



# INTRODUCTION TO APOLOGETICS

I. What is apologetics?

II. Why study apologetics?

III. Where in Scripture are we commanded to use apologetics?

- 1 Peter \_\_\_\_\_

“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a \_\_\_\_\_ to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear” (NKJV).

IV. When should we present apologetics, before or after the gospel?

V. Who needs apologetics?

VI. Application of Lesson

A. This week, approach someone who is not a Christian and ask him for reasons for his unbelief. Try to discern why he is not a Christian. If he has intellectual problems with Christianity, find out what they are.

You may want to lead your conversation to the subject by asking, “Do you consider yourself a Christian? Do you mind telling me why you choose not to be a Christian?”

B. Ask the same person if he believes truth is relative.

C. Share the “W” questions and answers with a friend or family member.



# COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS

Misconception 1: “Christianity must be proven scientifically; I’ll accept Christianity when you prove it with the scientific method.”

- Response:

Misconception 2: “I can’t accept Christianity, because there isn’t enough evidence for me to be 100% sure that it is true.”

- Response:

> You \_\_\_\_\_ prove anything historical with \_\_\_\_\_ certainty.

> “There is \_\_\_\_\_ evidence to convince anyone who is not set against it, but not enough to bring anyone into the kingdom who \_\_\_\_\_” (Blaise Pascal).

Misconception 3: “Truth is \_\_\_\_\_.  
If you believe something, that is truth for you.”

- Response:

Misconception 4: “It doesn’t matter what you believe as long as you are sincere in your faith. It really doesn’t matter who or what you put your faith in. The important thing is that you *believe*—period.”

- Response:

### APPLICATION:

This week, find someone who believes at least one of the four misconceptions we talked about today. To determine whether someone has these misconceptions, ask questions such as: “How would Christianity have to be proven if it could be proven?” “How much proof would you need to believe in Christianity?” “Is truth relative?” and “How important is it that you believe in the right thing or person?”

For any of the misconceptions, go on the offensive. Ask the skeptic why he is so sure that he is believing the right thing about the issue. Ask him for his reasons. If he says, “You can’t prove what you believe,” say, “Then prove to me what you believe.” If he says that all religions are true, ask, “What happens if you’re wrong, and all religions don’t lead to God?” After you have put him on the defensive, share with him the illustrations and arguments from the notes. Do not be argumentative!

Take notes of your dialogue to share in class.

# IS THERE A GOD?

## I. Can Anyone Know There is Not a God?

## II. Pascal's Wager

- Either God exists or He doesn't exist. What would be wiser—to believe He does exist or to believe He doesn't exist? Let's say we put a wager on the idea that God exists. If we win this wager, and He does exist, we win everything; if we lose, and God doesn't exist, we lose \_\_\_\_\_. Since this is the case, we should wager that God \_\_\_\_\_ exist.

## III. Evidence for the Existence of God

### A. The Cosmological Argument

- > The universe could not have come from nothing.
- > The universe could not have always existed as it is.
- > The universe could not have come from impersonal matter/energy.

“Beginning with the impersonal, everything, including man, must be explained in terms of the impersonal plus time plus \_\_\_\_\_.

Do not let anyone divert your mind at this point. There are no other factors in the formula, because there are no other factors that exist... . No one has ever demonstrated how time plus chance, beginning with an impersonal, can produce the needed complexity of the universe, let alone the \_\_\_\_\_ of man” (Francis Schaeffer).

- > Therefore, the universe must have been created by a personal, eternal Being.

## B. The Teleological Argument

All the intricate design in the universe argues for a \_\_\_\_\_ first cause.

For example,

- The Eye
- The Cell
- DNA



### C. The Anthropic Principle

The earth has just the right conditions for human life.

For example,

- Distance from the sun

- Gravity and electromagnetism

“Gravity is roughly  $10^{39}$  times weaker than electromagnetism. If gravity had been \_\_\_\_\_ times weaker than electromagnetism, stars would be a billion times less massive and would burn a \_\_\_\_\_ times faster.”

- Protons and neutrons

“If the difference in mass between a proton and a neutron were not exactly as it is—roughly \_\_\_\_\_ the mass of an electron—then all neutrons would have become protons or vice versa.”

- The nature of water

Unlike most molecules, water is *lighter* in its solid form. That is why ice \_\_\_\_\_.

### D. The Moral Argument

The fact that we all have a sense of right and wrong argues that there is a Supreme \_\_\_\_\_ from which that morality comes.

