

apttoteach.org

THE BEREANS

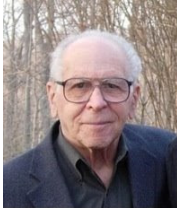
ACTS 17:11

*Hebrews 1:2-5
Lesson #2
Jesus / God
01/14/2024*

1

**Neurotics doubt almost everything.
Psychotics have great faith
but it is in an illusion.**

“Doubt is to certainty as neurosis is to psychosis. The neurotic is in doubt and has fears about persons and things; the psychotic has convictions and makes decisions based on them. In short, the neurotic has problems, the psychotic has solutions.”



*Thomas S Szasz
(Atheist)
Psychiatrist*

2

Therapy for spiritual neurosis & psychosis

HEBREWS

Addressing those whose views of themselves and God, are laced with shame, blame, fear, and idolatry.

3

The majesty of Christ

HEBREWS

**1:2-5
Son shine**

(How is Jesus related to God?)

4

John 3

“16 For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. 17 **For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through Him.**”

5

HEBREWS

Many Greek speaking Jewish believers who constituted the early church were under pressure to rethink their commitment to Christianity.

This is the first great apologetic defense of Christianity.

The Superiority of Christianity

“therefore” “therefore”

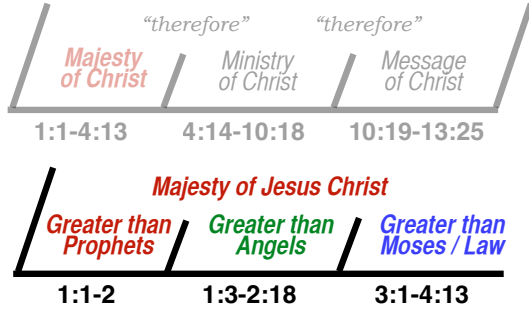
Majesty of Christ / **Ministry of Christ** / **Message of Christ**

1:1-4:13 4:14-10:18 10:19-13:25

6

HEBREWS

The Superiority of Christianity



7

Hebrews 1

“2 in these last days has spoken to us in **His Son**, whom He appointed **heir** of all things, through whom also He **made the world**. 3 And He is the radiance of His glory and the **exact representation of His nature**, and **upholds all things** by the word of His power. When He had made **purification of sins**, He sat down at the **right hand of the Majesty on high**;

4 having become as **much better than the angels**, as He has **inherited** a more excellent name than they. 5 For to which of the **angels** did He ever say, “**You are My Son, Today I have begotten You?**” And again, “**I will be a Father to Him and He shall be a Son to Me?**”

8

Hebrews 1:2-5 (paraphrase)

“God the Father put Jesus on assignment as:

- 1) the **only begotten Son** of God
- 2) the **heir (Messiah)** of God’s promises,
- 3) the **creator** of God’s world and its systems,
- 4) the **revealer** of God’s nature,
- 5) the **operator** of God’s plan,
- 6) the **purifier** of God’s people,
- 7) the **sharer** of God’s glory and honor,
- 8) **being much better than the angels.**”

Jesus should not be ignored in that he is the heart of God’s self revelation and the meaning of life.

9

NOTE:

The focus is on the GOOD NEWS for us, not the bad news about us.

Jesus - Light to the world

John 1

“1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...4 In Him was life, and the life was **the Light of mankind**. ... 11 He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave **the right to become children of God**, even to those who believe in His name,”

10

Jesus - heirs of the promise

Romans 8

“16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and **if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ**, if indeed we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him.”

Galatians 3:29

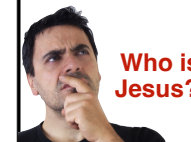
“And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s offspring, **heirs according to promise.**”

11

Matthew 16

“13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He began asking His disciples, saying, “**Who do people say that the Son of Man is?**” ... 15 He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” 16 And Simon Peter answered and said, “**You are the Christ (Messiah), the Son of the living God.**” 17 And Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.”

“Liar, Lunatic, Legend, or Lord”



Who is Jesus?

