

# An Introduction to Christian Apologetics

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## The Deity and Resurrection of Christ

### I. Deity of Christ

#### a. Jesus claimed to be Yahweh

<i>Assertion by Jesus</i>	<i>New Testament claim</i>	<i>Old Testament precedent</i>
Bridegroom	Matt. 25:1ff	Is. 62:5; Hos. 2:16
Judge of the world	Matt. 25:31ff; John 5:27ff	Joel 3:12
great I AM	John 8:58; 18:5-6; Mark 14:62	Ex. 3:14
light of the world	John 8:12	Ps. 27:1
Shepherd	John 10:11	Ps. 23:1
worthy of sharing God's glory	John 17:5	Is. 42:8
Eternal One	Rev. 1:17; 2:8; 22:13	Is. 41:4; 44:6; 48:12

#### b. Jesus claimed to be equal with God

<i>Assertion</i>	<i>New Testament claim</i>	<i>Old Testament precedent</i>
authority to forgive sins	Matt. 9:1-13; Mark 2:5-11; Luke 5:17-32	Is. 43:25; Dan. 9:9
equality with God	John 5:16-23	Is. 40:25; 46:5
source of life	John 5:21, 26-29; see also Acts 26:8	Deut. 32:39; 1 Sam. 2:6; 2 Kings 5:7

#### c. Jesus claimed to be Messiah-God

1. OT declared that the Messiah would be God Himself
  - Is. 9:6; Ps. 45:6; Ps. 110:1; Dan. 7:9,13,22
2. Jesus claimed to be the Messiah, therefore He claimed to be God
  - Mark 14:61-64; Matt. 22:43-44; 26:54; Luke 24:23; see also Heb. 1:8

#### d. Jesus accepted worship

1. Both OT and NT forbid worship of any being other than God
  - Ex. 20:1-4; Deut 5:6-9; Ps. 81:9; Acts 14:15; Rev. 22:8-9
2. Yet Jesus freely accepted worship

- Matt. 8:2, 9:18, 14:33, 20:20, 28:17, 16:17; Mark 5:6; John 20:28-29

### e. Jesus' authority as God

1. His word: Matt. 5:21-22, 24:35 [see 5:18 also]; John 12:48
2. His command: Matt. 28:18-19; John 13:34
3. His knowledge: Matt. 12:25; Luke 9:47, 11:17, John 2:25, 6:61-64
4. Prayer in His name: John 14:13-14; 15:7; Acts 7:59

### f. Disciples attributed titles of deity to Christ

<i>Title</i>	<i>New Testament claim</i>	<i>Old Testament precedent</i>
"The First and the Last"	Rev 1:7, 2:8, 22:13	Is. 41:4, 44:6, 48:12
"the spiritual Rock"	1 Cor. 10:4; 1 Pet. 2:4-6	Deut. 32:4; 1 Sam 2:2; Ps.18:31; Is. 28:16
"the Savior the world"	John 4:42 [see also 1 Tim 1:1]; Titus 2:12; 1 John 4:14	Is. 43:3, 45:21; Hos. 13:4
"my Lord and my God!"	John 20:28	Ex. 20:3

### g. Disciples considered Jesus the Messiah-God

<i>Old Testament Prophecy</i>	<i>New Testament Fulfillment</i>
Isaiah 7:14	Matt. 1:23
Zech. 12:10	John 19:37; Rev. 1:7
Is. 45:22-23	Phil. 2:10-11
Is. 25:9	Acts 4:12

### h. Disciples attributed powers of God to Jesus

<i>Claim</i>	<i>NT references</i>	<i>OT precedent</i>
raise the dead	Jn. 2:19-21; 5:21; 11:38-44; also see Heb. 7:16	Dt. 32:39; 1 Sam. 2:6; Ps. 36:9
Create / sustain the world	Jn. 1:1-3; Col. 1:16-17; Heb. 1:1-3	Gen. 1:1; Ps. 102:25; Is. 45:24
Justify the guilty	Mk. 2:1-12; Acts 5:31; 13:38	Ps. 130:4; Jer. 31:34

### i. Additional evidence

1. "In Him dwells all the fullness of the God bodily..." [Col. 2:9]
2. "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever..." [Heb 1:8]
3. "...and the Word was God..." [John 1:1]
4. Jesus is "far above...every name that is named..." [Eph. 1:21]

## II. The Resurrection of Christ

1. Truth about reality is knowable
2. Opposites cannot both be true
3. The theistic God exists
4. Miracles are possible
5. Miracles confirm a messenger of God
6. The NT is reliable
7. Jesus claimed to be God
- 8. Jesus' claim was confirmed by miracles (resurrection)**
9. Therefore, Jesus was God
10. Whatever Jesus says is true is true
11. Jesus affirmed the Bible as the infallible Word of God
12. Therefore, Christianity is true (and the opposite of true is false)

1Cr 15:3-4 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,

### A. Did Jesus Die?

- What about the "swoon theory"?

### B. Was Jesus Buried?

- What about the "wrong tomb theory"?

### C. Did Jesus rise from the dead?

#### **Luke 24:33-43**

And they arose that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found gathered together the eleven and those who were with them, saying, "The Lord has really risen, and has appeared to Simon." And they {began} to relate their experiences on the road and how He was recognized by them in the breaking of the bread. And while they were telling these things, He Himself stood in their midst. But they were startled and frightened and thought that they were seeing a spirit. And He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? "See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; touch Me and see, **for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.**" [And when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet.] And while they still could not believe {it} for joy and were marveling, **He said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" And they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish; and He took it and ate {it} before them.**

## Empy tomb

From Day 1, unbelievers have concocted all kinds of objections and “explanations” to deny the Resurrection – but one obvious and undeniable fact remains: THE TOMB IS EMPTY – NO ONE HAS EVER PRODUCED THE BODY OF JESUS CHRIST. (see Matt. 28:11-15)

## Appearances

1. To Mary Magdelene (John 20:10-18)
2. To other women (Matt. 28:1-10)
3. To Peter (1 Cor. 15:5; John 20:3-9)
4. To disciples on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35)
5. To the Eleven disciples – minus Thomas (Luke 24:36-49; John 20:19-23)
6. To the Eleven – with Thomas (John 20:24-31)
7. To seven disciples (John 21)
8. To commission the apostles (Matt. 28:16-20)
9. To five hundred (1 Cor. 15:6)
10. To James – brother of Jesus (1 Cor. 15:7)
11. At the Ascension (Acts 1:4-8)
12. To Paul (Acts 9:1-9; 1 Cor. 15:8)

## Transformed lives

- From scared to fearless
  - From scattered to unified
  - From skeptics to bold proclaimers
  - From church destroyer to church planter (Paul)
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- What about the “hallucination theory”?
  - What about the “stolen body theory”?
  - What about the “soldiers fell asleep theory”?