

WHO IS JESUS?

“...He asked His disciples, saying, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man am?”

Jesus is....

GOD

Can we go home now?!!!!

Not quite....

No matter how deep we go into this subject of trying to describe “who” Jesus is, we will always find ourselves longing for more words. The mystery of Jesus is the mystery of Divine personality

Let me read a quote from Scottish theologian James Stewart:

“He was the meekest and lowliest of all the sons of men, yet he spoke of coming on the clouds of heaven with the glory of God. He was so austere that evil spirits and demons cried out in terror at his coming, yet he was so genial and winsome and approachable that the children loved to play with him, and the little ones nestled in his arms. His presence at the innocent gaiety of a village wedding was like the presence of sunshine.

No one was half so compassionate to sinners, yet no one ever spoke such red hot scorching words about sin. A bruised reed he would not break, his whole life was love, yet on one occasion he demanded of the Pharisees how they ever expected to escape the damnation of hell. He was a dreamer of dreams and a seer of visions, yet for sheer stark realism He has all of our stark realists soundly beaten. He was a servant of all, washing the disciples feet, yet masterfully He strode into the temple, and the hucksters and moneychangers fell over one another to get away from the mad rush and the fire they saw blazing in His eyes.

He saved others, yet at the last Himself He did not save. There is nothing in history like the union of contrasts which confronts us in the gospels. The mystery of Jesus is the mystery of divine personality.”

– *James Stewart, Scottish theologian*

Jesus is...

GOD

- Isaiah 9:6 – “His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father.”
- John 1:1 – “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God.
- John 1:14 – “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us”
- John 8:58 – “before Abraham was, I AM.” – from Exodus 3:14
- John 20:28 – “My Lord and my God.” – from Thomas
- Titus 2:13 – “God and Savior Jesus Christ”
- 1 Timothy 3:16 – “God was manifest in the flesh.”

CREATOR – (Isaiah – GOD WAS ALONE IN CREATION)

- John 1:3 – “all things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made”
- Colossians 1:16 – “For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and on earth....All things were created through Him and for Him.”

SAVIOR – The OT scriptures make it abundantly clear that Jehovah God is our savior

- Isaiah 43:11 – “I, even I, am the LORD; and *beside me there is no savior.*”
- Hosea 13:4 - "Yet I am the LORD thy God... *there is no savior beside me.*"
- 2 Samuel 22:3 - "The God of my rock *he is... my savior...*"

The New testament clearly states that Jesus is our Savior...

- Acts 4:12 "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is *none other name* under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."
- John 14:6 "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, *but by me.*"

THE MESSIAH

- Mark 14:62-64 – “When the high priest asked Jesus if He was the Christ, Jesus said, “I am. And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand...”

THE ONE SPOKEN OF BY THE PROPHETS:

- Luke 4:21 – “Today scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.” – from Isaiah 61:1-2

SINLESS

- John 8:46 – “Which of you convict me of sin?”

ADVOCATE –

- 1 John 2:1 "...if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, *Jesus Christ* the righteous:"
- 1 Timothy 2:5 "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, *the man Christ Jesus;*"
- Hebrews 9:15 "And for this cause *he (Christ)* is the mediator of the new testament..."
- Romans 8:34 "... *It is Christ* that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, *who also maketh intercession for us.*"
- Romans 8:27 "... he (Jesus) *maketh intercession* for the saints according to the

will of God."

A JEW – who lived by the major tenets of the Jewish faith the authority of the Torah

THE SON OF MAN (FROM DANIEL 7) – coming to establish God's Kingdom

- Matthew 16:13 – "who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?"