### IV. Responding to the #1 Objection to the Existence of God:

“If there is a good and omnipotent God, then why is there evil and suffering in the world? The existence of evil must prove there is not a good, omnipotent God.”

Answers:

- The problem of evil implies that there is a God.
- There is evil in the world because the first humans God made abused their \_\_\_\_\_ and chose to disobey God. Suffering is the consequence of \_\_\_\_\_ evil.
- God made free creatures because He wanted them to \_\_\_\_\_ Him.
- The great amount of suffering in the world shows how \_\_\_\_\_ sin is.

### APPLICATION

This week, show someone (preferably an atheist) the circle illustration, Pascal’s Wager, and at least 3 arguments for the existence of God.

# CREATION APOLOGETICS

- > Both the claim for evolution and the claim for creation are propositions that have to be \_\_\_\_\_.
- > Does what we see around us best fit the expectations of *evolution* or *creation*?
- > Which approach is most consistent with the \_\_\_\_\_?

## I. The Law of Biogenesis

- The Law of Biogenesis: \_\_\_\_\_ only comes from \_\_\_\_\_.

“One has only to contemplate the magnitude of this task to concede that the spontaneous generation of a living organism is impossible. Yet here we are—as a result, I believe, of spontaneous generation” (Harvard University biochemist and Nobel Laureate George Wald, 1954 in *Scientific American*).

- A few evolutionists propose that life was transported from another \_\_\_\_\_ to the earth.
- Evolution is not \_\_\_\_\_ when it comes to the Law of Biogenesis vs. Spontaneous Generation.

### II. The Laws of Probability

“Time is in fact the hero of the plot. The time with which we have to deal is of the order of two billion years. What we regard as impossible on the basis of human experience is meaningless there. Given so much time, the ‘impossible’ becomes possible; the possible probable, and the probable virtually certain. One has only to wait; time itself performs the miracles” (Harvard University biochemist and Nobel Laureate George Wald, 1954 in *Scientific American*).

- Is there enough time in the universe for \_\_\_\_\_ to produce the intricate \_\_\_\_\_ we see around us?
- What is the “chance” of getting a \_\_\_\_\_ and throwing a six at the same time?
- Half of the time the die lands showing a six, the coin will show a tail, the other half of the

times we throw a six, the coin would show a \_\_\_\_\_ . So the probability of throwing the head and the six together, must be one-half of the sixes, or put mathematically,  $1/2 \times 1/6$ . This, of course, is \_\_\_\_\_ .

- Statisticians have made this into a rule called the \_\_\_\_\_ Rule of Probability.
- “Chance” requires \_\_\_\_\_ attempts, on the average, to count from 1 to 10.
- What is the expected probability for chance to spell the phrase—“THE THEORY OF EVOLUTION”?
- “Chance” will, on the average, spell “the theory of evolution” correctly only 1 in \_\_\_\_\_ outcomes.
- This computes to one success in 8.3 hundred quadrillion \_\_\_\_\_ attempts (\_\_\_\_\_ )!

- If, as evolutionists would have us believe, the earth has been in existence for approximately \_\_\_\_\_ years, then “chance” could take \_\_\_\_\_ times this time to spell out “the theory of evolution,” even at one billion attempts per microsecond, a phenomenal rate of experimentation.
- According to Dembski, if anything has had less than 1 in \_\_\_\_\_ chance of happening, it just could not have happened by chance.
- Evolutionist Julian Huxley said that the odds that the horse evolved was 1 chance in \_\_\_\_\_, but that it still happened thanks to natural selection, or the survival of the fittest.

### CONCLUSION:

Evolution is not consistent with the laws of probability.

### APPLICATION:

Make a list of people that you think need to hear these creation evidences. Pray for good opportunities to share this information with them.

# 5 MORE CREATION APOLOGETICS

## I. The Laws of Thermodynamics

- If the universe has always existed with a \_\_\_\_\_ amount of energy, and more and more of this energy has become \_\_\_\_\_, then by now the universe would be \_\_\_\_\_ “run down” and we wouldn’t be here!

## II. The Fossil Record

- If evolution were true, then you would expect to see thousands of transitional forms in the fossil record. But after more than 150 years of digging, there are \_\_\_\_\_ examples of so-called transitional forms than in Darwin’s day.

- Creationists predict that there would be \_\_\_\_\_ “kinds” of organisms, based on what God made on Day 3, Day 5, and Day 6 of Creation Week. \_\_\_\_\_ kinds of plants and animals are what we see in the fossil record.
- The fossil record suggests that the biblical creation is a much more \_\_\_\_\_ proposition than evolution.

