

GENERATION *for* JESUS

A DEFENCE FOR THE CHRISTIAN FAITH-1

— Answers a Believer ought to know.



Greetings in Jesus precious name. The Questions that are addressed here are raised by our skeptical friends who contradict our Christian Faith.

1.DID JESUS CLAIM TO BE GOD ??

Mormons answer this question by saying that Jesus is the spirit brother of Lucifer; Jehovah Witnesses answer by saying that Jesus is the archangel Michael; New Agers say Jesus is an avatar or enlightened messenger, Muslims say that Jesus is a Prophet. Jesus, however, answered by claiming Himself to be God.

Jesus claimed to be the unique Son of God as the Great 'I AM' & the 'Son of Man': In John 8:58 Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM." Jesus used the very words by which God revealed Himself to Moses from the burning bush (Exodus 3:14,15). Nothing could be a greater claim than 'before Abraham was I AM' that is the very word of Yahweh. He is already positing His eternal existence. He claimed to be the LORD God, Jehovah-YAHWEH (in Greek "Ego Eimi"). This was most sacred name God revealed in the Old Testament which the Jews revered. Jesus thus claimed God's Holy name to be the pre-existent Sovereign God of the universe.

Not only did Jesus claim to be the 'Son of God' but also the 'Son of Man' Mark 14:62.

The earliest gospel written was the 'gospel of Mark' around 70 A.D

When Jesus called Himself as the 'Son of Man' - lots of Christians get this wrong that 'Son of Man' means human and 'Son of God' means God. No, its the other way round. This title 'Son of Man' is seen 81 times in the New Testament Gospels. But why is this reference to a specific "Son of Man" so important?

The Son of Man is a reference to the OT book of Daniel chapter 7 where the Son of Man is a Divine Figure who has Authority, Glory and Sovereign Power, who receives worship from all people, who will come at the end of the world to judge human kind and to rule forever. Jesus claimed to being the Son of Man is actually a claim to Divinity. Its also referring to a figure that Jews recognised as having divine authority.

Among the Jews the claim 'Son of God' at that time was not anything divine since Adam was called the son of God, Solomon was called the son of God, In the psalms it says you are gods (Psalm 82:6). It's not a divine claim to call someone as son of God, but when someone refers to that 'Son of Man' coming on the clouds of heaven, whose going to receive glory, authority and Sovereign power and people of every nation and language will worship Him with the worship due only to God, that 'Son of Man' is more than just a human. He is Divine! Jesus made this unmistakable claim to deity before the chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin. In Mark 14:62 Caiaphas the high priest asked Him: "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?" Jesus said, "I AM. and you will see the SON OF MAN sitting at the Right Hand of the Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven." Here Jesus claims to be: 1. The 'Son of Man' from Daniel 7:13,14; 2. The 'I AM' from Exodus 3:14; 3. 'Sitting at the Right hand' from Psalm 110:1.

That's the One Jesus claims to be. The "Son of Man" in Daniel's vision is rightful heir to the Divine throne. According to the prophecy, Jesus will rule forever. Nations will worship Him and His kingdom will be unstoppable.

"Jesus forgave sins, only God can do that. Jesus accepted worship only God can be worshipped. Jesus made it absolutely clear by word and by deed, that to know Him is to Know God, to see Him is to See God, to believe in Him is to believe in God, to receive Him is to receive God, to reject Him is to reject God and to honour Him is to Honour God".

—John Stout, British Theologian.

2. IS THE BIBLE CORRUPT??

All Scripture is God-breathed meaning inspired by God. (2 Tim 3:16), but some believe that some part of the Bible has become distorted or corrupted and that a lot of text has been added which was not a part of the revelation.

'You can't even pass a secret around a circle of 12 people and get the same message at the end'. There is indeed a wide variety of human authors and themes in the Bible, Yet behind these... there lies a single Divine Author with a single unifying theme.