Second person of the Triune God

The Trinity – FATHER, SON and HOLY SPIRIT = 1 God in 3 persons

- The Trinity is **NOT** three separate individuals like Peter, James and John - which would be describing polytheism.
- The Trinity (Godhead) is **NOT** one person only either and that the triune aspect of Him is no more than three ways of manifestation or action which would be modalism

There are three lines of undeniable biblical evidence of the Trinity:

- **There is only 1 true God**
 - Deut. 6:4 – "The Lord our God is one Lord."
 - 2 Samuel 7:12-22 – "Oh Lord God, for there is none like thee, neither is there any God besides thee..."
 - Psalm 86:10 – "Thou art God alone"
 - Isaiah 44:6 – "I am the first, and I am the last; and besides me there is no God"
 - 1 Corinthians 8:4 – "...There is none other God but one."
 - Other verses: Deut. 32:39, Isaiah 37:20, 43:10, 45:5, 14, 21-22, James 2:19, John 5:44, 17:3, Romans 3:29-30, 16:27, Galatians 3:20, Ephesians 4:6, 1 Thess 1:9, 1 Tim 1:17, 2:5, 1 John 5:20-21, Jude 25
- **There are three persons recognized as God**
 - Father – 1 Peter 1:2 – "foreknowledge of God the Father"
 - Son – John 20:28 – Thomas to Jesus: "My Lord and my God"
 - Son – Hebrews 1:8 – "Thy throne oh God is for ever and ever"
 - Holy Spirit – Lying to the Holy Spirit is lying to God (VERSE)
 - All three persons of the Trinity posses the following:

Omnipresence – Father = Matt 19:26, Son = Matt 28:18, Holy Spirit = Psalm 139:7

Omniscience – Father = Rom 11:33, Son = Matt 9:4, Holy Spirit = 1 Cor 2:10

Omnipotence – Father = Jer 32:27, Son = Matt 28:18, Holy Spirit = Rom 15:19

Holiness – Father = Rev 15:4, Son = Acts 3:14, Holy Spirit = John 16:7-14

Eternal – Father = Psalm 90:2, Son = Micah 5:2, John 1:2, Rev 1:8, 17, Holy Spirit = Hebrews 9:14

Embodiment of Truth – Father = John 7:28, Son = Rev 3:7, Holy Spirit = 1 John 5:6

Referred to as 'Lord' – Father = Rom 10:12, Son = Luke 2:11, Holy Spirit = 2 Cor 3:17

Everlasting – Father = Rom 16:26, Son = Rev 22:13, Holy Spirit = Heb 9:14

Almighty – Father = Gen 17:1, Son = Rev 1:8, Holy Spirit = Rom 15:19

All Powerful – Father = Jer 32:17, Son = 1:3, Luke 1:35

Creator – Father = Gen 2:7, Psa 102:25, Son = John 1:3, Col 1:16, Heb:2, Holy Spirit = Gen 1:2, Psa 104:30

- **There is three-in-oneness in the Godhead**

- Matthew 28:19 – “...in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”
 - “Name” is singular – ONE GOD
 - virtual equivalent in the Greek reads – “and into the name of the Father and into the name of the Son and into the name of the Holy Spirit” showing all three names are separate but unified in 1 “name”
- 2 Cor 13:14 – Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Did I mention – “JESUS IS GOD”?

Here is a list of attributes and characteristics that the Bible gives to Christ and to God the Father

- Jehovah is our (**Sanctifier** – Exodus 31:13), (**Omnipresent** – Psalm 139:7-10), (**Our Peace** – Judges 6:24), (**Our Righteousness** – Jeremiah 23:6), (**Our Victory** – Exodus 17:8-16), (**Our Healer** – Exodus 15:26) AND Jesus is all of these things: (1 Corinthians 1:30, Colossians 1:27, Ephesians 2:14)
- **Gospel is God’s** (1 Thess 2:2, 6-9, Gal 3:8) and Christ’s (1 Thess 3:2, Gal 1:7)
- **The Church is God’s** (Gal 1:13, 1 Cor 15:9) and Christ’s (Rom 16:16)
- **Kingdom is God’s** (1 Thess 2:12) is Christ’s (Eph 5:5)
- God’s **Love** (Eph 1:3-5) is the same as Christ’s Love (Rom 8:35)
- God’s **Word** (Col 1:25, 1 Thess 2:13) is Christ’s (1 Thess 1:8, 4:15)
- God’s **Spirit** (1 Thess 4:8) is Christ’s (Phil 1:19)
- God’s **peace** (Gal 5:22, Phil 4:9) is Christ’s (Col 3:15, Col 1:2, Phil 1:2, 4:7)
- God’s **“Day of Judgment”** (Isa 13:6) is Christ’s as well (Phil 1:6, 10, 2:16, 1 Cor 1:8)
- God’s **grace** (Eph 2:8,9, Col 1:6, Gal 1:15) is Christ’s Grace (1 Thess 5:28, Gal 1:6, 6:18)
- God’s **Salvation** (Col 1:13) is Christ’s salvation (1 Thess 1:10)
- God’s **will** (Eph 1:11, 1 Thess 4:3, Gal 1:4) is Christ’s will (Eph 5:17, 1 Thess 5:18)
- **Paul was God’s slave** (Rom 1:9) and Christ’s slave (Rom 1:1, Gal 1:10)
- **Paul lives for God’s glory** (Rom 5:2, Gal 1:24) and Christ’s glory (2 Cor 8:19, 23, 4:6)
- **Paul’s faith is in God** (1 Thess 1:8,9 Rom 4:1-5) and in Christ (Gal 3:22)
- **To know God**, which is Salvation (Gal 4:8, 1 Thess 4:5) is to know Christ (2 Cor 4:6)