Peter Kreeft

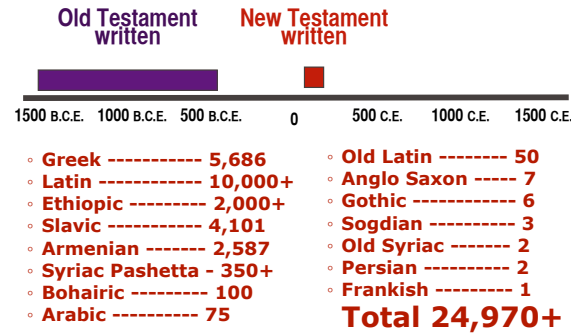
12

Popular views of Jesus identity today?

- **Jews** believe that Jesus was an ethnic Jewish (false) teacher, and **not the Messiah, born to a virgin (Mary), or the Son of God (divinity).**
- **Muslims** believe that Jesus was the Messianic prophet of God and was born to a virgin (Mary), but **was not the only begotten Son of God.**
- **Some critics** believe he **never existed** and is only the figment of the imagination of the early Christian community.
- **Many critics** believe that Jesus was **one of many Jews who claimed to be “Messiah”** and most of what we know about the historical Jesus comes from Christian Gospels which are viewed as historically unreliable.

13

The number and quality of extant Biblical manuscripts is impressive.



14

The most famous classical documents

Ancient Documents	Date	Earliest copy	Time gap	No. of copies
Herodtus (history)	480-425 B.C.E.	900 C.E.	1,300 years	8
Thucydides (history)	460-400 B.C.E.	900 C.E.	1,300 years	
Aristotle (philosopher)	384-322 B.C.E.	1,100 C.E.	1,000 years	5
Caesar (history)	100-44 B.C.E.	900 C.E.	1,300 years	10
Pliny (history)	61-113 C.E.	850 C.E.	750 years	7
Suetonius (history)	70-140 C.E.	950 C.E.	800 years	
Tacitus (history)	100 C.E.	1,100 C.E.	1,000 years	20
Confucius	550 C.E.	650 C.E.	1,200 years	30
I Ching	660 C.E.	900 C.E.	1,550 years	20

15

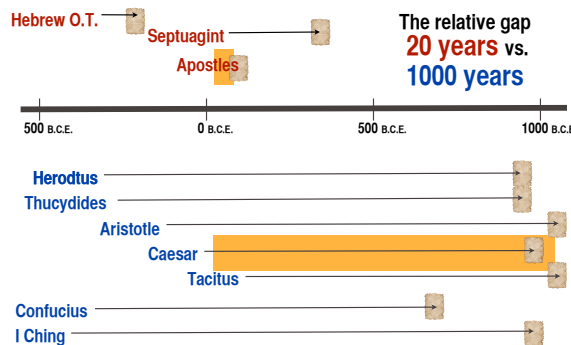
“If the New Testament were a collection of secular writings, their authenticity would generally be regarded as beyond all doubt.”



F. F. Bruce
Manchester University

16

Ancient authors and extant manuscripts



17

“Biblical scholarship has increased the basis of my personal faith to see the firmness with which these materials have come down to us, with a multiplicity of copies, some of which are very, very ancient. I’ve asked questions all my life, I’ve dug into the text, I’ve studied this throughout, and today I know with confidence that my trust in Jesus has been well placed. Very well placed.”



Bruce Metzger

18

The Word and Way of the Cross is not the kind of message that humans in the 1st cent. or our day would make up.

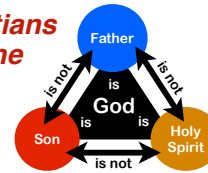
1 Corinthians 1

“23 but **we preach Christ crucified**, to Jews a stumbling block, and to Gentiles foolishness, 24 but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.”

19



Why do Christians believe in the TRINITY?



Matthew 28:19

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name (singular) of the **Father** and of the **Son** and of the **Holy Spirit**”.

20

Jesus claims to be God.

John 14

““g . . . **He who has seen Me has seen the Father**; . . . 11 **Believe Me that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me;**””

Jesus claimed things that belong only to God.

- “his angels” *Matt.13:41*
- “his kingdom” *Matt.12:28*
- “his elect (called)” *Mk.13:20*
- authority to forgive sins *Mk.2:8-10*
- receiving worship *Matt.28:9*

21

Jesus is described as God.

Philippians 2

“6 . . . although He **existed in the form of God**, (he) did not regard **equality with God** a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

- *Jn. 1:1* “and the Word was God”
- *Jn. 1:18* “the only begotten God”
- *Jn. 20:28* “my Lord and my God”
- *Jn. 14:9* “he who has seen me has seen the Father.”
- *Jn. 20:28* “my Lord and my God”
- *Titus 2:13* “of our God and Savior Jesus Christ”
- *Phil. 2:5-11* “existed in the form of God”

22

Jesus is linked with the God of the O.T.

