

Jesus Died For Me

## Believer and unbeliever: the virgin birth

- Unbeliever: “If I should tell you that a child had been born in this city without a father, would you believe it?”
- Believer: “Yes, if he should live as Jesus lived.”

Though Jesus lived the perfect and most beautiful life on earth, He met opposition at every turn...eventually culminating in His death.

# I. The Claims

# False claims about Jesus

- Jesus is myth – Uninformed

“That a few simple men should in one generation have invented so powerful and appealing a personality, so lofty an ethic, and so inspiring a vision of human brotherhood, would be a miracle far more incredible than any recorded in the Gospels” – Will Durant

# False claims about Jesus

- Jesus is the first created being – Watchtower
  - Is.9:6 ... Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace
  - Mic.5:2, “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting.”
  - Mt.2:6, “But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.”

# False claims about Jesus

- Jesus is an angel – Watchtower
  - Hb.1<sup>5</sup> For to which of the angels did He ever say: “You are My Son, Today I have begotten You”? And again: “I will be to Him a Father, And He shall be to Me a Son”?
  - <sup>6</sup> But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: “Let all the angels of God worship Him.”

# False claims about Jesus

- Jesus is same person as Father – United Pentecostals
  - 2 Jn.9, Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son.

# False claims about Jesus

- Jesus is one prophet among many – Islam
  - Mt.11:9, But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and **more than a prophet.** [Jesus, of John]
  - Jn.1:27, It is He who, coming after me, is preferred before me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose.” [John, of Jesus]
    1. John is more than a prophet
    2. Jesus is greater than John
    3. Therefore Jesus is not a mere prophet



## False claims about Jesus

- Jesus is the loving Savior who will not punish anyone – Wishful sinners
  - Jn.12:48, He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day

# False claims about Jesus

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- Jesus is the loving Savior who will not punish anyone – Sinners

I. The Claims

**II. The Certainty**

## Lk.1:26-38, Mary

- If anyone knew the true identity of Jesus...
- If anyone had desire to stop the crucifixion, take Him down from the cross...
  - How? All she had to do: ‘confess’ a lie
  - She could not – His virgin birth was true

## Lk.2:...7, Mary's firstborn Son

- Most important birth in world
- Occurred in most humble circumstances
  - **Manger**: crib, feeding trough
  - He would go down from here – Lk.9:58
- Shepherds: 2:8-18 (Mary, 19)
- Simeon: 2:25-35 (pierced). Jn.19:25-27

## Lk.22:31-34, Peter

- First boasted, then failed Him (61-62)
- Tried to save Jesus with a sword...then himself with lies
  - Simon (Cyrene) would replace this Simon.
  - Mt.27:32 – Now as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. Him they compelled to bear His cross.

# Lk.22:47-48, Judas betrayed Him

- “Judas” – very common name in 1<sup>st</sup> Century because of hero: *Judas Maccabeus*
  - Led revolt against Seleucid Empire
  - Rededicated Temple, 165 BC
  - Hanukkah festival (“dedication”)
    - “Judas” destroyed this good name...
    - “Judas” from Judah

# Religious trial

Annas, Jn.18

Caiaphas, Mt.26

Sanhedrin, Mt.27:1

- Totally illegal

1. Night.
2. Eve of major festival
3. Convicted at night
4. Arrest result of bribe
5. Self-incrimination
6. Pronounced sentence early



# Civil trial

Pilate

Herod

Robber

Centurion

- Totally innocent

Lk.23: “Not guilty!”

4, no fault in Him

14, no fault in Him

15, nor Herod

16, release Him

20, release Him

22, let Him go

41, robber: nothing wrong

47, soldier: righteous Man

## Pilate tried to intimidate Jesus

- Jn.19:10, Then Pilate said to Him, “Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?”
- Jesus knew: only one possible outcome (Mt.26:53)
  - Jesus was innocent; we are not

‘In most trials, people are tried for what they have done, but this was not true of Christ’s. Jesus was tried for who He was.’

I. The Claims

II. The Certainty

**III. The Conviction**

## Lk.12:49-50

<sup>49</sup> “I came to send fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! <sup>50</sup> But I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how distressed I am till it is accomplished!

- Details are not entirely clear –
  - Fire of judgment on Himself?
  - Fire of division and strife?
- Baptism is clear:
  - Immersion in suffering
  - Prospect of His suffering was constant

## Jn.10:10

He promises abundant life for others,  
but gives up His own life

- 11, 15: Jesus, good Shepherd, lays down His life for sheep
- 12: hired hand runs. (Mishna)
  - Mt.9:36
  - David, 1 Sm.17:33-37

## Jn.10:17-18: lays down life for His own

- Jesus' death is voluntary.
  - Palestinian shepherd died to save sheep
  - Jesus died on purpose...for us.
  - John does not focus on what men did to Jesus...
- His resurrection is part of the plan.  
Jn.10:28
  - No one can snatch them... Ac.2:24

# Hb.5:7-10

Reveals facts about Jesus' suffering

1. Intensity of His prayers indicates the severity of His suffering
  - Prayers, supplications, vehement cries
  - Natural to shrink from painful, humiliation (grief unto death, sleepy disciples, disappointment of betrayal, loneliness of His agony...)
  - Equipped Him to be perfect High Priest (5:10)

# Hb.5:7-10

Reveals the facts about Jesus' suffering

## 2. Able to save Him.

- Mt.26:53, “If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross...”
- Dn.3:17-18, “Our God is able to deliver us...”
- Jn.12:27 (His purpose)



# Hb.5:7-10

Reveals the facts about Jesus' suffering

## 3. Was heard...

- Did not pray to escape Father's will.
- What if it said: "His prayers were heard, therefore He came down from the cross"?
- What did He pray for?

# Hb.5:7-10

Reveals the facts about Jesus' suffering

## 4. He learned obedience...suffered

- Does not imply that He was once disobedient
- He suffered to remove our sins by His sacrifice

# Hb.5:7-10

Reveals the facts about Jesus' suffering

## 5. Perfected (9)

- He was without sin – how to be 'made perfect'?
- As Priest – (2:10; 5:9; 7:28)
- Hb.2:10 anticipates 5:8-9

His suffering fully equipped Him  
to save the worst of men

# Conclusions

1. Jesus: way to crown is by the cross. Mt.16
2. Jesus: our perfect example

“He Who was the Bread of Life began His ministry by hungering, and He Who was the Water of Life ended His ministry by thirsting”

# Conclusions

1. Jesus: way to crown is by the cross. Mt.16
2. Jesus: our perfect example
3. Jesus: holy perfection

“In Jesus we have the holiest man Who ever lived, and yet it was the prostitutes and lepers and thieves who adored Him, and the religious who hated His guts”

