

***Is Jesus Truly the
Son of God?***

Jesus' Audacious Claims

- **“I am the bread of life. I came down from heaven [so] that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life. The living Father sent me.” (John 6:35, 38, 40, 57)**
- **“Why do you say that I’m dishonoring God because I said, ‘I am the Son of God’? God set me apart for this holy purpose and has sent me into the world.” (John 10:36)**
- **“Again the High Priest questioned him, ‘Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed God?’ ‘I AM,’ answered Jesus.” (Mark 14:61-62)**

Son of God?

FIRST, God Himself Said So

- “[After Jesus was baptized] a voice came from the heavens, saying, ‘**This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased**’”

(Matthew 3:17; Mark 1:11, Luke 3:22)

- “[After the Transfiguration] from the cloud came a voice that said, ‘**This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him**’”

(Matt. 17:5; Mark 9:7; Luke 9:35; 2 Peter 1:17-18)

Video: Can we trust the New Testament?

We Can Trust the NT

- **Carefully preserved, “warts” and all**
 - Difficult sayings and embarrassing facts
- **Authors intended Gospels to be true**
- **Written soon after actual events**
 - Other eyewitnesses could have refuted
- **Apostles risked persecution & death**
 - What motive to proclaim a lie?
- ***Video: Nobody dies for a lie***

A man with glasses and a goatee, wearing a light-colored button-down shirt, stands behind a wooden podium. He is looking slightly to his left. The background is dark with some greenery visible on the left. A large screen is visible at the top of the frame.

**Charlie H. Campbell, Director
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A religious scene depicting Jesus with a crowd of people. Jesus, with long hair and a beard, wearing a white robe, is smiling and looking towards a young boy in the foreground. The boy is shirtless and has his mouth open as if shouting or crying. Other people in the crowd, including a man with a long white beard and a red headband, are looking on with various expressions of awe and concern. The background is a dark, textured wall.

Son of God?

SECOND, Jesus' Miracles

“Jesus stood up and commanded the wind, ‘Be quiet!’ and he said to the waves, ‘Be still!’ The wind died down, and there was a great calm... But they were terribly afraid and began to say to one another, ‘Who is this man? Even the wind and the waves obey him!’ ” (Mark 4:39,41)

Examples of Jesus' Miracles

- **Changed water into wine** (John 2:6-10)
- **Healed diseases** (Matthew 4:23,24; 8:3 and Luke 6:17-19; 17:14)
- **Healed the paralytic** (Mark 2:3-12)
- **Raised the dead** (Matthew 9:25 and John 11:43-44)
- **Restored sight to the blind** (Matthew 9:27-30 and John 9:1-7)
- **Cured the deaf** (Mark 7:32-35)
- **Fed the multitudes** (Matthew 14:15-21; 15:32-38)
- **Walked on water** (Matthew 14:25-27)
- **Commanded nature** (Matthew 8:24-27 and Mark 4:39)
- **Rose from the dead** (Luke 24:39 and John 20:19,27)
- **Ascended into heaven** (Luke 24:51; Acts 1:9)

A religious painting of Jesus with long brown hair and a beard, wearing a white robe. He has his arms raised in a gesture of blessing or teaching. He is surrounded by a crowd of people, some looking up at him with expressions of awe or devotion. The background is a soft, hazy light.

Son of God?

THIRD, Jesus' Divine Actions

- “I give you a new commandment: love one another.” (John 13:34)
- “Jesus said, ‘Your sins are forgiven.’ Some of the scribes asked themselves, ‘Why does this man speak that way? He is blaspheming. *Who but God alone can forgive sins?*’ ‘**The Son of Man** has authority to forgive sins on earth.’ Jesus said” (Mark 2:5-7, 10)
- *Video: How forgiving sins supports Jesus' claims of divinity*

