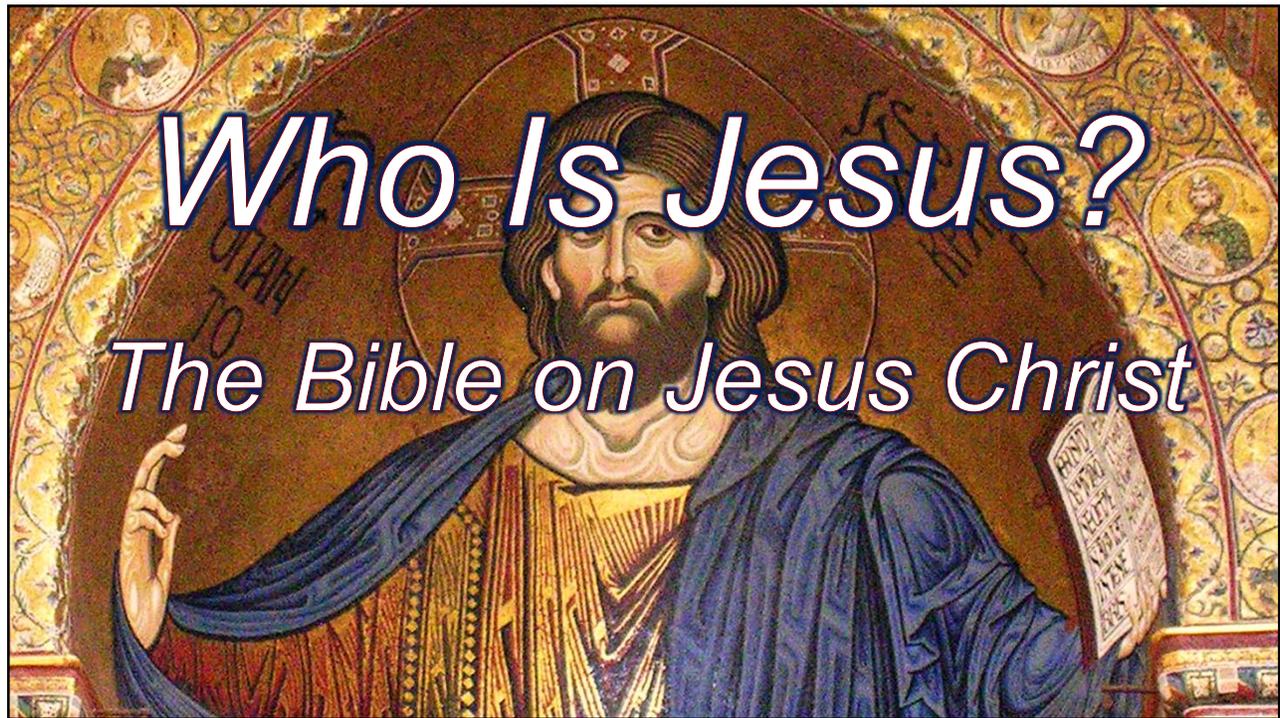
A detailed mosaic of Jesus Christ, likely from the Hagia Sophia in Istanbul. He is depicted with long brown hair and a beard, wearing a blue outer robe and a gold inner garment. He is shown in a frontal, slightly turned pose, with his right hand raised in a gesture of blessing or teaching, and his left hand holding an open book. The background is a rich, golden mosaic with intricate patterns and smaller figures in circular medallions.

Introduction to
Christian Apologetics:
06 The Bible on Jesus

Richard G. Howe, Ph.D.
Provost
Professor of Philosophy and Apologetics
Norman L. Geisler Chair of Christian Apologetics
Southern Evangelical Seminary, Rock Hill, South Carolina, USA

A detailed mosaic of Jesus Christ, identical to the one in the first image. He is depicted with long brown hair and a beard, wearing a blue outer robe and a gold inner garment. He is shown in a frontal, slightly turned pose, with his right hand raised in a gesture of blessing or teaching, and his left hand holding an open book. The background is a rich, golden mosaic with intricate patterns and smaller figures in circular medallions.

Who Is Jesus?
The Bible on Jesus Christ



1. *The Bible is a basically reliable and trustworthy document of history.*

Historicity of the Bible

2. *On the basis of this, we have sufficient evidence to believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.*

Who Is Jesus?

3. *Jesus Christ teaches that the Bible is the Word of God.*

The Inspiration and Inerrancy of the Bible

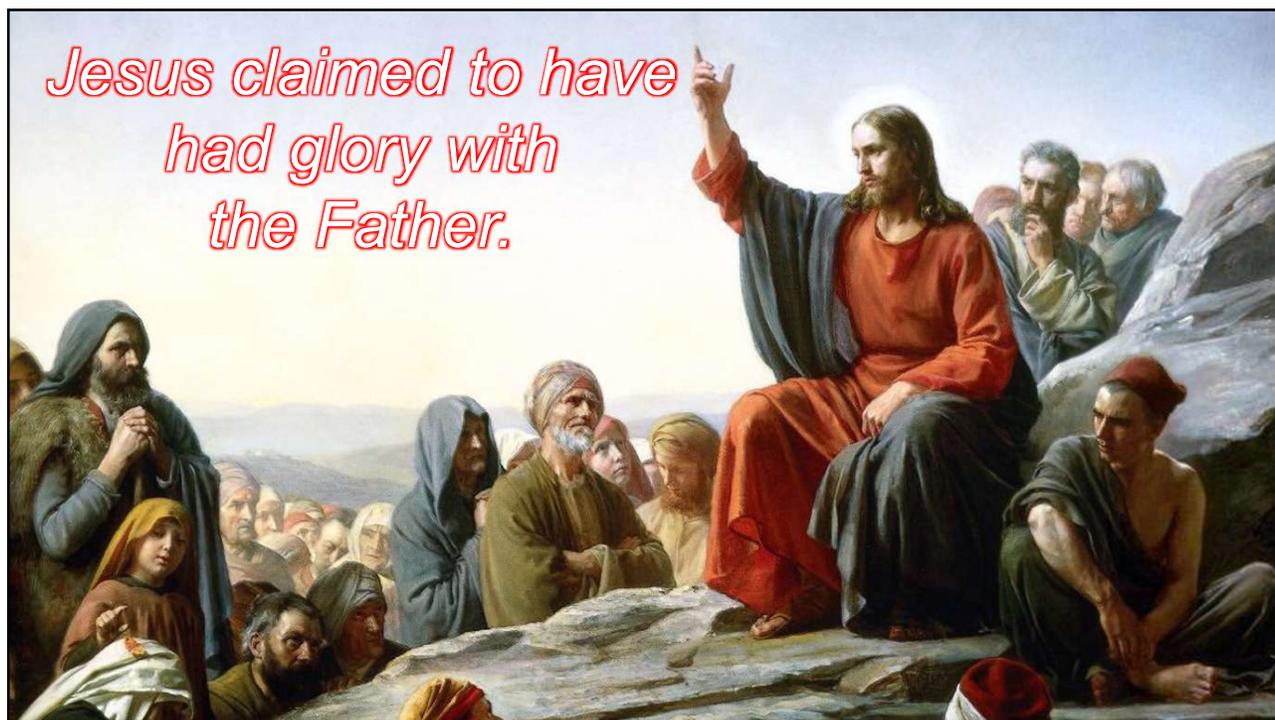
4. *Therefore, the Bible is the Word of God and Christianity is true.*

The Truth of Christianity

2. *On the basis of this, we have sufficient evidence to believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.*

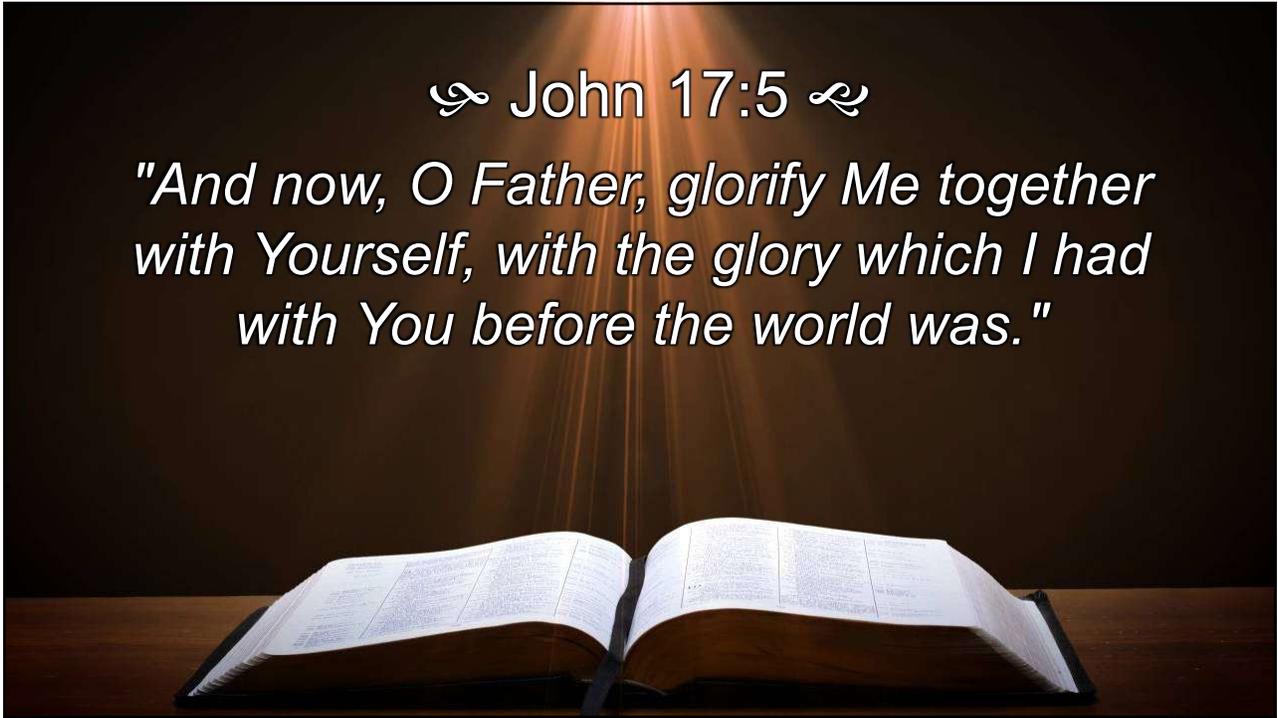
Who Is Jesus?

Jesus Claims to Be God



∞ John 17:5 ∞

"And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was."



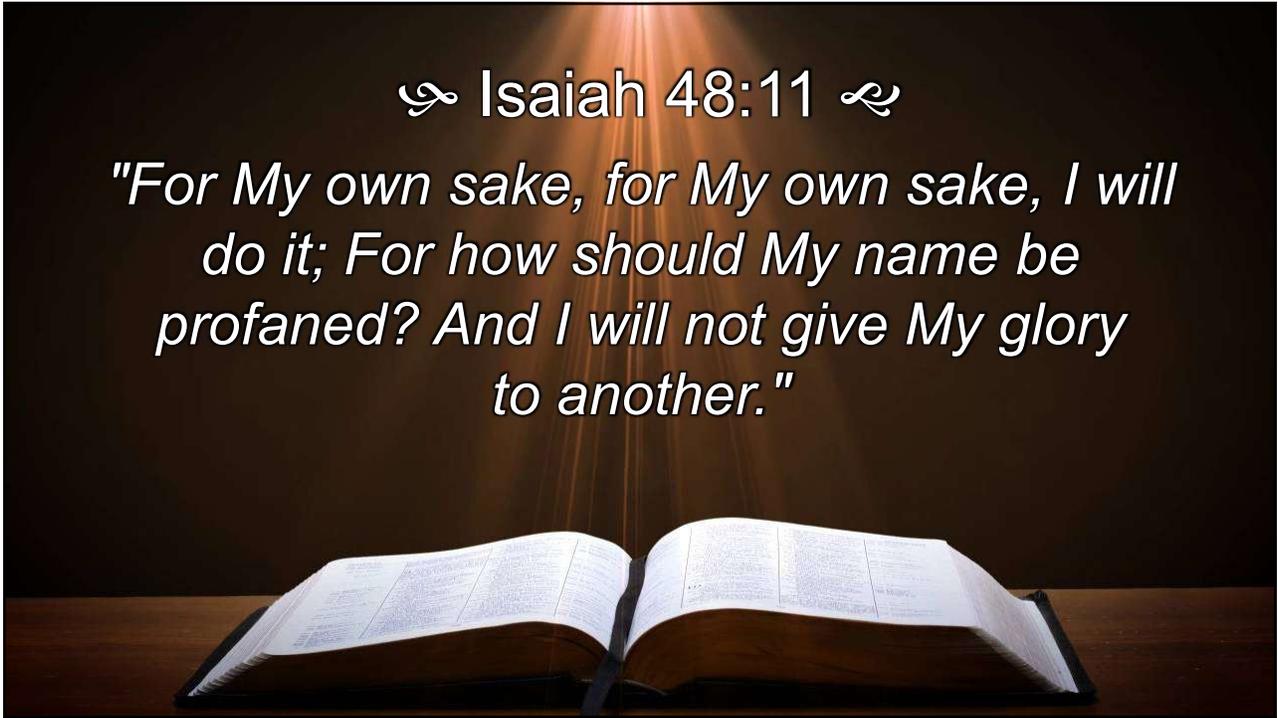
∞ Isaiah 42:8 ∞

"I am the LORD, that is My name; And My glory I will not give to another, Nor My praise to carved images."

