

Apologetics

Jesus Was Just a Man

- Controversy
 - No figure in all of history has the level of controversy surrounding him
 - Because no one has made the claims he has made!
- Views
 - Myth – Bertrand Russell
 - Jesus was just an element of folklore
 - Man
 - Just a man with serious psychological issues and a God complex
 - Mystic
 - Esoteric guru (New Age)
 - The “lost years”
 - Misrepresentation
 - All of this Jesus stuff is a ploy used by the church to control people
 - Messiah
 - If Jesus is indeed who He claimed to be then we have a choice to make
- Elements of a God
 - His prophesied coming
 - His supernatural birth
 - His miraculous deeds
 - His distinctive teaching
 - His confirmatory actions
- It All Hinges On
 - Resurrection
 - **1 Corinthians 15:14** – *If Christ be not raised, then our preaching is in vain, and your faith is also vain*
 - **Acts 1:3** – *He also presented Himself alive after his suffering by many infallible proofs*
- Explanations
 - The Fraud Theory
 - The women accidentally went to the wrong tomb
 - Jesus’ body was stolen
 - First, it would have been very difficult to mistake the tomb your son, rabbi, etc was buried in
 - Second, I’m sure not many tombs were being guarded by soldiers
 - Third, consider the 1 ½ to 2 ton stone with a seal on it

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- Neither the Jews nor Romans would have taken his body
 - Liars don't make martyrs
 - The Swoon Theory
 - Christ never actually died but, rather, only fainted
 - Would have to make it through the anointing process with 75 pounds worth of burial spices and wrapping
 - Leaves the horrifically beaten and crucified man to get up, roll the massive stone away, overcome or sneak past hired guards, and then travel and appear to his disciples and family without apparent injury
 - The Hallucination Theory
 - Disciples all experienced visions
 - Hallucinations are not contagious
 - Hallucinations are a personal phenomenon
 - Jesus appeared to different times at different places
 - Illusions can not be touched, cook meals, or eat food
 - This theory also needs the benefit of another conspiracy theory
 - Other Theories
 - Resurrection was just a spiritual thing
 - Resurrection was just a matter of the heart
 - Jesus was an alien
 - Jesus was never crucified but Judas in his place (taught by Muslims based on obscure verse from Koran)
- Conclusion
- C.S. Lewis – *Mere Christianity*
 - "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 moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman 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."