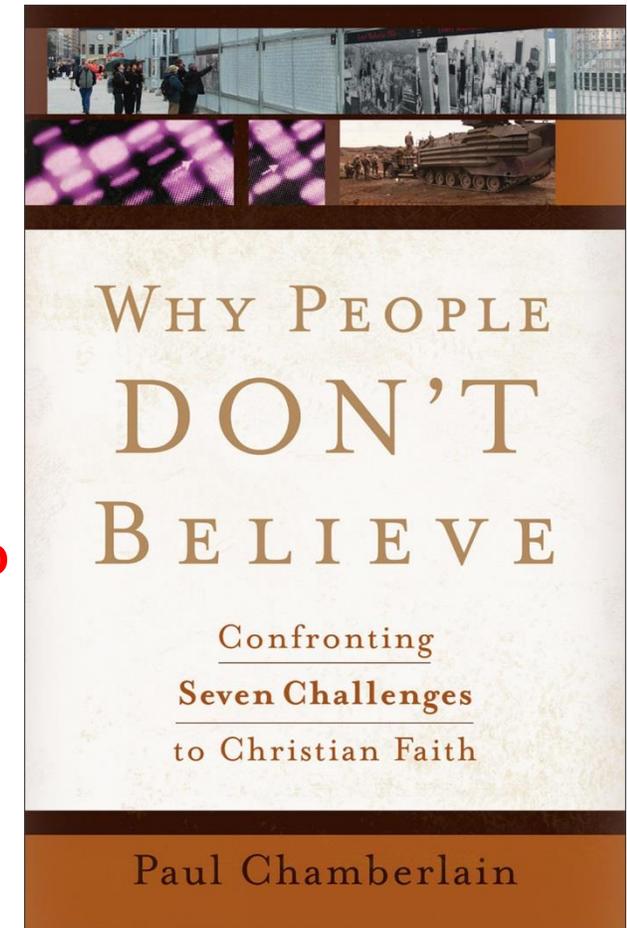


# Impact Hour

April 3, 2016

## Why People Don't Believe:

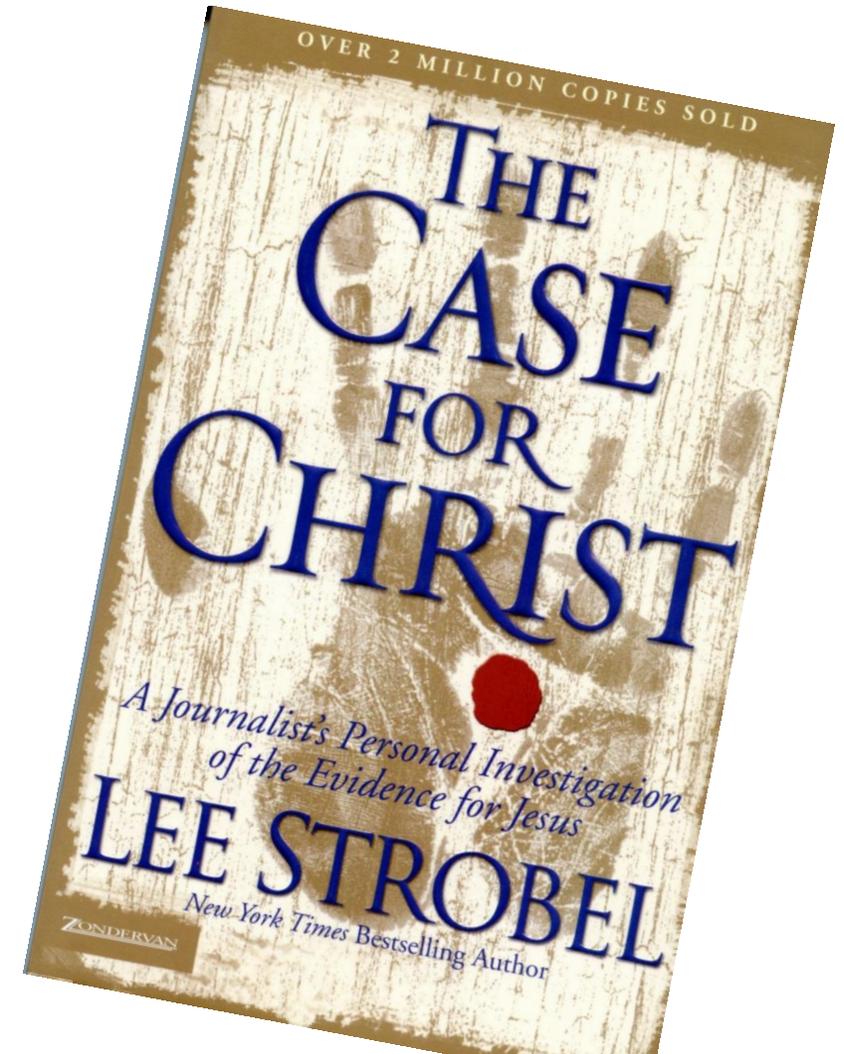
1. The Power of Religion
2. Reason To Fear
3. Religion and Violence: A Closer Look
4. **Is Christianity Irrational and Devoid of Evidence?**
5. Is Christianity Anti-Scientific?
6. Is Biblical Morality Appalling?
7. Living the Way Jesus Calls Us to Live
8. Christianity's Gifts to the World
9. Is There a Way Forward? True Religion



