

# Christian Apologetics (Youth)

## Week 1: Truth of God

(mainstreamapologetics.org)

*What is Truth? Why is Truth Important? Where do People Find Truth? How do Christians Ascertain Truth?  
What is Apologetics? Why is Apologetics Timely?*

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### A Crisis of Truth

The world's notion of truth is epitomized by Pontious Pilate's retort, "**What is truth?**" (John 18). Daily, our culture echoes Pilate's **disregard** for truth as people grapple with its nature and relevance.

Without the **absolute Truth** of God's Word, people are left the "enlightened" consensus of our day. This consensus will **shipwreck** our lives if we cannot discern God's Truth from the **counterfeit** truths of the world.

### Christian Definition of Truth

In a nutshell, God's Word tells us what is true about ...

- **God's nature** (infinite, holy, transcendent),
- **Man's nature** (finite, sinful, wayward), and
- **God's redemptive plan**, the Gospel, restoring man into a right relationship with God.

Truth culminates in the person of **Jesus**, who is the **full expression** on God's Truth (John 14:6, Colossians 2:9).

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### Prominent Worldviews & Their Shortcomings

WORLDVIEW	TRADITIONAL <1700 AD Christianity	MODERN 1700-1970 Enlightenment Period	POSTMODERN >1970 New Age Movement	BLENDED
SOURCE	God-Centric	Science-Centric	Man-Centric	Non-Centric
TRUTH	Transcendent Objective Absolute	Material Subjective	Sensory Relative	Blending of God-Science-Man Centric Views

#### Traditional Worldview

The **Traditional** worldview is a **God-Centric** view where **God** is the source of truth and reality as revealed in **God's Word**.

#### Modern Worldview

The **Modern** worldview is a **Science-Centric** view where **science alone** is the source of truth and reality, **not God**, and where **truth** is revealed by **scientific methods**.

Shortcomings: (1) Science is unreliable, untrustworthy, (2) Science doesn't speak to the deeper, spiritual aspects of our lives.

#### Postmodern Worldview

The **Postmodern** worldview is a **Man-Centric** view where **man alone** is the source of truth and reality, **not science, not God**, and where truth comes from **sensory perception**.

Shortcomings: (1) Problems with our five senses, (2) Absolute lack of objectivity/certainty.

## Blended Worldview

The **Blended** worldview is a **Non-Centric** view where people are **influenced** by all worldviews, and **construct** a **blended worldview** from the **Bible**, and **science**, and **personal** beliefs.

Deconstruction of truth: **ABSOLUTE** Truth → **SUBJECTIVE** truths → **RELATIVE** truths → **NO** truth!

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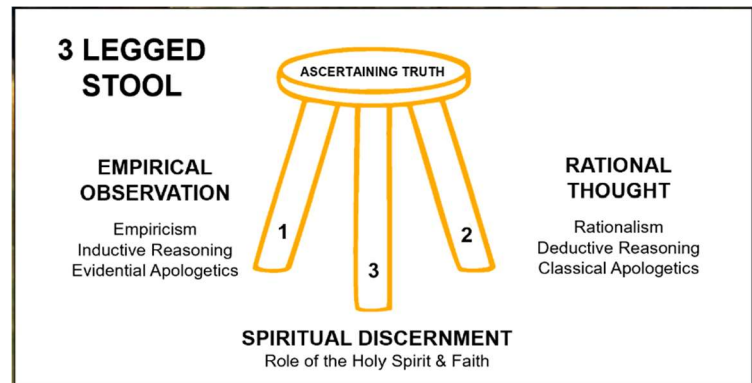
## Framework for Ascertaining Truth

With the **guidance** of the Holy Spirit, we can trust our God-given **human faculties** of **observation** and **reason** to draw sound conclusions.

### LEG 1: Empirical Observation

**Empirical Observation** is where we utilize our **five senses** and **empirical methods** to draw conclusions.

- This is based on a system of thinking called **Empiricism** which teaches that **knowledge** is a product of **sensory perception** and **empirical evidence**.
- This process is also referred to as **Inductive Reasoning** where we draw **general** conclusions from **specific** observations using **inference**.
- E.g., “All Dogs Have Four Legs” – I’ve seen **enough** dogs to infer that **all** dogs have four legs even though I have **not seen all** dogs.



### LEG 2: Rational Thought

**Rational Thought** is where we utilize **rationality** based on the well-proven **system of logic** to draw conclusions.

- This is based on a system of thinking called **Rationalism** which teaches that **knowledge** is the product of **logic** and **reason**.
- This process is also referred to as **Deductive Reasoning** where we draw **logical** conclusions based on the **laws of formal logic**.
- E.g., “Lucy is a Dog”, therefore, “Lucy has Four Legs” (syllogism).

### Complementary

1<sup>st</sup> leg utilizes our **senses**, while the 2<sup>nd</sup> leg utilizes our **mind**; our **senses** are the **gateway** to our **minds**.

1<sup>st</sup> leg **produces** data, while the 2<sup>nd</sup> leg **derives meaning** from the data.

Together, **Empirical Observation** and **Rational Thought** enable us to come to **sound conclusions** about the world around us.

### LEG 3: Spiritual Discernment

The role of the **Holy Spirit** is to ...

- **illuminate** - shines a light on God’s Word (2 Corinthians 4:6, Psalm 119:130)
- **enlighten** - aids our understanding of God’s Word (1 Corinthians 2:13)
- **confirm** - validates God’s Word (1 John 5:6, John 15:26)
- **guide** - applies God’s Word (John 16:13)

The role of **faith** is to “fills in the blanks” or takes the place of evidence **when evidence is absent** (Hebrews 11:1).

- Scientific knowledge is **limited** by the **laws of nature**; the **human mind** is **finite**.
- Whereas God's truth is **broad**er than science because it is **rooted** in His **supernatural** nature.
- The Holy Spirit comes along side us and gives us faith to **trust** God's Word when **evidence** is **absent**.

## Apologetics

### Definition

At first glance, the word **apologetics** sounds like our English word **apologize**.

- The word **apologetics** derives from the Greek word **apologia** which literally means in the Greek to **speak-way** and **refute** an **accusation** (apo – away, logia – speech).
- In ancient times, an apologetic was a **formal defense** made in a court of law in response to charges and accusations.
- In the religious context, the word apologetics means to **refute** an accusation or to **defend** a belief.

Peter exhorts us to “give an answer” to the **WHAT** question, and “give the reason” to the **WHY** question.

*Always be **prepared** to **give an answer** to everyone who asks you to **give the reason** for the hope that you have. 1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)*

A good example is how the blind man responded to the Pharisees' question, “Who is Jesus?” (John 9).

**ANSWER:** *“I am certain he is a prophet sent from God*  
**REASON 1:** *because I am miraculously healed and*  
**REASON 2:** *because Jesus could not possess the power of healing unless God were with him.”*

\* Therefore, Christian apologetics is a **reasoned response** to **what** we believe to be true about God, and **why** we believe it based on both **knowledge** and **experience**, ultimately to help people understand and embrace the Christian worldview and respond to God's offer of amazing grace.

### Methodology

#### *Harmony of God's Word and Science*

As Christians, we endorse the use of **scientific methods** and **empirical evidence** as far as they **support** God's revealed Truth. God's Word is always **primary**, and science, when available, is **secondary**.

- Science is our **friend**, not our **foe**.
- Thomas Aquinas, the first Christian apologist of the 1200's said,

**Rationality** is recognizing that science **drives us** conclusively and compellingly toward the existence of God.

- What Aquinas is saying is that empirical evidence **confirms** what God's Word **already reveals**. Essentially, scientific evidence **corroborates** God's Word. God's Word and science describe the **same reality**!

#### *A New Enlightenment*

Ironically, the **thrust of science** during the Enlightenment period of the 1700's to **discredit** Biblical truth claims, is now serving Christendom to **validate** these same truth claims.