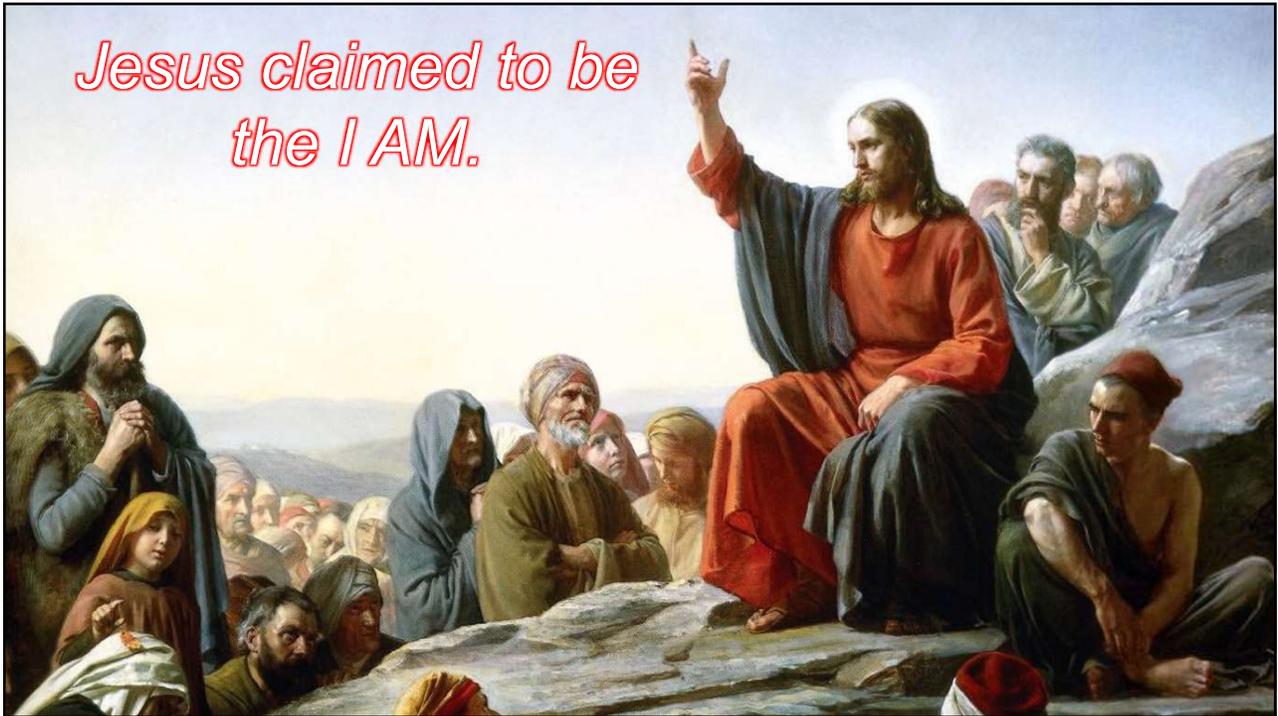


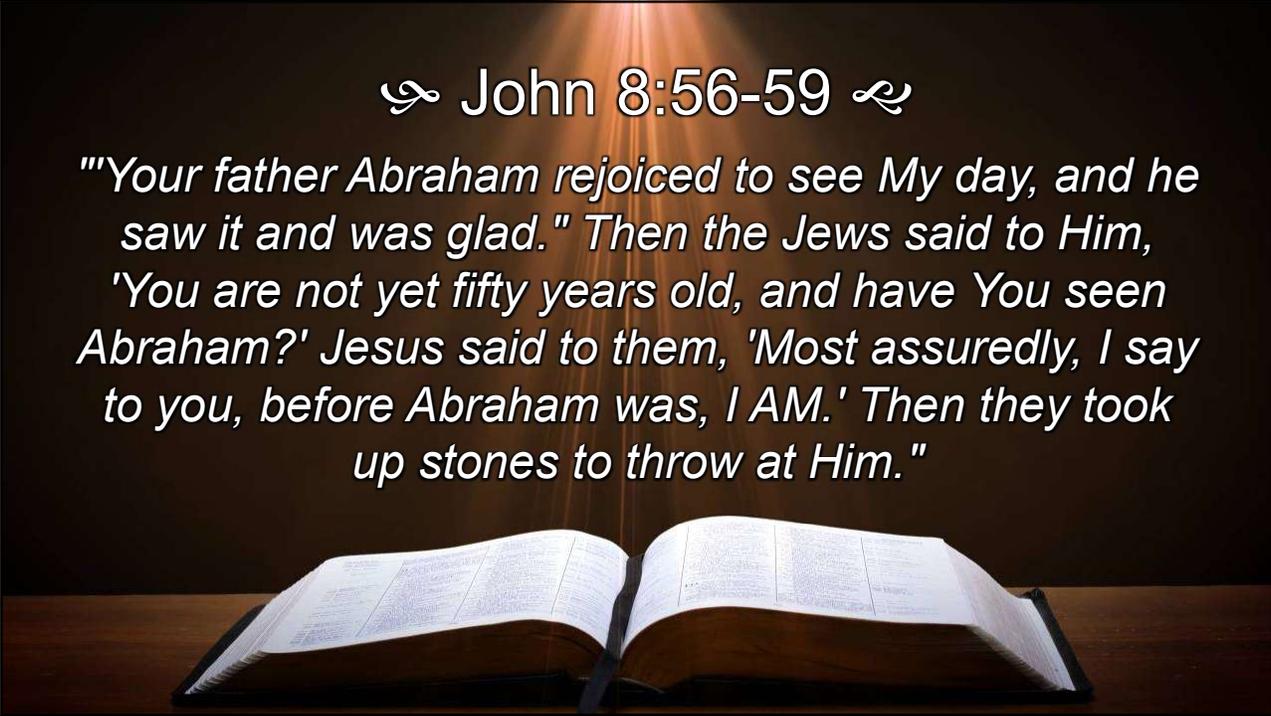
∞ Isaiah 48:11 ∞

"For My own sake, for My own sake, I will do it; For how should My name be profaned? And I will not give My glory to another."



*Jesus claimed to be
the I AM.*





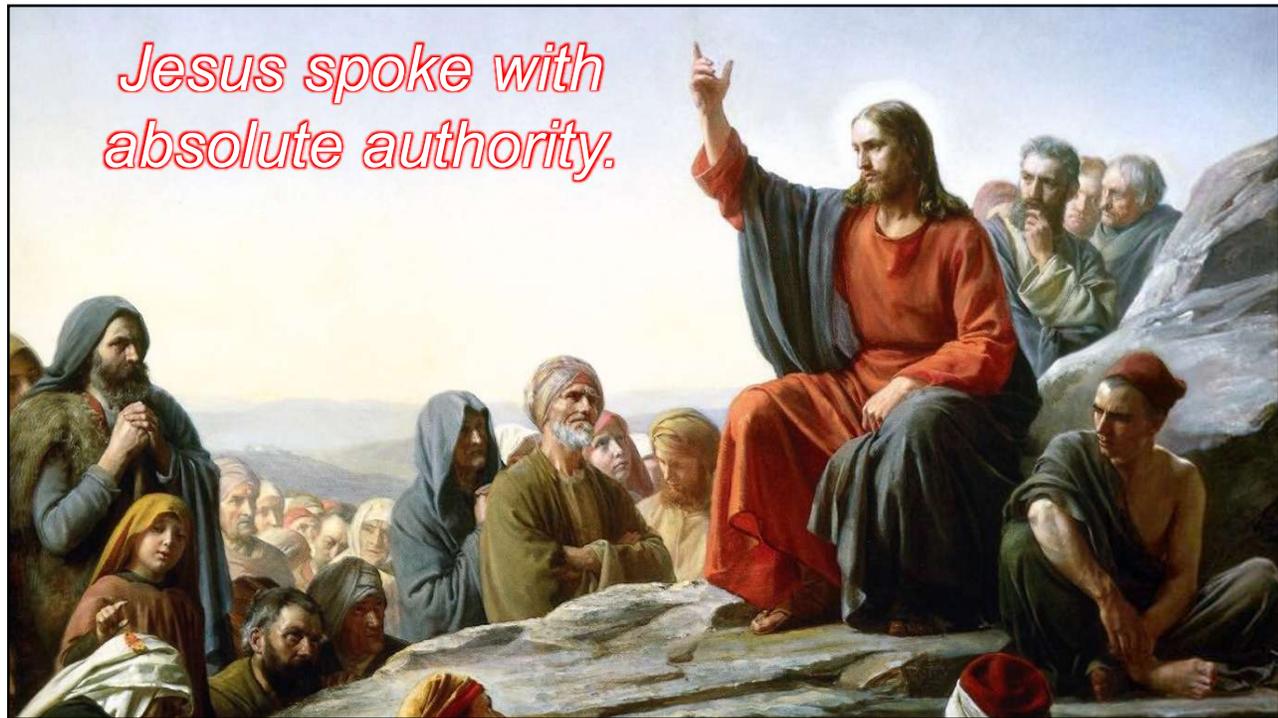
☞ John 8:56-59 ☞

"Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad." Then the Jews said to Him, 'You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?' Jesus said to them, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.' Then they took up stones to throw at Him."



☞ Exodus 3:14 ☞

"And God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM.' And He said, 'Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, "I AM has sent me to you." ' "



✧ Matthew 7:24-29 ✧

"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock."

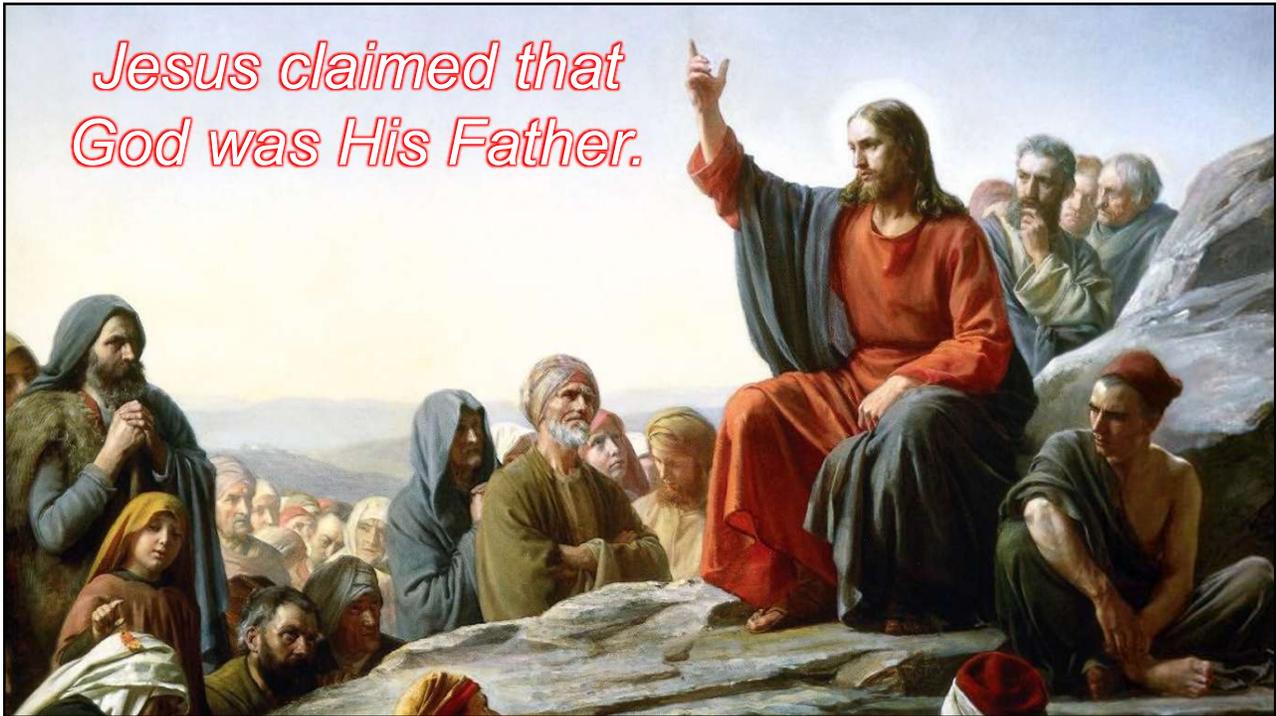


✧ Matthew 7:24-29 ✧

"But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall." And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes."



*Jesus claimed that
God was His Father.*

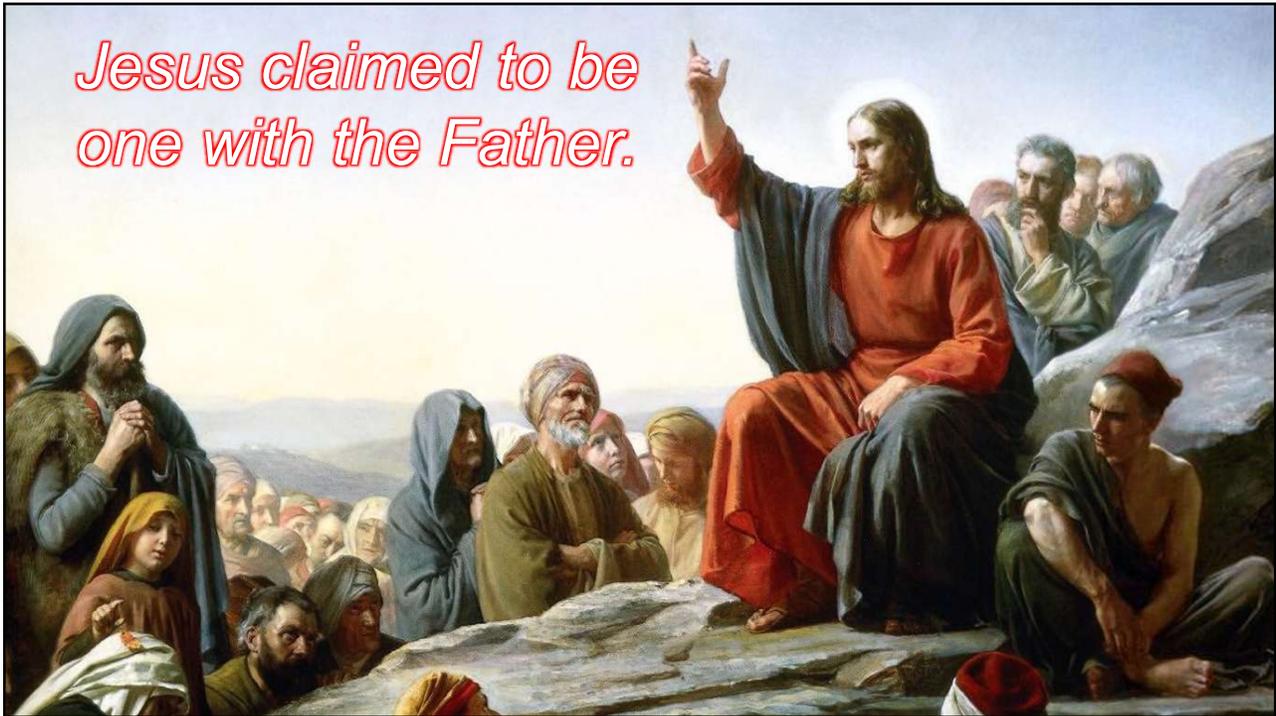


☞ John 5:17-18 ☞

"But Jesus answered them, 'My Father has been working until now, and I have been working.' 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."



