

WHY I BELIEVE JESUS IS GOD! Matthew 16:13-17

Int: Jesus asked the world's greatest question, "Who do you say I am?" For Christians there is only one answer, the one Peter gave. "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Who do YOU say Jesus is? Merely a man? Or God in human form? With only one life no one can afford to get it wrong. There is good evidence Jesus was God in the flesh. I believe Jesus is God because he

CLAIMED TO BE GOD

"The Father and I are one (thing)" (Jn 10:30). "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father" (Jn 14:9). "The Father judges no man but has committed all judgment to the Son" (Jn 5:22). He claimed supreme honor alongside the Father (Jn 5:23) and authority to forgive sin (Mk 2:5), a privilege God alone has. And he accepted worship (Jn 20:28), a thing that belongs only to God.

Someone who makes such claims is either mad, bad or God! If he was neither a dope nor a demon, he must be deity!

I believe Jesus is God because he claimed to be.

FULFILLED PROPHECIES ABOUT A DIVINE SAVIOR

The Old Testament contains 456 prophecies about the coming King-messiah. Jesus of Nazareth fulfilled them all. Consider just eight for the moment.

1) Isaiah said he would be born to a virgin (7:14). 2) Micah said he would be born in Bethlehem in Judea (5:2). 3) Isaiah said that he would be despised and that his own people would reject him ((53:3). 4) & 5) Zechariah said that he would enter Jerusalem as a king on an ass (9:9) and that a friend would betray him for 30 silver coins (11:12). 6) A psalmist said his hands and feet would be pierced (22:15). 7) & 8) Isaiah said he would be counted as a sinner (53:12) and buried in a rich man's tomb (53:9).

A mathematician figured the odds were 1 in 10^{17} that any one man would fulfill all eight prophecies. That is a staggering improbability, one in one hundred quadrillion (100,000,000,000,000,000). Statistically impossible! But this is only eight of the prophecies. There are 448 more. He fulfilled, or will fulfill them all.

I believe Jesus is God because he fulfilled hundreds of prophecies of a divine messiah.

LIVED AS GOD WOULD LIVE

If God became a man, what kind of man would he be?

He should enter life in a wondrous way, live a sinless life, speak unforgettable words, do miracles, and love as no other ever has.

I believe Jesus is God because he lived as God would live.

OVERCAME DEATH

If in far-distant galaxies there are planets with intelligent life, there is no other like Earth. For this, "our wayside planet... bears as chief treasure one forsaken grave" (Alice Maynell, "Christ in the Universe"). Other graves are famed because of who is buried there. The grave of Jesus is famed because of who is NOT buried there. He is ALIVE!

I believe Jesus is God because he defeated death and rose never to die again!