

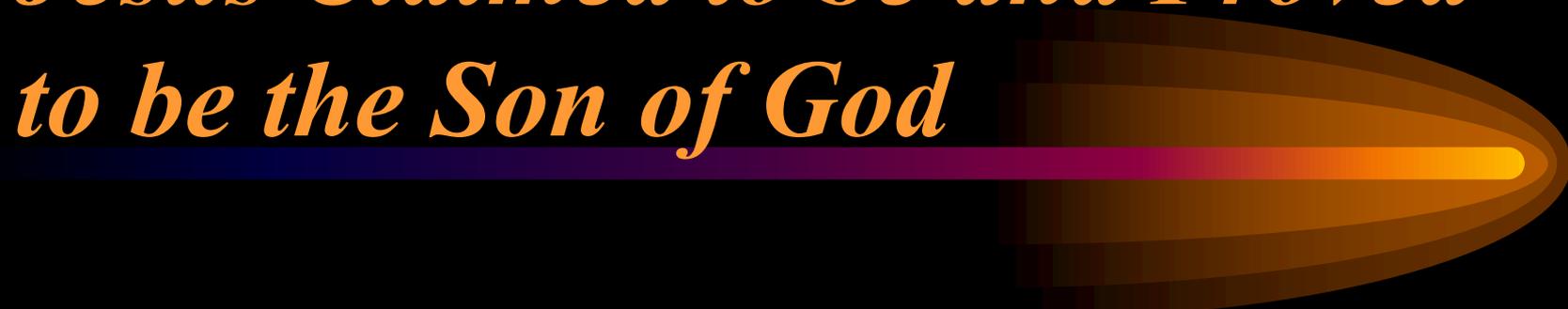
Twelve Points that Show Christianity is True

- 1. Truth about reality is knowable.**
- 2. The opposite of true is false.**
- 3. It is true that the theistic God exists.**
- 4. If God exists then miracles are possible.**
- 5. Miracles can be used to confirm a message from God.**
- 6. The New Testament is historically reliable.**
- 7. The New Testament says Jesus claimed to be God.**

*When Skeptics Ask if Jesus
was the Son of God?*



Jesus Claimed to be and Proved to be the Son of God



1. Jesus claimed to be the Son of God!
2. Jesus proved to be the Son of God!
 - a. *By fulfilling supernatural predictions*
 - b. *By performing supernatural acts*
 - c. *By His supernatural resurrection*

Seven Ways Jesus Claimed to Be God By Claiming:

- 1. To be the great "I Am."*
- 2. To be Jehovah (Yahweh).*
- 3. To be equal with God.*
- 4. To be the Messiah-God.*
- 5. To be worthy of worship.*
- 6. To be equal in authority with God.*
- 7. To be the object of prayer like God.*

Jesus: Just a Great Moral Teacher?

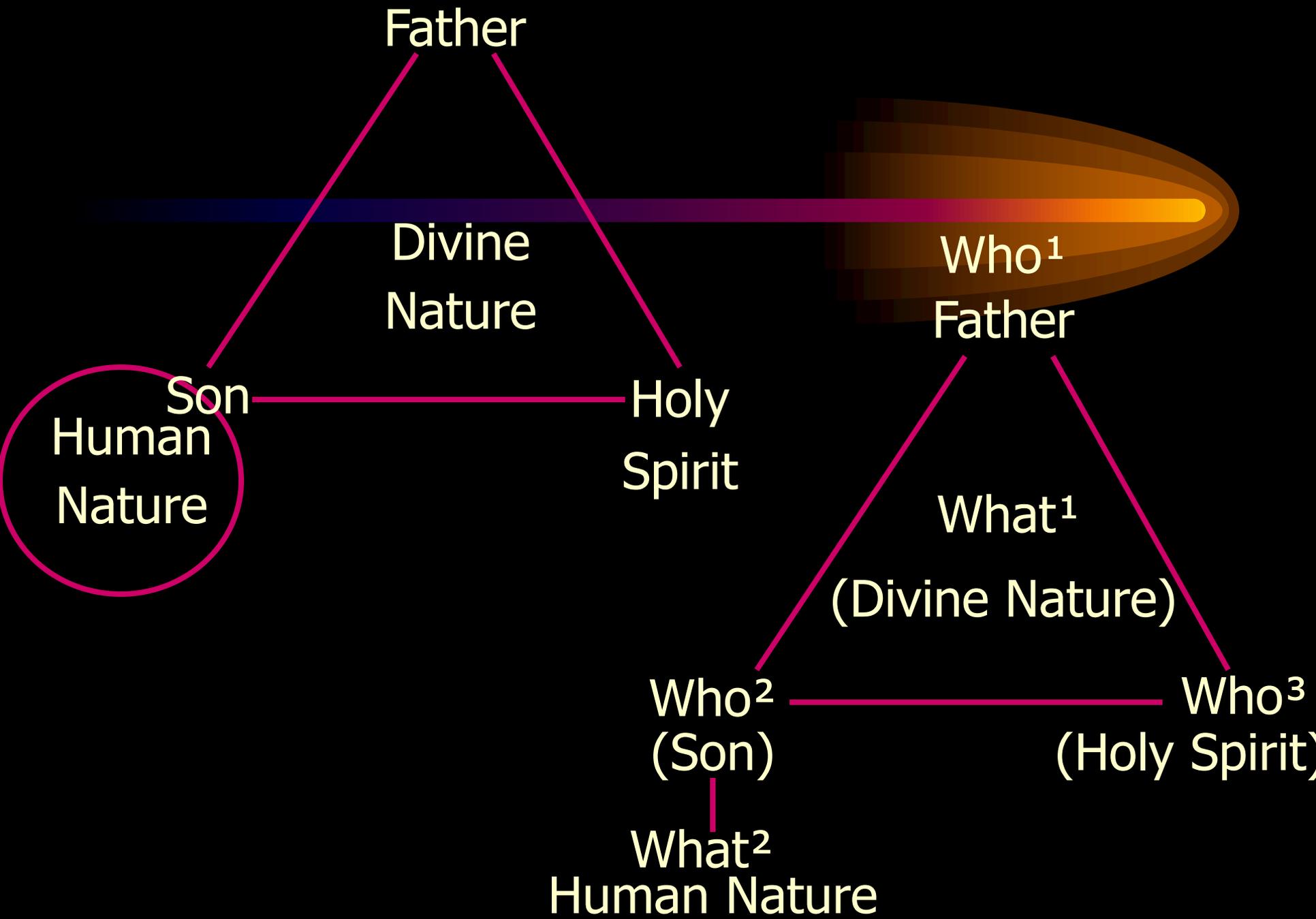
I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish things that people often say about Him: 'I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God.' That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would rather be a lunatic - on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg - Or else he would be the Devil of Hell.