- **God is the Giver of life** (Psalm 119) and so is Christ (John 5:21)
- **Voice of God is like the roar of rushing waters** Ez 43:2 and so is Jesus (Rev 1:15)

The Incarnation – In the incarnation, Jesus does not strip himself of divinity, rather He takes on an additional human nature. Jesus exhibited seemingly conflicting qualities at times: finite yet infinite, weak yet omnipotent, increasing in knowledge yet omniscient, one place at one time yet omnipresent. It was from the perspective of His humanity that He said He did not know the day or hour of His return. Jesus was in deed all knowing:

- John 2:25 – “...He knew what was in a man.”
- John 16:30 – “Now we see that you know all things.”
- John 21:17 – “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.”
- Luke 5:4,6, John 21:6-11, Matthew 17:27 – Jesus knew where the fish were!
- Matthew 11:27 – Jesus knows the infinite Father God

In Philippians 2:5-11 we see that Jesus empties himself of using His divine attributes for the purpose of accomplishing His will on earth and in John 5:18 it says that through Jesus – “God was manifested in the flesh”.

Skeptics may say – “Jesus Himself never claimed to be God.”

- He didn’t need to brag – but He did explain who He was without saying the words “I AM GOD”
- The Jews certainly were clear in who Jesus was claiming to be:
 - John 5:18 – “...but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God”
 - John 8:59 - “then they took up stones to throw at Him” after He claimed to be the great I AM (BLASPHEMY IN LEVITICUS)

Don’t ever let someone intimidate you because you do not understand the Essence and Nature of the Trinitarian God

Jesus in the Old Testament? (Christophony’s) Since God is not visible – John 1:18, 1 Timothy 1:17, Colossians 1:15 – The times that God appears to men in the old testament are believed to be manifestations of Christ. Also – most of the times “The Angel of the Lord” is mentioned it is believed to be Christ. Here is a list of examples:

- Exodus 3:14 – God at the burning bush
- Genesis 18: God appears to Abraham - has a conversation about destroying Sodom
- Genesis 32 – Jacob Wrestles with God
- Daniel 3 – the 4th man in Nebuchadnezzar’s fire
- Isaiah 6:1-3 – Isaiah saw God
- Joshua 5 – General of the Lord’s army appeared to Joshua before a battle
- Judges 13:1-22 – Angel of the Lord appears to Sampson’s parents

Jesus claimed to be eternal and unchanging = God

Matthew 24:35 – “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away”

Hebrews 13:8 – “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday today and forever”

Revelation 1:8, 11, 21:6, 22:13 - “I am the alpha and the omega, the beginning and the end.”

Revelation 1:18 – “I am the living one; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever!”

Jesus had power over life and death

- Luke 23:46-49 - He gave up His own spirit!
- John 11:25 Jesus rose Lazarus from the dead

Jesus Miracles “signs from God” – purpose was not to heal people but to glorify the Father. The words “witness” (used 14 times) and “testify” (used 33 times) appear in the 35 miracles recorded in the gospels.