Our message to the world is twofold ...

- (1) The Bible and science describe the **same physical reality** based on modern evidence. They are in **harmony**.
- (2) Since Biblical truth claims are true for things **seen**, the whole of God's Word is true for all things **unseen**.

Note: God's nature and redemptive plan cannot be proven by science and must be accepted by faith.

A new era of **enlightenment** is upon us where God the **Holy Spirit is testifying** to the hearts and minds of people that God's Word is true!

# Christian Apologetics (Youth)

## Week 2: Existence of God

God as All-Powerful, Transcendent Creator

(mainstreamapologetics.org)

*How do I know God exists? What do the Bible and Science say about creation?*

### Kamal Cosmological Argument

The **Kamal Cosmological Argument** serves as the **central argument** for the existence of a **creator-God** among apologetics for some 900 years. We demonstrate the existence of God using the **creation narrative**.

It is comprised of three premises and a conclusion (Leg 2: Rational Thought).

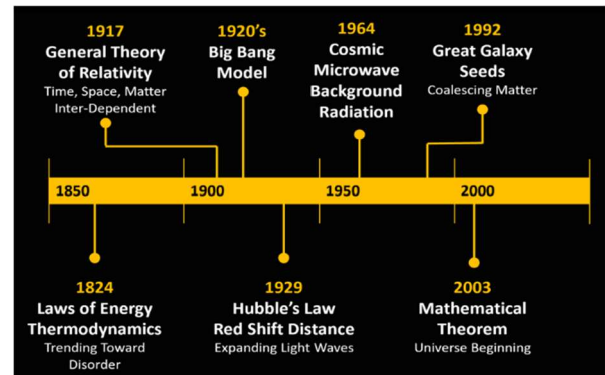
- **Premise 1:** Universe had a **beginning**.
- **Premise 2:** **Something** that begins to exist has a **cause**.
- **Premise 3:** **Something** cannot come from **nothing**.
- **Conclusion:** Universe was created by a **Transcendent, All-Powerful, First-Cause**.

The conclusion is consistent with Genesis 1:1: *“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”*

### Kamal Premise 1: Universe had a Beginning

The Apostle Paul in Romans 1:19-20 (NLT) appeals to **our senses** and **our minds** to observe God’s **invisible qualities** in creation (Leg 1: Empirical Observation)

- He argues that the truth about God as creator and his **transcendent power** are **self-evident** in creation.
- We find that **scientific evidence** over the past 200 years speaks **loudly** of God’s **transcendent power**, defending Paul’s claim.
- Collectively, these discoveries prove the universe had a **“singularity beginning”** where in the beginning, **time**, **space** and **matter** all emanated from a **single point of origin**.



### Singularity Beginning

**Genesis 1:1:** “In the beginning (**TIME**), God created the heavens (**SPACE**) and the earth (**MATTER**).”

- The Bible describes the creation of the universe as a **singular event** where **time**, **space**, and **matter** were created **simultaneously** in the brevity of one verse, Genesis 1:1.

This biblical claim is confirmed by **Einstein’s General Theory of Relativity** of 1917 which speaks about the universe’s beginning, commonly referred to as the cosmic “Big Bang”.

- Einstein's theory demonstrated that **time**, **space**, and **matter** came into existence **simultaneously**, and are **relative** or **interdependent**, where one cannot exist without the other two.

## Cosmic Microwave Background Radiation

In 1964, Arno Penzias and Robert Wilson of Bell Labs discovered what is referred to as **Cosmic Microwave Background Radiation**.

- The **afterglow** observed by Penzias and Wilson was **light** and **heat** leftover from the Big Bang.
- This discovery is regarded as the **most important cosmological discovery** of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## Expanding Universe

- **Hubble's Law** aka **Red Shift Distance** of 1929 speaks about the universe's **expansion** from a singularity beginning.
- Edwin Hubble discovered that the light from **distant galaxies** appeared to be **redder** than expected.
- He concluded that this "**red shift**" was due to the **stretching** of the light waves at the outermost galaxies.
- The Bible speaks **prolifically** (10 passages) and **explicitly** about the expansion of the universe ...



**Psalm 104:2:** "You stretch out the **starry curtain** of the heavens",

**Job 26:7:** "God stretches the northern sky **over empty space**" (Also Jeremiah 10:12, Isaiah 51:13).

## Fine Tuning of Universe

God's Word makes it clear that the universe is governed by **physical laws** (Jeremiah 33:25, Job 26:7, 38:33).

- According to **Hugh Ross**, from **Reasons to Believe**, there are approximately **322 physical laws and properties** that are necessary to sustain life on planet Earth.
- He determined that the **probability** of these **laws** and **properties** coming about by **random chance** without the **guidance** of a Creator God is **1 in 10<sup>282</sup>** (1 with 282 zeros).

## Implausibility of an Infinity Past

This premise speaks to the objection that the universe is **self-existent**, i.e., the universe always existed.

This notion of **infinity past** opens up a number of possibilities for **secular scientists** to **discredit the biblical account of creation**. They argue,

*"If time past is infinite, then our universe didn't have a beginning, it always existed."*

William Lane Craig, in his book *Reasonable Faith*, argues

*"A **potential** infinity past can exist, but an **actual** infinity past cannot exist.*

*For if an actual infinity past could exist, this would spawn all sorts of **absurdities**."*

The absurdity is that we would be **lost in time** between an infinity past and an infinity future.

A classic example is the **Hilbert's Hotel paradox** (David Hilbert, mathematician).

- With both an **infinite past** and an **infinite future**, there is **no reference point for time**, no start or end.
- Imagine a hotel that is **infinitely full** and **infinitely empty** at the same time. Both are senseless!
- The hotel marquee would have to read "**NO VACANCIES, GUESTS WELCOME**". Absurd!

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## Kamal Premise 2: Something that Begins to Exist has a Cause

### Law of Causality

This premise speaks to the objection that the universe is **self-caused**, i.e., the creation of the universe didn't require a first-cause.

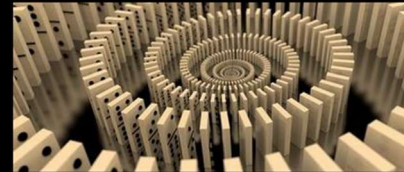
At the heart of this premise is the **Law of Causality** which states that **every effect** has a **cause** (determinism).

- As with dominos, the **effect** is inextricably **linked** to the **cause**.
- There is no material evidence to support an **uncaused** or **self-caused** effect in the physical world.

Applying the Law of Causality to origin of the universe, we argue that the

- The Big Bang must have had a **precipitating cause**, a **first-cause**.
- This precipitating cause must have **pre-existed** creation and **come from outside** creation.

Unbroken Chain Reaction from Origin



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## Kamal Premise 3: Something Cannot Come from Nothing

### Law of Non-Contradiction

This premise speaks to the objection that the universe is **self-created**, i.e., the universe created itself from nothing.

At the heart of this premise is the **Law of Non-Contradiction** which states that an object cannot be in **two contradictory** or **opposing states** at the **same time** within the **same context**.

- There is no material evidence for any exceptions of the **Law of Non-Contradiction** in the physical world.

*For the universe to **come from nothing**, the universe would have to **exist before it existed** in order to **create itself**.*

- Essentially, the universe cannot “**not exist**” and “**exist**” at the very moment of creation.
- **Nothing** cannot transition into **something** because **nothing** is **non-existent** and is therefore **devoid of any formative power** to create itself.

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## Universe was Created by a Transcendent, All-Powerful, First-Cause

God's Word reveals that **God** created the universe **from nothing**.

**Hebrews 11:3:** *By faith we understand that the entire universe was formed at **God's command**, that **what we now see did not come from anything that can be seen**.*

**Romans 4:17:** *Abraham believed in the God who brings the dead back to life and who creates **new things out of nothing**.*

These verses speak about God's **supernatural, formative power** in creation.