(C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity, 55-56).

Objections to the Deity of Christ



1. **Jn. 14:28:** *“The Father is greater than I”*
2. **Mt. 19:7:** *“No one is good but One, that is, God.”*
3. **Mt. 24:36:** *“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.”*



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5. Miracles can be used to confirm a message from God.
6. The New Testament is historically reliable.
7. The New Testament says Jesus claimed to be God.
8. Jesus' claim to be God was miraculously confirmed by:
 - a. His fulfillment of many prophecies about Himself;
 - b. His sinless and miraculous life;
 - c. His prediction and accomplishment of His resurrection
9. Therefore, Jesus is God.
10. Whatever Jesus (who is God) teaches is true.
11. Jesus taught that the Bible is the Word of God.
12. Therefore, it is true that the Bible is the Word of God (and anything opposed to it is false).

8. Jesus Was Confirmed to be God by Miracles

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Outline



I. Confirmed by Miraculous Predictions

II. Confirmed by a Miraculous Life

III. Confirmed by a Miraculous Resurrection

Outline

I. Confirmed by Miraculous Predictions

Jesus Hit the Bulls Eye!

Human Race

Woman, Gen 3:15

Ethnic Group

Abraham, Gen 12:1

Tribe

Judah, Gen 49:10

Dynasty

David, 2 Sam 7:12

How

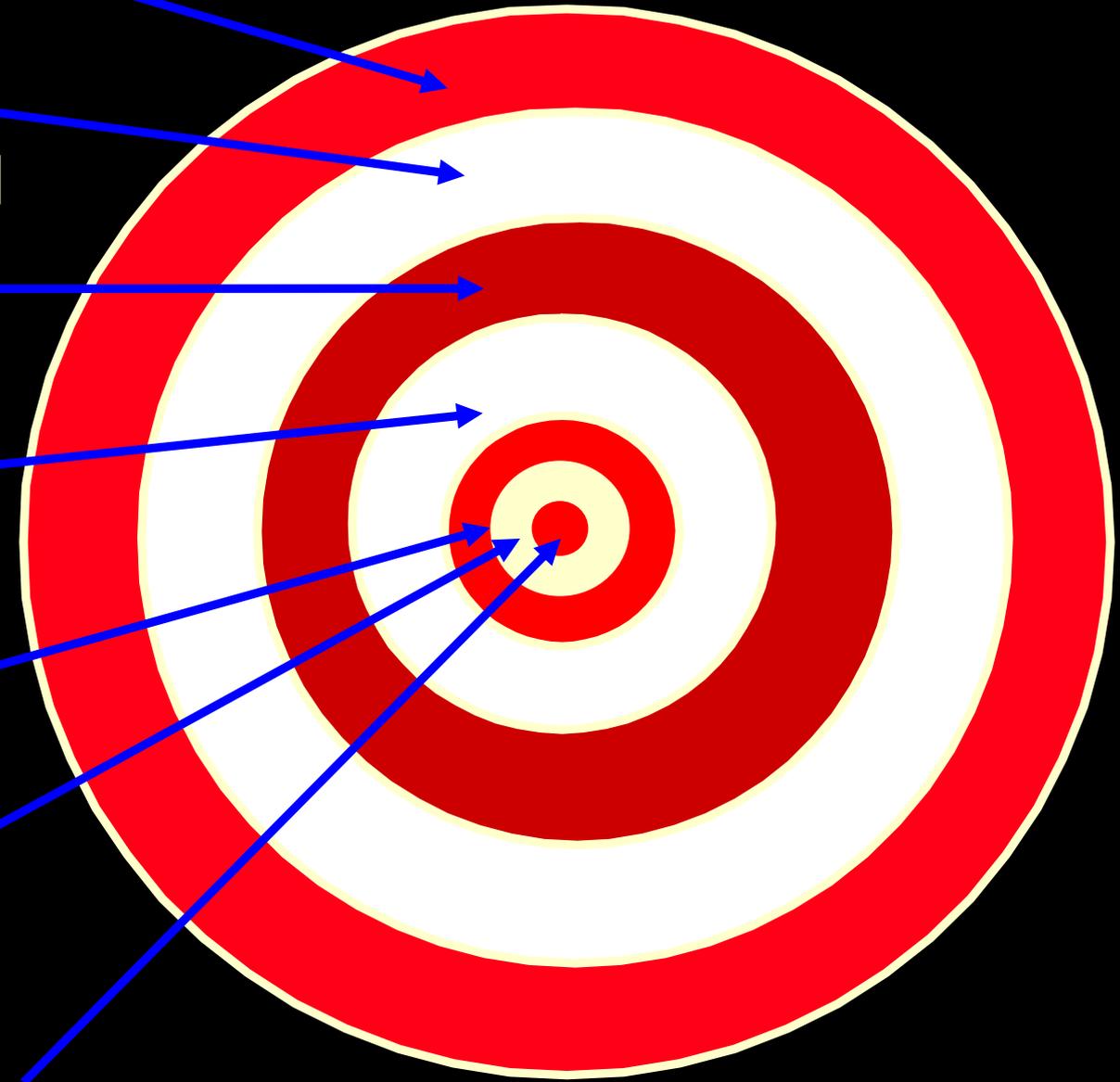
Virgin, Isa 7:14

Where

Bethlehem, Mic 5:2

When

33 A.D., Dan 9:24



1. SEED OF THE WOMAN

“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; it shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.” (Gen. 3:15)

2. LINE OF SETH

“And Adam knew his wife again; and she bare a son, and called his name Seth: For God, said she, hath appointed me another seed instead of Abel, whom Cain slew.” (Gen. 4:25)

3. DESCENDENT OF SHEM

“And he said, Blessed [be] the LORD God of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant.” (Gen. 9:26)

4. OFFSPRING OF ABRAHAM

“And I will bless them that bless you, and curse him that curses you: and in you [Abraham] shall all families of the earth be blessed.” (Gen. 12:3)

5. TRIBE OF JUDAH

“The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.” (Gen. 49:10)

6. FROM THE HOUSE OF DAVID

“And when your days be fulfilled, and you shall sleep with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you [David], which shall proceed out of your body, and I will establish his kingdom.” (2 Sam. 7:12)

“The days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King, who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land.... This is the name by which he will be called: The Lord Our Righteousness.” (Jer. 23:5-6)

7. SON OF A VIRGIN

