

# *WELCOME*







# Why Believe Jesus is the Son of God?

“...if you do not believe that I am He, you  
will die in your sins” (John 8:24).

# The Biblical Perspective

Jesus, the  
Prophesied

- Luke 24:44-45
- John 5:39, 45-47



# Luke 24:44-45

- “Now He said to them, “These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are **written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms** must be fulfilled.”  
<sup>45</sup> Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures...” (NASB).



# John 5:39, 45-47

- “You **search the Scriptures** because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that **testify about Me...**”
- “Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father; the one who accuses you is Moses, in whom you have set your hope. <sup>46</sup> For **if you believed Moses, you would believe Me, for he wrote about Me.** <sup>47</sup> But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?” (NASB).

# The Biblical Perspective

Jesus, the  
Prophesied

- Luke 24:44-45
- John 5:39, 45-47

Jesus,  
Portrayed  
as Christ

- Luke 24:46-48
- John 20:30-31



# Luke 24:46-48

- “...and He said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, <sup>47</sup> and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things” (NASB).



# John 20:30-31

- “...Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup> but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name” (NASB).



# The Biblical Perspective

Jesus, the  
Prophesied

- Luke 24:44-45
- John 5:39, 45-47

Jesus, Portrayed  
as Christ

- Luke 24:46-48
- John 20:30-31

Jesus, Proclaimed  
as Christ

- Luke 24:47,49
- Acts 2:22,36



# Luke 24:47,49

- “...and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem”
- “And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high” (NASB).



# Acts 2:22,36

- “Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know—”
- “Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified” (NASB).



# The Skeptical Perspective of Jesus

An ancient myth

- The view of radical skeptics

Just a prophet

- The Islamic viewpoint

A gifted philosopher

- The Jefferson perspective

An evil man

- The argument of New Atheists

A conspiracy theorist

- Schonfeld's *Passover Plot*



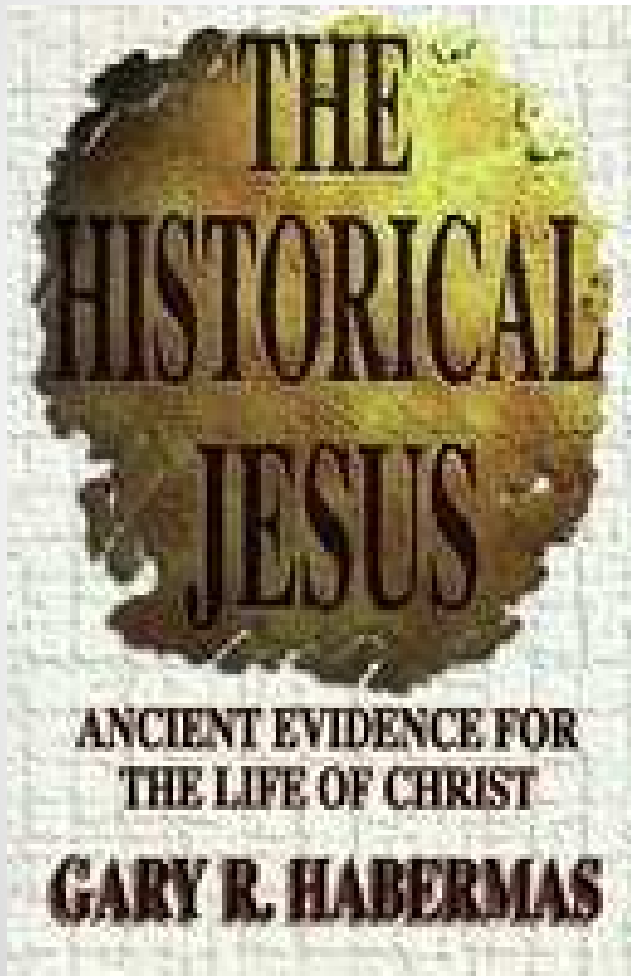
# Jesus Was Not a Legend



“Some writers may toy with the fancy of a ‘Christ-myth,’ but they do not do so on the ground of historical evidence. The historicity of Christ is as axiomatic for the unbiased historian as the historicity of Julius Caesar. It is not historians who propagate the ‘Christ-myth’ theories” (F.F. Bruce, professor of biblical criticism).



# Jesus Was Not a Legend



“Surprisingly few scholars have asserted that Jesus never existed or have attempted to cast total doubt on his life and ministry. When such efforts have occurred, they have been met by rare outcries from the scholarly community. We have seen that these attempts are refuted at almost every turn by the early and eyewitness testimony presented by Paul and others, as well as the early date of the Gospels” (Gary Habermas, *The Historical Jesus*).