- Miracles were almost always attached to a message deemed important. i.e.; Mark 2:12 after Jesus forgave the paralytic he healed him to prove He had divine authority to forgive sins, John 11:25 – Jesus says “I am the resurrection and the life” – after which he raised Lazarus from the dead to prove it.
- Jesus did not go miraculously rescue John the Baptist (his cousin) but focused on work that glorified the Father. (Luke 7:22)

Fulfilled Prophecy - Jesus claimed to be the Messiah – the one the prophets spoke of: Matthew 5:17, 26:56, Luke 4:20-21, 24:27, 44. Jesus perfectly fulfilled 100% of the 100+ messianic prophecies in the OT. Please see this brief list of prophecies that Jesus fulfilled the foretold person of the messiah perfectly. Here are just a few of the specific details foretold about Him by the prophets centuries before His birth:

- 1) Blood-line of Abraham and David (Genesis 12:2, 2 Samuel 7:12/Matthew 1:1)
- 2) Born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2/Matthew 2:6)
- 3) Sold for 30 pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:12/Matthew 26:15)
- 4) Hands and feet would be pierced (Psalm 22:16/John 20:25)
- 5) Crucified with thieves (Isaiah 53:9,12/Matthew 27:38)
- 6) Forsaken by his Disciples (Zechariah 13:7/Mark 14:50)
- 7) Resurrection from dead (Psalm 16:10, 22:22/ Matthew 28:6)
- 8) Exact arrival time as “Messiah” (Daniel 9:24-26/ John 12:13)

Probability of one man fulfilling just eight of the 200 hundred Messianic prophecies is: **1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000 (1x10 to the 17th)**

Jesus was a Historical figure! Aside from the Bible, look who else wrote of Him:

- 1st century Roman Historian Cornelius Tacitus
- 1st century Jewish historian Flavius Josephus
- 1st century Christian writer Polycarp

DIFFERENT IDEAS ABOUT JESUS

Jehovah's Witness - Jesus is Michael the Archangel – (1st created being – Col 1:6 and is God's only son – John 3:16 – God used Jesus to create everything else Col 1:15-17) Christ is a "mighty god" or a "lesser god" than Jehovah God - Isaiah 9:6 but is not ALMIGHTY GOD. Jesus didn't die on a cross (a pagan Satanic symbol) rather on a stake with hands over his head. When he died – he became non-existent. His body was disposed of by Jehovah and then God raised him from the dead as Michael the Arch angel. When he appeared to his disciples, God allowed him to have marks on his body from crucifixion that identified him to the disciples. Jesus returned to earth spiritually in 1914. "This generation" that will not pass away (in Matthew 24:34) refers to the generation of people living during 1914 and thus all prophecy will be fulfilled before "this generation" dies out. – ***We are getting pretty close!*** The church of the first 3 centuries believed this biblical view of Jesus until Constantine in the 4th century developed the idea of Jesus being God and then came the idea of the Deity of Christ and then the Trinity.

Points of Refuting

- 1) Mistranslation of the "New World Translation"
 - a. Translating committee did not know Hebrew or Greek
 - b. Show how Jesus is shown to be God in the bible and how the NWT hid this most important biblical truth
 - i. John 8:58/Exodus 3:14 – ego eimi – I AM
 - ii. John 1:1 – Jesus is "a god"
 - iii. Colossians 1:16-17 – "all [other] things were created..."
 - iv. Colossians 2:9 – "the fullness of [divine quality] dwells bodily"
 - v. Zechariah 12:10 – "They will look [to the one] whom they pierced"
 - vi.
- 2) Was God alone during creation or wasn't He?
 - a. Colossians 1:16-17/John 1:3/Genesis 1:26 – if God created along with Jesus.....
 - b. Explain Isaiah 44:24 in the NWT – God was alone during creation!
- 3) Why is Jesus worshiped throughout the New Testament?
 - a. NWT – changed proskuneo from 'worship' to 'obeisance' when applied to Jesus
 - b. NWT 1961 had the angels worshiping Jesus but 1971 it was changed!
 - c. Early Watchtower lit. said it was OK to worship Jesus
 - d. Revelation 22:8-9 – the angels refused worship but Jesus never did!
- 4) Jesus isn't Michael!
 - a. Daniel 10:13 says Michael was "one of the chief princes" – not only begotten!
 - b. Hebrews 1:5 – "no angel can ever be called God's son"
 - c. Hebrews 2:5 – an angel will never rule the earth