“So, the Lord Himself shall give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bring out a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel.” (Isa. 7:14)

8. BORN IN BETHLEHEM

“And you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, you being least among the thousands of Judah, out of you He shall come forth to Me, to become Ruler in Israel, He whose goings forth have been from of old, from the days of eternity.” (Micah 5:2)

9. HE WOULD DIE 33 A. D.

“Seventy sevens are divided as to your people and as to your holy city, to finish the transgression and to make an end of sins, and to make atonement for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy. Know therefore and understand, that from the going out of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem [444 B.C.], to Messiah the Prince [A.D. 33], shall be seven sevens, and sixty-two sevens” [69x7=483]. (Dan. 9:24-25)

Note: This is 483 Jewish lunar years of 360 days each. Add to this 6 more years for the five extra days for 483 years, and it makes exactly 483 years (477 + 6) from 444 B.C. to 33 A.D.

10. HE WOULD BE HERALDED BY A FORERUNNER

*“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:
Prepare the way of the Lord; Make straight in the
desert a highway for our God.” (Isaiah 40:3)*

11. HE WOULD BE PROCLAIMED AS A KING

*“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!
Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold
your king is coming to you; He is just and
having salvation, Lowly and riding on a
donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey.”
(Zech. 9:9)*

12. HE WOULD SUFFER AND DIE FOR OUR SINS

“But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.... The Lord laid on Him the iniquity of us all.... He was led as a lamb to the slaughter.... For the transgression of my people He was stricken. And He made His grave with the wicked--but with the rich at His death.... Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief.... He bore the sins of many and made intercession for the transgressors.” (Isa. 53:5-12)

13. HIS SIDE WOULD BE PIERCED

“They will look on me whom they have pierced; they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.”

(Zech. 12:10)

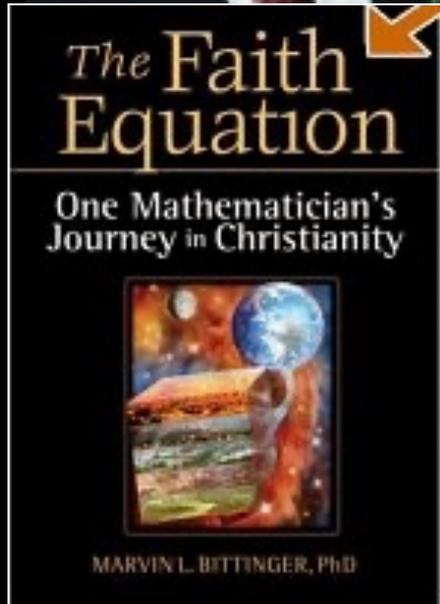
14. HE WOULD RISE FROM THE DEAD

“For you will not leave my soul in Sheol, nor will you allow Your Holy One to see corruption. You will show me the path of life.” (Psa. 16:10)

“When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days.” (Isa. 53:10)

“The rulers take counsel against His Anointed.... Yet I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion.... The Lord said to Me, You are My son, Today I have begotten You [from the dead].” (Psa. 2:2,6-7)

Mathematical Probabilities



Probability of 9 prophecies coming true of Christ is $1/10$ to 76^{th} power.