God's power **supersedes** the laws of nature because He is **transcendent** and **not bound** by physical laws.

## Plausibility of the Supernatural

**Materialists** deny the **supernatural** because it requires us to believe there are things that cannot be observed with our five senses, and ...

- that it violates the **first principles** of **logic**, specifically the Laws of Causality and Non-Contradiction.
- Ultimately, materialism denies **any power above or outside of nature**, and more specifically, the **transcendent power** of a **Creator-God**.

The **Christian response** to materialism is straight forward.

- We argue that because this universe was not created by **natural means**, the Creator was acting **supernaturally**.
- Therefore, belief in the **supernatural power of God** is not only **plausible**, but **rational**.
- Therefore, **MIRACLES ARE POSSIBLE!**



# Christian Apologetics (Youth)

## Week 3: Creation of God

God as Intelligent Designer & Giver of Life

*How did life begin? Is Darwin's Theory of Evolution **Valid** Based on **Modern Evidence**?*

*Is There Any Evidence for **Intelligent Design**? What is God's **purpose** in creation?*

## Fallacies of Evolution

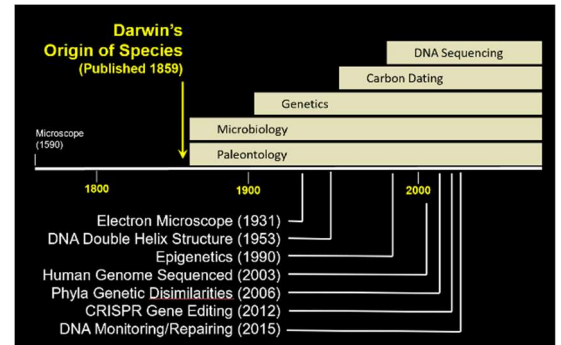
### Darwin's Doubts Published in "Origin of Species" of 1859

Quote 1: "Geology assuredly **does not reveal any such finely graduated organic chain**, and thus, perhaps is the most obvious and gravest **objection which can be used against my theory**".

Quote 2: "If it could be demonstrated that any complex organism existed, which could not possibly have been formed by **numerous, successive, slight modifications**, my theory would **absolutely break down**."

### Darwin's Place in History

- Darwin's Doubt originates from his **lack of empirical evidence** to substantiate his theory.
- Darwin's theory of evolution **preceded** the fields of microbiology, genetics, paleontology, and geology.
- Unfortunately, Darwin's theory was based on simple **observation** of the macroscopic world.
- It is deemed **conjecture**, and "half-baked" in terms of modern scientific rigor and methods.



### Darwin's Fallacies

#### FALLACY 1: Stepwise Refinement for the Origin of Species

- Darwin's theory is predicated on the assumption that the fossil record will **eventually reveal intermediates** to prove his theory of **stepwise refinement correct** for the origin of species.
- Regrettably, fossil records to date do not record any **clear lineage** of "finely graduated" mutations.

#### FALLACY 2: Micro-Evolution Serves as a Plausible Foundation for Macro-Evolution

- Darwin's assumption that **micro-evolution** (**adaptability, survival** of the species) serves as a plausible foundation **macro-evolution** (**arrival** of the species) is **unsubstantiated** by fossil records and modern biology.

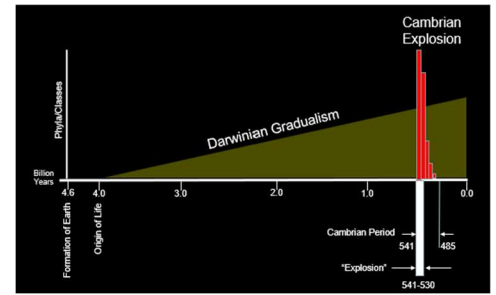
### Challenge #1: Cambrian Explosion

(based on an Old Earth view of creation)

The Cambrian Explosion represents the **most formative** period of **carbon-based life** on Earth (**biological Big Bang**).



- In contrast to Darwin's 4-billion-year period of **gradualism**, the **Cambrian period** spans some **56 million** years from 541 to 485 million years ago.
- The Cambrian Explosion took place at the **beginning** of the Cambrian period within an estimated **10-million-year span** from approximately 541 to 530 million years ago.
- The Cambrian Explosion is marked by the **sudden appearance** of defined phyla/species over very short period (5-10M years) with **no transitional intermediate** species in the pre-Cambrian period ...  
... followed by an **absence of macro-change** over a very long period (540M years) in the post-Cambrian period.



The Cambrian Explosion is consistent with the biblical account of the creation of life found in Genesis 1:20-26 which transpired over the course of two days of creation.

While Darwin's theory of micro-evolution may be valid for **adaptation** and **survival** of species, it does not account for the origin or **arrival** of species.

### Challenge #2: Population Genetics

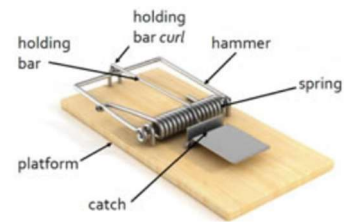
British scientist, J. B. S. Haldane, asserted that there is insufficient time to bring about beneficial evolutionary change due to insufficient population sizes, slow reproduction rates, and unfavorable environmental conditions to successfully produce new phyla and species of the Cambrian Explosion.

### Challenge #3: Highly Interdependent Systems

Microbiologist Michael Behe, author of *Darwin's Black Box*, posits that a complex organism or biological system could not have evolved by **point-mutation** and must have mutated by coordinated mutations because they are inherently **irreducibly complex**. Mouse Trap →

- Example: The **circulatory system** of the human body consisting of the heart, arteries, and veins, greatly depends on all other systems to function properly. It depends on the **nervous system** to electrically stimulate the heart muscles to pump blood. It depends on the **respiratory system** to provide oxygen to the heart muscles. It depends on the **digestive system** to provide amino acids to nourish the heart.

**If any one of these systems fails, they all fail** because all systems are **essential** and **mutually interdependent**.



## Evidence for Intelligent Design

### Study of Purpose/Design

**Thomas Aquinas**, one of the earliest Christian apologist of the 13th century, framed the **teleological** argument as a **sylogism**.

- Major Premise: Wherever **complex design** exists, there must have been a **designer**.
- Minor Premise: The universe and life are marked by **complex design**.
- Conclusion: The universe and life are the work of an **intelligent designer**.

Illustration of **Mount Rushmore** →



- We reason that the **busts** of the **four presidents** of Mount Rushmore are **more likely** the **product of a skilled artisan** who knew what each president **looked like in advance** of construction ...

... versus a weather event that was **devoid** of both **skill** and **foreknowledge**.

God's Word teaches that God created the universe and life with **design intent** (Jeremiah 10:12, 51:15).

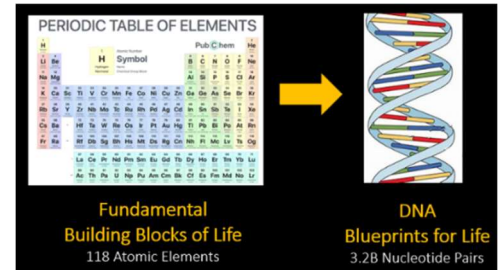
*But the Lord made the earth by his power, and he preserves it by his **wisdom**.  
With his own **understanding** he stretched out the heavens.* Jeremiah 10:12 (NLT)

- The Hebrew word for **Wisdom** means – skill and craftsmanship.
- The Hebrew word for **Understanding** means – reasonings and design.

## DNA: Blueprint for Life

Quantum Leap in Complexity: It is one thing to create the 118 atomic elements in the periodic table, but it is quite another thing to **assemble** these fundamental elements into **complex life forms**.