- d. Jude 9 – Michael doesn't have the authority to rebuke Satan but Jesus clearly did (Mark 4:10, 8:33)
- 5) Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega and so is God ALL OVER REVELATION!
- 6) Isaiah 9:6 – Jesus is the same “Mighty God” as Jehovah (Isaiah 10:20-21)

MORMONS - Mormons believe there are many Gods! God the Father was once like we are now. Christ is the first spirit being that He birthed along with all of the angels, including Lucifer, and all of the humans on earth. So the entire battle of good and evil that we see is nothing more than a celestial sibling rivalry between brothers - Lucifer and Jesus. The “Father”, “Son” and “Holy Spirit” of the bible are three separate Gods. There is also a heavenly “mother”. While a heavenly mother is not found in any Mormon scripture, this doctrine is still taught by the church. All people on earth are “in the similitude” of the heavenly father and mother and are sons and daughters of gods and we ourselves are destined to become gods just like Jehovah God of the bible. The Mormon Church believes that Jesus IS Jehovah God of the Old Testament but that Jesus is not Elohim which is believed to be the Father. Jesus was once a man like us but unlike us he had brought into this world a divine nature. We on the other hand through obedience of truth can earn divine nature as we (Jesus' younger brothers) strive to be like Him. Jesus, in His mortal state, was begotten by a sexual relationship between God the Father and Mary. Mary must have been the lawful wife of God the Father as well as to Joseph – having 2 husbands. Mormons believe that even though Mary had sexual relations with God the Father she still remained a virgin because her intercourse was not with a mortal human. Mormons teach that in his mortal existence, Jesus was a polygamist and was married both to Mary and Martha. The wedding mentioned in Cana at which Jesus was present, is believed to have been HIS wedding! Marriage is a mortal requirement of becoming a god (outlined in the Doctrine of Covenants section 132). Jesus is NOT to be worshiped nor prayed to – only God the Father.

Points of Refuting

- 1) Jesus/Jehovah/Elohim are all the same being:
 - a. Genesis 27:20, Exodus 3:6-7, Jeremiah 32:18, Isaiah 40:3, 9:6, Deuteronomy 6:4
- 2) Jesus and Lucifer are brothers? –
 - a. Colossians 1:16 says the entire angelic realm was created by Jesus
- 3) They Don't trust the Bible so we have to show that the Book of Mormon is a book written by a false prophet – Joseph Smith
 - a. Book of Abraham = BAD TRANSLATION = Egyptian book of the dead

ISLAM - Jesus is one of the foremost prophets but a lesser prophet than was Muhammad and a mere one of 124,000 prophets. In Sura 3:45 Jesus is called the messiah. He was a sinless man who was a messenger from God to bring a message for the Jewish people of that time. He was not God in human flesh nor is he a son of God (Sura 9:30). Christians who declare Jesus deity greatly dishonor Allah and are

guilty of blasphemy (Sura 5:17,73) Jesus is mentioned in 74 verses in the Quran. He was born of the virgin Mary (Sura 4:171) Jesus is highly revered for being a miracle maker and a healer of the sick (Sura 3:49, 5:110). Jesus was not crucified at all (Sura 4:157) and never rose from the dead. They cite Mark 14:50 where it says that "EVERYONE deserted Him" at his arrest and were not there for the subsequent happenings. It is a common theme that Judas Iscariot was crucified in Jesus place – that at the time of Jesus arrest, Allah transformed Judas to appear like Jesus and Jesus was taken directly to Heaven by Allah – never experiencing death. Muslims say that in Luke 24 when Jesus appeared to His disciples, he was actually fleeing Jerusalem before they figured out they crucified the wrong man. Jesus will one day return to earth and slay all of those who do not accept Islam, reign for 40 years and then die – to be buried next to Muhammad in Media and then will be resurrected with all other men.