$1/10$ to 17^{th} power is like finding one grain of sand in a domed football stadium filled with sand.

$1/10$ to 76^{th} power (for 9 prophecies) like picking the same grain of sand four times in succession.

(Mathematician Marvin Bittinger, *The Faith Equation*, pp. 116-118). He has sold over 12 million college math texts.

A Sign of True Prophecies is When They Repeatedly Come to Pass

“Even from the beginning I have declared it to you; before it came to pass, I proclaimed it to you, lest you should say, ‘My idol had done them....’” (Isa. 48:5)

“Besides Me there is no God. And who can proclaim as I do...the things that are coming and shall come?” (Isa. 44:6-7)

Jesus said, “Now I tell you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe that I am He.” (John 13:19)

**A sign of a false prophecy is that
it does not come to pass
(Deut.18:22)**

*“When a prophet speaks in the name of
the LORD, if the thing does not happen or
come to pass, that is the thing which the
Lord has not spoken; the prophet has
spoken it presumptuously.”*

Joseph Smith's False Prophecies



- **1832**-- Temple to be built in Missouri before the living will die.
- **1835**-- Coming of the Lord within 56 years (by 1891).
- **1887**-- Copyright of *Book of Mormon* would be sold in Canada by Smith's reps.

False Prophecies of the Jehovah's Witnesses

Reasoning
from the
Scriptures

with the

**JEHOVAH'S
WITNESSES**

Ron Rhodes

End of the Age will be:

1799

1874

1914

1925

1975

All were wrong!

What About Psychic Predictions?



THE PSYCHICS SCORE CARD

1976--THE PEOPLE'S ALMANAC: 66 OF 72 WRONG (92%)

1993--THEY MISSED EVERY MAJOR UNEXPECTED STORY:

MICHAEL JORDAN'S RETIREMENT

MIDWEST FLOOD

ISRAEL-PLO PEACE TREATY

WHAT ABOUT THE PREDICTIONS OF NOSTRADAMUS?

HE NEVER PREDICTED HITLER (A PERSON) BUT "HISTER" (A PLACE)

HE NEVER PREDICTED A SPECIFIC CALIFORNIA EARTHQUAKE

HE NEVER MENTIONED CALIFORNIA BY NAME

HE NEVER GAVE A YEAR FOR IT

IT WAS ONLY A BIG QUAKE FAR AWAY ON SOME MAY 10th

HE WAS OFTEN WRONG IN HIS ALMANAC PREDICTIONS

MOST OF HIS PREDCTIONS WERE VAGUE

1994: FAILED PSYCHIC PREDICTIONS

QUEEN OF ENGLAND WOULD ABDICATE

KATHIE LEE GIFFORD WOULD REPLACE JAY LENO

CINDY CRAWFORD WOULD HAVE TRIPLETS

HILLARY CLINTON WOULD PLEAD GUILTY OF SHOPLIFTING

CHARLES MANSON WOULD GET A SEX-CHANGE OPERATION

WHITNEY HOUSTON WOULD MARRY MIKE TYSON

AN AFRICAN PLANT WOULD CURE AIDS

VOLCANIC ACTION WOULD MAKE A LAND BRIDGE TO CUBA

MADONNA WOULD MARRY BOY GEORGE

SEARS TOWER WOULD LEAN LIKE TOWER OF PISA

NATIONAL LOTTERY WOULD CUT TAXES IN HALF

TEEN WOULD BUILD AND DETONATE NUCLEAR BOMB IN SC

MADONNA WILL MARRY A SHEIK AND BECOME A HOUSE WIFE

Failed Psychic Predictions 2010

All these people would die:
Hugh Hefner, founder of *Playboy* magazine.
Queen Elizabeth of England.
Ringo Starr, drummer for the Beatles.
Billy Graham.
Fidel Castro, leader of Cuba.
100% failure!

Other Predictions

Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt would split up.
David Letterman would get divorced.
Susan Boyle, runner-up in “Britain’s Got Talent,” would get engaged.
The Empire State building would come down.
There would be another stock market crash.
A woman would claim to have had a son by Barak Obama.

There would be an assassination attempt on President Obama, that everyone would see.

http://paranormal.about.com/gi/o.htm?zi=1/XJ&zTi=1&sdn=paranormal&cdn=newsissues&tm=18&f=00&su=p284.9.336.ip_p504.3.336.ip_&tt=3&bt=0&bts=0&zu=http%3A//www.cairns.com.au/article/2009/12/31/85435_local-news.html

<http://worldpsychic.org/predictions/Predictions-2010-1-draft.htm>

<http://lotgk.wordpress.com/2010/01/02/50-psychic-predictions-for-2010/>

Again, a 100% record of failures.