- The discovery of DNA and DNA sequencing was a **watershed** moment in the history of microbiology.
- In 1990 to 2003, an international committee known as the **Human Genome Project** sequenced the human genome consisting of 3.2 billion nucleotides pairs.



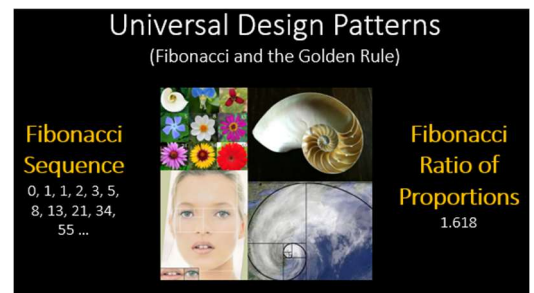
- Later in 2012, a group of scientists at the University of Leicester **printed out** the human genome which resulted in a 130-volume set color-coded by chromosome (double-printed, 4-point font, 43,000 characters per page).

## Universal Design Patterns

**Universal Design Patterns** represent a broad range of properties exhibited throughout creation that point to an **intelligent designer**.

(1) The **Fibonacci Sequence** is a property involving **proportions**.

- The Fibonacci sequence consists of the following numbers: 0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, 55, ....
- Golden Rule: The ratio or proportion between any two consecutive numbers is always 1.618!
- Most of God's creation exhibits the proportions of the Golden Rule, e.g., spiral proportions, petal counts, and ratio of male/female bees in a colony.
- Because the Fibonacci design pattern **broadly span all systems of creation** that have **nothing in common**, this design pattern could not have evolved through a process of replication from a **single natural source**.
- The only reasonable conclusion is that this design pattern was **established by God**.



(2) **Symmetry** is a property involving **organization**.

(3) **Duplicity** or replication is a property involving **composition**.

(4) **Restoration** or healing is a property involving **self-preservation**.

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## God's Purpose in Creation

Is creation the product of the **purposive act of divine intelligence** or the product of a **cosmic accident**?

God's Word teaches that human life is the pinnacle of God's creation and were created with **intent**.

**Genesis 1:26:** *"Let us make human beings **in our image**, to be like us."*

- God created man in his **moral image** which is rooted in the nature of the triune God.

- Therefore, we were endowed with **inherent purpose, dignity** and **worth**.

## God's Glory

God's Word makes it crystal clear that He created the universe and life for the expressed purpose of glorifying Himself. God glories in Himself and His creation. (Romans 11:36, Psalm 19:1, 1 Corinthians 10:31, Colossians 1:16)

**Colossians 1:16:** *"Everything was created **through him** and **for him**."*

In a nutshell, everything was created **BY** God and **FOR** God.

## Our Enjoyment

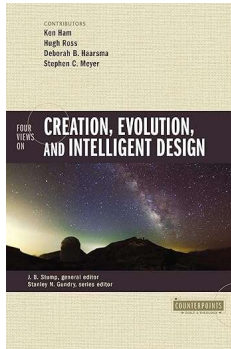
Essentially, mankind glories in God and **enjoys God forever**.

John Piper: "God is **most glorified** in us when we are most **satisfied in him**."

Westminster Shorter Catechism: "Man's chief end is to **glorify** God, and to **enjoy him forever**."

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# The Case for an Old Earth



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**Authors:** Ken Ham, Hugh Ross, Deborah B. Haarsma, Stephen C. Meyer

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## Argument 1: Use of a Metaphor for the Word DAY (Hebrew: **yō·wm**)

- Most scholars view Genesis 1-2:4 as **metaphorical** (figurative language) and **anthropomorphically** where the author uses **Man-language** to describe the **indescribable thing of God**.
- Even though the Hebrew Word **yō·wm** is used in Genesis 1-2:4, it is used **anthropomorphically** so that the readers would understand **God-Days** (epochs) in terms of **Man-Days** (24-Hour Days)
- The use of the word day (**yō·wm**) in Genesis 1-2:4 refers to **indeterminate periods** (epochs) of times that mark a **definite series of creative acts**.
- Moses' use of a metaphor for DAY:

**Psalms 90:4 (NIV)** - A prayer of Moses (credited to Moses)

*A **thousand years** in your sight (God's sight)*

*are like **a day** (**kə·yō·wm**) that has just gone by, or like a **watch in the night** (Man's sight).*

Moses is clearly speaking metaphorically when he uses the Hebrew word DAY (**kə·yō·wm**).

- Peter's reference to the same metaphor for DAY:

**2 Peter 3:8 (NIV)**

*But do not forget this one thing, dear friends:*

*With the **Lord a day is like a thousand year** (God's sight),*

*and a **thousand years are like a day** (Man's sight).*

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## Argument 2: Creation of Day/Night in Day 4 of Genesis 1

- On Day 4, God created the **sun** and **moon** as a way to **mark the days** and the **seasons**.

Genesis 1:14-19

**<sup>14</sup> Then God said, "Let lights appear in the sky to separate the day from the night. Let them be signs to mark the seasons, days, and years."**

**<sup>15</sup> Let these lights in the sky shine down on the earth." And that is what happened.**

**<sup>16</sup> God made two great lights—the larger one to govern the day, and the smaller one to govern the night. He also made the stars.**

<sup>17</sup> God set these lights in the sky to light the earth,

<sup>18</sup> to govern the day and night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

<sup>19</sup> And evening passed and morning came, marking the fourth day (**yō·wm**).

(Notice the repetition of “light shining on the Earth” in verses 15-18.)

- If the divinely appointed **time markers** either did not yet exist or were not yet visible from Earth, ...  
... how was the **time of day being marked** on Earth the **first three days of creation** (Expressed in Man-days in vv. 5, 8, 13)?

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### Argument 3: Consistent with the Cosmological and Geological Records

- ... using high precision radio dating and other methods for dating the age of the universe and Earth

# Christian Apologetics (Youth)

## Week 4: Revelation of God

God as Divine Revealer

*How Did God Reveal Himself? How Did We Get Our Bible?*

*How Do I Know the Bible is Accurate, Inspired and Trustworthy?*

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When we speak of revelation, we are talking about how God revealed Himself to mankind.

The compilation of the Christian Bible is outlined by the following 6-step process.

- **Revelation** – God made himself known
- **Inspiration** – God made himself known in human words
- **Inscription** – God caused his Word to be written
- **Transmission** – God's Word copied
- **Translation** – God's Word made available in other languages
- **Canonization** – God's Word recognized by the Church as Inspired and Authoritative

God orchestrated this process with great care so that our Bible is **accurate, inspired, and trustworthy**.

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## Revelation

There are two ways in which God reveal Himself, **General** and **Special Revelation**.

### General Revelation

**General Revelation** is where God reveals Himself using **general means** available universally to **all people at all times in all places**. Broadcast Tower (5 senses) →

Through General Revelation, we come to know God as **Creator**.

(1a) **External** General Revelation is **external to oneself** and is observed through **creation**.

- Paul declares in Romans 1:19-20 that people using their **five senses** and **rational minds** can readily **observe** God's invisible qualities, his **eternal power** and **divine nature**, in creation.
- He argues that the truth about God as Creator is **obvious** and **self-evident**.

(1b) **Internal** General Revelation is **internal to oneself** and is experienced through our God-given **human conscience**.

- Paul declares in Romans 2:14-15 that God's **moral law** is **written on peoples' hearts** enabling them to **discern right** from **wrong**.

As we sin, we come to realize there exists a **seismic gap** between **God's holiness** and **our sinfulness**.

Ultimately, this creates a **longing** within us to **close this gap** and **relate with God rightly**.



## Special Revelation

Special **Revelation** is where God reveals Himself using **specific means** available selectively to **specific people** at **specific times** in **specific ways**. Headphones (tuning in) →



Through Special Revelation, we come to know God as **Redeemer**.