Points of Refuting

- 1) We must get them to trust the bible! (more on another study)
 - a. Muhammad said to read the bible and that NONE of Allah's scripture should be rejected (Sura 4:136, 5:69, 10:94)
 - b. Ask for evidence of the bibles corruption
 - c. If bible was changed before Muhammad – why did he ask us to read it
 - d. We have entire manuscripts predating Muhammad by 100's of years
 - e. Why do Muslims use the bible when it suits them but believe it is corrupt?
 - f. Caliph Uthman burned all the variants of the Quran
 - g. 99% of Bible variants are from misspellings or slip of the pen etc...
- 2) God IS Knowable!
 - a. If Allah is unknowable, then how do Muslims "know" that about Allah? How do they "know" that God is not Trinitarian or that he does not have a "son". How do they know that He is not a spirit? Jer 9:23-24, Phil 3:8 – We can know God!
- 3) If God wills everything (Sura 3:165) even evil, doesn't that mean that He has an evil nature?
- 4) Jesus was not a local prophet for a local time
 - a. He said "go make disciples of ALL nations" Matthew 28:19
- 5) Jesus Miracles prove He was God – not magic of Satan
 - a. God is into Miracle tests: Exodus 7:10/1 Kings 18
- 6) Jesus fulfilled 100% of OT's messianic prophecies
- 7) Jesus did die on the cross
 - a. OT predicted it, Jesus predicted it, Jesus' mom and best friend were there
 - b. Roman execution/100 lbs of spices/Pilate checked
 - c. Multiple 1st century non Christian sources prove He was crucified

JUDAISM - There are many different sects of non-messianic Jews today that believe many different things but one belief is common among all of them: Jesus is NOT the promised messiah in the Hebrew scriptures. Jews from the first century until now largely have deemed Jesus as a false prophet, and one who is bringing confusion and division to the faith. Right from the beginning, the Jews claimed that He had “a demon” (John 7:20) and eventually had Him crucified for claiming to be the “King of the Jews” (John 18:33). Today the name “Jesus” rings a sound of opposition and conflict to the Jewish person mainly due to European Anti-Semitism and the idea that Christianity lent itself to the implementation of the terrors of the Holocaust via Adolf Hitler. Conservative Jews have formulated arguments against the multitude of messianic prophecies that Christians claim point at the person of Christ. Jews claim that Christians have twisted the Hebrew Scriptures dramatically and that the Gospel writers quoted scriptures out of context when pointing these prophecies at Jesus.

Points of Refuting

- 1) Becoming a Christian doesn't mean giving up Judaism – rather embracing it
- 2) The Messiahs promised kingdom is “not of this world” – John 18:36
- 3) I'm sorry for past “Christian” anti-semitism – it was horrible but you should also never judge a philosophy by its abuse. Jesus never taught such things.
- 4) ITS AN HONOR TO BE A JEW! CHRISTIANS ARE COMMANDED TO LOVE JEWS
- 5) You can try and refute the 100's of messianic prophecies that perfectly describe Jesus but you have a lot of unreasonable reasoning to do!
- 6) If Jesus isn't the Messiah – who is? Should have been here by now!
- 7) **Simply provoke the Jew to jealousy with their own scripture! That is the formula laid out for us in the Bible – Romans 11:14**

GNOSTIC GOSPELS - The Gnostic Gospels are a collection of about 50 books that contain titles like “the Gospel of Thomas”, “The Gospel of Mary”, the “Gospel of Phillip” and “the Gospel of Truth”. They were ALL pseudopigrapha (false authors) as it is unanimously agreed upon that they were written from the 2nd – 5th centuries – not by Judas, Philip, Mary, and Thomas as the titles would imply. This “Bible” gives us permission to make God into whatever our minds wish to make Him. The Gnostic Gospels are all over the place, contradicting themselves left and right. While Jesus is referred to as the son of god, it also says that we can become a “Christ” and has a heavy tone of influence by eastern mysticism and Pantheism. There is definitely Plutonian influence as well. It is extremely difficult to pin-point exactly what the original Gnostics believed. We do know that they rejected the notion that God became flesh because matter is considered evil and the problem of salvation is not sin but a quest for man to find his own self-knowledge. They accept feminine and masculine deity and deny the resurrection of Jesus and even that Jesus didn't die on the cross but instead a substitute died for him. Means of salvation vary but all agree that we can obtain it without meditation of Christ or the church. The hint of sexual ritual is a common theme and in some of these writings, Jesus was a partaker in

such rituals. Combing these writings with the imagination of modern authors like Dan Brown, we get books like “The Davinci Code” which claims that Jesus did not die on the cross (rather Judas in his place) instead got married to Mary Magdaline (who is the holy grail) , migrated to the South of France and had children who became French Royalty.