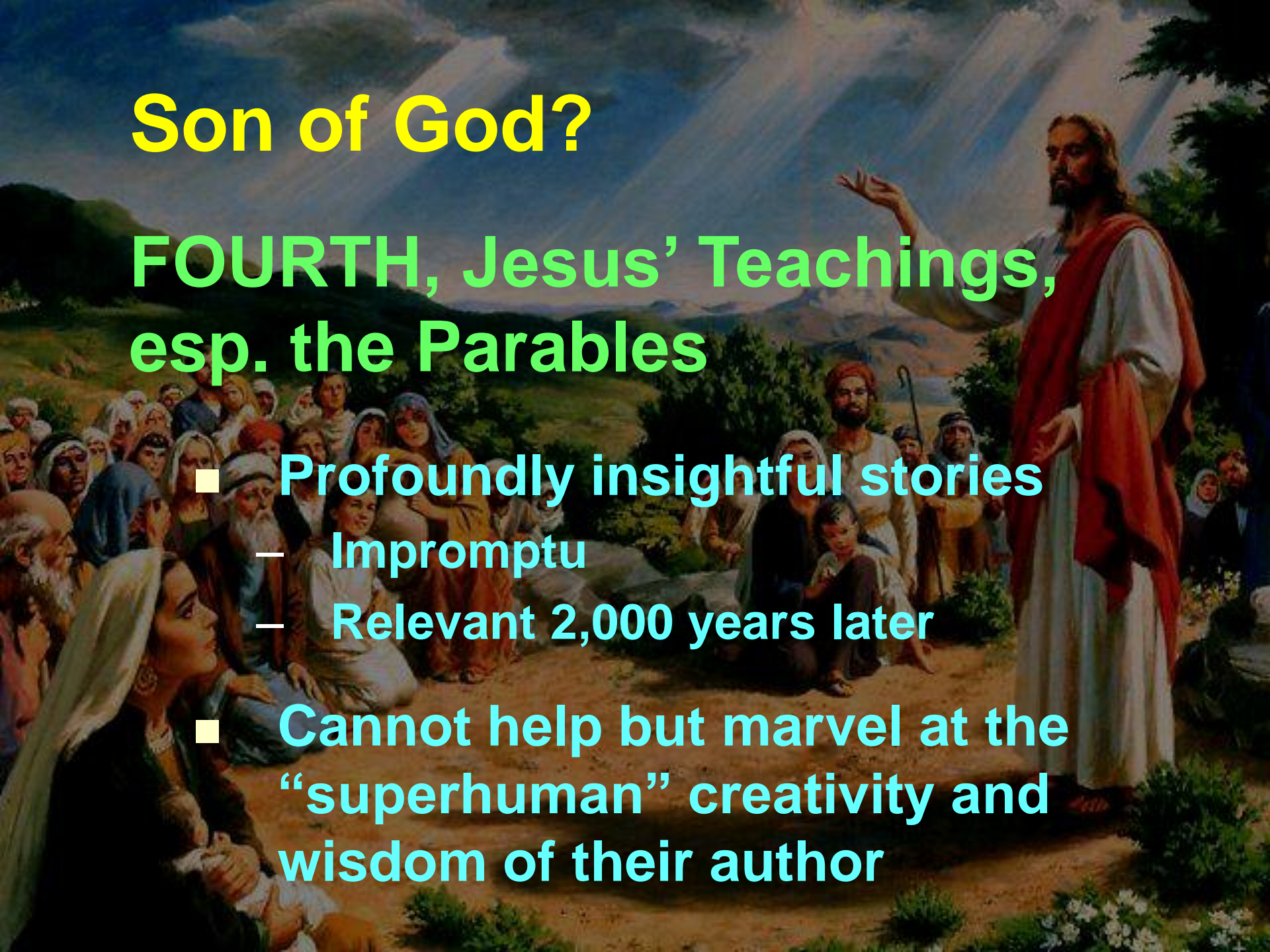
Jesus “Son of Man”?

- However, why did Jesus refer to himself as the “Son of Man”
 - Instead of the “Son of God”?
- Doesn't this mean that Jesus didn't think of himself as the Son of God?
- *Video: Why Jesus called himself the “Son of Man” and how that title also supports his claim of divinity*

Son of God?

FOURTH, Jesus' Teachings, esp. the Parables

- Profoundly insightful stories
 - Impromptu
 - Relevant 2,000 years later
- Cannot help but marvel at the “superhuman” creativity and wisdom of their author



Son of God?



FIFTH, Jesus' Resurrection

- “If Christ has not been raised, then empty is our preaching; empty, too, is your faith.” (1 Corinthians 15:14)
- ***Video: Tomb Really Empty?***

Jesus' Resurrection Real?

Did Jesus really die?

Deliberate lie or conspiracy?

Myth or Legend?

Hallucinations?

Jesus' Resurrection Real?

Did Jesus really die?