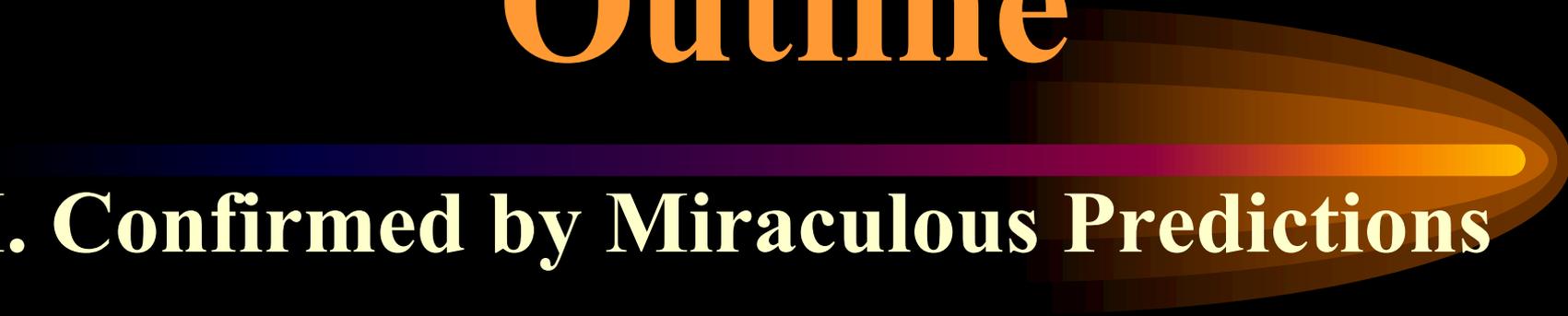


Bible: 100% Right!

Psychics: 90+% Wrong!



Outline



I. Confirmed by Miraculous Predictions

II. Confirmed by a Miraculous Life

A. By Performing Miracles

B. By Living Miraculously (Sinlessly)

A. By Performing Miracles

1. The Number of Miracles

a. Over 60 miracles are recorded in the Gospels.

b. Many miracles were multiple healings

Matt. 9:35: *“Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages...healing every disease and every affliction.”*

Only two or three witnesses needed: *“Every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses”* (Mt. 18:16).

A. By Performing Miracles

1. The Number of Miracles

2. The Nature of Miracles.

a. All were immediate events.

b. They were connected with a truth claim in the name of God.

c. Many included incurable diseases.

d. Some involved a predictive element.

e. Many involved no faith by the recipient (not psychosomatic).

A. By Performing Miracles

1. The Number of Miracles
2. The Nature of Miracles
3. The Purpose of the Miracles

a. Nicodemus said: “We know you are a teacher that came from God. For No man can do the miracles you do unless God is with him” (Jn. 3:2).

b. Peter said: “Jesus [was] a man attested to you by God with many mighty works and wonders and signs...” (Acts 2:22 cf. Heb. 2:3-4).

Outline

I. Confirmed by Miraculous Predictions

II. Confirmed by a Miraculous Life

A. By Performing Miracles

B. By Living Miraculously (Sinlessly)

1. The Disciples Who Knew Him Best

“For we . . . have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin” (Heb. 4:15).

“Christ [is] a lamb without blemish or defect” (1 Peter 1:19).

“He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth” (1 Peter 2:22).

“For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous...” (1 Peter 3:18).

“He is righteous” (1 Jn. 2:29).

“He is pure” (1 Jn. 3:3).

“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us...” (2 Cor. 5:21).

“Which of you convicts me of sin?” (Jn. 8:46).

2. His Enemies and Others

Judas: *“I have sinned by betraying innocent blood”*
(Mt. 27:4).

Pilate: *“I am innocent of the blood of this just person”*
(Mt. 27:24).

Pilate’s Wife: *“Have nothing to do with that just man...”* (Mt. 27:19).

A Centurion: *“Certainly this was a righteous man”*
(Lk. 23:47).

A Centurion: *“Truly this was the Son of God!”* (Mt. 27:54).

The Thief on the Cross: *“Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom”* (Lk. 23:42).

The Herodians: *“Teacher, we know that you are true, and teach the way of God in truth: nor do you care about anyone, for you do not regard the person of men”* (Mt. 22:16).

3. The Accusations Against Christ

The Romans: *He claimed to be “King of the Jews” (Jn. 19:19)--which He was (Lk. 23:3).*

The Pharisees: *“This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons” (Mt. 12:24)—which He did by the Holy Spirit.*

Passers By at the Cross: *“Aha! You who destroy the temple and build it in three days” (Mk. 15:29)--which he did in his resurrection (Jn. 2:19-21).*

The High Priest and Sanhedrin: *“You have heard the blasphemy! [that He claims to be the Christ, the Son of God]. What do you think? And they all condemned Him to be worthy of death” (Mk. 14:64). But He proved to be the Son of God by numerous miracles.*

A Crowd: *“We found this fellow subverting the nation, and forbidding to pay taxes to Caesar, saying that He Himself is Christ the King” (Lk. 23:2). But He paid taxes (Mt. 17:27) and was the Christ.*

4. The Character of Christ

a. He taught and lived the highest ethic of the **Sermon on the Mount (Mt. 5-7)** which included:

1. **The Golden Rule (7:12)**
2. **Do not judge others (7:1)**
3. **Love your enemies (5:44)**
4. **Do not retaliate (5:38-39)**
5. **Don't be a hypocrite (7:5)**
6. **Don't lust in your heart (5:27)**
7. **Be merciful (5:7)**
8. **Keep your word (5:37)**
9. **Help the poor (6:3-4)**
10. **Forgive others (6:12)**
11. **Don't make money your God (6:24)**

b. **He loved little children (Mk. 10:13-14).**

- c. He wept over the death of a friend (Jn. 11:35).
- d. He set the example of servanthood by washing the disciple's feet (Jn. 13:1f.).
- e. He lived a life of poverty (Mt. 8:20).
- f. He healed the ear of one of the mob who came to crucify him (Lk. 22:51).
- g. He loved and chose as an apostle a man he knew would betray him (Mt. 10:4; Jn. 17:12).
- h. He never spoke in his own defense, even against false accusations (Mt. 27:12-14).
- i. He died for his enemies (Rom. 5:8-10).
- j. He forgave his crucifiers (Lk. 23:34).