### III. The Laws of Genetics

- Evolutionists argue that the variations among the kinds of animals, such as all the different kinds of dogs, are \_\_\_\_\_ of the evolution that occurred through \_\_\_\_\_ and natural selection.
- *But* most of the changes we see within different kinds of animals are not due to mutations, but to different combinations of genetic information that has \_\_\_\_\_ been in their DNA.
- The various breeds of dogs that we see today actually have \_\_\_\_\_ genetic information than the original dog kind, not \_\_\_\_\_ information.
- A mutation *can* change existing genes, and thereby change (corrupt) the information of the DNA, but a mutation cannot add \_\_\_\_\_ information to DNA.



- Creationists would expect there to be \_\_\_\_\_ to change within the various kinds of organisms. The observations of life around us indicate that there \_\_\_\_\_ limits to change.
- Evolutionists would expect to see evidence of change from one major kind of organism to another. The evidence the evolutionists want is \_\_\_\_\_ there.

IV. The Young Earth—The earth isn't old enough for evolution.

- > \_\_\_\_\_ of the dating methods used to determine the age of the earth argue for a young earth.

For example,

- The Young Faint Sun Paradox: Life could not have evolved on earth billions of years ago since the sun would have been fainter in the past and thus the earth would have been too \_\_\_\_\_ for life.
- Red blood cells and hemoglobin have been found in some \_\_\_\_\_ bones.
- The moon is slowly receding from earth at about \_\_\_\_\_ inches per year.
- Salt is pouring into the sea much faster than it is escaping. The sea is not nearly salty enough for

this to have been happening for \_\_\_\_\_  
of years.

### V. Questions for Evolutionists

Ask the evolutionist:

1. How do you explain symmetry? Why does the human body have two arms on either side of the body, two eyes on either side of the face, two ears on either side of the head, etc.? Why are so many things almost perfectly proportioned?
2. How did emotions evolve? How did love evolve?
3. How did skin evolve?
4. How do you explain the evolution of teeth, eyes, and ears?
5. How did higher thinking evolve?
6. How did the process of photosynthesis evolve?
7. Which evolved first, the plants or the insects that live on and pollinate the plants?
8. Can you give me an example of a mutation that has added new information to the genome of an organism?
9. How do you explain the origin of the first living cell from non-living matter?

10. Why do some evolutionists who realize that life could not have come from non-life on this planet suggest that life was transported from another planet—when they know they are just moving the problem to another part of the universe?
11. If chance requires an average of 10 billion attempts to count from 1–10, and an average of 8.3 hundred quadrillion quadrillion attempts to spell “the theory of evolution,” how in the world could chance ever produce even the simplest living cell, which is billions of times more complex?
12. Do you really believe that everything came from nothing?
13. If you believe that matter/energy has always existed, how do you deal with the Laws of Thermodynamics which say that there is a set amount of energy in the universe, but that this energy is becoming more and more unusable? Would the universe not have run down by now?
14. Which is easier to believe, “In the beginning God” or “In the beginning hydrogen”?
15. Why do you insist that the earth is so old, when 90% of dating methods suggest that the earth is relatively young?
16. Are you sure your answers are reasonable, right, and scientifically provable, or do you just believe that it may have happened the way you have answered?

### VI. Conclusion

#### APPLICATION:

Think of someone you know that has questions about this issue of origins (this may be someone on the list you made after the last class). Track that person down and ask him or her if you could share some of the information you learned in this lesson. If the person tends to believe in evolution, ask him or her questions from the last section of this lesson. Bring back to class a report of your interaction with this person.



# THE GENERAL ARGUMENT FOR CHRISTIANITY

IS THE BIBLE THE WORD OF GOD AND JESUS  
THE ONLY WAY TO HEAVEN?

Premise A: The New Testament is historically accurate; it is a basically \_\_\_\_\_ and trustworthy document.

Premise B: On the basis of this reliable document, we have sufficient evidence to believe that Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ from the dead as He predicted He would, and that He fulfilled dozens of other Messianic prophecies.

Premise C: Jesus' Resurrection and fulfillment of prophecy show that He was who He said He was: the \_\_\_\_\_, the Son of God—\_\_\_\_\_ in the flesh.

Premise D: Because Jesus is God, He is \_\_\_\_\_—  
What He says is absolutely trustworthy.

Premise E: Jesus Christ taught that the Bible was the  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Matt. 5:18, 15:4; Mark 12:36;  
Luke 24:44–46). He also taught that He was the  
only way to God (John 14:6).