- **Swoon Theory:** Jesus did not die on the cross, but revived while in the tomb
- ***Video: How we can know that Jesus really died on the cross***

Jesus' Resurrection Real?

Did Jesus really die?

Medical and historical evidence

- Expertise of the Romans and Roman law
 - Severe beating and scourging
 - Not break legs, but pierce with a spear
- Move large stone with pierced hands?
 - Walk on pierced feet?
- If Jesus did revive, he would have been a **battered, bleeding pulp of a man** who would have been **pitied**, not worshiped

Jesus' Resurrection Real?

Could the Resurrection have been a deliberate lie or conspiracy?

- Apostles could have stolen Jesus' body from the tomb and then promoted a deliberate lie that he rose from the dead
- *Video: Stolen Body Theory*

Jesus' Resurrection Real?

Could the Resurrection have been a deliberate lie or conspiracy?

- What would Apostles have to gain?
- None ever denied Jesus' Resurrection
 - Even when faced with death
- People don't give their lives for what they know is a lie

Jesus' Resurrection Real?

Is the Resurrection just a mythological story or legend?

- Do you think the Resurrection is a myth or legend?
- *Video: Resurrection stories not a legend that evolved over time*

Jesus' Resurrection Real?

Is the Resurrection just a mythological story or legend?

- **Not enough time for myth to develop**
 - Several generations need to pass before added mythological elements can be mistakenly taken as fact
- **Details distinguish Gospels from myth**
 - Women first witnesses to Resurrection
 - Testimony considered unreliable at that time

Jesus' Resurrection Real?

Could Jesus' appearances have been just hallucinations?

- Do you think Jesus' Resurrection appearances were hallucinations?
- *Video: Hallucination Theory*

Jesus' Resurrection Real?

Could Jesus' appearances have been just hallucinations?

- Jewish leaders could have produced corpse to refute claim
- Hallucinations happen to individuals, not large groups of people
- Hallucinations short, not 40 days

Jesus' Resurrection Real?

Summary of the alternatives:

1. Jesus really died on the cross
2. Not deliberate lie or conspiracy
3. Not myth or legend
4. Not mass hallucination

Jesus' Resurrection Real?

Eyewitness Accounts

1 Corinthians 15:3-6

“Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures; he was buried; he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures; he appeared to Cephas [St. Peter], then to the Twelve. After that, *he appeared to more than five hundred* brothers at once, *most of whom are still living.*”

Other Eyewitness Accounts

- **Guards at the Tomb** (Matthew 28:8-10)
- **Mary and Mary, outside the tomb** (John 20:10-18 and Luke 24:1-12)
- **The disciples, while in hiding** (John 20:19-23)
- **“Doubting” Thomas touches the wounds** (John 20:26-29)
- **To Simon Peter while fishing** (John 21:1-14)
- **On the road to Emmaus** (Luke 24:13-32)
- **Showing his wounds and teaching** (Luke 24:33-49 and Acts 1:3)
- **The Ascension** (Luke 24:50-51 and Acts 1:9)

Video: Can we trust these eyewitness reports?

Jesus' Resurrection Real?

Transformed Lives of His Followers

- From cowards in hiding to fearless proclaimers
 - How can this radical transformation be explained if Jesus did not appear to them after he rose from the dead?
- Quote from *The Case for Easter* by Lee Strobel:

And they were willing to spend the rest of their lives proclaiming this, without any payoff from a human point of view. They faced a life of hardship. They often went without food, slept exposed to the elements, were ridiculed, beaten, imprisoned. And finally, most of them were executed in torturous ways. For what? For good intentions? No, because **they were convinced beyond a shadow of a doubt that they had seen Jesus Christ alive from the dead.**”

A painting depicting a personal encounter between Jesus Christ and a man. Jesus, with long brown hair and a beard, wearing a white robe, stands on the left, embracing the man from behind. The man, wearing a brown tunic and trousers, is kneeling on the ground. The background features a dramatic, colorful sky with shades of blue, purple, and orange, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. In the distance, a dark silhouette of a hill with a cross on top is visible against the sky.

Resurrection Real?

**Over 2,000 years...
*personal encounters
with Jesus Christ have
transformed many lives***

Summary

- *Jesus: The Son of God*

1. God said Jesus was His “Beloved Son”
2. Miracles
3. Divine Actions
4. “Superhuman” Teachings
5. Resurrection

- Final video: WHY Jesus became human and HOW He can bring us help and hope

Questions?

Comments?

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