

Who is Jesus?

Did Jesus exist?

Evidence outside the New Testament about **Jesus** includes:

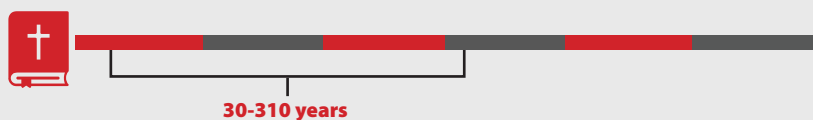
- Tacitus and Suetonius, Roman historians
- Josephus, Jewish historian

Evidence within the New Testament:

'How do we know that what was written down in the New Testament has not been changed over the years?'

WORK	WRITTEN	EARLIEST COPY	TIME LAPSE	COPIES
HERODOTUS	488 - 428 BC	AD 900	1,300 years	8
THUCYDIDES	c 460 - 400 BC	c. AD 900	1,300 years	8
LIVY'S ROMAN HISTORY	59 BC - AD 17	AD 900	900 years	20
LIVY'S ROMAN HISTORY	58 - 50 BC	AD 900	950 years	9-10
TACITUS	AD 100	AD 1,100	1,000 years	20
NEW TESTAMENT	AD 40 - 100	AD 130 (full manuscripts AD 350)	30 - 310 years	5,000 + Greek 10,000 Latin 9,300 others

Original Work first written



NEW TESTAMENT: (Copies found)

5,000+
Greek

10,000
Latin

9,300
other languages

Was Jesus fully human?

- He had a human body
- Tired (John 4:6)
- Hungry (Matthew 4:2)
- He had human emotions

'In the variety and fullness of the evidence on which it rests, the text of the New Testament stands absolutely and unapproachably alone amongst ancient prose writings, and no secular historian would disagree with that.'

F. J. A. Hort

'I don't think you are let off easily by saying he was a great thinker or philosopher because, actually, he went around saying he was the Messiah. That's why he was crucified, he was crucified because he said he was the Son of God, so he either, in my view, was the son of God or he was nuts and I find hard to accept that all the millions and millions of lives, half the earth for 2,000 years have felt their lives touched and inspired by some nutter. I don't believe it'



SET YOUR QUESTIONS FREE

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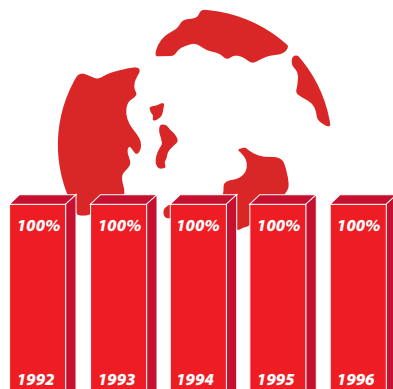
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A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be [insane]... or else he would be "the Devil of Hell". You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else [insane] or something worse... but let us not come up with any patronising nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.

'A Christian is someone who forgives the inexcusable because God has forgiven the inexcusable in us.'

C.S. Lewis



WORLD MORTALITY RATE

What Did Jesus Say About Himself?

- Teaching centred on himself
 - 'I am the bread of life' (John 6:35)
 - 'If the Son sets you free, you really will be free.' (John 8:36, NLT)
 - 'I am the light of the world' (John 8:12)
 - 'I am the way and the truth and the life' (John 14:6)
 - 'Come to me...' (Matthew 11:28-29)
 - Receive me – receive God (Matthew 10:40)
 - Welcome me – welcome God (Mark 9:37)
 - If you have seen me you have seen God (John 14:9)
- His indirect claims
 - To forgive sins (Mark 2:5)
 - To judge the world (Matthew 25:31,32,40,45)
- His direct claims
 - Messiah (Mark 14:61-62)
 - Son of God (Mark 14:61)
 - God the Son (John 20:26-29)
 - 'I and the Father are one.' (John 10:30)

What Evidence is there to support his claims?

- His teaching (Mark 12:31; Luke 6:31; Matthew 5:44)
- His life/works (John 2:1-11; 10:37-38)
- His character (Luke 23:34)
- His fulfilment of Old Testament prophecy
- His conquest of death

Evidence for the resurrection:

- His absence from the tomb - Theories:
 - Jesus did not die (John 19:33-34)
 - Disciples stole the body authorities stole the body
 - robbers stole the body (John 20:1-9)
- His presence with the disciples
 - Did they hallucinate?
 - Number of appearances over a six-week period 11+ appearances 500+ people
 - Nature of appearances (Luke 24:36-43)
- Immediate effect - Birth and growth of Christian church
- Effect down the ages
 - Experience of Christians down the ages
 - Over 2,300 million Christians in the world today

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