Conclusion: If Christ said it, we must believe it—The Bible  
is the Word of \_\_\_\_\_, and Jesus is the only  
way to God. Therefore Christianity is true.

### APPLICATION:

This week, find an unbeliever who will let you share with him the general argument for Christianity. Draw the blocks on paper, write in the premises, and verbally make the logical connections as you present the argument. If he says he believes something different, ask questions such as: What evidence do you have for that? Where did you learn that? What happens if you're wrong?



## THE RELIABILITY OF THE N.T.—BIBLIOGRAPHICAL TEST

**Objection 1:** The N.T. was written 100–200 years after the life of Christ. How do we know we don't have a distorted picture of his life due to this gap?

**Answer:**

The N.T. was written within \_\_\_\_\_ (most books within 30) years of the death of Christ (AD 30).

EVIDENCE:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ have been found that date within or close to the first century:

One Example: John Ryland Papyrus (dated **AD 125**; fragment of John found in Egypt). The original manuscript must have been written earlier.

2. Early church fathers (Clement, Ignatius) were \_\_\_\_\_ many of the N.T. books by around **AD 100**. The books that were quoted had to be in circulation at that time.
  
3. There is no hint that the N.T. writers knew of the destruction of \_\_\_\_\_ (**AD 70**) as a fact that had already happened.
  
4. According to history, PAUL died in the AD **mid-**\_\_\_\_\_. At the end of Acts he is still alive. Therefore, Acts and the books Paul wrote most likely were written by the mid-60s. Luke wrote the book of Luke before he wrote the sequel, Acts. So the book of Luke is even earlier.

**Conclusion:** There was not time for \_\_\_\_\_ to grow up around the life of Christ.

### I. The Bibliographical Test

- > The Bibliographical test evaluates the reliability of manuscripts, looking at the \_\_\_\_\_ between original and existing manuscripts, \_\_\_\_\_ of manuscripts, and \_\_\_\_\_ (how much variation between the readings of the existing manuscripts). This test determines how well a document has been preserved since



it was written. This test will determine whether or not we have what was originally written.

**Objection 2:** “We do not have what was originally written because there is **too much time** between the original manuscripts and the earliest surviving copies. More time=more copying=more mistakes, and we don’t even know what mistakes were made.”

Response:

A. Timespan

The timespan (between the originals and the earliest existing copies) for most classical Greek works is about 1,000 years; the time span for most books in the N.T. is around \_\_\_\_\_ years.

<u>Author/Work</u>	<u>Timespan</u>
Aristotle	1,400 yrs.
Tacitus	_____ yrs.
Caesar	950 yrs.
Odyssey	500 yrs.
New Testament	_____ yrs.

We don’t think the classical literature was significantly corrupted; why should we think that the N.T. was corrupted during the 90-year span?

**Objection 3:** “Even if there is a short time between the originals and the first copies, there are still **too many differences** among the surviving N.T. manuscripts for us to know what was in the original. All the copying over the years resulted in a huge number of conflicting manuscripts!”

Response:

B. Number

- The more manuscripts we have for comparison, the closer we can get to the original manuscript reading.

5,700—Greek

10,000—Latin

9,300—other versions

\_\_\_\_\_ total manuscripts, fragments

- Plus tens of thousands of quotations from the N.T. by the early church fathers.
- The quantity of manuscripts of classical Greek and Roman literature is very small. The piece of ancient literature (besides the Bible) with the greatest quantity of existing manuscripts is Homer’s \_\_\_\_\_ (643 copies). The manuscript evidence for the N.T. is far superior to the manuscript evidence of classical Greek and Roman literature!

<u>Author/Work</u>	<u># of Copies</u>
Plato	7
Caesar	10
Tacitus	20
Homer	643
New Testament	5,700 (Greek)

“The number of \_\_\_\_\_ of the N.T., of early \_\_\_\_\_ from it, and of \_\_\_\_\_ from it in the oldest writers of the church, is so large that it is practically certain that the true reading of every doubtful passage is preserved in some or other of these ancient authorities. **This can be said of no other ancient book in the world**” (Frederick Kenyon, renowned paleographer and textual critic).

### C. Quality

- About \_\_\_\_\_ differences are significant to the meaning of the N.T. This is less than one per page in an English translation.
- The N.T. is at least \_\_\_\_\_ pure.

- In spite of errors in the copying, no variant reading harms any \_\_\_\_\_ of the N.T. Though a disputed passage may touch on doctrine, every doctrine of the N.T. is taught in its indisputable parts.