OT. references to God

Ps. 45:6
Isa. 40:3
Joel 2:32
Isa. 8:13-14
Isa. 44:6, 48:12
Ps. 97:9
Ps. 24:7, 29:3
Isa. 8:13
Deut. 10:17
Isa. 45:22-23
2 Chron. 7:14
Isa. 49:26
Isa. 45:18
Isa. 45:22; Ps. 83:18

NT References to Jesus

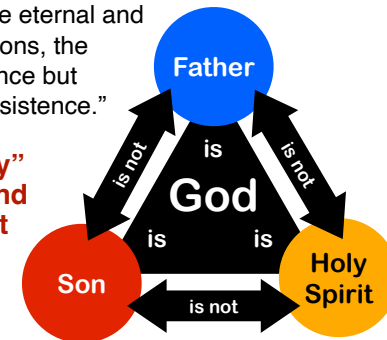
Heb. 1:8 “Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever.”
Matt. 3:3 “Make ready the way of the Lord.”
Acts 2:21 “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”
1 Pet. 2:6-8; Rom. 9:33 “The Lord of hosts is “a rock to stumble over”
Rev. 1:17-18, 22:12-13 “the first and the last”
Jn. 3:31 “He is above all”
Jas. 2:1; 1 Cor. 2:8 “Lord of glory”
1 Pet. 3:15 The Lord of hosts is sacred.
1 Tim. 6:15-16 “the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of Kings ...”
Phil. 2:10-11 “at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow.”
Mk. 2:5-7 forgiving sins as only God can.
Jn. 4:24 Jehovah is Savior and Redeemer
Rev. 4:11; Jn. 1:3 Creator
Heb. 10:7; Jn. 5:39 “In the roll of the Book it is written of Me”

23

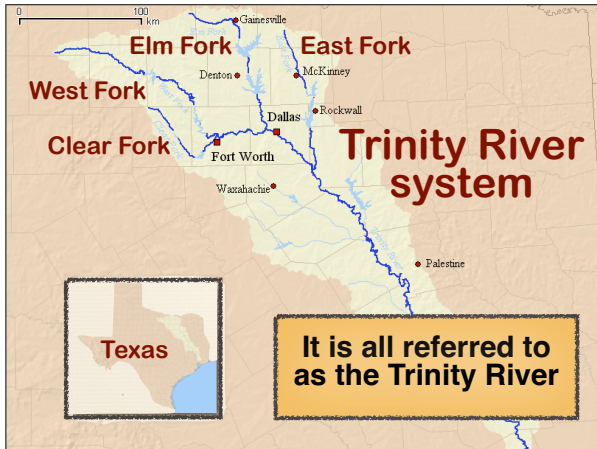
The Christian Trinity defined

“In the unity of the Godhead there are three eternal and co-equal persons, the same in essence but distinct in subsistence.”

The “Trinity” is short hand for a great mystery



24



25

Paul understood his Gospel to have been a **mystery until his day.**

Ephesians 3:3-5

“that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, . . . which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit;”

Old Testament - Gospels
Old Covenant

Paul's Gospel
Acts - Epistles

26

HiStory

John 5:39

“You search the **Scriptures**, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and **it is these that bear witness of Me.**”

Luke 24:27

“And beginning with **Moses** and with all the **prophets**, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the **Scriptures.**”

27

appetite **History**

The Old Testament		The New Testament
The Cry of Man Someone to Reveal	The Historical Moses the prophet	God's Answer Christ
Someone to Redeem	Melchizedek the priest	Christ
Someone to Rule	David the king	Christ
Unexplained Ceremonies		Fulfillment
Unachieved Purposes		Fulfillment
Unmet Longings		Fulfillment
Unrealized Prophecies		Fulfillment

28

Romans 16 (benediction to Paul's theology)

“²⁵ Now to Him who is able to establish you according to **my gospel** and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of **the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past,** ²⁶ but **now is manifested,** and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, leading to **obedience of faith;** ²⁷ to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever. Amen.”

29

Hebrews

Next week
1:6-14

Temporal & eternal blessings

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