

**IS JESUS REALLY GOD?**  
**JOHN 5:18 / 1-26-20 / A.M.**

**I. WAS HE A REAL PERSON OR JUST A MYTH OF A MAN?**

- A. Some have claimed there is no evidence outside of the Bible to prove there really was a man named Jesus.
- B. Those people are wrong.
  - 1. Joseph (37—100 A.D.) In his history called, “Antiquities” he refers Jesus Christ “a wise man” and “a doer of surprising works.” He specifically states that Pilate condemned Jesus to the cross.’
  - 2. Pliny the Younger (61--113 A.D.) was a Roman Senator during the reign of the Emperor Trajan. He wrote that Christians worshipped “Christ as god”.
  - 3. Tacitus (56—117 A.D.) was another Roman historian who wrote that Christians were “hated”. He also wrote that “Christ was the founder of a subversive religion” and mentions that Jesus was executed by Pontius Pilate during the reign of the Emperor Tiberius.

**II. JESUS CLAIMED TO BE GOD.**

- A. Some critics believe Jesus never claimed to be God, but that years later his followers made this story up to give legitimacy to Christianity.
- B. These critics are wrong because Jesus did say he was God—John 5:18 and John 10:33.

**III. JESUS WAS CALLED GOD BY OTHERS.**

- A. Peter called Jesus God—Matt. 16:13-16.
- B. Thomas called Jesus God—John 20:26-29.
- C. The Roman centurion who oversaw Jesus’ crucifixion also called Jesus God—Matt. 27:54.

**IV. JESUS LIVED A PERFECT LIFE.**

- A. Jesus claimed to live a perfect life—John 8:46.
- B. The Apostle Peter wrote that Jesus lived a perfect life—1 Peter 2:22.
- C. The author of Hebrews, likewise, wrote that Jesus lived a perfect life—Heb. 4:15.

**V. JESUS DID THINGS THAT ONLY GOD CAN DO.**

- A. In John 2 Jesus turned water into wine.
- B. In Matthew 14 Jesus walked on water.
- C. In John 9 Jesus healed a blind man.
- D. The Bible records three instances where Jesus raised someone from the dead.
  - 1. In Mark 5 he raised Jarius' daughter from the dead.
  - 2. In Luke 7 he raised a widow's son from the dead.
  - 3. In John 11 he raised his friend Lazarus from the dead.

**VI. JESUS FULFILLED PROPHECIES THAT ONLY GOD CAN DO.**

- A. Last week I cited Josh McDowell who says that Jesus fulfilled 61 prophecies during his lifetime.
- B. I also called attention to what Peter Stoner writes in his book "**Science Speaks**" He says the odds of Jesus fulfilling only 8 prophecies are 1 in 100 million billion. This is a "1" followed by 17 zeros.

**VII. THE GREATEST EVIDENCE THAT JESUS IS GOD IS HIS OWN RESURRECTION.**

- A. Critics of the resurrection of Jesus have come up with several theories in attempts to explain away what really happened.
  - 1. The wrong tomb theory—Mark 15:47.
  - 2. The stolen body theory—Matt. 28:4 and 28:11-15.
  - 3. The swoon theory—John 19:32-34.
  - 4. The hallucination theory—1 Cor. 15:6.
- B. Another form of evidence for Jesus' resurrection are the many appearances Jesus made after he rose from the dead.
  - 1. Jesus predicted his resurrection to his disciples five times before it happened.
  - 2. The gospels record ten appearances Jesus made to his eleven disciples after his resurrection.
  - 3. As we read earlier in First Corinthians 15:6 Jesus appeared to 500 believers at the same time.