“The Christian can take the whole Bible in his hand and say without fear or hesitation that he holds in it the true Word of God, handed down without essential \_\_\_\_\_ from generation to generation throughout the centuries” (Frederick Kenyon).

### APPLICATION:

Talk to an unbeliever about the reliability of the N.T. Show him that Christians have what was originally written and that the N.T. was written within a generation of the events. Use the timeline and the pie chart. Report on your conversation next week in class.

# 8 HISTORICAL RELIABILITY OF THE N.T.—INTERNAL & EXTERNAL TESTS

I. The Internal Evidence Test—Can we trust what the authors wrote?

A. The Benefit of the Doubt

Aristotle's Dictum: "The benefit of the doubt is to be given to the \_\_\_\_\_ and not to the critic."

B. Contradictions?

Law of Non-Contradiction:

- If one statement absolutely contradicts another statement, without qualification, at least one of those statements cannot be true.

But in order for one statement to absolutely contradict another, there must be no sense in which the statements can both be true. If there is a possible \_\_\_\_\_ explanation, it is not a real contradiction.

- Example: When was Christ crucified?
  
- The list of alleged discrepancies gets shorter and shorter.

C. The Authors Based Their Accounts on \_\_\_\_\_ Testimony.

> 2 Peter 1:16

> 1 John 1:1

> Luke 1:1–4

This confirms their recall \_\_\_\_\_.

D. Contemporary Critics Were a Constant Corrective.

> The authors no doubt tried to be very careful with how they handled the facts. During the time they wrote, they had a lot of \_\_\_\_\_ who would have loved to discredit their testimony. If the authors had made a mistake, the critics would have pointed it out.

E. The Authors \_\_\_\_\_ for Their Doctrine.

> People will sometimes die for what they believe to be true, but never for something they *know* to be \_\_\_\_\_.

> If the Resurrection had not taken place, the disciples would have known it.

- The authors willingly gave their lives for their belief in Christ's Resurrection.
- This confirms their \_\_\_\_\_.

II. The External Evidence Test—Is There Outside Corroboration?

A. Supporting Evidence from Other Early Christian Writers

1. Papias, acquaintance of John the apostle:

“The Elder the Apostle John used to say this also: ‘Mark, having been the interpreter of \_\_\_\_\_, wrote down \_\_\_\_\_ all that he \_\_\_\_\_ mentioned, whether sayings or doings of Christ, not, however, in order.’”

2. Irenaeus, student of Polycarp (student of John):

“So firm is the ground upon which these Gospels rest, that the very \_\_\_\_\_ themselves bear witness to them, and starting from these documents, each one of them endeavors to establish his own particular doctrine.”

B. Supporting Evidence from Early Non-Christian Historical Sources.

> We get the following picture if we combine the testimonies of Josephus, Tacitus, Lucian, Suetonius, Pliny the Younger, Thallus, and the Talmud—all contemporary non-Christian sources:

1. Jesus was crucified under Pontius Pilate at Passover time. (Tacitus, Thallus, Josephus, Talmud)
2. He was believed by his disciples to have risen from the dead three days later. (Josephus)
3. Jewish leaders charged Christ with \_\_\_\_\_ and believed He was born of adultery. (Talmud)
4. The Judean sect of Christianity spread even to \_\_\_\_\_. (Tacitus, Suetonius)
5. \_\_\_\_\_ and other Roman rulers bitterly persecuted and martyred early Christians. (Tacitus, Suetonius)
6. Early Christians denied polytheism, lived dedicated lives according to Christ's teaching, and \_\_\_\_\_ Christ. (Pliny, Lucian)



### C. Archaeology as External Evidence

#### 1. Sir William Ramsay

- He went to study in the Bible lands as a liberal; fifteen years later he became a firm believer in a reliable New Testament.
- Ramsay said that \_\_\_\_\_ was unsurpassed as an historian.
- For example, when Luke made reference to \_\_\_\_\_ countries, \_\_\_\_\_ cities, and \_\_\_\_\_ islands, he made no mistakes.

#### 2. The Pavement

- The place where Jesus was tried before Pilate.
- Once considered a \_\_\_\_\_ because there was no record of it in Jewish or secular maps or history.
- It was finally \_\_\_\_\_.
- When Titus destroyed Jerusalem, he built barracks there. When these were abandoned and had crumbled, other buildings were built on top. Archaeologists had dug down to the barracks, but no further until recently. When they did go underneath, they found the \_\_\_\_\_.