"Bible is the Inspired Word of God - written in Words of Men!" Christians have a firm foundation for confidence in the unchanging text of both Testaments. The earlier books of the Bible were written in Hebrew, since that was the language of Israel. As time went on, Israel adopted the lingua franca of the Fertile Crescent and so some portions of the Old Testament were written in Aramaic. By the time gospel came to be proclaimed in the Mediterranean world, Greek was the common language of communication and so the books of the New Testament were written in Greek.

Finding of Biblical Scrolls: The Dead Sea Scrolls are the ancient religious writings found in eleven caves near the site of Qumran. These writings survived as nearly intact scrolls, most of the archive consists of thousands of parchment and papyrus fragments. About 230 manuscripts are referred to as "biblical Scrolls". These are copies of works that are now part of the Hebrew Bible. Almost all of the Hebrew Bible is represented in the Dead Sea Scrolls and is virtually identical to what we read today. The rules to copy the Scripture included that: No word or letter was to be written from memory. The Scribe was to pronounce before he wrote them down. He was to wipe his pen before writing the sacred name YAHWEH. The new copy was revised within 30 days after completion. If more than 3 errors were found on any sheet the roll was condemned. Every word and letter was counted. All these rules may seem ridiculous to us, but they do encourage a great confidence in the accuracy of such copies.

We have in our possession today a super-abundance of 5,800 Greek manuscripts from which the original wording of New Testament books can be determined. If we lost all those Greek New Testament Manuscripts we have over 10,000 Latin New Testament Manuscripts, 9,300 manuscripts in various other ancient languages including Syriac, Slavic, Gothic, Ethiopic, Coptic and Armenian. We could reconstruct the entire message all over again.

However, if these 25,000 manuscripts were destroyed, we still would know what the New Testament writers actually wrote. We would then go to the writings of the Church Fathers. These early Church Fathers wrote numerous books and letters in which they made over 38,000 quotations from the New Testament.

From their writings alone we could reconstruct the entire New Testament. It is rare for secular books of antiquity to have as many as even a dozen ancient manuscripts. Typically their best copies date about 700-1000 years after the date of composition. By contrast, there are complete papyrus manuscripts of many entire New Testament books that date from a mere 100 years after the originals.

The people who wrote the New Testament were the disciples. These people were multi-lingual. They could understand Aramaic, they could understand Greek. They could hear in one and write in the other without losing the message whatsoever.

So for religions and cults to claim that the Bible has been inaccurately copied to such an extent of corrupting the entire message of the Bible, is just blatantly ridiculous due to the 25,000 manuscripts and numerous early quotations. In spite of the misinformed claims of the critics, the Bible that you hold in your hand is an accurate copy of what the original Biblical authors actually wrote.

The Bible: - A span of 15-1600 years- 40 authors- 66 books- 3 different continents- 3 different languages- 4 different materials- 1 single Message.

In these varied diversities converged One unified message of CHRIST.


The spectacular way in which there is a single thread from beginning to end - From the book of Genesis to the book of Revelation, the focus is the Person of JESUS CHRIST. There is no book in history that is as much studied, scrutinised, tact and checked into that has many supportive documents so close to the actual events of these things actually happening and that is in the New Testament.


What they say today is what they've always said.


All Scripture is God-breathed and is God's written Word to man, Infallible and Inerrant as originally given. Divine inspiration is plenary, verbal and confluent. As the very Word of God scripture possesses the properties of authority, sufficiency, clarity and efficacy. The central purpose of Scripture is to present Christ. The Bible is infallible in truth, final in authority.

The Bible was written by people who witnessed the events it describes, many were martyred but never changed their story. The scripture has been sealed by the blood of so many witnesses, they died to render the testimony for their faith towards God. Would you die for something you knew was untrue?

Cherish the Bible because it sustains future 'Hope', brings 'Meaning and Power' to the present, and correlates a misused past with the 'forgiving grace of God'.

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