Points of Refuting

- 1) Gnostic Gospels were false authors written by NON-eye witnesses
- 2) They do not add any historical or geographical data to indicate authenticity
- 3) They are completely out of synch with the entire corpus of scripture
- 4) Modern Gnostics like Marvin Meyer and Jean Yves Leloup freely admit that the books were not written by the actual apostles
- 5) Just read for yourself and decide!
 - a. From the Gospel of Thomas #114 ***“Simon Peter said to him: Mary should leave us, for women are not worthy of life. Yeshua answered: This is how I will guide her so that she becomes Man. She too, will become a living breath like you men. Any woman who makes herself a man will enter the kingdom of god.”***
 - b. From the Gospel of Thomas #98 “Yeshua said: ***The Kingdom of the Father is like the man who wanted to kill a man*** of power. First, he unsheathed his sword at home and thrust it into the wall ***to test his strength. Then he was able to kill the man of power.”***
 - c. From the Gospel of Phillip – “The apostles who came before us used the name Iesous nazoraiois messias, which means “Jesus the Nazorean, the Christ.” – The author of this very book is proving that he was not an eye witness to Jesus nor was he the Apostle Phillip (“Those who came before us”)
 - d. From the Gospel of Phillip - “God is a man-eater and so people are [sacrificed] to him. Before people were sacrificed, animals were sacrificed, because those to whom they were sacrificed where not gods.”
 - e. From the text of “Great Questions of Mary” we find the following story: “Jesus separates a woman from his side, has sex with her, and takes his semen as the seed of life to be used ritually. Mary, it is said, is shocked and collapses, but Jesus raises her and says, “Why did you doubt, you of little faith?”

SKEPTIC – JESUS NEVER EXISTED

No need to spend too much time here! – Isaiah 1:18

Points of Refuting

1st and 2nd Century Non-Christian sources that Record Jesus Existence

- Flavius Josephus (1st century Jewish historian) – referenced “Jesus, the so-called Christ”
- Cornelius Tacitus (1st century Roman historian) – “Christus” who was “put to death by Pontius Pilate”
- Pliny the Younger (AD 112) – spoke of the “sect of the Christians”
- Suetoneus (AD 120) spoke of “Disturbances over Chrestus (Christ)”

Enough said!

Hindus and Buddhists - Jesus reached enlightenment as he traveled to India and studied Hinduism between Matthew 2 (Jesus flight to Egypt) and Matthew 3 (beginning of Jesus ministry). He is not a theistic “god” rather he was just a man like everyone else that learned to rid Himself of desire (He called it “Flesh” – Matthew 26:41) Jesus thus reached Nirvana and is an example that we should attempt to imitate however as he reached a god-like state in the Pantheon of eastern philosophy, while he should be honored and respected, divine worship is not necessary as he was not our creator and could not possibly have atoned for our sin. We need to do that ourselves through death and rebirth. An additional contention in Hinduism is found in John 6:55-56 – claims that Jesus asks His disciples to “eat his flesh and drink his blood” making the Christian faith detestable because it promotes cannibalism. This is repeated in the practice of taking communion as the elements are said to be the body and blood of Christ – 1 Corinthians 11:24-26. People from the Eastern religions have certainly been scarred by the imperialistic and imposing philosophy of Western European “Christians” over the last several hundred years. Certainly the vast majority of “Christian” examples that they met were poor ones. Mahatma Gandhi said that he liked the person of Christ – rather it was all the Christians that made becoming a Christian in impossibility for him.

Points of Refuting

- Um – there is not a shred of evidence to support any of this!
- Jesus claimed to be the “great I AM” – John 8:58 and is called the “Alpha and the Omega” in Revelation. Jesus is omnipresent, omniscient, omnipotent yet imminent
- Clearly anyone who states this does not understand basic Christian doctrine in that the elements are a representative of his body and blood that serve as a “remembrance” of Him and the atoning work He did on the cross in forgiving our sins
- I’m sorry for those that abused the name of Christ but one should not judge a philosophy by its abuse. Jesus never spoke of doing such things.