### 3. The Pool of Bethesda

- Mentioned in John 5, as the place Jesus healed an invalid.
- No record in Jewish or secular maps or histories; therefore considered a \_\_\_\_\_.
- In 1888, it was found while archaeologists were digging around the Church of \_\_\_\_\_.

### 4. Nelson Glueck

- Jewish, and universally esteemed as one of the greatest archaeologists.
- Said that no archaeological discovery has ever \_\_\_\_\_ the Bible.

### APPLICATION:

Share the internal and external evidence for the historical reliability of the N.T. with someone who has doubts. Use diagrams on paper as much as possible. If he says that he has problems with the N.T. because of contradictions, ask him, “What contradictions? Could you give me some examples?” Share an example of a contradiction that has been resolved.

# 9 THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST

## I. The Resurrection: At the HEART of the Gospel

### Horrible Death

1. Heavy loss of \_\_\_\_\_
2. When His side was pierced, blood and water flowed out.
3. Soldiers didn't break His \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Pilate asked for \_\_\_\_\_ (from the centurion) that Jesus was dead.
5. He was wrapped completely in bandages and laid in a tomb.
6. Non-Christian sources confirm the Crucifixion of Jesus.

## Empy Tomb

1. The Jews through history have admitted that the tomb was empty. They only give reason for the tomb's vacancy—belief in the empty tomb is assumed.

Trypho, a Jew, said in the second century:

“One Jesus, a Galilean \_\_\_\_\_, ... we crucified, but his disciples \_\_\_\_\_ him by night from the tomb, where he laid when unfastened from the cross, and now deceive men by asserting that he has risen from the dead and ascended into heaven” (*Dialogue with Trypho*, by Justin Martyr).

2. Christianity could not have originated in \_\_\_\_\_ within a few weeks of the supposed Resurrection if there were no empty tomb.
  - Why not? No one would have believed the Resurrection if there were no empty tomb, seeing the Resurrection was first preached in Jerusalem (the very city in which the body had lain) within a few \_\_\_\_\_ of the Crucifixion and burial.
3. Other explanations for the empty tomb are not reasonable.
  - a. Disciples stole the body.

- The disciples would have had to sneak by or overpower the Roman guard outside the tomb.
- If the disciples stole the body, they died for what they knew was a \_\_\_\_\_.

> Can we trust the apostles to have told the truth?

Peter, crucified

Andrew, \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew, by the sword

James, son of Alpheus, \_\_\_\_\_

Philip, crucified

Simon, \_\_\_\_\_

Thaddaeus, \_\_\_\_\_

James, brother of Jesus, stoned

Thomas, \_\_\_\_\_

Bartholomew, crucified

James, son of Zebedee, \_\_\_\_\_

“Nothing in law so convinces courts and juries of the truthfulness of a story as the fact that a man’s life has been \_\_\_\_\_ with such story.” (Henry Barnett, attorney)

- b. The Jewish or \_\_\_\_\_ authorities removed the body.
- > If they had removed it, they would have \_\_\_\_\_ it for everyone to see. Why?
- c. \_\_\_\_\_ Theory
- > More \_\_\_\_\_ than a Resurrection

### Appearances after the Resurrection

1. In 1 Corinthians 15:3–8, Paul gives a list of some of those who saw Christ:
  - Peter
  - The Twelve
  - 500 brethren at once, most still alive when Paul wrote this
  - James
  - Paul himself
2. The Gospels also record the testimony of others who saw Christ after He had been crucified.

Why should we believe the testimony of these early Christians who said they saw Christ?

Record of Women as the \_\_\_\_\_ Witnesses

Transformation of Disciples

- > Peter
- > Paul
- > James, Jesus' brother

## II. What Happens When One Examines the Evidence Objectively?

A. Simon Greenleaf—professor of law at Harvard in the 1800s

- His three-volume work *A Treatise on the Law of Evidence* has been considered by the Supreme Court to be the greatest single authority on legal evidence.
- He said, “If the evidence for the resurrection was set before any unbiased courtroom in the world it would be judged to be an historical \_\_\_\_\_—Jesus Christ rose from the dead!”

B. Lord Lyttleton and Gilbert West, friends at Oxford

- Lyttleton tried to prove Saul was never converted.
- West tried to prove Christ never rose from the dead.
- What happened after each independently looked at the evidence and then came back together?

III. Other Evidence for the Resurrection

Worship on Sunday by the early Christian Jews

Easter



Art of the early Christians

Resurrection is consistent with the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus.

- The Resurrection bonds remarkably well with all of Jesus' life.

Gospel Creed of 1 Cor. 15 dates very \_\_\_\_\_.