His character was impeccable; his deeds were unimpeachable, and his life was unsurpassable.

5. Some Objections Considered

Objection from Jesus warning about Hell:

Anyone who threatens people with eternal Hell lacks proper kindness. Jesus did this.

Response:

If there is a Hell, anyone who does not warn people about it lacks proper kindness!

Jesus said there is a Hell (Mt. 5:29-39; 25:41; Lk. 16). As God, He ought to know!

Hence, He was eminently kind to warn people of it.

Objection from Alleged Vindictiveness

Anyone who pronounces woes on his enemies, as Jesus did, is vindictive (Mt. 23).

Response:

- 1. Denouncing evil is not vindictive; otherwise all law-enforcers would be vindictive.**
- 2. On the contrary, anyone who does not condemn evil and hypocrisy, as Jesus did, is morally flawed.**
- 3. Jesus was not vindictive: 1) He taught us to love our enemies (Mt. 5:44); 2) He forgave His crucifiers (Lk 23:34).**

Objection from Drowning Pigs

Anyone who unnecessarily drowns pigs is unkind. Jesus did this (Mt. 8:30-32).

Response:

- 1. Jesus did not drown the pigs. He simply cast the demons out who did it.**
- 2. Jesus was more interested in saving people than pigs.**
- 3. As Creator He owns all things and has the right to take their life (Deut. 32:39; Job. 1:21).**

Objection from Getting Angry

Jesus was angry with the money changers in the temple (Mk. 11:15-19).

Response: Anger is not necessarily sinful.

1. God demonstrated righteous indignation (Ex. 4:14; Num. 12:9; Psa. 2:5).
2. Paul said, “Be angry but do not sin” (Eph. 4:26).
3. Jesus was justly angry at those who had profaned the Temple of God (Jn. 2).

Objection from Cursing the Fig Tree

Jesus cursed the fig tree simply because it had no fruit (Mt. 21:19).

Response: Anger is not necessarily sinful.

1. But Jesus was not responding in anger.
2. He used it as a dramatic visual aid.
3. His point was to condemn the outward appearance of being godly without any real fruitfulness.

Outline

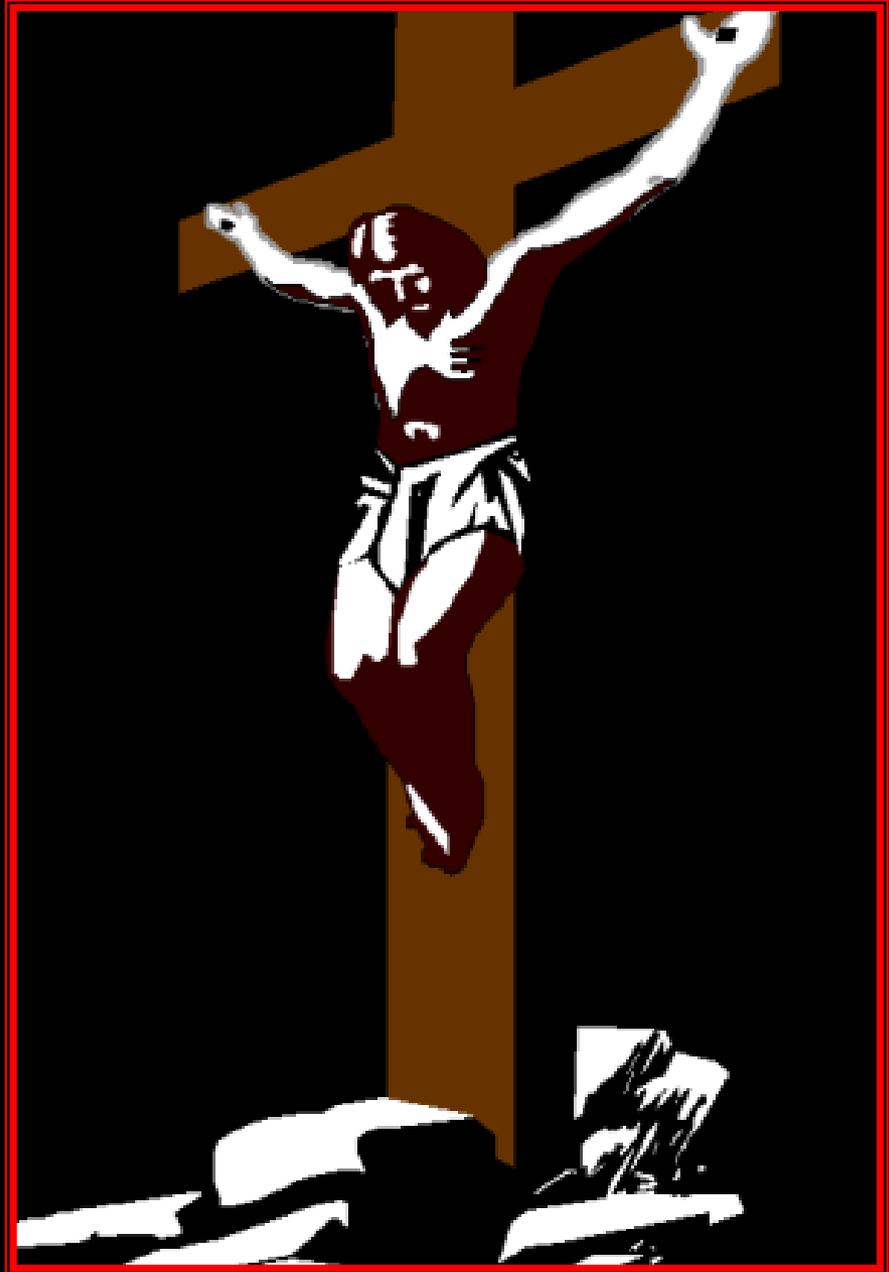
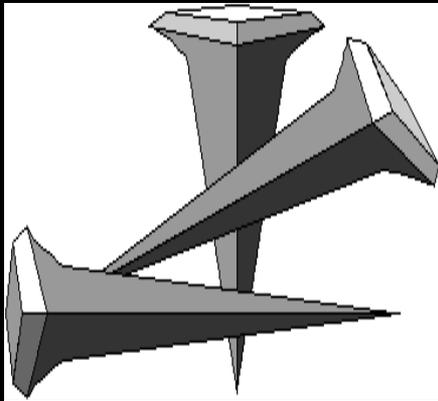
I. Confirmed by Miraculous Predictions