Jesus claimed to be one with the Father.

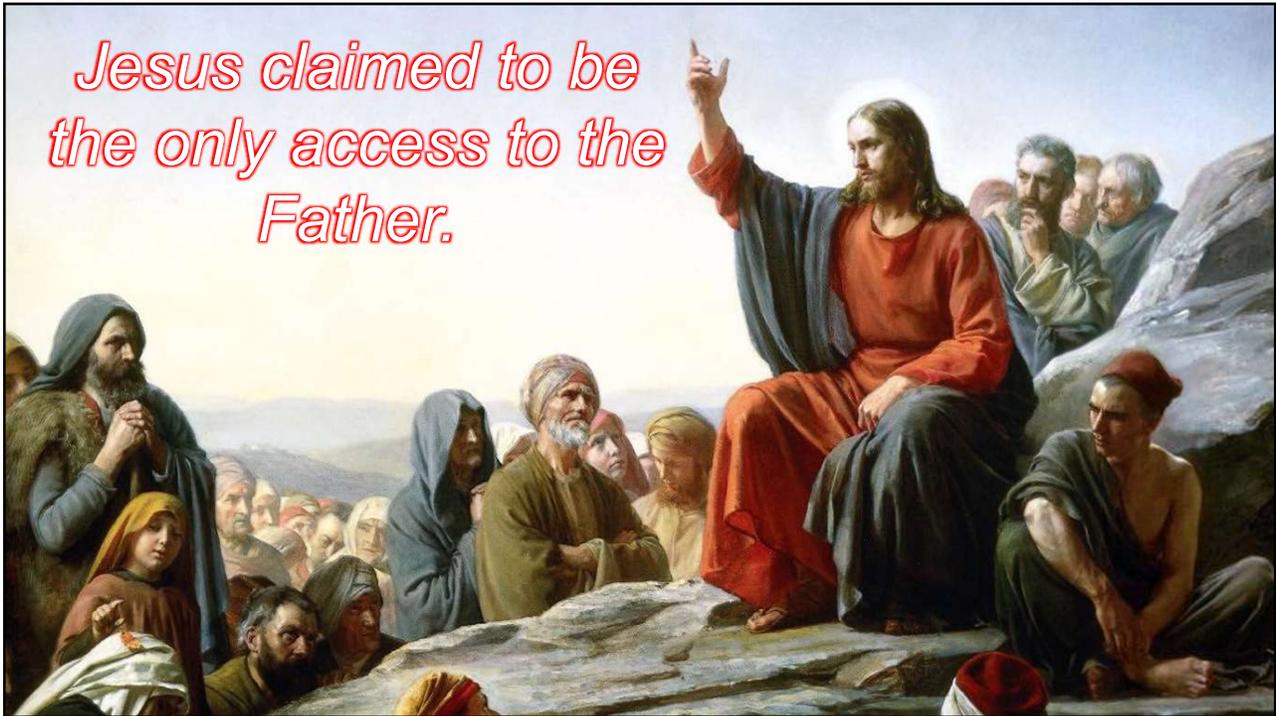


☞ John 10:30-33 ☞

" 'I and My Father are one.' Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him. Jesus answered them, 'Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?' 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.' "



*Jesus claimed to be
the only access to the
Father.*

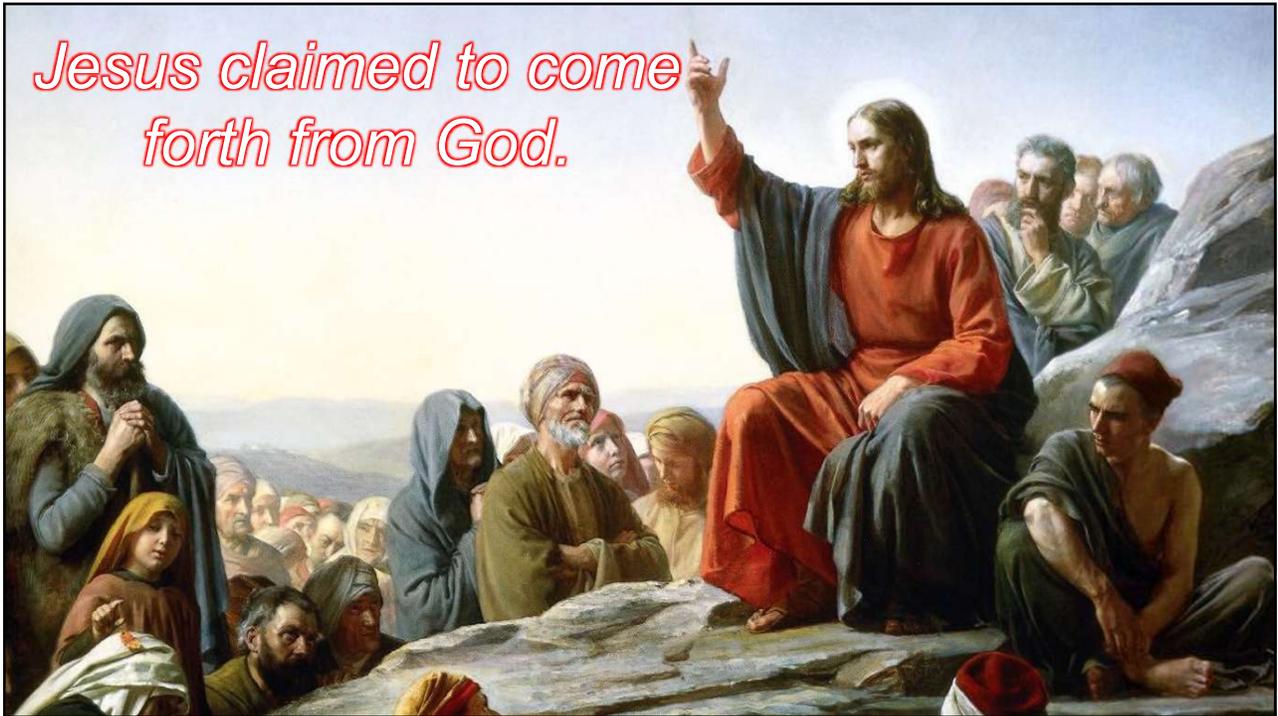


∞ John 8:42 ∞

"Jesus said to them, 'If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me.' "

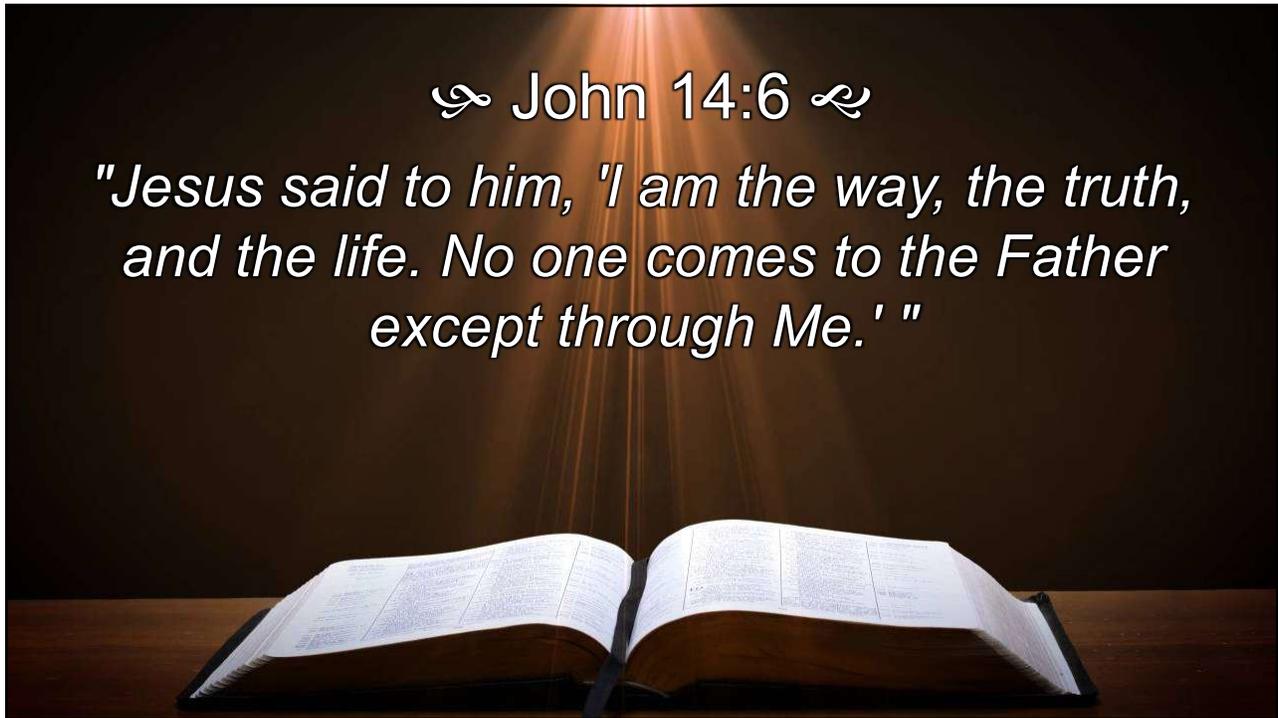


Jesus claimed to come forth from God.

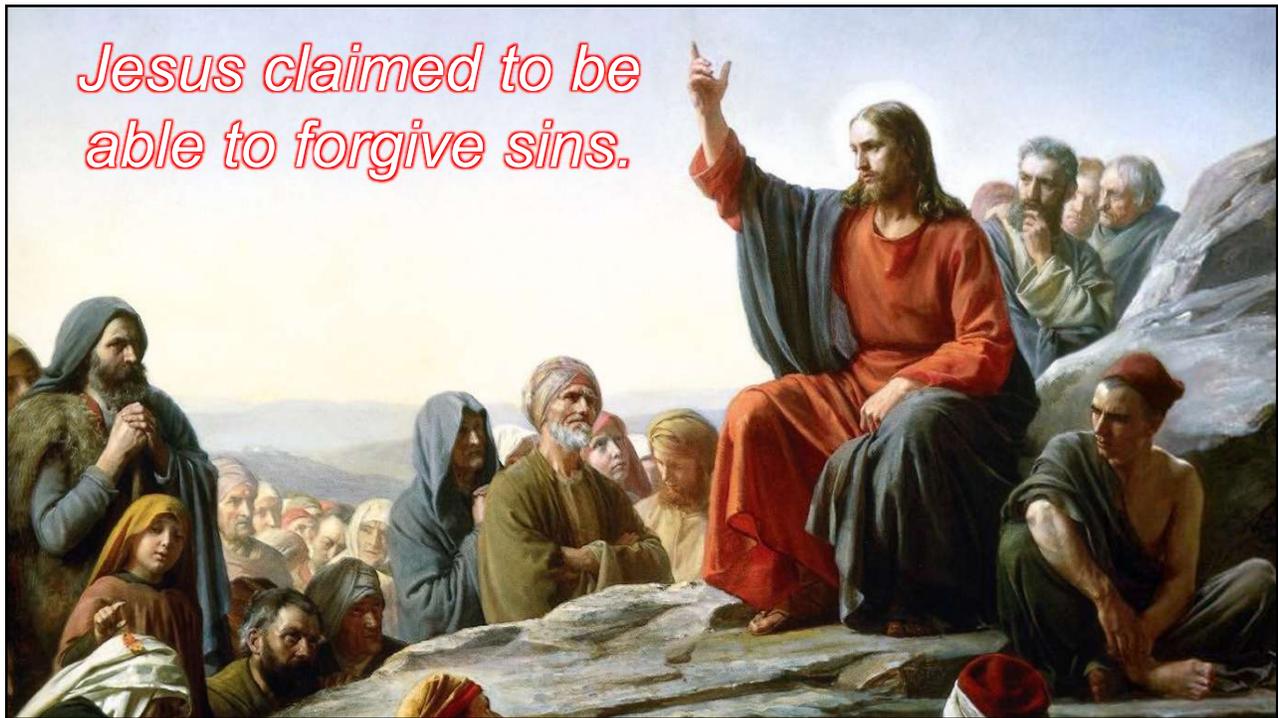


∞ John 14:6 ∞

"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.' "



Jesus claimed to be able to forgive sins.

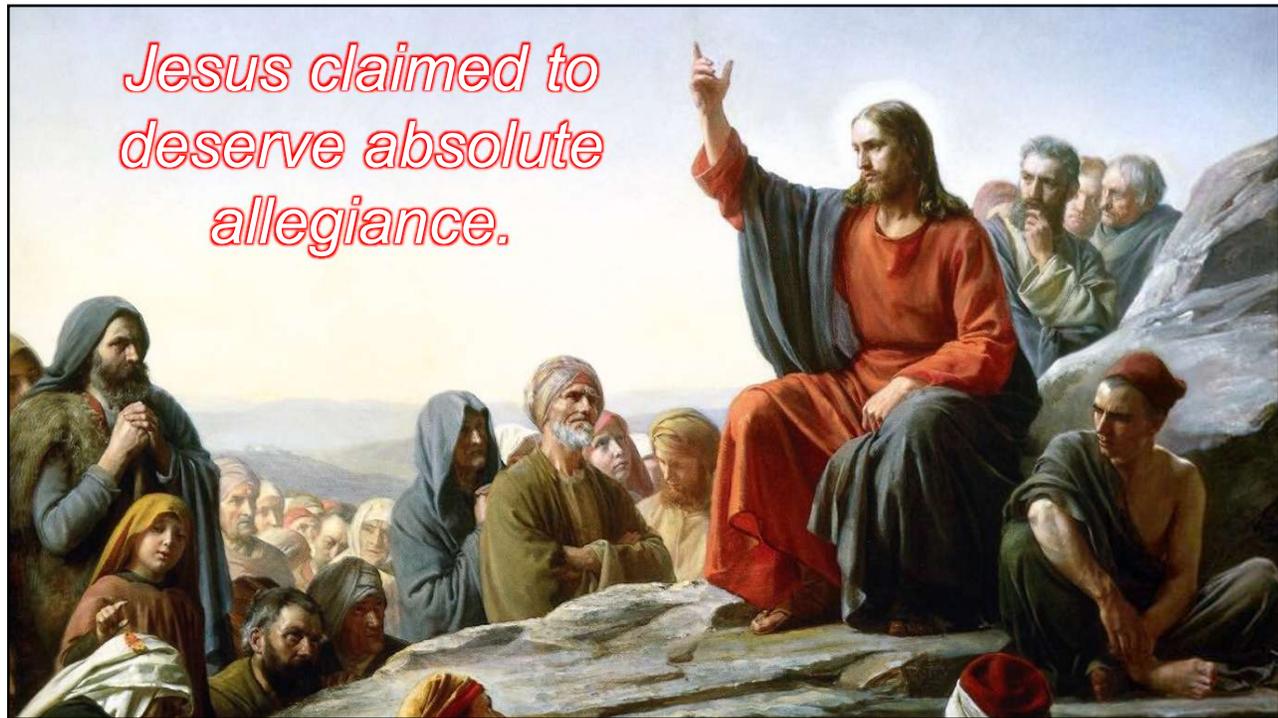


∞ Matthew 9:2-7 ∞

"Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, 'Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you.' And at once some of the scribes said within themselves, 'This Man blasphemes!'"