- The first few verses of 1 Cor. 15 are a \_\_\_\_\_ that was given to Paul in the mid-\_\_\_\_\_, just a few years after the Resurrection. This creed presents the basic facts of the death and resurrection of Christ, with a list of people who saw Him resurrected.

Unique exaltation of Jesus after the resurrection.

- Immediately after the Resurrection, Jesus was \_\_\_\_\_ as Lord of Life.

Existence of the Christian Church

IV. What Does the Resurrection Prove?

- That Jesus is who He \_\_\_\_\_ to be—the Son of God, God in the flesh.
- It also confirms the \_\_\_\_\_.
- It shows that He can overcome \_\_\_\_\_.

APPLICATION:

- Prepare for the trial next session.
- Share the HEART and WE ARGUE acrostics with someone.

# 10 FULFILLED PROPHECY

## I. What Prophecies Did the Messiah Have to Fulfill?

### PROPHECY

### FULFILLMENT

Tribe of Judah

Genesis 49:10

Luke 3:23, 33

House of David

Jeremiah 23:5

Luke 3:23, 31

Enter Jerusalem on a \_\_\_\_\_

Zechariah 9:9

Matt. 21:1-8

**PROPHECY**

**FULFILLMENT**

Born at \_\_\_\_\_

Micah 5:2

Matt 2:1

Introduced by a messenger

Isaiah 40:3

Matt. 3:1–3

Body \_\_\_\_\_ in crucifixion

Zechariah 12:10

John 19:34

Laid to rest with the rich

Isaiah 53:9

Matt. 27:57–60

Endure wounds and bruises

Isaiah 53:5

Matt. 27:26

**PROPHECY**

**FULFILLMENT**

Teaching and healing ministry  
Isaiah 61:1, 2; 32:3–4; 35:5

Matt. 9:35;  
Luke 4:17–21

Arrive before the Temple and  
Jerusalem destroyed  
Daniel 9:26

Temple,  
Jerusalem  
destroyed AD  
70

Labeled Lord and \_\_\_\_\_  
Jeremiah 23:6, Isaiah 9:6

John 20:28,  
Luke 2:11

Killed 483 years after decree to  
rebuild Jerusalem  
Daniel 9:25–26

Gospels, history  
(Christ died  
about AD 30)

Silent before accusers  
Isaiah 53:7

Matt. 27:12

II. What Is the Probability that Jesus Fulfilled Those Prophecies by Chance?

III. What Do These Fulfilled Prophecies Demonstrate?

They demonstrate that Jesus was the predicted \_\_\_\_\_, and since the Messiah was to be divine, it shows that Jesus was \_\_\_\_\_.

APPLICATION:

A. This week, discuss the fulfillment of Messianic prophecies with an unbeliever. Present the list of prophecies that Jesus fulfilled hundreds of years after the predictions. Use the Texas illustration to show the improbability that these prophecies were fulfilled by chance. In the space below, record his/her reactions.

B. Share the following illustration with the same unbeliever:

A prognosticator predicted 50 things about you. They all came true except one. The last one was conditional: If you drive down a certain street on a certain day, you will die in a fiery car crash. Would you drive down that street? In light of the fact that Jesus fulfilled at least 49 prophecies of the Bible (they all came true), are you going to ignore one more prophecy that says that if you don't receive Jesus, you will be separated from God forever? In the space below, describe what happened when you presented this.



# THE DEITY OF CHRIST

- > If Jesus did claim to be God, He was the \_\_\_\_\_ leader of a major world religion to do so.

## I. Christ's Claims during His Ministry

### A. He claimed to be the I AM of the Old Testament.

- > John 8:58: "Before Abraham was, \_\_\_\_\_."
- > John 8:24: "If you do not believe that \_\_\_\_\_, you shall die in your sins."

### B. He claimed to be One with God the Father.

- > Declaration by Jesus: "I and My Father are \_\_\_\_\_."
- > Response of the Jews: Took up stones to stone Him.

- > Why? “You, being a \_\_\_\_\_, make yourself to be \_\_\_\_\_” (John 10:30).

C. Christ claimed to possess divine attributes.

1. Omnipresence

2. Eternity

D. Christ claimed power to perform divine acts.

1. To \_\_\_\_\_ sins

2. To \_\_\_\_\_ those who believe in Him

3. To give \_\_\_\_\_

## II. Christ's Claims at the Trial

A. The Question: Mark 14:61—“Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?”



B. The Answer: Mark 14:62—“I am.”

1. Jesus claims to be the \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Jesus claims to be the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Jesus claims to be the \_\_\_\_\_.

