

## C.S. Lewis on Jesus Christ

"I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: 'I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God.' That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would be either a lunatic — on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg — 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 a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to."

### July Birthdays

2 Rhea Hoffman      10 Seth Pena      25 Chuck Limburg  
7 Kim Bruni        14 Sara Pena

(Note: if anyone is "missed" here, let Jim know)

#### Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.  
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.  
Sunday.....6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

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# Indio Informer

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Evidences...

## How Do We Know That Jesus Christ is the Son of God?

By Bob Prichard

While there is ample historical evidence that there was a man named Jesus of Nazareth who lived in the first century, some question if we can believe His claims to be the Christ, the Son of God. The best record of His life, the Bible, gives more than enough evidence that His claims are true, because of the fulfilled prophecies, the record of His miracles, and the testimony of His followers.

The fulfilled prophecies of the Old Testament, accomplished in the life and ministry of Jesus, are a major reason to believe His claims. The prophet Micah predicted, "*But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting*" (Micah 5:2). Although Mary and Joseph were residents of Nazareth, through the providence of God they went to Bethlehem for the birth of Jesus, in fulfillment of the prophecy. The birth of Jesus to the virgin Mary fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy that "*The Lord himself shall give you a sign; behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel*" (Isaiah 7:14).

Jesus fulfilled many prophecies in His death. Psalm 22:16-18 predicts of the Messiah, "*The assembly of the wicked have enclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet. I may tell all my bones: they look and stare upon me. They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture.*" John 19:23-24 describes the parting of His garments and the casting of lots at the crucifixion,

*“that the scripture might be fulfilled”*. Even the price of His betrayal, thirty pieces of silver, was prophesied over five hundred years before. *“And I said unto them, If ye think good, give me my price; and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver”* (Zechariah 11:12).

In addition to the fulfilled prophecies, the signs and miracles that Jesus performed show that He is the Christ, the Son of God. Jesus showed His power over nature by turning water to wine and calming the sea. He showed His power over sickness by healing the lepers, giving sight to the blind, and making the lame walk. He showed forcefully His power over death by raising Lazarus and others from the dead. His own resurrection from the dead proved conclusively His authority over death.

Peter, speaking for the apostles, told Jesus, *“Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God”* (Matthew 16:16). When threatened by the opponents of Christ, Peter and John replied: *“Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard”* (Acts 4:19-20). The apostles at first had trouble believing in Christ's resurrection, but they soon had opportunity to risk their lives for their faith. Peter said, *“For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty”* (2 Peter 1:16). They were eyewitnesses of His majesty, and spoke truly.

## **Evidences of Jesus' Death**

As strange as it may sound, some unbelievers—in order to get around the miracle of the resurrection—have denied that Jesus actually died on the cross. Let's explore the evidence...The precipitate cause of Jesus' death is not precisely known, but His death is attested to by four recorded facts.

First, the soldiers (professional executioners) testify of His death. They perceived that Jesus was dead and did not break His legs—a normal procedure to hasten death (John 19:33). Instead, they pierced His side with a spear (*logche*, made of iron, with a egg-

shaped head as wide as a man's hand) (John 19:34). If He had not been dead, this would have been a fatal wound.

Second, the flow of blood and water from His side is proof of His death. This piercing almost certainly indicates a laceration of the heart itself (pericardium) which would, even under normal circumstances, be fatal. Albert Barnes wrote, “This membrane [pericardium] contains a serous matter or liquid resembling water, which prevents the surface of the heart from becoming dry by its continual motion.” The separation of blood and water further implies some time had elapsed since His death. The blood and water indicate a post-mortem separation of the cellular components of blood from the fluid component (serum).

Third, Jesus Himself attested to the immediate proximity of His own death by saying, *“Father, into thy hands I commend my Spirit”* (Luke 23:46). Matthew adds, *“Jesus...yielded up his spirit”* (27:50). The Greek implies a willful sending forth of the spirit at the point of death (*aphiemi*, “to send forth”). Jesus had said that He would lay down His life (John 10:17,18).

Fourth, there are supernatural evidences that He had died. The temple veil was rent in two from the top to the bottom. This veil hid the Holy of Holies, the place where dwelt the very presence of God. No man could enter it except the High Priest, and he only once a year, on the great Day of Atonement. It was as if the way to God's presence, hitherto barred to man, was opened to all. It was as if God's heart, hitherto hidden, was laid bare (John 14:9). On the cross, as never before and never again, men saw God's great love. Also, tombs were opened and bodies raised. This symbolizes that Jesus had conquered death. The tomb lost its power, and the grave lost its terror, and death lost its tragedy.

All that remains to complete the scene is the removal of the body and burial in the new tomb to await the resurrection on Sunday morning (Matthew 27:57-60). The certainty of Jesus' death has thus been verified both medically and Biblically.

***“...Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing”*** - John 20:37 -