The **specific means** by which God revealed himself involved the **prophets** in the Old Testament who spoke **on behalf of God**, and **Jesus** in the New Testament who spoke **as God**.

The **specific content** is the full disclosure of the **nature of God** and His **redemptive plan** through God's **prophetic Word** and the **person** of Jesus Christ (Col. 1:19).

Special Revelation **closes the gap** with General Revelation.

- The **moral dissonance** of God's holiness and Man's sinfulness observed through General Revelation is resolved with the **Good News** of Special Revelation, Jesus' atonement for sin.

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## Inspiration

The formal definition of **inspiration** according to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary is "a divine influence or action on a person believed to qualify him/her to **receive** and **communicate sacred revelation**".

**Inspiration** within the context of Christian theology is the process of **God speaking authoritatively** through the **prophets** of the OT and the **person** of Jesus Christ in the NT, and entrusting the communication of **His Word** to godly people appointed by Him.

### All Scripture is God-Breathed

Paul informs us in 2 Timothy 3:16 (NIV) that the words of scripture are "**God-breathed**".

- This phrase "God-breathed" is the Greek word *pneuma* which translated means "**spirit, wind, breath**".
- Just as God breathed life into Adam's body (Genesis 2:7), God also breathed His Truth into godly men and women to **sanctify their words** to produce **His sacred Word**.

### Writers Were Carried-Along

Peter informs us in 2 Peter 1:20-21 (NIV) the writers of scripture were "**carried-along**" by the Holy Spirit.

- This phrase "carried along" is an ancient Greek **nautical** word *pheronemai* which translated describes how a sailing vessel is "**driven along**" by the wind.
- Peter is describing that the writers' **thinking** and **selection of words** were "carried along" or **inspired** by God the Holy Spirit.



### Summary

The process of inspiration is superintended by God the Holy Spirit as he

- **breathed** into the writers' his **intentions** and **truth**, and **guided** the writers' **thoughts** and **word choices**
- while preserving their unique **styles** and **personalities**
- so that the **meaning** of **their** writing is in **perfect alignment** with **His Truth**.



Though God used **fallible** men and women, the end product, the Bible, is **infallible**.

## Evidence for Inspiration

The **strongest evidence** for inspiration is **prophecy**.

- There are **1,000+** prophecies found in **66** books written by **40** authors over **1,500** years.
- The **consistency** and pin-point **accuracy** of prophetic **fulfillment** throughout the ages proves there was **one author, God Himself** !

Additional evidence for inspiration is the **consistency** of the **redemptive narrative**, GOD-MAN-SIN-JESUS, portrayed through each book of the Bible.

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## Transmission

Bible texts have undergone **3,500 years** of transmission. Nevertheless, what we have today are **accurately copied manuscripts** written in Hebrew and Greek that are consistent with the **autographs** (original writings).

### Transmission of the Old Testament

The **veracity** (or accuracy) of the Old Testament (OT) Hebrew scriptures relies primarily on the **fidelity** of the **transmission process** used by **skilled scribes**.

- The **Hebrew scriptures**, the OT, were written from about 1,400 BC to 400 BC.
- The **Early Jewish Scribes** copied the OT scriptures from 1,400 BC to 600 AD.
- The **Later Masoretic Scribes** copied the OT scriptures from 600 AD to 1000 AD.

The early Jewish scribes and Masoretes were **professionally trained** and **highly paid**.

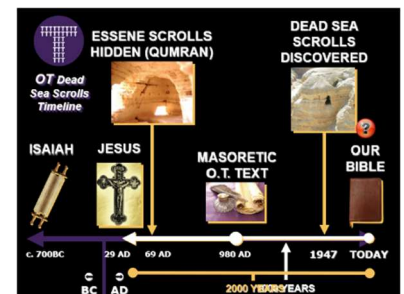
The **Masoretes** created what is known as the **Masoretic Text** of **980 AD** which was the **oldest copy** of the Old Testament scriptures we have today, **until** the discovery of the **Dead Sea Scrolls** (DSS) in **1947 AD**.

The Dead Sea Scrolls, written by the **Essene scribes** in 69 AD, were a **game-changer** for **authenticating** the **fidelity** of the Masoretic Text of 980 AD.

- When we **compare** the Masoretic Text of 980 AD with the DDS of 69 AD, we discover that the Essene Scrolls are **95% identical** to the Masoretic Text, except for **unintentional orthographic errors** (e.g., minor misspellings, punctuation, missing articles, minor word transpositions).
- Now, the **DDS** are the oldest copy of the OT scriptures we have today spanning back 2,000 years and within 700 years of Isaiah's autograph!

Given the **proficiency** of both the Masoretic and Jewish methodologies,

- we assume that the **same proficiencies** were used by **earlier Jewish scribes** from the time of the **original autographs** (BC 1400-400) until the time of the DSS (69 AD),
- and therefore, we can safely assume the Essene Scrolls of 69 AD are **accurate** with **respect** to the **autographs** dating back to as early as 1,400 BC.



## Transmission of the New Testament

Unlike the Old Testament, the **veracity** of the New Testament (NT) texts written between 50-90 AD relies primarily on ...

- the **multiplicity** of manuscripts/fragments (24,000+)
- the **early dating** of those manuscripts/fragments (as early as 30 years after autographs)
- the **low percentage** of variations among those manuscripts/fragments (0.2% discrepancies)

	New Testament
Autograph Written	A.D. 50-90
Earliest Copy (after autograph)	Fragments: 30 yrs. Books: 100 yrs. NT: 250 yrs.
# Copies	24,000+
# Text Lines	20,000
# Lines in Question	40 of 20,000
Accuracy	99.8%

**Textual critics** (Bible scholars) have determined that once the **variants** containing **unintentional orthographic errors** are eliminated, the resulting NT texts are **99.8% identical**.

- The **discrepancies** amount to a mere **40 lines** out of 20,000 lines of the NT.
- These **discrepancies** are **inconsequential** with respect to Christian theology.

When we compare the NT with **Homer's Iliad**, we conclude the Bible is the **best copied text** of all time!

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## Canonization

The Protestant Bible is a collection of 66 books **recognized** by the Church as **inspired** and **authoritative**.

- It comprises the **OT canon** of **39 books** and the **NT canon** of **27 books**.

The word **canon** means **ruler** or **measuring rod**.

- It is derived from a word that means cane or reed (Greek, *kanon*; Hebrew, *qaneh*).
- In the ancient world, cane was used as a **measuring stick**.
- **Canon** is a way to **measure** the divine inspiration of an ancient manuscript.

### Recognized, Not Made

- The **Canon** of Scripture was **recognized** as being divinely inspired and authoritative.
- They were not **made** inspired or authoritative by any person, group, or church.
- Essentially, the Canon is **determined** by God and **recognized** by man.

## Tests for Canonicity

The three essential criteria for canonicity includes:

### (1) Prophetic and Apostolic **origin** of the manuscripts

- In the case of the OT, **prophets** were **selected** to be the spokespersons for God to their generations.
- In the case of the NT, the **Apostles** were **eyewitnesses** to Jesus' life and ministry.

### (2) Historic and Doctrinal **soundness** of the manuscripts

- The manuscripts must be historically accurate, and consistent in doctrine and the redemptive meta-narrative.
- Essentially, the manuscripts must be without errors and inconsistencies.

### (3) Wide **acceptance** by the OT Jews and the NT church

- The canonical books of the prophets and apostles were widely accepted by the Jewish scribes and the Apostolic Fathers of the church respectively.

## Exceptions to Canonicity

The **Apocrypha** (Greek, "hidden books") are Jewish books of the same period many of which **are included** in the Old Testament canons of the Latin (Vulgate), Greek (Septuagint), and Roman Catholic and Orthodox bibles.

- Their **historical anomalies** and **theological heresies** made it impossible to accept them into the Protestant canon.
- They could not be from God and contain errors at the same time.