∞ Matthew 9:2-7 ∞

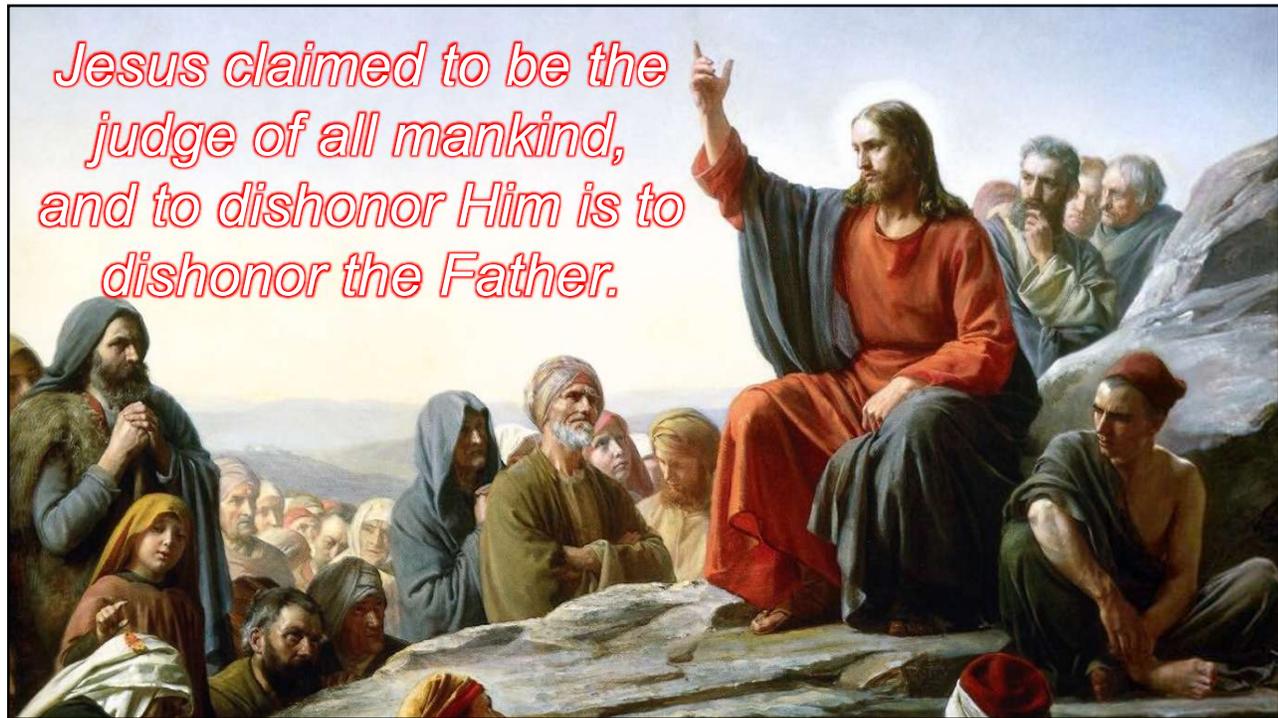
"But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, 'Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, "Your sins are forgiven you," or to say, "Arise and walk?" But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins'—then He said to the paralytic, 'Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.' And he arose and departed to his house."



☞ Luke 14:26 ☞

"If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple."

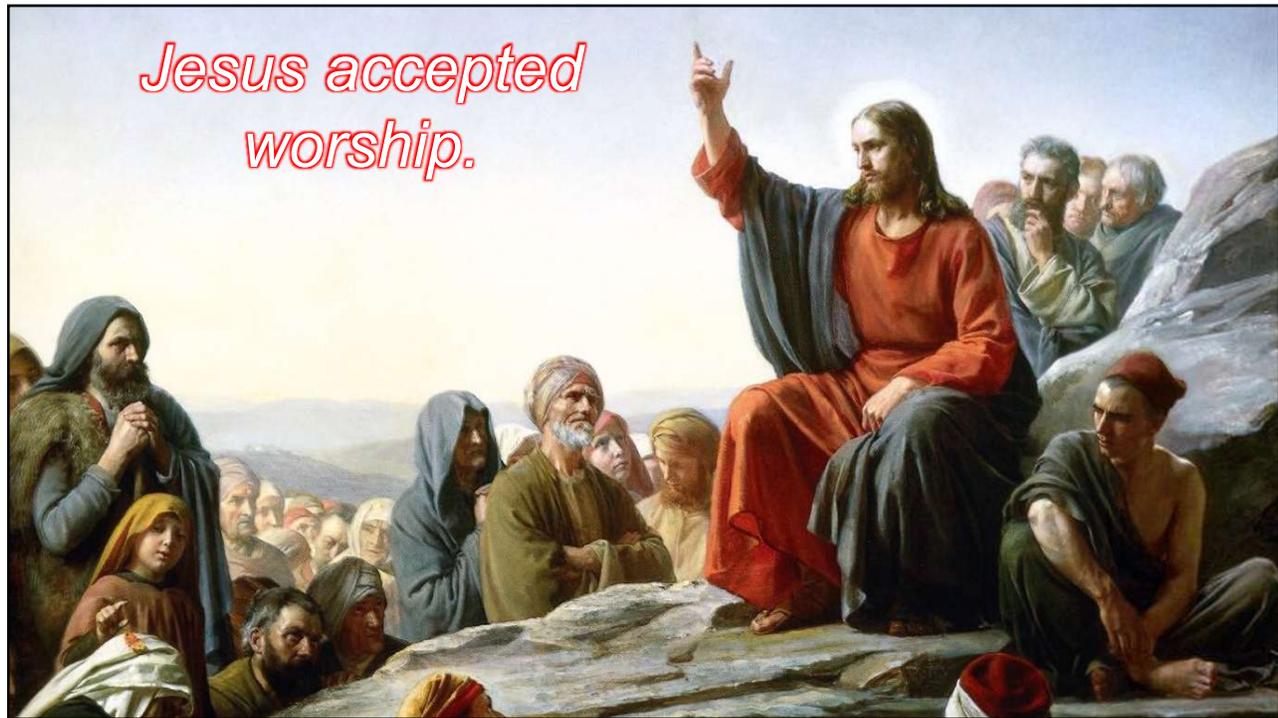




☞ John 5:21-23 ☞

"For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to them, even so the Son gives life to whom He will. For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him."





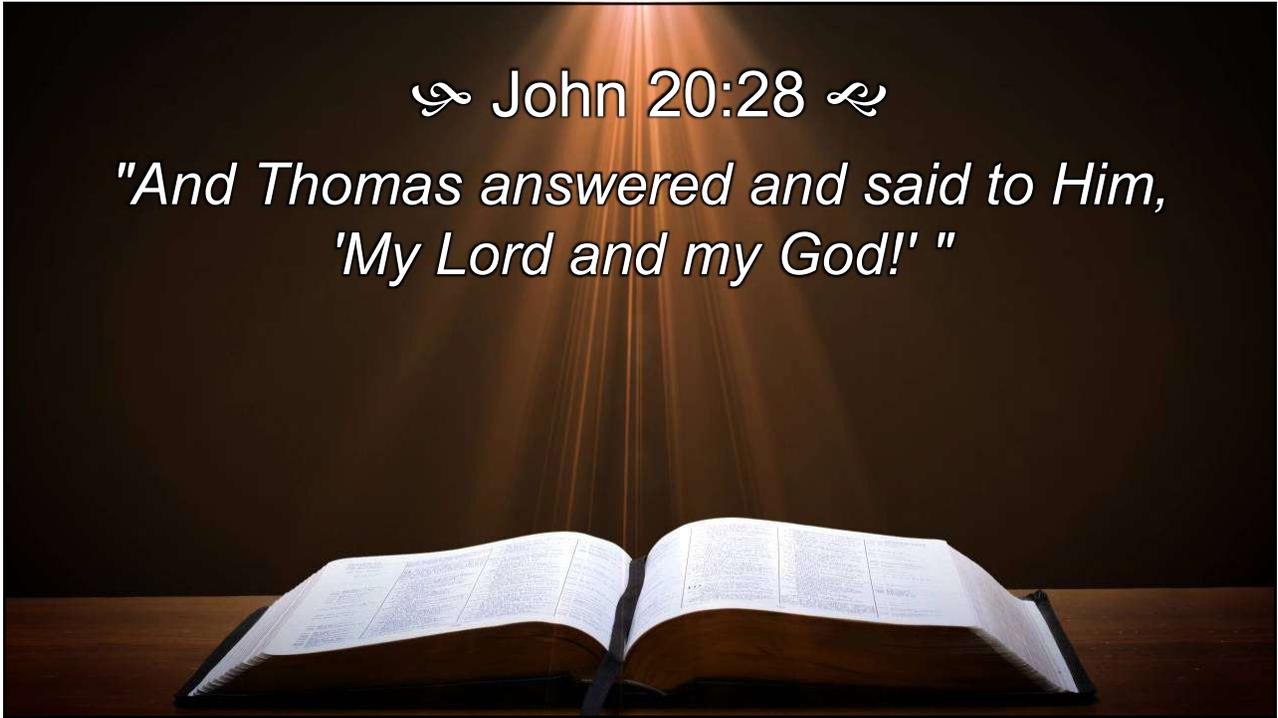
✧ Matthew 28:9 ✧

*"And as they went to tell His disciples,
behold, Jesus met them, saying, 'Rejoice!'
So they came and held Him by the feet
and worshiped Him.'*