# Is Christianity Devoid of Evidence?

## **The Case for Christ**

Lee Strobel



# The Case for Christ

Lee Strobel

Part 1: Examining the Record

Part 2: Analyzing Jesus

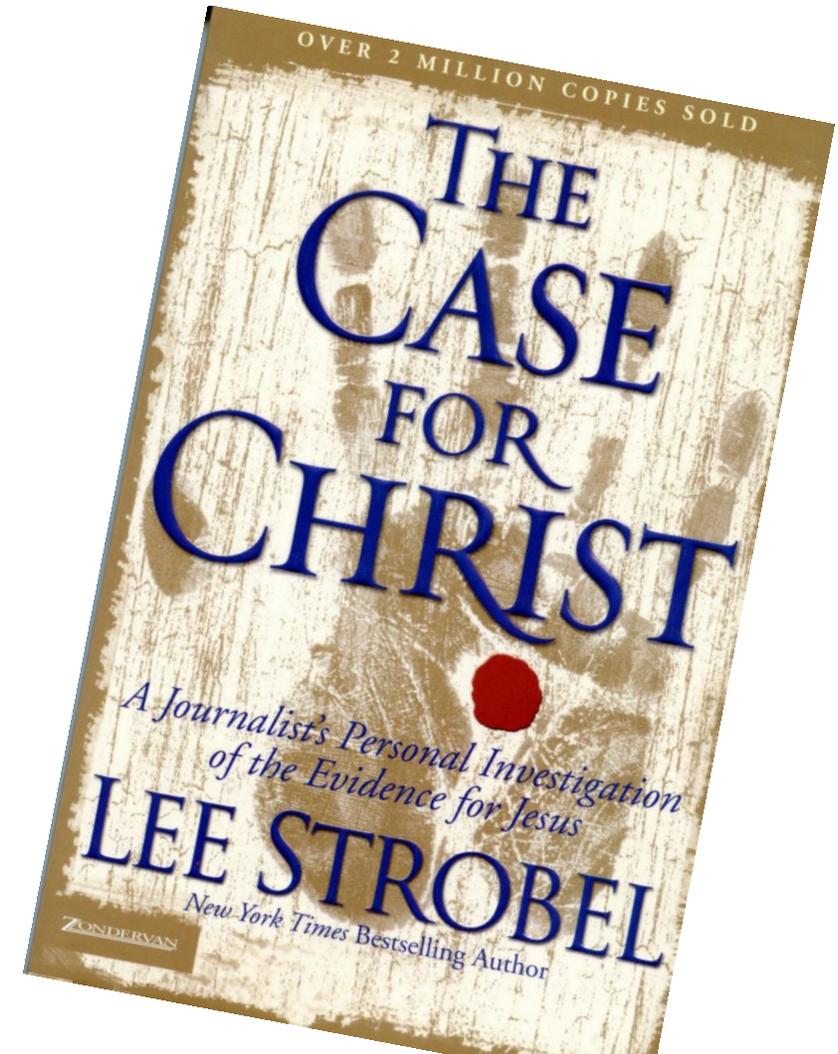
Part 3: Researching the Resurrection

Conclusion

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# The Case for Christ

Lee Strobel

## Part 1: Examining the Record

### The Eyewitness Evidence

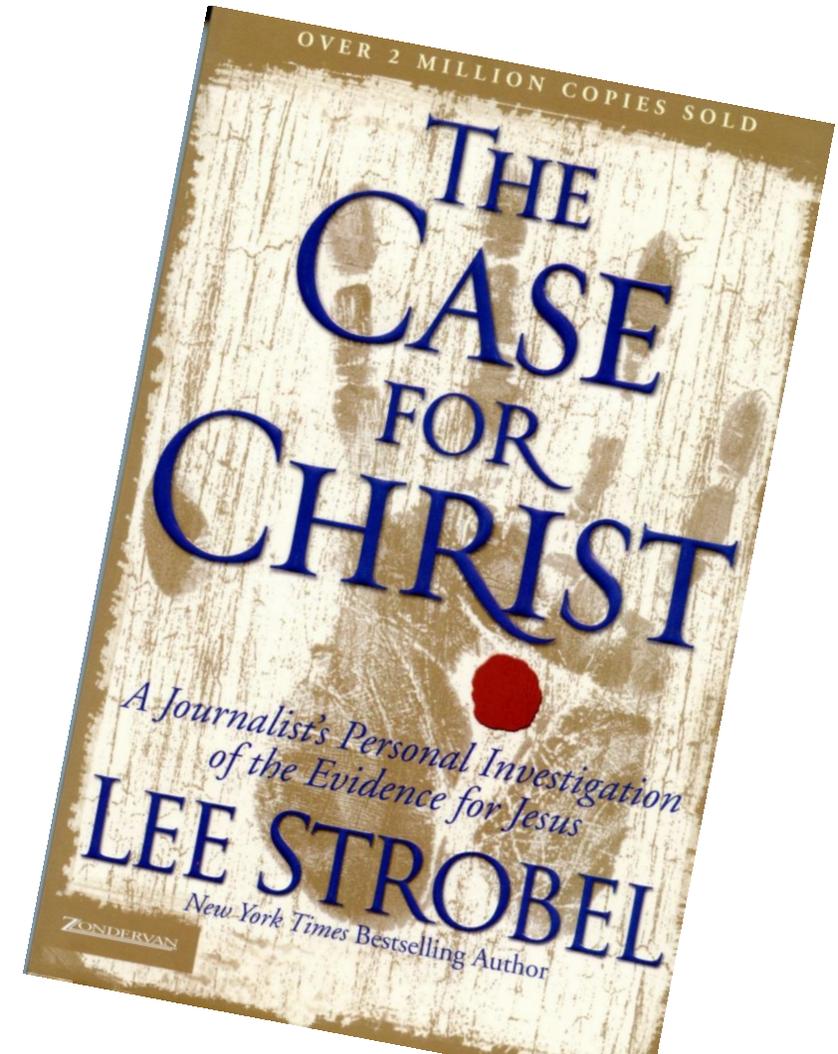
Testing the Eyewitness Evidence

The Documentary Evidence

The Corroborating Evidence

The Scientific Evidence

The Rebuttal Evidence



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Lee Strobel

## Craig L. Blomberg

Is it possible to be an intelligent, critically thinking person and still believe that the four gospels were written by the people whose names have been attached to them?

How uniform was the belief that they were the authors?

Would anyone have had a motivation to lie by claiming these people wrote these gospels, when they really didn't?

What about John?

Scholars talk about "Q". What is Q?

Can you clarify the differences between the synoptic gospels and John's gospel?

What accounts for the differences?

Do these *theological distinctives* deserve to be called contradictions?

Does the theological agenda of the writers prompt them to color and twist the history they recorded?

Was the direct and indirect witness testimony reliably preserved until it was finally written down years later?

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Lee Strobel

Craig L. Blomberg

How early can we date the fundamental beliefs in Jesus' atonement, his resurrection, and his unique association with God?

# The Case for Christ

Lee Strobel

Craig L. Blomberg

How early can we date the fundamental beliefs in Jesus' atonement, his resurrection, and his unique association with God?

**to within two years of that very event!**

# The Case for Christ

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Part 1: Examining the Record