II. Confirmed by Miraculous Life

III. Confirmed by a Miraculous Resurrection

A. Jesus physically died.

B. Jesus physically rose from the dead



A. Evidence Jesus Died Physically

- 1. Nature of his wounds (whipping, crucifixion and spear in side) ensured death (Mk 15; Jn. 18).**
- 2. His mother, friends and closest disciple(s) witnessed his death (Mk. 15:40; Jn. 19:25-26; Lk. 22:54).**
- 3. Romans, who were professional executioners, pronounced him dead (Jn. 19:33).**
- 4. Pilate double-checked to make sure Jesus was dead (Mk. 15:45).**

- 5. The Jews never denied the account of Jesus' dead body being buried in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea who was a member of the Sanhedrin (Jn. 19:38).**
- 6. Non-Christian writers from the first and second centuries recorded the death of Jesus (e.g., Josephus, Tacitus, Thallus, Lucian, Phelgon, The Jewish Talmud.)**
- 7. In light of the historical evidence, modern medical authorities have verified his death:**

JAMA March 21, 1986

“Clearly, the weight of historical and medical evidence indicates that Jesus was dead before the wound to his side was inflicted and supports the traditional view that the spear, thrust between his right rib, probably perforated not only the right lung but also the pericardium and heart and thereby ensured his death. Accordingly, interpretations based on the assumption that Jesus did not die on the cross appear to be at odds with modern medical knowledge” (p. 1463).

B. Evidence Jesus Rose from the Dead

- 1. Tomb was empty with grave clothes in it*
- 2. Over 500 witnesses saw Him 12 times*
- 3. They touched His physical body*
- 4. They saw His crucifixion scars*
- 5. They ate with Him four times*
- 6. He taught them for 40 days*
- 7. He did miracles for them*
- 8. He transformed them*

From cowards to martyrs overnight!

Jewish Rabbi Pinchas Lapide argued:

"If the disciples were totally disappointed and on the verge of desperate flight because of the very real reason of the crucifixion, it took another very real reason in order to transform them from a band of disheartened and dejected Jews into the most self-confident missionary society in world history" (May 7, 1979, Time).

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*"Concerning the resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday, I was for decades a Sadducee [who denied the resurrection]. I am no longer a Sadducee.... If God's power which was active in Elisha is great enough to resuscitate even a dead person..., then the bodily resurrection of a crucified Jew also would not be inconceivable" (Pinchas Lapide, *The Resurrection of Jesus*, 125, 131).*

The Twelve Appearances of Christ

	Persons	Saw	Heard	Touched	Other Evidence
1.	Mary (Jn. 20:10-18)	X	X	X	Empty tomb
2.	Mary & Women (Mt. 28:1-10)	X	X	X	Empty tomb
3.	Peter (1Cor. 15:5)	X	X		Empty tomb/clothes
4.	Two Disciples (Lk. 24:13-35)	X	X		Ate with Him
5.	Ten Apostles (Lk. 24:36-49; Jn. 20:19-23)	X	X	X**	Saw wounds, ate food
6.	Eleven Apostles (Jn. 20:24-31)	X	X	X**	Saw wounds

****Offered Himself to be touched**

The Twelve Appearances of Christ

	Persons	Saw	Heard	Touched	Other Evidence
7.	Seven Apostles (Jn. 21)	X	X		Ate food
8.	All Apostles (Mt. 28:16-20; Mk 16:14-18)	X	X		
9.	500 Brethren (1Cor. 15:6)	X	X*		
10.	James (1Cor. 15:7)	X	X*		
11.	All Apostles (Acts 1:4-8)	X	X		Ate with Him
12.	Paul (Acts 9:1-9; 1Cor. 15:8)	X	X		

*Implied

Evidence for a Physical Resurrection

- **The Empty Tomb**--The same physical body placed in the tomb permanently vacated it alive three days later (Mt. 28:6).
- **Resurrection Body had "Flesh and Bones"**-- He was not a spirit but had real "flesh and bones" (Lk. 24:39). He was raised in "the flesh" (Acts 2:31).
- **Resurrection Body Had Physical Wounds**-- Jesus revealed His crucifixion scars to the disciples (Lk. 24:39) and challenged Thomas to touch him (Jn. 20:27).