The **Pseudepigrapha** (Greek, "falsely attributed") are Jewish writings of the same period, which were attributed to authors who did not actually write them.

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# Christian Apologetics (Youth)

## Week 5: Divinity of Jesus

### Jesus as Incarnate God

*Who is Jesus? Is Jesus a Prophet or a Wise Sage?*

*Or Is Jesus a Liar, Lunatic, or Lord (C. S. Lewis)? Or Is Jesus Divine?*

Skeptics argue that Jesus never claimed to be divine, and that the early churches' claims of Jesus' divinity were contrived.

As believers, we argue that nearly everything Jesus said and did spoke of His divinity.

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The Pharisees accused Jesus of claiming equality with God (John 5:18, 10:24-25).

In response to the Pharisees' accusations, Jesus outlined his own defense in John 5 including the following witnesses:

- John the Baptist's **authoritative testimony** (vv. 32-35)
- Jesus' **authoritative teaching** (v. 36)
- Jesus' **miracles** (v. 36)
- Jesus' fulfillment of Messianic **prophecies** (vv. 37-46)

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## Testimonies

### Authoritative Witness of John the Baptist

John the Baptist was the authoritative witness **appointed** and **anointed** by God to prepare people for the coming of the Messiah.

During Jesus' baptism, John testified to the people in John 1 saying ...

- Jesus is the **Lamb of God** who will **take away the sin of the world** (v. 29).
- Jesus is **anointed by the Holy Spirit** as he begins his ministry (v. 32).
- Jesus is the **Chosen One of God** - some translations say **Son of God** (v. 34).

### Extra-Biblical Testimony

In addition to the testimony of John the Baptist, prominent extra-biblical historians chronicled the historicity and divinity of Jesus including Tacitus, Lucian of Samosata, Thallus, Josephus, Pliny the Younger, Suetonius, and the Jewish Talmud.

- Collectively, their writings build a **compelling profile** of Jesus' divinity, as well as his death and resurrection.

### Other Eyewitness Testimony

In 2 Peter 1:16, Peter states that he and the other disciples were eyewitnesses to Jesus' majesty.

Jesus' disciples testified to his divinity.

- **John**: "Jesus, the **Word** was with God, and the **Word was God**. ... So the **Word** became human and made his home among us" (John 1:1-16).
- **Peter**: "You are the **Messiah**, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:15-16).

- **Paul:** “Jesus is the **visible image of the invisible God**” (Colossians 1:15-19). “In Jesus lives all the **fullness of God** in a human body” (Colossians 2:9).

Other eyewitnesses of Jesus’ divinity include Zechariah, Simeon, Anna, the Magi, the Roman centurion, the angel Gabriel, God the Father, Satan, Demons, and the **thousands of people** who witnessed Jesus’ teachings, miracles, death, and resurrection.

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## Authoritative Teaching

### Realms of Jesus’ Authority

During Jesus’ ministry, he demonstrated his divine authority **over all realms** including:

- Authority to **Forgive Sins** (Luke 5:20-24)
- Authority Over **Peoples’ Destiny** (John 14:6)
- Authority Over **Sickness** (Jesus’ Miracles)
- Authority Over **Life & Death** (Jesus’ Miracles)
- Authority Over **Nature** (Matthew 8:27)
- Authority Over **Old Testament Law** (Matthew 5:31-32)
- Origin of **Divine Truth** (Matthew 5:18)

### Jesus’ Authoritative Teaching

When Jesus speaks of **his teachings**, he is referring to the **divine authority** of his teachings.

- We learn from Matthew 7:28-29, that the people were amazed by Jesus’ teaching, and that his teaching **exceeded the authority of the religious teachers** of his day.
- In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus **begins** his teaching with the phrase “**Amen, I say to you**” . By using the word AMEN **before** the teaching (as opposed to **after**), Jesus is boldly declaring, “**I know this is true firsthand because I am the author of this truth!**” (John 14:6)

We observe that **Jesus’ authority** is something he **possessed** because of his **divine nature**, as opposed to the **learned** and **vested** authority of the **religious teachers**.

### Jesus’ Divine Titles

The many titles Jesus claimed during his ministry revealed his **divine nature** including:

- **Son of Man** (x85): Jesus claims to be the **divine figure** in the likeness of man who will come at the end of the age and establish his eternal kingdom in Daniel 7:13-14.
- **Son of God** (x42): Jesus claims to have **intimacy** with God the Father.
- **I Am** (x7): Jesus claims the **Messianic** titles described metaphorically in the Old Testament, e.g., bread of life, light of the world, door of the sheep, and true vine.
- **I AM - ego eimi** (x5): Jesus claims the same title as the **self-existent, eternal** God in Exodus 3:14.
- **One with God** (x1): Jesus claims to share the same **essence** as God, one and the same **being** in John 10:22-30.

### Jesus’ Mental Health

We know Jesus was of **sound mind** because he did not exhibit any of the characteristics of Schizophrenia, Bipolar Disorder, Delusional Disorder, or Sociopathic Personality Disorder.

- Jesus was consistently depicted as one who was **level-headed** and **singly focused** on his mission.
  - He was genuinely concerned about the wayward plight of people and **not fixated on himself**.
- 

## Miracles

Miracles **authenticate** the **message** of the **miracle worker**, e.g., Moses' miracles in Exodus 7-9.

- Likewise, God **authenticates** Jesus' claims of divinity with **signs**, **wonders**, and **miracles** in Acts 2:22.
- Jesus goes as far as saying that his miracles **prove** he is divine in John 5:36. Certainly, his **resurrection** is the greatest proof!

### Scope of Jesus' Miracles

The Gospel writers tell us that Jesus healed **all** those who were sick in Matthew 4:23-24.

- **ALL** Galilee, **EVERY** disease, **EVERY** affliction, **ALL** the sick, over a three-year period.
- Therefore, Jesus' miracles were witnessed and experienced by **thousands** of people (John 20:30).

### Nature of Jesus' Miracles

The first thing we observe about the nature of Jesus' miracles is that his authority is **without extent** or **limit**.

- From the Gospel record, we observe that there were **no domains** over which Jesus **did not exercise absolute authority**.
- The Gospels recount **38 miracle stories** including:
  - healing people of illnesses, deformities, and diseases (x20)
  - physical laws of nature (x9)
  - exorcising demonic spirits (x5)
  - raising the dead to life (x4)

The second thing we observe about the nature of Jesus' miracles is that he **exhibited explosive power**.

- The Greek word used for miracles in the NT is **dunamis** from which we get our English word **dynamite**.
- The import of the Greek word **dunamis** is that Jesus' miracles **occurred so quickly** (suddenly, immediately) that they couldn't have been **explained away** by **natural process**.

The third thing we observe about the nature of Jesus' miracles is that **he himself possessed the power** to perform miracles by his **word**, not by invoking the power of an outside source.

- Jesus' miracles were **not accompanied** by **incantations**, **potions**, or **rituals**, like other so-called healers of his day.
- Jesus' miracles did not depend on **proximity**. Jesus' **word** was enough.

We conclude that Jesus' power was both **extraordinary** and **unique**, unlike any power witnessed in his day!

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## Fulfillment of Messianic Prophecies

### Summary of Messianic Prophecies

We learn from John 5:39,46 and Luke 24:44 that **Jesus** was the **focal point** of **all biblical prophecy** written in the OT scriptures, esp. the Law of Moses.

- Based on biblical scholarship, there are an estimated **46 messianic prophecies** in the OT that collectively provide a **prophetic profile** of the Messiah to come.

To illustrate the **accurate fulfillment** of prophecy, we turn to Psalm 22.