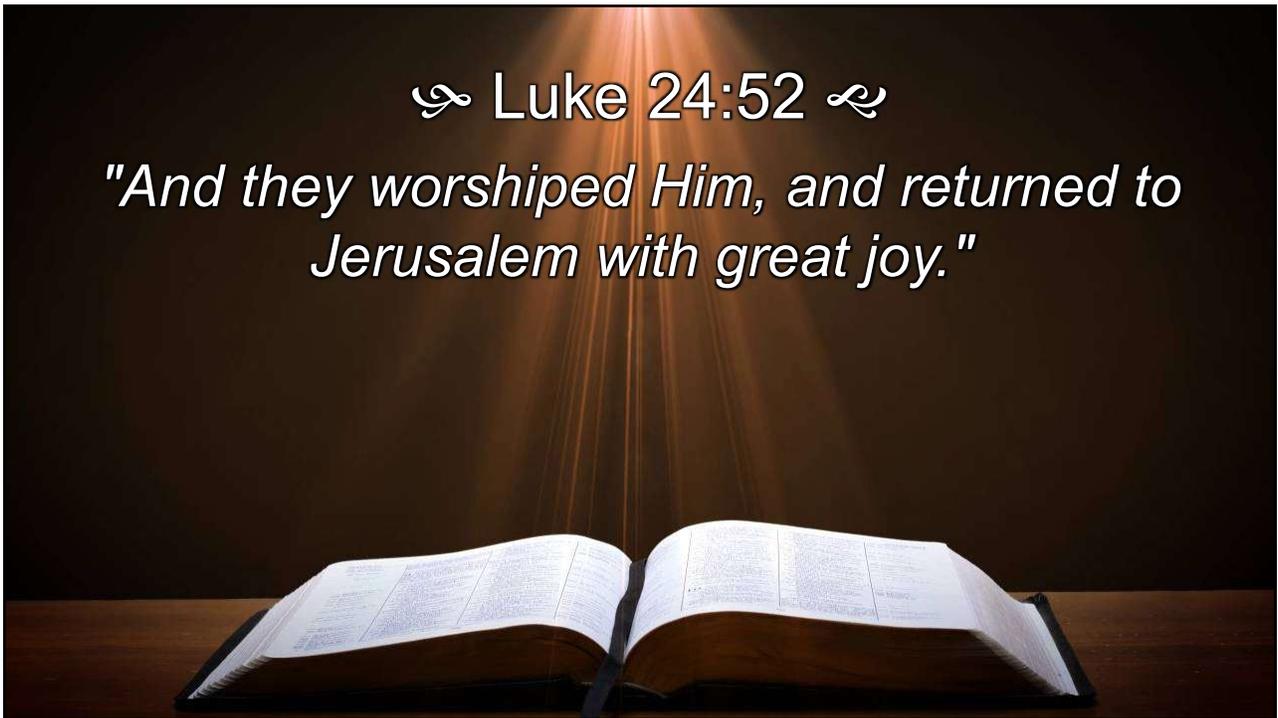
☞ John 20:28 ☞

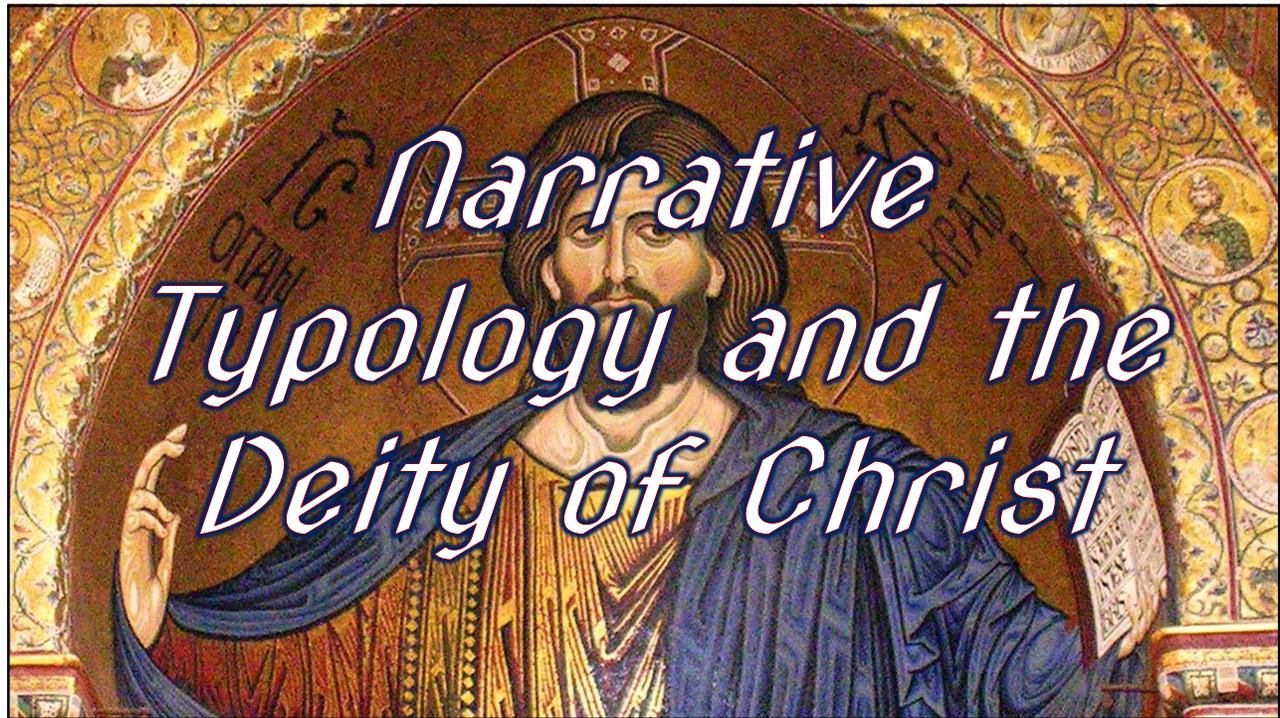
*"And Thomas answered and said to Him,
'My Lord and my God!'"*



☞ Luke 24:52 ☞

*"And they worshiped Him, and returned to
Jerusalem with great joy."*





The term 'narrative' refers to historical narrative, primarily in this case, to Old Testament historical narrative.

The term 'typology' refers to the literary and theological device where an Old Testament person, object, or event foreshadows a later person, object, or event such that the latter is a fulfillment of the former.

*The History of
Israel and the Life
of Jesus*

BIRTH

Israel

☞ Deut. 32:17-18 ☞

They sacrificed to demons, not to God, To gods they did not know, To new gods, new arrivals That your fathers did not fear. Of the Rock who begot you, you are unmindful, And have forgotten the God who fathered you.



Jesus

☞ Matt. 1:18-20 ☞

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.



BIRTH

Israel

☞ Deut. 32:17-18 ☞

They sacrificed to demons, not to God, To gods they did not know, To new gods, new arrivals That your fathers did not fear. Of the Rock who begot you, you are unmindful, And have forgotten the God who fathered you.



Jesus

☞ Matt. 1:18-20 ☞

Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly.



BIRTH

Israel

☞ Deut. 32:17-18 ☞

They sacrificed to demons, not to God, To gods they did not know, To new gods, new arrivals That your fathers did not fear. Of the Rock who begot you, you are unmindful, And have forgotten the God who fathered you.



Jesus

☞ Matt. 1:18-20 ☞

But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit."



DOWN INTO EGYPT

Israel

☞ Gen. 46:6 ☞

So they took their livestock and their goods, which they had acquired in the land of Canaan, and went to Egypt, Jacob and all his descendants with him.



Jesus

☞ Matt. 2:13-14 ☞

Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him." When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt.



OUT OF EGYPT

Israel

☞ Ex. 3:10 ☞

Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt."



Jesus

☞ Matt. 2:19-21 ☞

Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead." Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel.



WATERS OF BAPTISM

Israel

☞ 1 Cor. 10:1-2 ☞

Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea," (Ex. 14)



Jesus

☞ Matt. 3:16 ☞

When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.



SON OF GOD

Israel

☞ Ex. 4:21-22 ☞

And the LORD said to Moses, ... "you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the LORD: "Israel is My son, My firstborn."

☞ Jer. 31:9 ☞

"For I am a Father to Israel. And Ephraim is My first-born."

☞ Hosea 11:1 ☞

"When Israel was a child, I loved him, And out of Egypt I called My son."



Jesus

☞ Matt. 3:17 ☞

And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."



INTO THE WILDERNESS

Israel

☞ Deut. 8:2 ☞

And you shall remember that the LORD your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not.



Jesus

☞ Matt. 4:1 ☞

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.



FIRST TEMPTATION

	Israel in the Wilderness	Jesus in the Wilderness
Temptation	↻ Deut. 8:2-3 ↻ <i>"You shall remember all the way which the Lord your God has led you in the wilderness these forty years, that He might humble you, testing you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. He humbled you and let you be hungry."</i>	↻ Matt. 4:3 ↻ <i>"If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."</i>
Response	↻ Ex. 16:2-3 ↻ <i>"The whole congregation of the sons of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The sons of Israel said to them, 'Would that we had died by the Lord's hand in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat, when we ate bread to the full; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.'"</i>	↻ Matt. 4:4 ↻ <i>"Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God."</i>

SECOND TEMPTATION

	Israel in the Wilderness	Jesus in the Wilderness
Temptation	↻ Ex. 17:1-7 ↻ <i>"There was no water for the people to drink. . . . Why, now, have you brought us up from Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?" "</i>	↻ Matt. 4:6 ↻ <i>"If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command His angels concerning You;' and 'On [their] hands they will bear You up, So that You will not strike Your foot against a stone,' "</i>
Response	↻ Ex. 17:7 ↻ <i>"He named the place Massah and Meribah because of the quarrel of the sons of Israel, and because they tested the Lord, saying, 'Is the Lord among us, or not?' "</i>	↻ Matt. 4:7 ↻ <i>"On the other hand, it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.' "</i>

THIRD TEMPTATION

	Israel in the Wilderness	Jesus in the Wilderness
Temptation	<p>↻ Deut. 6:13-14 ↻</p> <p><i>"You shall fear [only] the Lord your God; and you shall worship Him and swear by His name. You shall not follow other gods, any of the gods of the peoples who surround you."</i></p>	<p>↻ Matt. 4:9 ↻</p> <p><i>"All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me."</i></p>
Response	<p>↻ Ex. 32:4 ↻</p> <p><i>"He took [this] from their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool and made it into a molten calf; and they said, 'This is your god, O Israel, who brought you up from the land of Egypt.' "</i></p>	<p>↻ Matt. 4:10 ↻</p> <p><i>"Go, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.' "</i></p>

MT. SINAI AND THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT: EXOD. 19 & MATT. 5

Israel

Israel camped before the mountain. (v. 2)

God was on the mountain. (v. 3)

Moses went up the mountain to God. (v. 3)

Moses had to convey to the people the words of God. (vv. 3-7)

Moses had to convey to God the words of the people. (v. 8)

The people were not allowed to go up the mountain nor even touch its base or they would be put to death. (v. 12)

MT. SINAI AND THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT: EXOD. 19 & MATT. 5**Israel**

They could only meet with God at the foot of the mountain. (v. 17)

The mountain was filled with smoke. (v. 18)

All of this, and more, depicted the separation that existed between God and man.

God gives Moses the Ten Commandments.

God repeatedly says "Be holy for I am holy." (Lev. 11:45; 19:2; 20:7; 20:26; 21:8)

MT. SINAI AND THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT: EXOD. 19 & MATT. 5**Israel**

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Jesus

The multitudes followed Jesus to the mountain. (Mt. 4:25-5:1a)

Jesus up on the mountain. (v. 1)

There was no intermediary between Jesus and His audience. (vv. 1-2)

Jesus' disciples followed Jesus onto the mountain. (v. 1)

MT. SINAI AND THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT: EXOD. 19 & MATT. 5

Israel	Jesus
Israel camped before the mountain. (v. 2)	The multitudes followed Jesus to the mountain. (Mt. 4:25-5:1a)
God was on the mountain. (v. 3)	Jesus went up on the mountain. (v. 1)
Moses went up the mountain to God. (v. 3)	There was no intermediary between Jesus and his audience. (vv. 1-2)
Moses had to convey to the people the words of God. (vv. 3-7)	Jesus' disciples followed Jesus onto the mountain. (v. 1)
Moses had to convey to God the words of the people. (v. 8)	
The people were not allowed to go up the mountain nor even touch its base or they would be put to death. (v. 12)	

MT. SINAI AND THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT: EXOD. 19 & MATT. 5

Israel	Jesus
They could only meet with God at the foot of the mountain. (v. 17)	There was no "separation" between Jesus and his disciples. Jesus "brought" them up to the mountain where God is as at Mt. Sinai. (vv. 1-2)
The mountain was filled with smoke. (v. 18)	Jesus gives the Beatitudes. (vv. 3-11)
All of this, and more, depicted the separation that existed between God and man.	Jesus commands, "Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect. (v. 48)
God gives Moses the Ten Commandments.	
God repeated says "Be holy for I am holy." (Lev. 11:44, 45; 19:2; 20:7; 20:26; 21:8)	

MT. SINAI (EX. 19) and THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT (MT. 5)

Observations

❖ *This is a deliberate inverse of Mt. Sinai in that now, because of what Jesus did for us on the cross, there is no more separation between God and man.*

✧ 1 Pet. 3:18 ✧

*"For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, **that He might bring us to God**, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,"*

MT. SINAI (EX. 19) and THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT (MT. 5)

Observations

❖ *This is a deliberate inverse of Mt. Sinai in that now, because of what Jesus did for us on the cross, there is no more separation between God and man.*

❖ *Notice the "stitch" of Matt. 5:1-2.*

✧ Matt. 5:1-2 ✧

"And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying ..."

MT. SINAI (EX. 19) and THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT (MT. 5)

Observations

- ❖ *This is a deliberate inverse of Mt. Sinai in that now, because of what Jesus did for us on the cross, there is no more separation between God and man.*
- ❖ *Notice the "stitch" of Matt. 5:1-2.*
- ❖ *Where in the context have we encountered the notion of a "mouth"?*

MT. SINAI (EX. 19) and THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT (MT. 5)

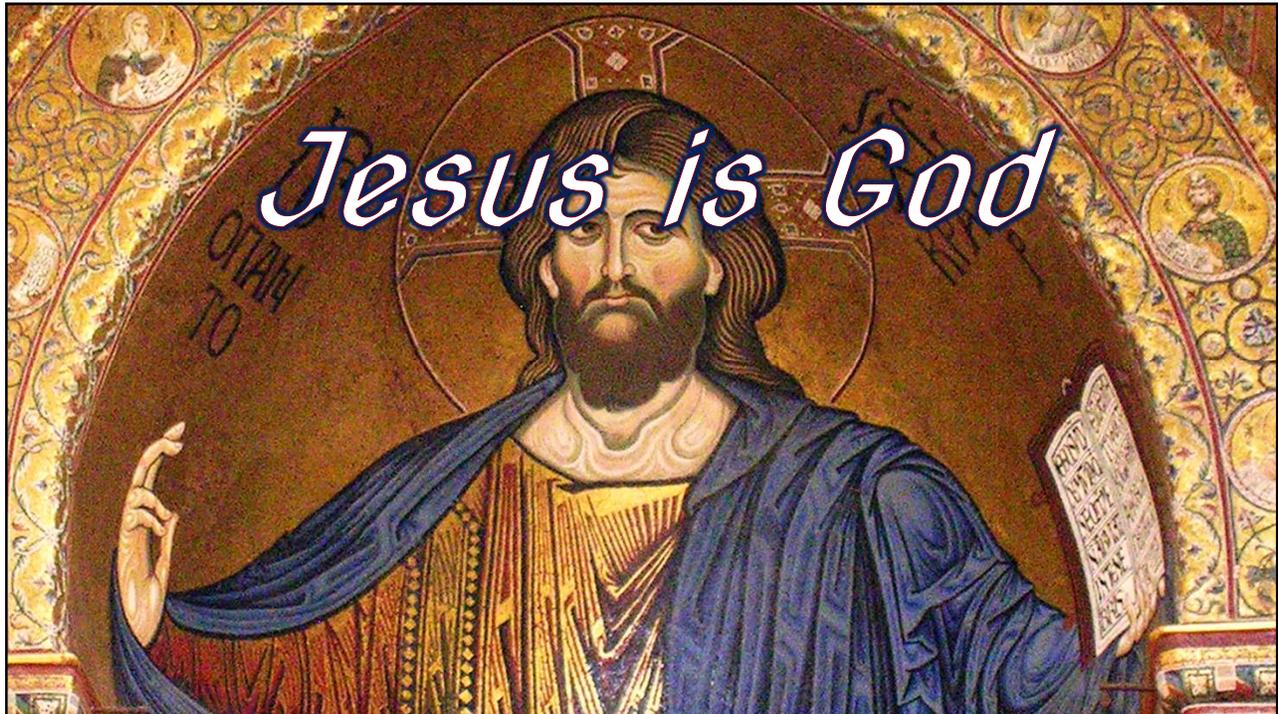
☞ Matt. 4:3-4 ☞

"Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, 'If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.' But He answered and said, 'It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE, BUT BY EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS FROM THE MOUTH OF GOD.' "