- **Jesus Ate Physical Food Four Times after the Resurrection**--He offered it as proof that He had a real physical body (Lk. 24:30; 24:42-43; Jn. 21:12-13; Acts 1:4).
- **Resurrection Body was Touched and Handled** --Jesus was touched by Mary (Jn. 20:17), and by the women (Mt. 28:9); He challenged the disciples (Lk. 24:39) and Thomas to feel His wounds (Jn. 20:27).
- **The Resurrection Body could be Seen and Heard**--The body of Christ was seen after His resurrection with the naked eye (Mt. 28:17) and heard with natural ears (Jn. 20:15-16).

- **Word "Body" (*soma*) Always Means Physical Body in NT of an individual, as it was of Jesus' Resurrection Body (1 Cor. 15:44)--There are no exceptions to this use of the "body" in the NT.**
- **Only Bodies Rise not Souls--The physical body of Christ died (not his soul). Thus, it was this material body that rose again from the dead (I Cor. 15:3-4).**
- **The Body "Sown" is the Same Body that is Raised--The same body "sown" in death is the one raised in life (I Cor. 15:35-44).**

- **Resurrection Gives Life to our Mortal Body --**
“He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you” (Rom. 8:11).
- **Immortal is “put on” over our Mortal Body --**
This phrase implies there is no real replacement of the physical body but merely an enhancement of it (1 Cor. 15:53).
- **Physical Body is Transformed--**Christ “...will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body....” The material body is not destroyed but is transformed into an immaterial body.

- **Resurrection is From Among (*ek*) the Dead**
--This phrase means He was raised from the graveyard (Luke 24:46) where physical corpses are buried (cf. Acts 13:29-30).
- **We Will Recognize Our Loved Ones in Heaven**--Paul comforts the believers with this anticipation (1 Thess. 4:13-18).
- **The Resurrection Body is Physically Recognizable**--Jesus was recognized in His resurrection body like any other physical body (Mt. 28:7, 17; Mk. 16:7; Lk. 24:24).

World Famous Defense Attorney

- Lionel Luckhoo is in *Guinness Book of World Records* for having the most “not guilty” verdicts in murder trials. His record was 245 acquittals.
- He wrote, “I have spent more than 42 years as a defense trial lawyer appearing in many parts of the world and am still in active practice. I have been fortunate to secure a number of successes in jury trials and I say unequivocally the evidence for the Resurrection of Jesus Christ is so overwhelming that it compels acceptance by proof which leaves *absolutely no room for doubt.*”

Some Objections Answered

1. Jesus' resurrection body must have been immaterial because it passed through a closed door (Jn. 20:19). **Answer:** He did miracles before his resurrection too. He walked on water in a physical body, as did Peter (Mt. 14).
2. He told Mary not to touch him after he was resurrected. **Answer:** He said "stop clinging to me." Other women also touched him after the resurrection (Mt. 28:9).
3. "Flesh and blood" can't enter God's kingdom (1 Cor. 15:50). **Answer:** He is referring to "mortal" flesh (v. 53). His resurrection body had immortal "flesh and bones" (Lk. 24:39).
4. Resurrection body is a "spiritual body." **Answer:** "Spiritual" refers to the source, not the nature, of the body. "Body" (soma) always means physical body in NT when used of an individual. Same word "spiritual" refers to food, a rock, and water that were all physical objects (1 Cor. 10:3-4). The Bible is a spiritual Book, but it is still a physical object.

Summary of the Argument for Christianity

1. Truth about reality is knowable.
2. The opposite of true is false.
3. It is true that a theistic God exists.
4. If God exists then miracles are possible.
5. Miracles can confirm a message from God.
6. The New Testament is historically reliable.
7. The New Testament says Jesus claimed to be God.
8. Jesus' claim to be God was confirmed by:
 - a. His fulfillment of many prophecies
 - b. His sinless and miraculous life;
 - c. His prediction and resurrection
9. Therefore, Jesus is God.



Seven Stanzas at Easter

*Make no mistake: if He
rose at all it was as His body; if
the cells' dissolution did not
reverse, the molecules reknit,
the amino acids rekindle, the
Church will fall.*

--John Updike.

Resurrection is not Reincarnation

RESURRECTION

REINCARNATION

IMMORTAL BODY

MORTAL BODY

ONE-TIME EVENT

MANY-TIMES EVENT

ULTIMATE STATE

INTERMEDIATE STATES

PERFECTED

IN PROCESS

Comparing Great Religious Leaders

Characteristic	Jesus	Muhammed	Buddha	Confucius
Virgin Born	Yes	No	No	No
Sinless	Yes	No	No	No
Prophecy	Yes	No	No	No
Did Miracles	Yes	No	No	No
Resurrection	Yes	No	No	No
Ethic	Highest	Not	Not	Not
Following	Greatest	Not	Not	Not

Comparing Leaders: According to Islam and the Qur'an

MUHAMMAD

Not Virgin Born

Not Sinless

Not Messiah

No Miracles

Not Word of God

Body in Grave

JESUS

Virgin Born

Sinless

Called Messiah

Did Miracles

Called Word of God

Body in Heaven