

Defending Your Faith

Reasons Why the Christian Faith is Reasonable

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Lesson Four – Jesus, Part I

SERIES TEXT: I PETER 3:15

INTRODUCTION

Jesus was a historical figure – He really lived in the land of Israel about 2,000 years ago. He made some astonishing claims. This lesson will center on the claims Jesus made about Himself.

Possible Positions to Take

- A. Jesus Was A **Liar** – He Knew The Claims Were False.
- B. Jesus Was A **Lunatic** – He Really Thought The Claims Were True But They Were Not.
- C. Jesus Is **Lord** – He Is Who He Claimed To Be.

1. JESUS CLAIMED TO BE THE CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD

- (1) **John 3:16** *For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.*
- (2) **Mark 14:61-62** *But He kept silent and did not answer. Again the high priest was questioning Him, and saying to Him, "Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?" And Jesus said, "I am; and you shall see THE SON OF MAN SITTING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF POWER, and COMING WITH THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN."*
- (3) **Matthew 16:13-17** *Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus 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.*
- (4) In these verses Jesus claims to be God's only begotten Son, the Messiah and the person others had to believe in, in order to be saved. He also claimed that God was the one who revealed to Peter who He (Jesus) was

2. JESUS CLAIMED TO BE ONE WITH THE FATHER (GOD)

- (1) **John 14:9** *Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"*
- (2) Jesus was claiming that any person, who saw Him, saw God!!!

3. JESUS CLAIMED TO BE THE ETERNAL GOD

- (1) When Moses asked God who should he (Moses) say send Him God gave Himself the name "I Am"
Exodus 3:13-14 *Then Moses said to God, "Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you.' Now they may say to me, 'What is His name?' What shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO*

I AM"; and He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

- (2) Jesus claims this name for Himself and the Jews tried to stone Him because He was claiming to be God (Read the whole story in John 8:12-59)

John 8:58 *Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am."*

- (3) Jesus is calling Himself the name that God called Himself in the conversation with Moses. Jesus' Jewish hearers knew that "I Am" was God's name. For Jesus to call Himself that name was to claim that He was God. To claim to be God was a crime punishable by death, so the Jews tried to stone Him. (By the way, it is not a crime if you really are God.)

4. JESUS CLAIMED TO HAVE ALL AUTHORITY IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH

- (1) **Matthew 28:18** *And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth."*
- (2) Think about a man claiming to have all authority in heaven and on earth!

5. JESUS CLAIMED TO BE FULFILLMENT OF OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECIES

- (1) **Luke 4:16-22** ¹⁶*And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and as was His custom, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read.* ¹⁷*And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And He opened the book and found the place where it was written,* ¹⁸**"THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES, AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED, ¹⁹TO PROCLAIM THE FAVORABLE YEAR OF THE LORD."** ²⁰*And He closed the book, gave it back to the attendant and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him.* ²¹*And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."* ²²*And all were speaking well of Him, and wondering at the gracious words which were falling from His lips; and they were saying, "Is this not Joseph's son?"*
- (2) Jesus read this Old Testament passage to a group of Jews who believed it was God's Word predicting the coming Messiah and claimed that the passage was talking about Him!

6. JESUS CLAIMED TO HAVE POWER TO FORGIVE SINS

- (1) **Mark 2:5-12** ⁵*And Jesus seeing their faith said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."* ⁶*But some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts,* ⁷*"Why does this man speak that way? He is blaspheming; who can forgive sins but God alone?"* ⁸*Immediately Jesus, aware in His spirit that they were reasoning that way within themselves, said to them, "Why are you reasoning about these things in your hearts?"* ⁹*Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven'; or to say, 'Get up, and pick up your pallet and walk'?* ¹⁰*But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"--He said to the paralytic,* ¹¹*"I say to you, get up, pick up your pallet and go home."* ¹²*And he got up and immediately picked up the pallet and went out in the sight of everyone, so that they were all amazed and were glorifying God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this."*

- (2) In this story Jesus claimed to have the power to forgive sins on earth and He proved His claim by healing a paralytic

CONCLUSION

The claims Jesus made for himself were either **TRUE** or **FALSE**. If the claims were false and He knew it, then He is a **LIAR!** If the claims were false and He did not know it, then He is a **LUNATIC!** If the claims were true, then He is **LORD!** Jesus cannot be ‘just a good man’. A good man tells the truth. If He told the truth, then He is God and not ‘just a good man’.