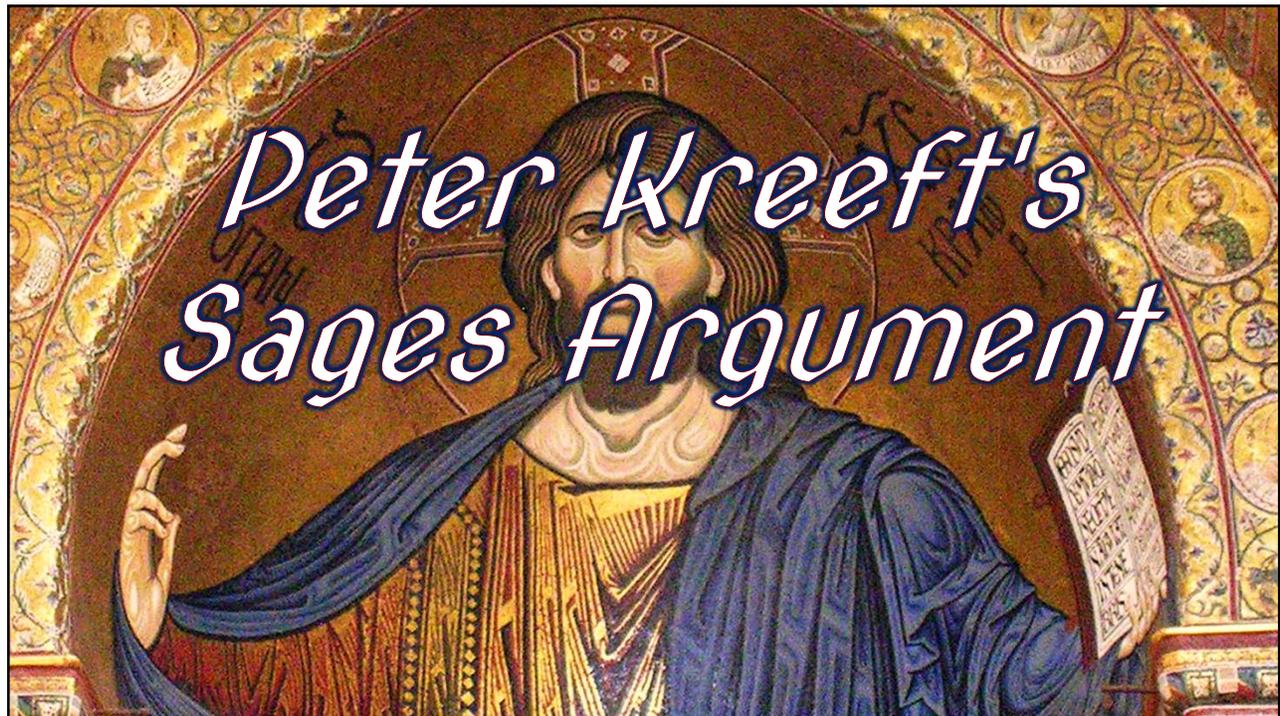
☞ Matt. 5:1-2 ☞

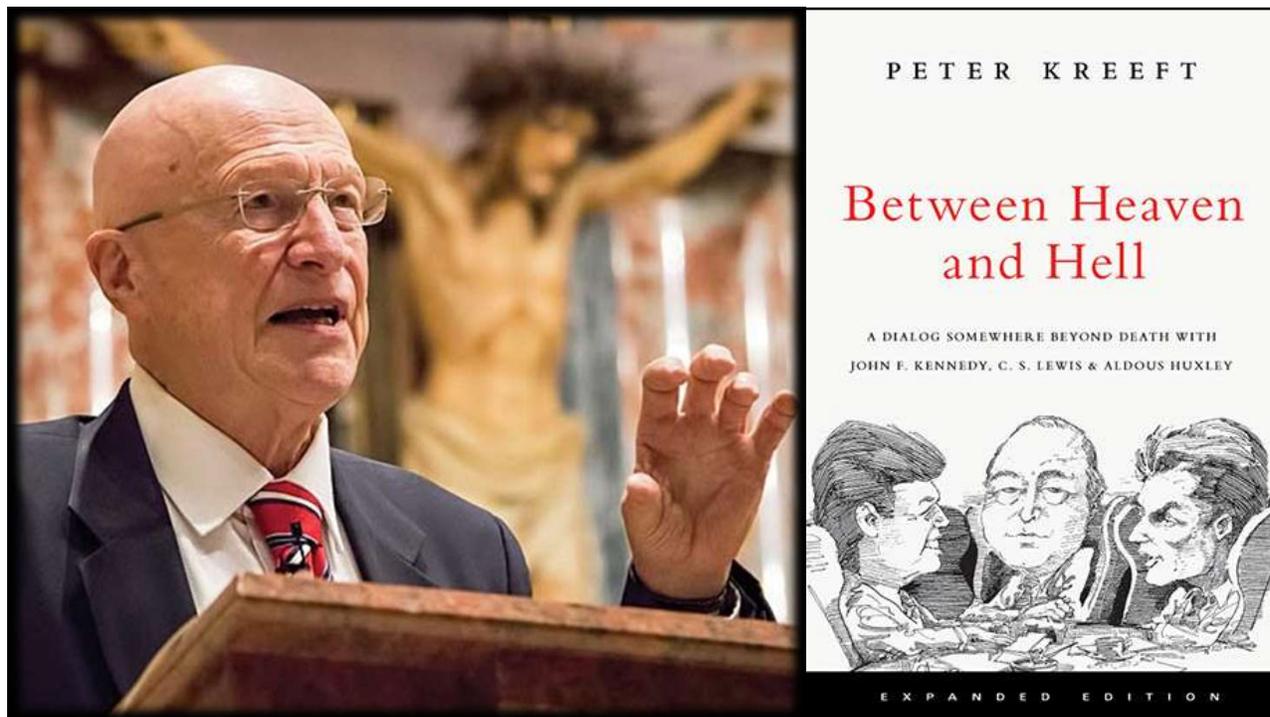
*"And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. Then **He opened His mouth** and taught them, saying ..."*

In the beginning ... John 1:1	In the beginning ... Gen. 1
Jesus "with" God John 1:1	the coming prophet whom God knew "face to face" Ex. 33:11
The Word "dwelt" among us. John 1:14	God was in the Tabernacle Ex. 29:43
We beheld His glory. John 1:14	God's Shekinah Glory in the Tabernacle Ex. 40:34
Angels ascending and descending on the Son of Man John 1:43-1:51	Angels ascending and descending on Jacob's Ladder Gen. 28:12
Grace and Truth through Jesus Christ John 1:17	Law given through Moses Ex. 24:12
Woman caught in adultery John 8	Israel in adultery at Mt. Sinai Ex. 32

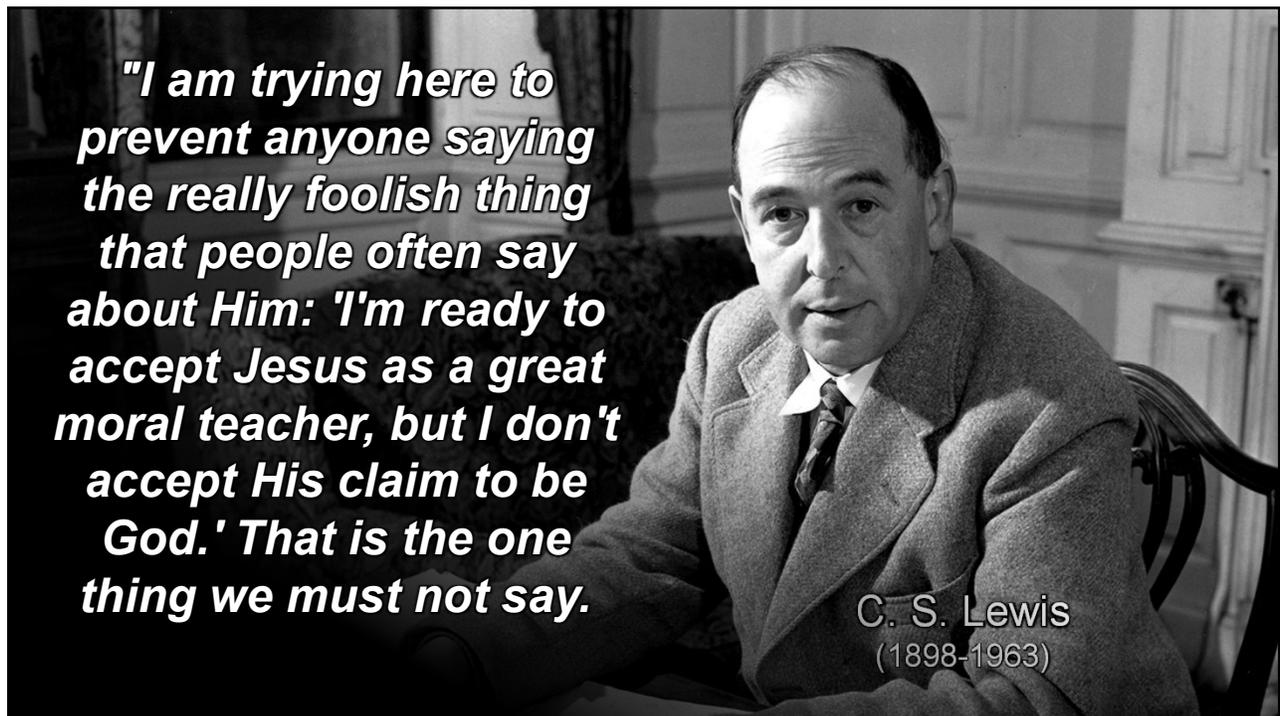
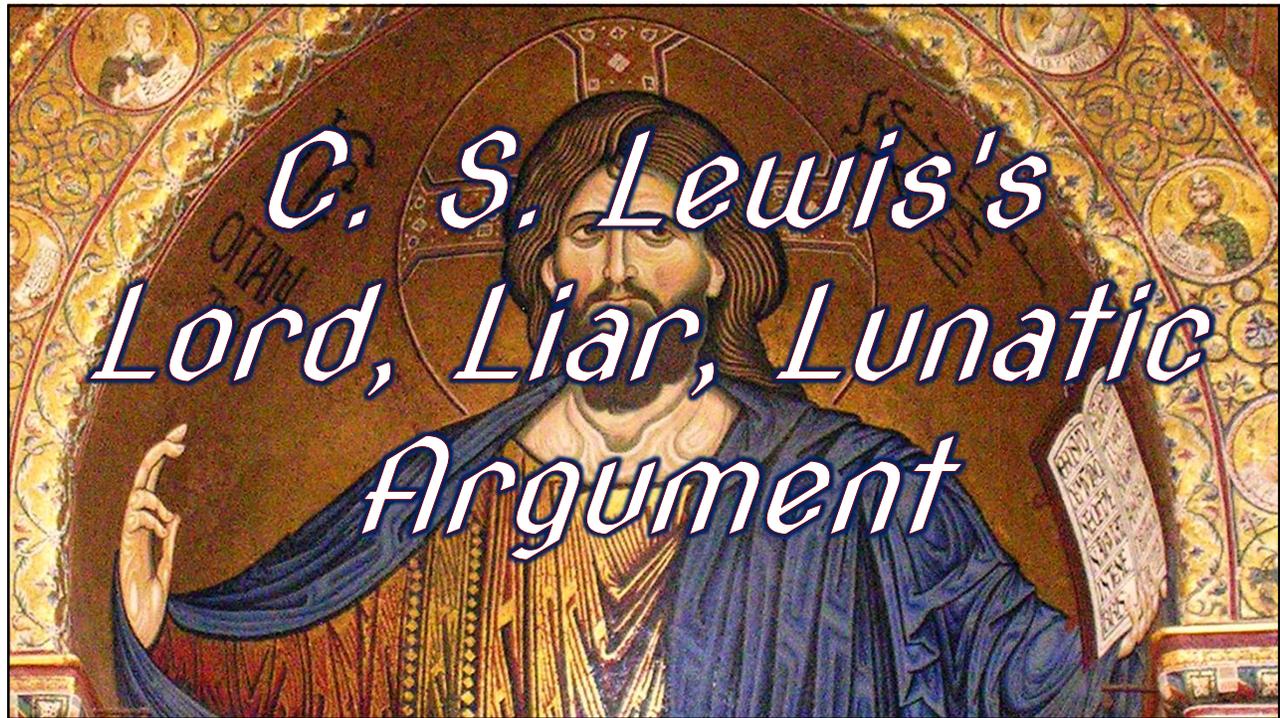


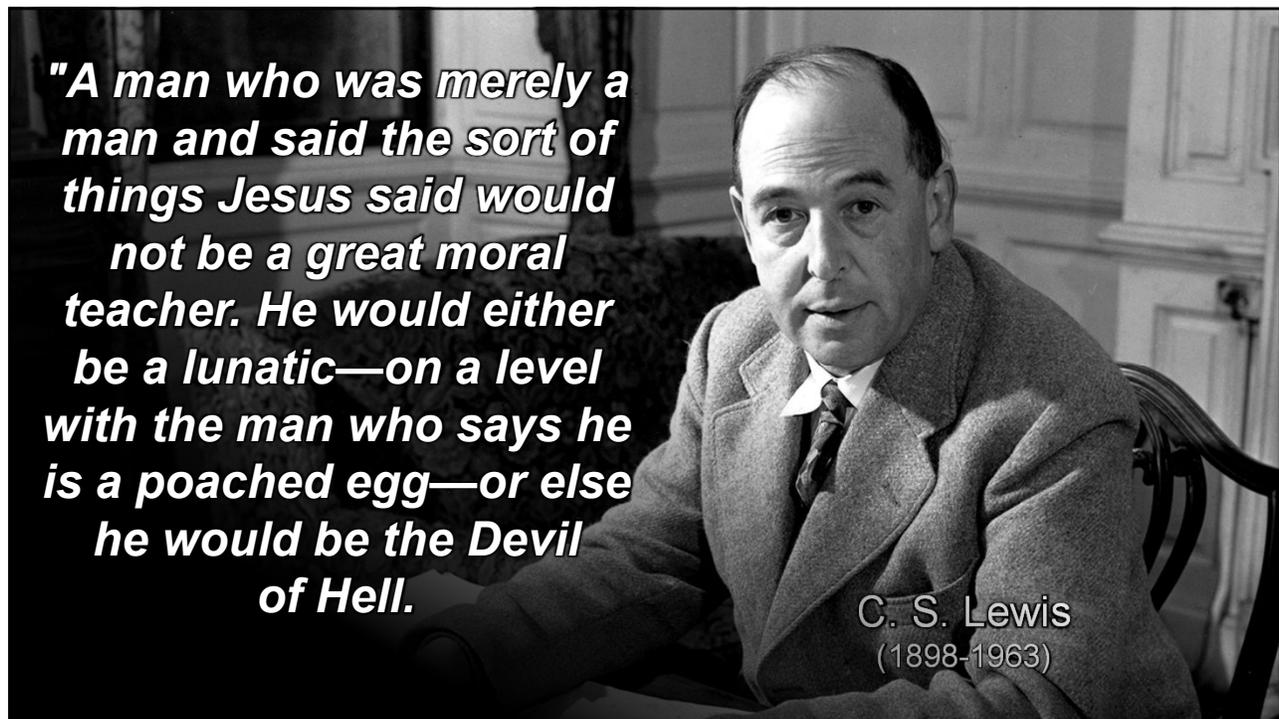
Mutual Title or Act	of God	of Jesus
Creator	Isaiah 40:28	John 1:3
Savior	Isaiah 45:22; 43:11	John 4:42
Raised the dead	1 Samuel 2:6	John 5:21
Judge	Joel 3:12	John 5:27; Mt 25:31
Light	Isaiah 60:19-20	John 8:12
I AM	Exodus 3:14	John 8:58; 18:5-6
Shepherd	Psalms 23:1	John 10:11
Glory of God	Isaiah 42:8; 48:11	John 17:1, 5
First and Last	Isaiah 41:4; 44:6	Revelation 1:17; 2:8
Redeemer	Hosea 13:14	Revelation 5:9
Bridegroom	Isaiah 62:5	Revelation 21:2
Rock	Psalms 18:2	1 Corinthians 10:4
Forgiver of Sins	Jeremiah 31:34	Mark 2:7, 10
Worshipped by angels	Psalms 148:2	Hebrews 1:6
Addressed in prayer	Genesis 20:17	Acts 7:59
Creator of angels	Psalms 148:5	Colossians 1:16
Confessed as Lord	Isaiah 45:23	Philippians 2:11