- Psalm 22 was written by King David in approximately **1,000 BC** as a psalm of lament and suffering.
- What is amazing about this Psalm is that it **prophetically** describes Jesus' **crucifixion**.
  - Forsaken by God (22:1)
  - Mocked & Ridiculed (22:7-8)
  - Side Pierced (22:14)
  - Bones Out-of-Joint (22:14)
  - Dehydrated & Exhausted (22:15)
  - Hands & Feet Pierced (22:16)
  - Bones Exposed (22:17)
  - Soldiers Gamble for Garments (22:18)
  - Mocked by Onlookers (22:6,7,8,12,13,17)

We learn from history that **crucifixion** was **first introduced** by the Persians in the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC and later used by Alexander the Great in the 4th century BC and the Roman empire in the 3rd century BC.

- The description of suffering in Psalm 22 was a **detailed portrait** of the brutal crucifixion that **predates** the use of crucifixion used by the Persians, Macedonians, and Romans.

How could David have known about death by crucifixion **600 years before it was first used** by the Persians and the **specific events surrounding Jesus' crucifixion 1,000 years in advance**?

- The **only reasonable answer** is that David was **speaking prophetically** by the **inspiration** of God.

## Messianic Fulfillment by Chance

What are the **mathematical odds** of Jesus fulfilling all OT prophecies with pin-point accuracy by chance?

According to Peter Stoner (1969), the odds of Jesus fulfilling **all 46 messianic prophecies** is **1 in 10<sup>157</sup>**.

As we examine these prophecies, we learn that half of the prophecies were **completely outside** Jesus' **control**.

- Therefore, Jesus could not have **orchestrated** the events of his life in order to fulfill these prophecies, e.g.
  - Jesus born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2 Matthew 2:1)
  - Jesus born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:22-23)
  - Children massacred at Bethlehem (Jeremiah 31:15 Matthew 2:16-18)
  - The methods of torture inflicted on Jesus during his crucifixion.

The odds of Jesus fulfilling **half** of the OT Messianic prophecies is **1 in 10<sup>78</sup>**.

Since these numbers are so astronomical, it is **impossible** to believe Jesus fulfill all or even half of the 46 prophecies by chance.

Because the fulfillment of Jesus' Messianic prophecies were **undisputably orchestrated** by God, we conclude that prophetic fulfillment is the **strongest evidence** for both the **divinity of Jesus**, and the **inspiration of God's Word**.

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# Christian Apologetics (Youth)

## Week 6: Resurrection of Jesus

### Jesus as Victorious Savior

*Did Jesus Die a Cruel Death by Scourging and Crucifixion? Or Did He Swoon?*

*Did Jesus Rise from the Dead? Or Did the Church Invent Jesus' Resurrection?*

Gary Habermas, the leading expert on the resurrection of Jesus, argues that the death, burial and resurrection are the **best-attested** facts about Jesus.

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## Testimonies

### Eyewitness Testimony of Jesus' Death

**Apostle John** is regarded as a **primary eyewitness** at the time of Jesus' crucifixion, along with the three Mary's.

John chronicles the crucifixion events in John 19 including placing himself in **close proximity** to Jesus. (v. 25), witnessing the **drooping** of Jesus head. (v. 30), **soldier thrust the sword** into Jesus' side (v. 34), Jesus' **death by crucifixion** (v. 30), and Jesus' **bones not broken** and **side pierced** (vv. 35-37).

**Jesus' Disciples** – Those Jesus knew personally **stood at a distance** (Luke 23:49).

**General Public** - Jesus' crucifixion was witnessed by the **general public**. The hill on which Jesus was crucified, Golgotha, is located on the **public road** north of the Damascus Gate where visitors to the Passover would be traveling. Phrases such as "*many people*", "*a large crowd*", and "*all the crowd*" are used to describe the passing spectators (John 11:55-56, 12:9-13, Luke 23:27, 23:48 NLT).

### Eyewitness Testimony of Jesus' Resurrection

**500+ Eyewitnesses** – Post-resurrection appearances were witnessed by 500+ people over the course of 40 days (Acts 1:3, 13:31, 1 Corinthians 15:3-7). This included his disciples, the three Mary's, James the brother of Jesus, Paul, and others.

Many counter-theories abounded regarding the post-resurrection appearances of Jesus. One theory that emerged during the 19<sup>th</sup> century was the **hallucination theory** alleging that people merely experienced **visions** of Jesus after his death. Given that hallucinations and delusions are an individual experience, it is highly unlikely that the same vision of the resurrected Jesus could be experienced by the eleven disciples let alone 500+ people.

### Post Resurrection Conversions

Jesus' resurrection was a **watershed moment** in the life of his disciples and followers. After encountering the risen Jesus, their lives were radically changed.

- They went from being **unbelievers** and **cowards** to being **believers** and **bold proclaimers** of the Gospel message. Many were **martyred** for their faith.
- Saul of Tarsus, who became the Apostle Paul, went from being a **persecutor** to being a **believer** and **bold proclaimer**, and was **martyred** for his faith.
- James, the brother of Jesus, wanted to **promote** Jesus as a **miracle worker**, and **exploit** Jesus for his own gain. According to the Apostle John, James was an unbeliever. (John 7:5) Later, James became a believer

and rose to a very influential position in the early Christian church as a prominent leader, and was **martyred** for his faith.

What we learn from these conversions is that the resurrection **emboldened** Jesus' disciples to **dedicate** their lives to **preach** the Gospel message, even to their deaths.

## Extra-Biblical Testimony

Extra-biblical (secular) testimonies concerning the events surrounding Jesus' death and resurrection **corroborate** the biblical eyewitness testimonies presented above.

**Flavius Josephus** – 1<sup>st</sup> century Jewish Historian (90-95 AD) **who specialized in Roman-Jewish history.**

*Pilate **condemned him to be crucified and to die.***

*They reported that he had **appeared to them** three days after his **crucifixion** and that he was **alive.***

**Cornelius Tacitus** - Roman Historian of the early 2<sup>nd</sup> century (115 AD) considered the greatest historian of the Roman empire.

*Christus, the founder of the name, was **put to death** by Pontius Pilate.*

*Christus suffered the **extreme penalty** at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilate.*

**Lucian of Samosata** – 2<sup>nd</sup> century Greek historian (165 AD)

*A man (Jesus) was **crucified**. These misguided creatures (Christians) worship the **crucified sage.***

**Jewish Talmud** (135-200 AD)

*Yeshu was **hanged** on the evening of the Passover.*

**Thallus** – 1<sup>st</sup> century Greek historian (52 AD)

*On the whole world there pressed a **most fearful darkness**; and the rocks were **rent by an earthquake**, and many places in Judea and other districts were **thrown down.***

**Phlegon of Tralles** - prolific 2<sup>nd</sup> century Greek historian (137 AD)

*There was an **eclipse of the sun**, **greater** than any which had occurred previously. At the sixth hour, the day became as **dark as night**, and the **stars were visible** in the sky. An **earthquake** in Bithynia destroyed many buildings in Nicaea.*

**Tertullian** - 2<sup>nd</sup> century Christian writer (155-240 AD)

*The **light of day was withdrawn**, when the sun at the very time was in his meridian blaze.*

These extra-biblical testimonies are consistent with the death and resurrection accounts presented in God's Word.

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## Prophetic Fulfillment

Prophetic fulfillment of Jesus' death and resurrection was covered in Week 5 with the illustration of Psalm 22.

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# Jesus' Death by Crucifixion

Perhaps the most popular **conspiracy theory** from the eighteenth century is the **swoon theory**.

- According to this theory, Jesus **lost consciousness** (or **swooned**) while on the cross due to **extreme exhaustion** and then was **resuscitated** after a 3-day rest in the tomb.
- According to notable forensic pathologist Frederick Zugibe, to suggest that Jesus could survive the **fatal injuries** he incurred during the **brutal scourging** and **crucifixion** is contrary to the findings of modern forensic science.

## Forensic Evidence

Let's briefly summarize the injuries Jesus incurred during his last hours.