The Eyewitness Evidence

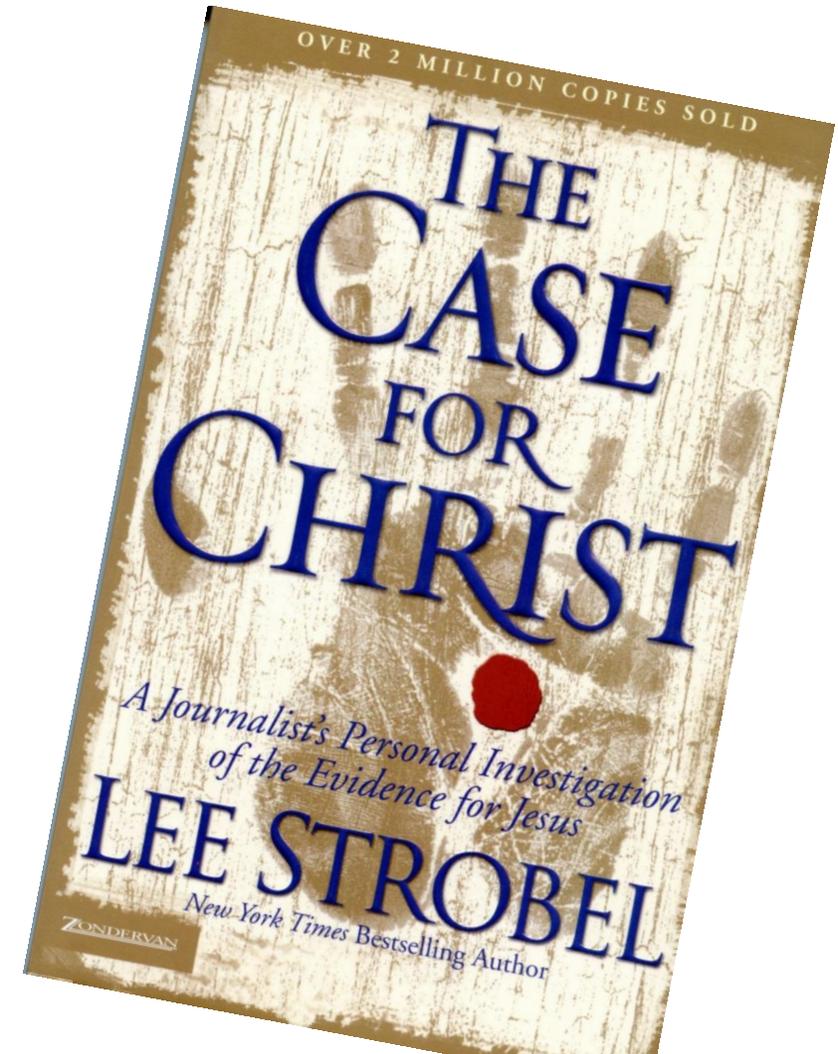
Testing the Eyewitness Evidence

The Documentary Evidence

The Corroborating Evidence

The Scientific Evidence

The Rebuttal Evidence



# **The Case for Christ**

Lee Strobel

Craig L. Blomberg

## Chapter 2: Testing the Eyewitness evidence

# The Case for Christ

Lee Strobel

Craig L. Blomberg

Chapter 2: Testing the Eyewitness evidence **Cross Examination**

# The Case for Christ

Lee Strobel

## Chapter 2: Testing the Eyewitness evidence **Cross Examination**

- 1) The Intention Test
- 2) The Ability Test
- 3) The Character Test
- 4) The Consistency Test
- 5) The Bias Test
- 6) The Cover-Up Test
- 7) The Corroboration Test
- 8) The Adverse Witness Test

# The Case for Christ

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## Chapter 2: Testing the Eyewitness evidence **Cross Examination**

- 1) The Intention Test- seeks to determine whether it was the stated or implied intent of the gospel writers to accurately preserve history

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Luke 1:1-3

# The Case for Christ

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## Chapter 2: Testing the Eyewitness evidence **Cross Examination**

- 1) The Intention Test- seeks to determine whether it was the stated or implied intent of the gospel writers to accurately preserve history

Luke 1:1-3 “Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you...”

# The Case for Christ

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## Chapter 2: Testing the Eyewitness evidence **Cross Examination**

- 1) The Intention Test- seeks to determine whether it was the stated or implied intent of the gospel writers to accurately preserve history

Luke 1:1-3 “...I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you...”

John 20:30

# The Case for Christ

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## Chapter 2: Testing the Eyewitness evidence **Cross Examination**

- 1) The Intention Test- seeks to determine whether it was the stated or implied intent of the gospel writers to accurately preserve history

Luke 1:1-3 “...I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you...”

John 20:30 “Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

# The Case for Christ

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## Chapter 2: Testing the Eyewitness evidence **Cross Examination**

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## Chapter 2: Testing the Eyewitness evidence **Cross Examination**

1) The Intention Test- seeks to determine whether it was the stated or implied intent of the gospel writers to accurately preserve history

Objection 1:

# The Case for Christ

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## Chapter 2: Testing the Eyewitness evidence **Cross Examination**

1) The Intention Test- seeks to determine whether it was the stated or implied intent of the gospel writers to accurately preserve history

Objection 1: If Jesus' return is imminent, why bother to record all of this?

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## Chapter 2: Testing the Eyewitness evidence **Cross Examination**

1) The Intention Test- seeks to determine whether it was the stated or implied intent of the gospel writers to accurately preserve history

Objection 1: If Jesus' return is imminent, why bother to record all of this?

Objection 2:

## 1 Corinthians 15:1 - 22

Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. <sup>2</sup> By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

<sup>3</sup> For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance<sup>[a]</sup>: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup> and that he appeared to Cephas,<sup>[b]</sup> and then to the Twelve. <sup>6</sup> After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup> Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, <sup>8</sup> and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

<sup>9</sup> For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup> But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. <sup>11</sup> Whether, then, it is I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.

<sup>12</sup> But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? <sup>13</sup> If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. <sup>14</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. <sup>15</sup> More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. <sup>16</sup> For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. <sup>17</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup> Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. <sup>19</sup> If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

<sup>20</sup> But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

<sup>21</sup> For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man.

<sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.