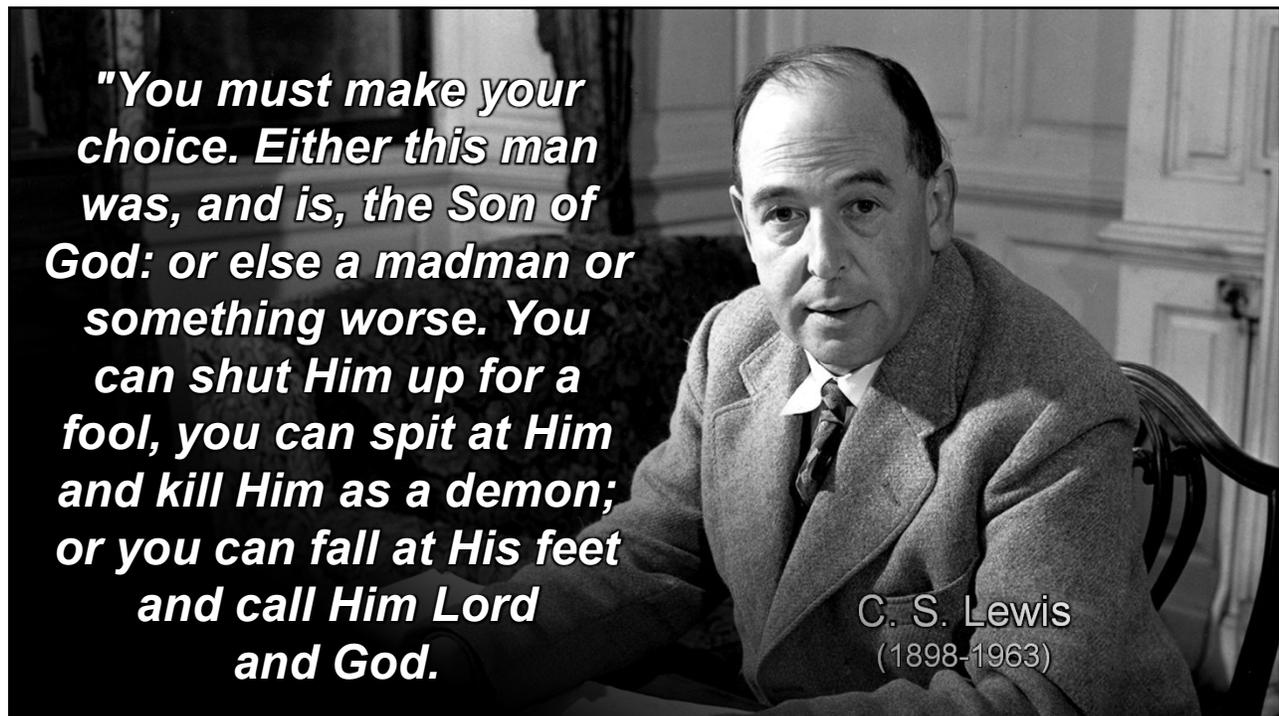
Claims to be God		Regarded as a Sage
No	Yes	
<p>most people</p>	<p>insane</p>	No
<p>Moses Socrates Confucius</p>	<p>Jesus</p>	Yes





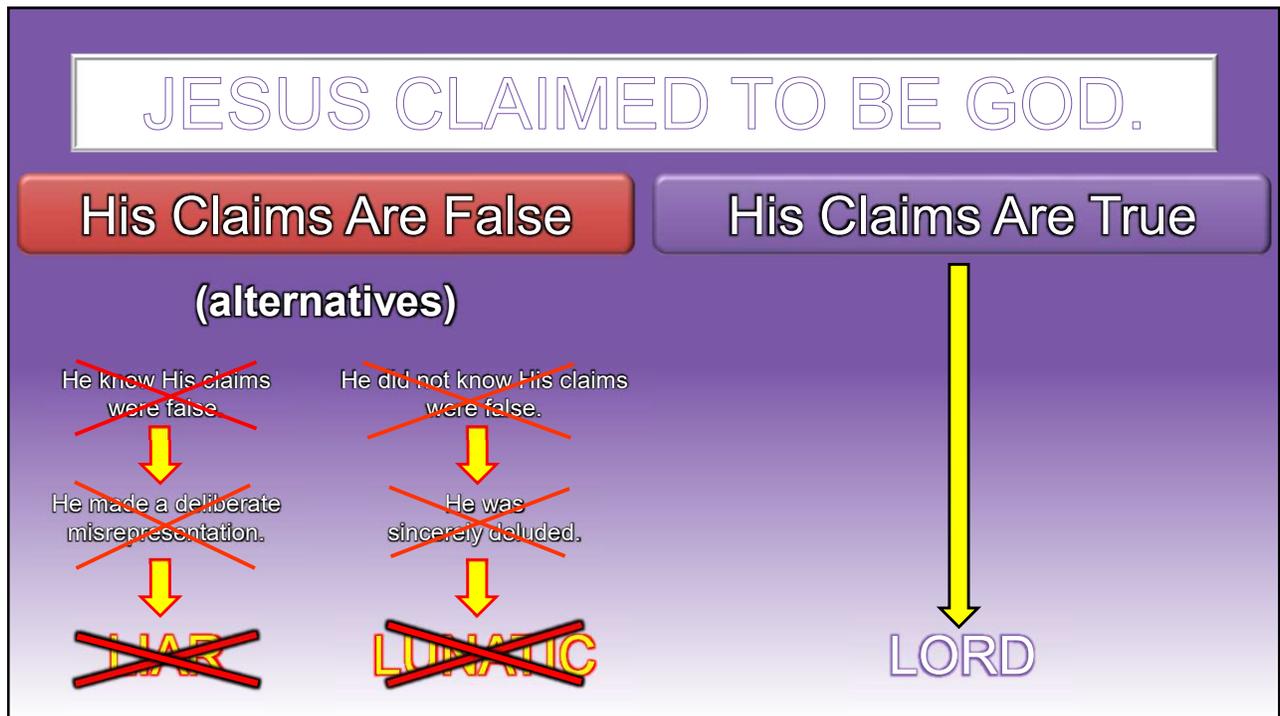
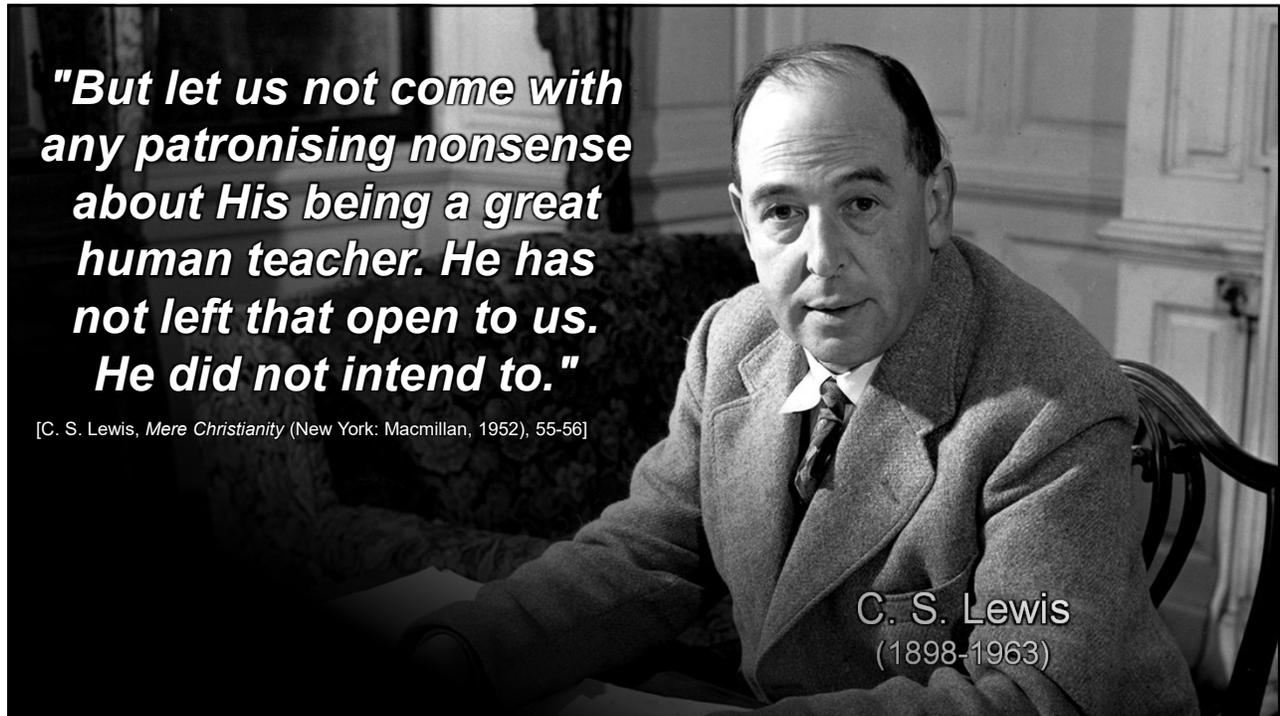
"A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic—on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg—or else he would be the Devil of Hell.

C. S. Lewis
(1898-1963)



"You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God.

C. S. Lewis
(1898-1963)



JESUS CLAIMED TO BE GOD.

His Claims Are False

No Historical Evidence for Him

(alternatives)

~~He knew His claims were false.~~

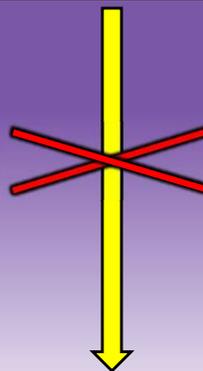
~~He made a deliberate misrepresentation.~~

~~LIAR~~

~~He did not know His claims were false.~~

~~He was sincerely deluded.~~

~~LUNATIC~~



LEGEND

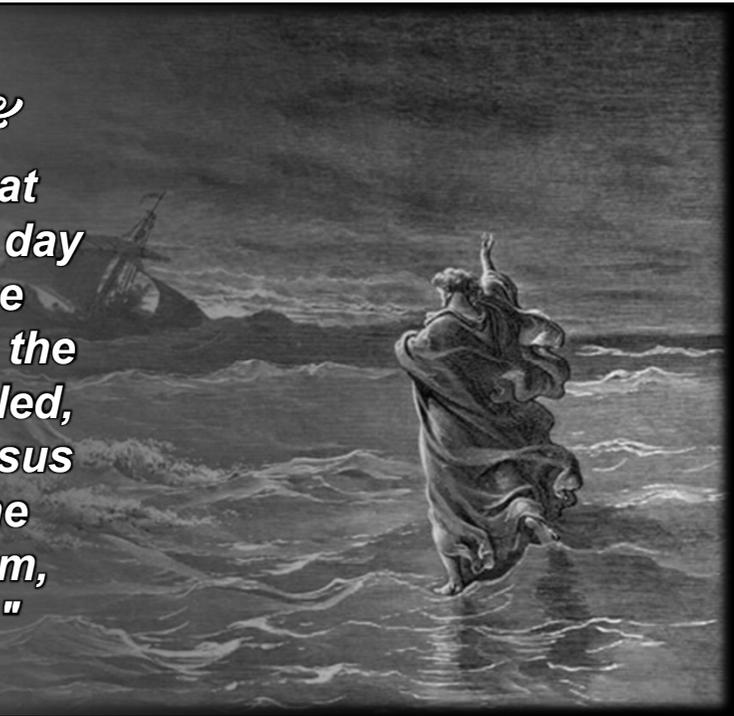


🌀 Comments about the Resurrection 🌀

- ❖ *The doctrine of the resurrection of Jesus Christ says that Jesus rose bodily (physically) from the dead.*
- ❖ *While it is the case that there were significant differences between His body before and after His resurrection, it nevertheless remains that His resurrected body was no less physical than His pre-resurrected body.*

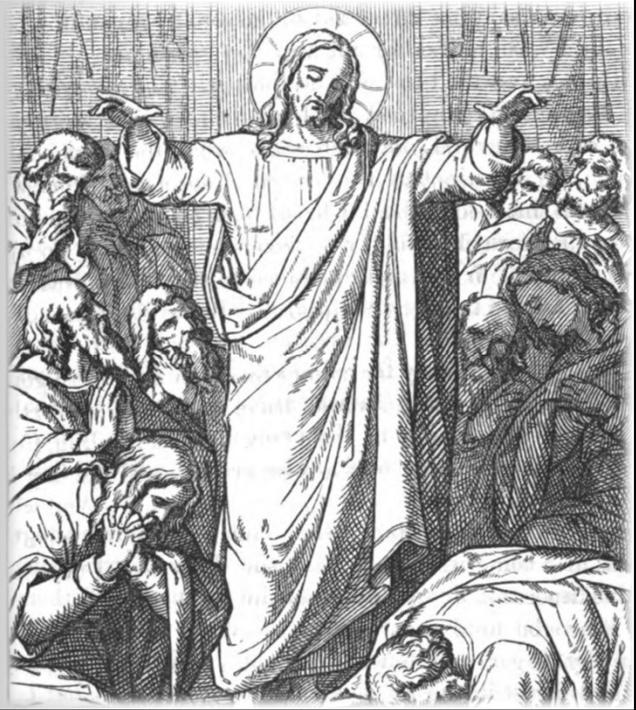
🌀 John 20:19 🌀

"Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' "