**Extreme Emotional Distress - Garden of Gethsemane** (Luke 22:44) Jesus experienced extreme emotional distress, sweating blood (*hematidrosis*), severe dehydration, and likely vomiting.

**Beatings – Temple** (Matthew 26:67-68, Mark 14:65, Luke 22:63-65) Temple guards beat Jesus with their fists while mocking him resulting in bruising and fractures to the face and upper torso.

**Roman Scourging - Governor's Headquarters** (John 19:1-3) Roman guards used a flagrum (fortified whip) to deliver **lethal blows** to the Jesus' back, sides, and chest. This scourging would have resulted in *hypovolemic shock* which is characterized by heavy blood loss due to lacerations. Additionally, Jesus incurred deep contusions and bruising, vertebrae damage, muscle/ligament/tendon damage, lacerated liver and spleen, punctured lung, fluid buildup on the lung's pleural lining (*pleural effusion*), and periodic vomiting, tremors and seizures.

**Crown of Thorns/Facial Beatings – Governor's Headquarters** (Matthew 27:27, Mark 15:16-20) We learn from medical science that the thorns would have damaged or severed the *trigeminal* and *occipital* nerves which service the front and back of the head resulting in severe facial pain. We also learn of the **great company of soldiers** forcefully striking Jesus in the head with a reed resulting in severe facial bruising/swelling/lacerations, eye/nasal/oral traumas, and concussion/dizziness, while complicating injuries already inflicted by the crown of thorns.

**Roman Crucifixion – Golgotha** (Matthew 27:35-44, Mark 15:24-32, Luke 23:33-43, John 19:18-27) We learn from history and archeology that Roman crucifixion was a **form of torture** designed to produce a **slow death** while maximizing the victim's **pain** and **suffering**. Crucifixion would have resulted in the severing of the *median* nerves in both wrists/hands and the *plantar* nerves in both ankles/feet, piercing of the pleura, lungs and heart (*pericardium*) by the sword resulting in severe hemorrhaging, and finally an inability to exhale (*asphyxiation*) leading to death by a combination of cardiac arrest or asphyxiation.

According to the prophet Isaiah, Jesus was so **disfigured**, he was **unrecognizable** (Isaiah 52:14).

The consensus among forensic pathologists is that Jesus suffered a **violent** and **certain death**, and that his injuries were **fatal** and **irreparable**.

To suggest that Jesus could walk away from these injuries is completely absurd!

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# Jesus Resurrection from the Dead

## Circumstantial Evidence

Unlike **direct** or **eyewitness** evidence, circumstantial evidence is **indirect** evidence that relies on **inference** to connect the **evidence** (circumstances surrounding Jesus' resurrection) to an **assertion** (Jesus' resurrection).

### *Prolonged Darkness and Earthquakes*

The Gospels record a **prolonged darkness** (Matthew 27:45) and **earthquakes** (Matthew 27:54) at the time of Jesus' death on the cross.

- These events were also recorded by extra-biblical historians Phlegon, Thallus, and Tertullian.
- What is interesting about Phlegon's account is that it likely occurred in Bithynia during Olympiad held in AD 29-33.
- This implies that both the **darkness** and **earthquakes** were **widespread** throughout the entire regions of Israel and Asia Minor, because Bithynia is located approximately **800 miles** north of Jerusalem.

### *Temple Curtain Torn in Two*

In Matthew 27:51a, Matthew tells us the temple curtain was torn in two, from top to bottom.

- This four-inch-thick curtain separated the **Holy Place** from the **Most Holy Place**, separating Man from God.
- Matthew is suggesting that this event can only be explained as a **work of God**, not by a **natural event** such as an earthquake or a violent wind.

### *Opened Tombs, Resurrection of the Saints*

In Matthew 27:51b-53, Matthew tells us that tombs of the dead were open due to the earthquake, and that many godly people were raised from the dead at the time of Jesus' death on the cross.

- Matthew also reports that those who were raised from the dead appeared to many people in Jerusalem after Jesus' resurrection.
- These events perfectly coincided with Jesus' death and resurrection.

### *Cessation of Temple Phenomena*

The Jewish Talmud (Yoma 39a-b) reported that longstanding temple phenomena ceased to occur after Jesus' death.

- **Lot for God** - Always Selected by Right Hand
- **Strip of Crimson Wool** - Always Turns White
- **Candelabrum** - Burned Continuously
- **Sanctuary Door** - Always Remained Closed

According to the Talmud, the cessation of these phenomena was the result of **God's disfavor with the nation of Israel**.

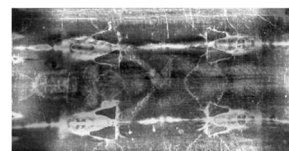
- The Jewish leaders' rejection of Jesus as Messiah (Acts 4:11, Acts 13:46) and blasphemy of the Holy Spirit (Mark 3:22-29) were the **final transgressions** in the long sequence of Israel's moral decline.

## Shroud of Turin Evidence

The Shroud of Turin (SOT) was discovered some time before 1357.

- We know this because the earliest written account of the SOT was written in 1357.
- Therefore, we can establish that if the SOT is a **forgery**, it must have been forged earlier than 1357.
- We know that many features found on the SOT were **unknown** before 1357.

We argue that the SOT is the authentic burial shroud of Jesus given the following evidence.



### *Floral Images and Pollen Grains Unknown*

Botanical evidence indicates that the **floral imprints** and **pollen grains** found on the SOT are **endemic** to Israel and the surrounding area in the 1<sup>st</sup> century.

- **Chrysanthemums** customarily used in **floral wreaths** placed around the victim's head can be clearly seen on the SOT.
- These Chrysanthemums could have come only from the **Middle East** and would only have been in **bloom** during the months of February through May – the season when Jesus was buried.



This evidence strongly suggests that the SOT was exposed to these native plants during a 1<sup>st</sup> century burial and could not have been introduced in a 14<sup>th</sup> century forgery.

### *Shape of Scourge Marks Unknown*

The scourge marks found on the shroud are consistent with the **dumbbell-shaped tips** on the **Roman flagrum** used in the 1<sup>st</sup> century which was **unknown** until one was unearthed in the ancient Roman city of Herculaneum in 1709.

- The dumbbell-shaped scourge marks are only visible with **ultra-violet light**, a technology unavailable in the 14<sup>th</sup> century.
- All 100 scourge marks have **identical shape** and **dimensions**, and could not be forged by hand with such precision.



### *Medical Conditions Unknown*

Knowledge of certain **medical conditions** depicted on the shroud were **unknown** to medical science in the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

#### **Blood Clotting**

- Knowledge of blood clotting seen in the **serum halos** surrounding the scourge marks was **unknown** in the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

#### **Pleural Effusion**

- The condition is the buildup of various **fluids** between the layers of tissue that line the lungs and chest cavity.
- According to John 19:34, **blood** and **water** were released when the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear.

#### **Abdomen Distension**

- The condition is the buildup of various **fluids** and **air** in the abdomen, causing the abdomen to **bulge outward**.

### *Image Formation on Shroud Unknown*

No one has been able to satisfactorily explain how the image was imprinted on the SOT even with the latest technologies available today. The most likely theory is that the image was imprinted on the SOT using **heat** and **radiation** a process commonly known as **scorching**.

- Since all forms of radiation were discovered in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, it is impossible for a forger to imprint the image using radiation in the 14<sup>th</sup> century.
- The image is 3-dimensional and therefore would have been difficult for a forger to accurately produce on a 2-dimensional linen.

All the injuries incurred by Jesus based on the biblical accounts are depicted on the SOT. The features that are attributed uniquely to Jesus include:

- the facial/head wounds due to multiple blows,
- the crown of thorns,
- the legs of the victim were not fractured,
- the absence of any bodily tissue and embalming ointment,

- the fine linen used at burial, and
- the unknown method by which the linen was scorched.

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