



“the way” series

Historical Jesus



Historical Jesus

Skeptics claim Jesus was only a myth or legend.
How do you answer?

More than 40 ancient (before 200AD) historical sources of Jesus, compared to only 12 for Julius Ceasar and 10 for Augustus Ceasar.

Examples (11 Non-Christian sources)

Josephus (1st Century); Tacitus of Rome (AD56-120); Lucian of Samosata (AD125-180); Acts of Pilate (~AD155); Phlegon of Tralles (~AD137); Mara Serapion (~AD165); Jewish Talmud (1st Century); Suetonius (~AD69-122); Emperor Trajan (~AD98-117); Pliny the Younger (~AD24-79); Emperor Hadrian (~AD117-138)

Hundreds of Gnostic Writings like the Gospel of Thomas or Apocryphon of John

Dozens of letter from early Church fathers like Ignatius, Polycarp, Justin Martyr, Quadratus and others

Skeptics claim Jesus never claimed to be God, it was added to the Bible centuries later.
How do you answer?

Earliest copies of John 1:1 date to 1st century
John 10:30-31 “I and the Father are one”

Response really smart sincere people can be sincerely wrong. The evidence supports our Christian beliefs.

HOMEWORK for next week:

1) Read Mark 14:1-31

Mark 13:1-37 (Group Study)

Listen/Read to Mark 13:1-37 using ASND/TCB

Interpretation Rules for Contested Scriptures

- 1- What was asked & how did audience understand?
- 2- Read the Plain Sense of what the Bible says
- 3- Your Interpretation must be relevant to who it was spoken to or written to.

This is a highly contested Scripture and there are many views, most do not match the scripture.

Prediction of Destruction Mark 13:1-13

(Matt. 24:1-13; Luke 21:5-19)

- 1) What did they want to know? When would temple be destroyed and how will they know it is soon.

Possible answer: the gospels agree the disciple are anxious to know when. But remember they don't believe Jesus will die in two days. It is very unlikely this is about the end of the world but rather the end of the Jewish world & temple era in 70 AD when the Romans destroyed everything in Jerusalem.

the Return Mark 13:14-27

(Matt. 24:15-31; Luke 21:20-28)

- 2) What is the Abomination of desolation?.

Possible answer: Read Luke 21:20. Parallel in the only non-Jewish gospel is plain talk “army” most likely a reference to the Roman army that destroys the temple

Lessons for the End Mark 13:28-37

(Matt. 24:32-51; Luke 21:29-48)

- 3) What is apocalyptic language and why is it used?

Possible answer: Jesus uses stories and imagery from old testament to build a picture in the listeners mind. These are meant to stimulate people who know the old testament to build a mental picture of the event to come.