☞ **John 20:19** ☞

"Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' "



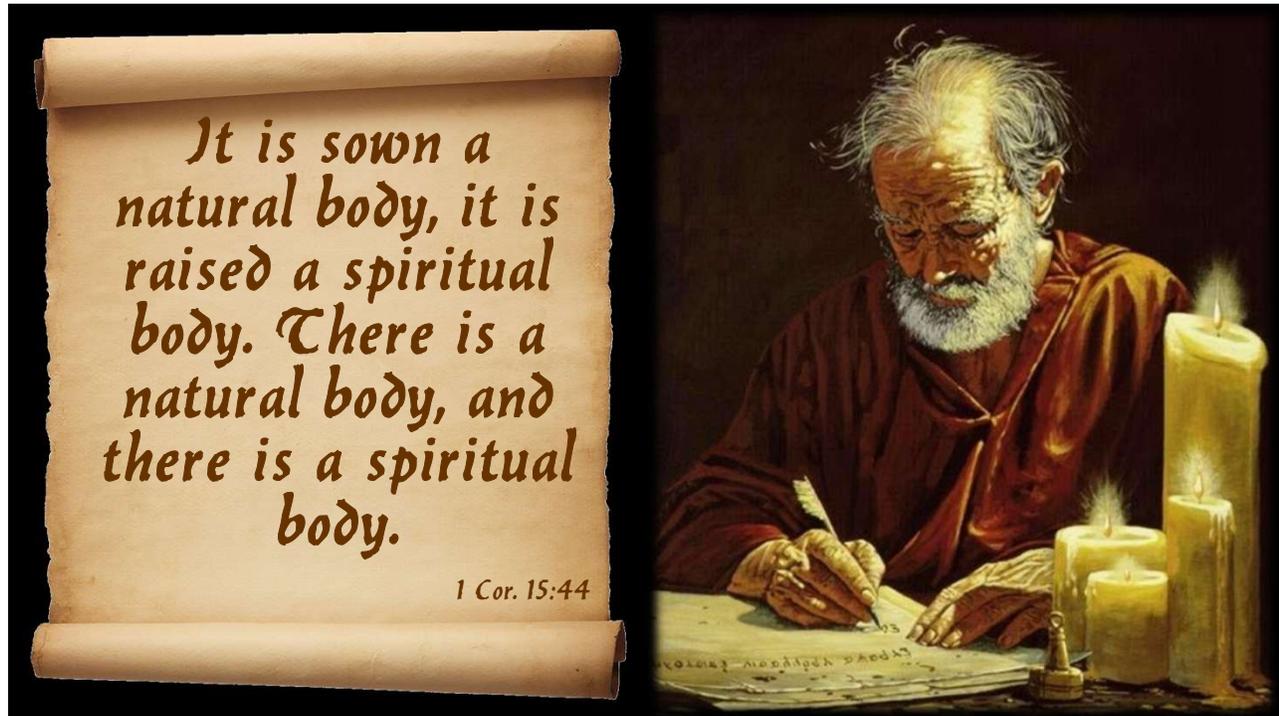
☞ **Matt. 14:25-26** ☞

"Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, 'It is a ghost!' And they cried out for fear."



🌀 Comments about the Resurrection 🌀

- ❖ *The doctrine of the resurrection of Jesus Christ says that Jesus rose bodily (physically) from the dead.*
- ❖ *While it is the case that there were significant differences between His body before and after His resurrection, it nevertheless remains that His resurrected body was no less physical than His pre-resurrected body.*
- ❖ *To say that the resurrection is "spiritual" does not mitigate the fact that it is physical.*



🌀 Comments about the Resurrection 🌀

- ❖ *Confusion comes from the ambiguity of the term 'spiritual.'*

🌀 Ephesians 6:12 🌀

*"For we do not wrestle against **flesh and blood**, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against **spiritual hosts** of wickedness in the heavenly places.*

🌀 Galatians 6:1 🌀

*"Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, **you who are spiritual** restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.*

🌀 Comments about the Resurrection 🌀

- ❖ *Confusion comes from the ambiguity of the term 'spiritual.'*

🌀 Ephesians 6:12 🌀

*"For we do not wrestle against **flesh and blood**, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against **spiritual hosts** of wickedness in the heavenly places.*

🌀 1 Corinthians 3:1 🌀

*"And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to **spiritual** people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ."*

☞ Comments about the Resurrection ☞

- ❖ *Confusion comes from the ambiguity of the term 'spiritual'.*
- ❖ *Jesus' resurrection is not merely a reference to Jesus' influence upon history.*
- ❖ *Jesus' resurrection is not merely about how He continues to "live on" in the hearts of His followers.*

☞ Jesus Predicted His Resurrection ☞

☞ Matthew 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."

✧ Jesus Predicted His Resurrection ✧

✧ Matthew 20:17-19 ✧

"Now Jesus, going up to Jerusalem, took the twelve disciples aside on the road and said to them, '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, and deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock and to scourge and to crucify. And the third day He will rise again.' "

✧ Jesus Predicted His Resurrection ✧

✧ Mark 8:31 ✧

"And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again."

✧ Jesus Predicted His Resurrection ✧

✧ Mark 9:31 ✧

"For He taught His disciples and said to them, 'The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day.' "

✧ Jesus Predicted His Resurrection ✧

✧ John 2:19 ✧

"Jesus answered and said to them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' Then the Jews said, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?' But He was speaking of the temple of His body."

✧ Jesus Predicted His Resurrection ✧

✧ Matthew 27:62-63 ✧

"On the next day, which followed the Day of Preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered together to Pilate, saying, 'Sir, we remember, while He was still alive, how that deceiver said, "After three days I will rise." ' "

He is the unique Son of God.
Christianity is true.

"Destroy this temple and in
three days I will raise it up."
-Jesus of Nazareth-

He is not the unique Son of
God. Christianity is not true.

Jesus died and was buried.

Jesus did not die and was not buried.

Jesus' tomb was found empty.

Jesus' tomb was found not empty.

Jesus is still dead.

He is the unique Son of God. Christianity is true.

Jesus died and was buried.

Jesus' tomb was found not empty.

Special Communication

On the Physical Death of Jesus Christ

William D. Edwards, MD; Wesley J. Gabel, MDiv; Floyd E. Hosmer, MS, AMI

Jesus of Nazareth underwent Jewish and Roman trials, was flogged, and was sentenced to death by crucifixion. The scourging produced deep stripe-like lacerations and appreciable blood loss, and it probably set the stage for hypovolemic shock as evidenced by the fact that Jesus was too weakened to carry the crossbar (patibulum) to Golgotha. At the site of crucifixion his wrists were nailed to the patibulum, and after the patibulum was fixed onto the upright post, (stipes) his feet were nailed to the stipes. The major pathophysiologic effect of crucifixion was an interference with normal respiration. Accordingly, death resulted primarily from hypovolemic shock and exhaustion asphyxia. Jesus' death was ensured by the thrust of a soldier's spear into his side. Modern medical interpretation of the historical evidence indicates that Jesus was dead when taken down from the cross. (JAMA 1986; 255:1455-1463)

THE LIFE and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth have formed the basis for a major world religion, Christianity, and have appreciably influenced the course of human history, and, by virtue of a compassionate attitude toward the sick, also have contributed to the development of modern medicine. The eminence of Jesus as a historical figure and the suffering, and controversy associated with his death has stimulated us to investigate, in an interdisciplinary manner, the circumstances surrounding his crucifixion. Accordingly it is our intent to present not a theological treatise but rather a medically, and historically accurate account of the physical death of the one called Jesus Christ.

SOURCES

The source material concerning Christ's death comprises a body of literature and not a physical body or its skeletal remains. Accordingly, the

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JAMA March 21, 1986—Vol 255, No 11

credibility of any discussion of Jesus' death will be determined primarily by the credibility of our sources. For this review, the source material includes the writings of ancient Christian and non-Christian authors, the writings of modern authors, and the Shroud of Turin.¹⁻⁶ Using the legal-historical method of scientific investigation,⁷ scholars have established the reliability and accuracy of the ancient manuscripts.^{8,9,10}

The most extensive and detailed descriptions of the life and death of Jesus are to be found in the New Testament gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.¹¹ The other 23 books of the New Testament support but do not expand on the details recorded in the gospels. Contemporary Christian, Jewish, and Roman authors provide additional insight concerning the first-century Jewish and Roman legal systems and the details of scourging and crucifixion.¹² Seneca, Livy, Plutarch, and others refer to crucifixion practices in their works.¹³ Specifically, Jesus (or his crucifixion) is mentioned by the Roman historians Cornelius Tacitus, Pliny the Younger, and Suetonius; by non-Roman historians Thallus and Phlegon; by the astronomer Lucian of Samosata; by the Jewish

Talmud; and by the Jewish historian Flavius Josephus, although the authenticity of portions of the latter is problematic.¹⁴

The Shroud of Turin is considered by many to represent the actual burial cloth of Jesus¹⁵ and several publications concerning the medical aspects of his death draw conclusions from this assumption.¹⁶ The Shroud of Turin and recent archaeological findings provide valuable information concerning Roman crucifixion practices.¹⁷⁻²¹ The interpretations of modern writers, based on a knowledge of science and medicine not available in the first century, may offer additional insight concerning the possible mechanisms of Jesus' death.²²

When taken in concert certain facts—the extensive and early testimony of both Christian proponents and opponents, and their universal acceptance of Jesus as a true historical figure; the ethics of the gospel writers, and the shortness of the time interval between the events and the extant manuscripts; and the confirmation of the gospel accounts by historians and archaeological findings²³⁻²⁵—ensure a reliable testimony from which a modern medical interpretation of Jesus' death may be made.

GETHEMANE

After Jesus and his disciples had observed the Passover meal in an upper room in a home in southwest Jerusalem, they traveled to the Mount of Olives, southeast of the city (Fig 1). (Owing to various adjustments in the calendar, the years of Jesus' birth and death remain controversial.²⁶ However, it is likely that Jesus was born in either 4 or 6 BC and died in 30 AD.²⁷ During the Passover observance in 30 AD, the Last Supper would have been observed on Thursday,

Death of Christ—Edwards et al 1455

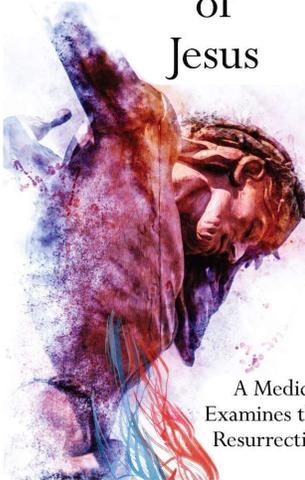
is not the unique Son of God. Christianity is not true.

and was not buried.

s found not empty.

still dead.

The Crucifixion of Jesus

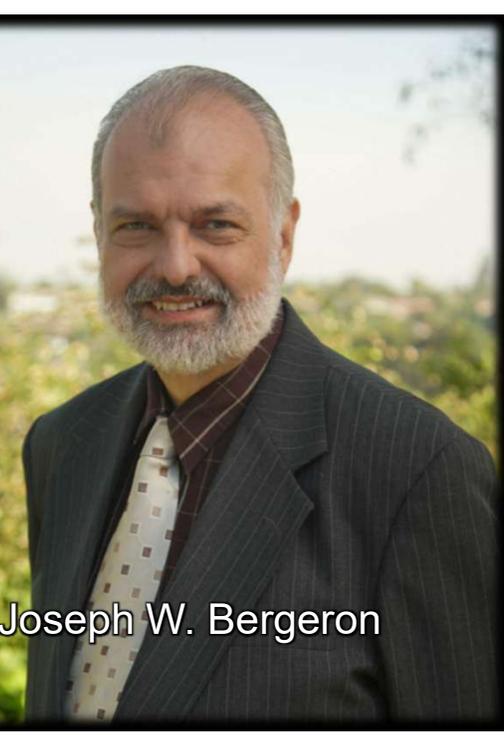


A Medical Doctor Examines the Death and Resurrection of Christ

Joseph W. Bergeron, M.D.

With a Foreword by Gary Habermas, Ph.D.

Joseph W. Bergeron



"Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up."
-Jesus of Nazareth-

He is not the unique Son of God. Christianity is not true.

Jesus died and was buried.

Jesus' tomb was found empty.

Jesus' body was not stolen.

Jesus' body was stolen.

by the disciples by the Jews by the Romans

"Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up."
-Jesus of Nazareth-

~~He is not the unique Son of God. Christianity is not true.~~

Jesus died and was buried.

Jesus' tomb was found empty.

Jesus' body was not stolen.

Jesus' body did not disappear.

Jesus' body disappeared.

Disciples claimed to see Jesus.

Disciples were telling the truth.

Disciples were mistaken.

Disciples were lying.

Disciples saw a spiritual Jesus.

Disciples were hallucinating.

Mistaken identity (Dave Theory)

Jesus is an Ascended Master.

Jesus is still dead.

He is the unique Son of God. "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up." ~~He is not the unique Son of God. Christianity is not true.~~

☞ Luke 24:36-43 ☜

Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, "Peace to you." But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit. And He said to them, "Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts? Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. But while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, He said to them, "Have you any food here?" So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb. And He took it and ate in their presence.

He is the unique Son of God. Christianity is true. "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up."
-Jesus of Nazareth- ~~He is not the unique Son of God. Christianity is not true.~~

Jesus died and was buried.

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Disciples claimed to see Jesus.

Disciples were telling the truth. Disciples were mistaken. Disciples were lying.

Disciples saw a physical Jesus. Disciples saw a spiritual Jesus. Disciples were hallucinating. Mistaken identity (Dave Theory)

Jesus rose from the dead. Jesus is an Ascended Master. Jesus is still dead.

