

PathLights

*"Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path"
Psalm 119:104*

December 24, 2017

Why I Believe in Jesus

by Frank Himmel

I believe in Jesus. I believe, not just that a person with that name lived in the first century, but fully in that person who is presented in the pages of the Bible. I hope you do, too. Jesus said, "...for unless you believe that I am He, you shall die in your sins" (John 8:24).

Faith is too often thought of as a blind leap. No, it is a conviction based on evidence. Among the reasons I believe in Jesus are...

His Sinlessness

Jesus once asked, "Which one of you convicts Me of sin?" (John 8:46). None could, despite the fact that no life has ever been more closely scrutinized. He was so pure that even those who purposefully tried to find fault with Him had trouble doing so. Ironically, both His judge (Luke 23:4, 14, 22) and His executioner (Luke 23:47) declared Him innocent.

Sinlessness alone might not necessarily prove that Jesus was divine, although any sin in Him would certainly disprove it. He had none. He was "tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin" (Hebrews 4:15).

Fulfilled Prophecy

Hundreds and thousands of years before Jesus was born, God foretold through the prophets what He

would be. Many aspects of His life were detailed, including His birth, work, character, death, resurrection, etc. Among them:

- Of the lineage of Abraham (Genesis 22:18) and David (2 Samuel 7:12)
- Born at Bethlehem (Micah 5:2)
- Born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14)
- Valued at thirty pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:13)
- Silent at His trial (Isaiah 53)
- Crucified (Psalm 22)
- Resurrected (Psalm 16:9-11)
- King and priest at God's right hand (Psalm 110)

Many of these were unlikely, either inherently (e.g., born of a virgin) or in conjunction with others (e.g., both a suffering servant and a victorious king). Clearly they involved factors beyond anyone's ability to manipulate. One cannot control his lineage or the place of his birth! Jesus could not have fulfilled all these by chance. ▶



His Miracles

Jesus “went about doing good, and healing all who were oppressed by the devil; for God was with Him” (Acts 10:38). Every time Jesus healed a person, whether blind, lame, deaf, or a leper, He showed His oneness with God.

Jesus’ miracles went beyond healing. He fed thousands, walked on water, calmed storms, cast out demons, and raised the dead. Beyond these physical effects, Jesus often demonstrated supernatural knowledge by reading the hearts of men or foretelling future events.

Jesus never failed in anything He attempted. Even His enemies had to acknowledge His miracles.

How significant are these? “If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; but if I do them, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in Me, and I am in the Father” (John 10:37-38).

His Resurrection

Jesus often pointed to His resurrection as the ultimate proof of His identity. He “was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead” (Romans 1:4).

Jesus’ enemies were anxious to prevent a resurrection hoax. They sealed and guarded His tomb. Ironically, these precautions only served to confirm the truth of His resurrection when it occurred.

The Meaning of Worship

To worship is...

- To awaken the conscience by the holiness of God
- To feed the mind with the truth of God
- To purge the imagination with the beauty of God
- To open the heart to the love of God
- To devote the will to the purpose of God

*As with so many other things,
what we get out of it largely depends on
what we put into it!*

The empty tomb, the appearances of Jesus, the changed character of the apostles as they fearlessly preached a risen Savior, the inability of opponents to produce any counter evidence—all these point to the truthfulness of Jesus’ resurrection, and thus His claim to be the Son of God.

The gospels “have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name” (John 20:31). Do you believe? Are you following Him? ■

Service Leaders for the Week

	Sunday Morning	Sunday Evening	Wednesday Evening
GREETER	Josh Baucom	John Baucom	Bruce Williams
SONG LEADER	Carlos Garcia	Steven Turner	Greg Winget
OPENING PRAYER	David Gray	TBD	
LORD’S SUPPER			
BREAD	Albert Lee Harrison	Albert Lee Harrison	
CUP	Greg Winget	Greg Winget	
CONTRIBUTION PRAYER	Jason Chandler		
SERMON/INVITATION	Frank Himmel	Singing	Gary Hagler
CLOSING PRAYER	John Baucom	TBD	Josh Baucom