> Daniel 7:13-14: “I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven!”

C. The Conviction: Jesus was not convicted for what He did or said He did. He was convicted for who He said He \_\_\_\_\_.

III. Conclusion: Jesus claimed to be \_\_\_\_\_.

### APPLICATION:

Finish writing your letter, explaining to someone why you believe that Jesus claimed to be God. Use appropriate Scripture verses.

# 12 THE CLOSING ARGUMENTS

## I. Why Not a Legend?

- The N.T. is historically \_\_\_\_\_, confirmed by the Bibliographical Test, \_\_\_\_\_ Evidence, and \_\_\_\_\_ Evidence.
- The N.T., therefore, gives an \_\_\_\_\_ picture of Jesus—what He did and what He said.

## II. Why Not a Guru?

- Jesus was a Jew raised in a strictly \_\_\_\_\_ culture.
- Jesus' teaching was not the teaching of an Eastern \_\_\_\_\_, but that of a Jewish Rabbi who believed in \_\_\_\_\_ transcendent Creator.

C. S. Lewis: “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 \_\_\_\_\_.** He would either be a \_\_\_\_\_—on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg—or else he would be the \_\_\_\_\_. You must make your choice. **Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a \_\_\_\_\_ 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.”

### III. Why Not a Liar?

- According to Peter Kreeft, a Christian apologist, Jesus couldn’t be a liar:
  - “1. Because he has the wrong psychological \_\_\_\_\_. He was \_\_\_\_\_, loving, caring, compassionate, and passionate about teaching \_\_\_\_\_ and helping others to truth. Liars lie for \_\_\_\_\_ reasons, like money, fame, pleasure or power. Jesus gave up all worldly goods, and life itself.

2. Because there is no conceivable \_\_\_\_\_  
for his lie. It brought him hatred, rejection,  
misunderstanding, persecution, torture and  
\_\_\_\_\_.”

#### IV. Why Not a Lunatic?

- Why Jesus could not have been a lunatic:

“1. Because the psychological profiles are opposite.  
The lunatic lacks the very qualities that shine in  
Jesus- practical \_\_\_\_\_, tough love,  
and unpredictable \_\_\_\_\_.”

2. No Jew could sincerely think he was  
\_\_\_\_\_. No group in history was less  
likely to confuse the Creator with a creature  
than the Jews, the only people who had an abso-  
lute, and absolutely clear, \_\_\_\_\_  
between the divine and the human.”

#### V. What Is the Only Reasonable Option?

> Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_.

# THE QUINTILEMMA

The New Testament presents Jesus as an historical man who claims to be God.

or

New Testament is correct.

There was a man named Jesus who claimed to be God.

New Testament is incorrect.

There was not a man named Jesus who claimed to be God.

Jesus is a \_\_\_\_\_.

or

Jesus meant to be taken in a mystical sense.

We are as much God as He is. He believed that God is All, and All is God.

Jesus meant to be taken literally.

He taught that He was the Transcendent Creator.

Jesus is a \_\_\_\_\_.

or

The claim of deity was false.

The claim of deity was true.

Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_.

or

He knew it was false.

Jesus is a \_\_\_\_\_.

He didn't know it was false.

Jesus is a \_\_\_\_\_.

CONCLUSIONS:

Is the Bible the Word of God and Jesus the Only Way to Heaven?

Premise A: The New Testament is historically accurate; it is a basically \_\_\_\_\_ and trustworthy document.

Premise B: On the basis of this reliable document, we have sufficient evidence to believe that Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ from the dead as He predicted He would, and that He fulfilled dozens of other Messianic prophecies.

Premise C: Jesus' Resurrection and fulfillment of prophecy show that He was who He said He was: the \_\_\_\_\_, the Son of God— \_\_\_\_\_ in the flesh.

Premise D: As the Son of God (God the Son), Jesus Christ is an \_\_\_\_\_ authority—What He says is absolutely trustworthy.

Premise E: Jesus Christ taught that the Bible is the \_\_\_\_\_ (Matt 5:18, 15:4; Mark 12:36; Luke 24:44–46). He also taught that He was the only way to God (John 14:6).

Conclusion: If Christ said it, we must believe it. The Bible is the Word of \_\_\_\_\_, and Jesus is the Only Way to God.

### APPLICATION:

- A. Present the flowchart to an unbeliever who may have doubts about the deity of Christ.
  
- B. Present the diagram of the general argument for Christianity to someone who doubts the validity of Christianity.