# Jesus Was Not a Legend

Jesus Confirmed By...

Inspired History

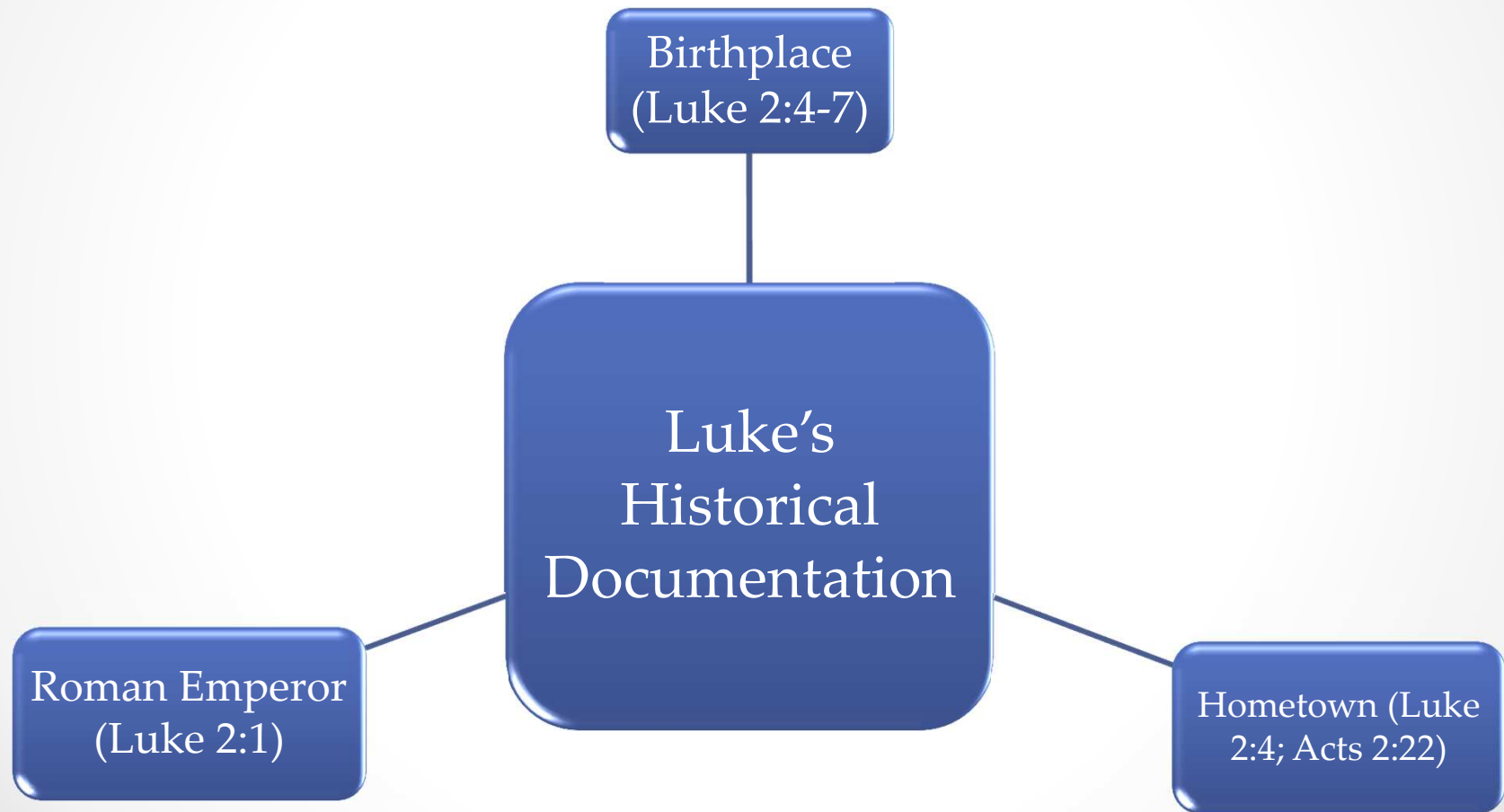
Secular History

Jewish Historians

Post-apostolic Testimony



# Jesus Was Not a Legend





# Jesus Was More Than Just a Prophet

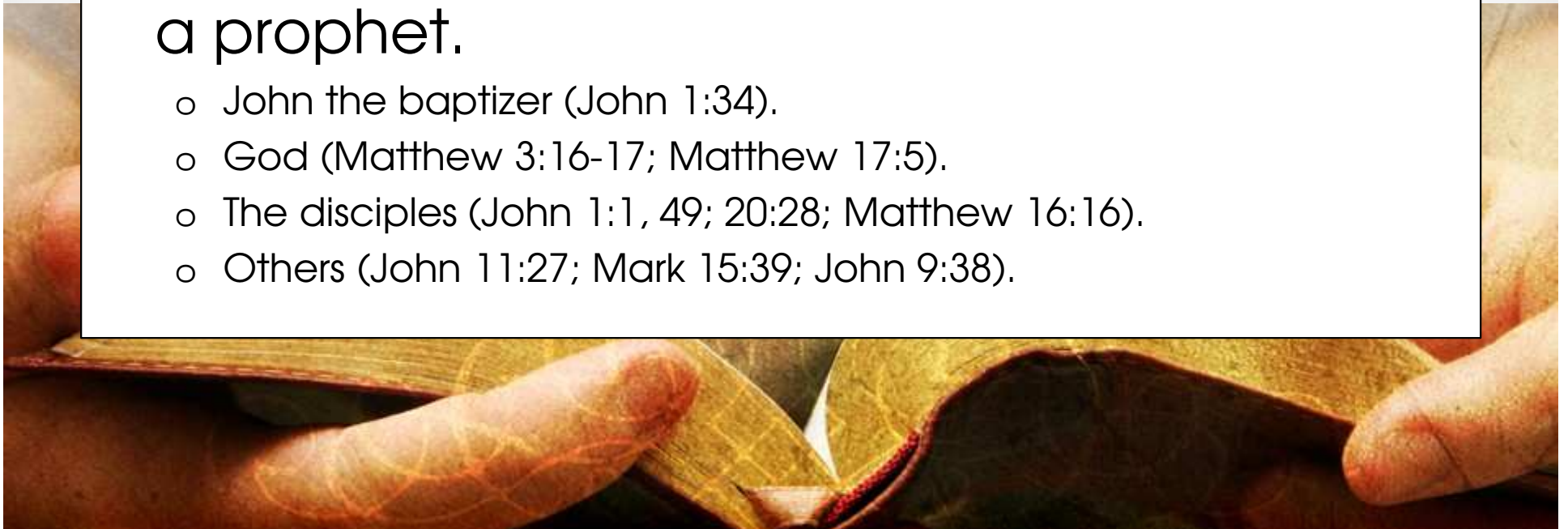
- Jesus was a prophet.
  - "...and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, 21 whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began. 22 For Moses truly said to the fathers, 'The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you. 23 And it shall be that every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people'" (Acts 3:20-23).





# Jesus Was More Than Just a Prophet

- However, He claimed and others reported His identity as greater than a mere prophet.
  - He claims to be the “Messiah”—God with us (John 4:25-26).
  - He claimed God as His Father (John 5:16-18).
  - He called Himself the “I AM” (John 8:58-59; Exodus 3:14).
- Further, others testified Jesus was more than a prophet.
  - John the baptizer (John 1:34).
  - God (Matthew 3:16-17; Matthew 17:5).
  - The disciples (John 1:1, 49; 20:28; Matthew 16:16).
  - Others (John 11:27; Mark 15:39; John 9:38).



# John 1:34

- “I myself have seen, and have testified that this is the Son of God.”



# Matthew 3:16-17

- “After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove *and* lighting on Him,<sup>17</sup> and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased” (NASB).



# John 1:1, 49

- “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”
- Nathanael answered Him, “Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel” (NASB).



# Matthew 16:16

- “Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God” (NASB).



# John 11:27

- “She said to Him, “Yes, Lord; I have believed that You are the Christ, the Son of God, *even* He who comes into the world.”



# Mark 15:39

- “When the centurion, who was standing right in front of Him, saw the way He breathed His last, he said, “Truly this man was the Son of God!”

# Jesus Was More Than Just a Prophet

- Would Jesus pass or fail the prophet test?
  - “And if you say in your heart, ‘How shall we know the word which the LORD has not spoken?’ — 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; you shall not be afraid of him” (Deuteronomy 18:21-22).





# Jesus Was More Than Just A Philosopher

- Thomas Jefferson had a high regard for the ideals of Jesus but did not believe in his miracles/signs.
- The problem with this view is the authoritative teaching of Jesus is verified by the miraculous.
- As Nicodemus stated,
  - *“Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him”* (John 3:2).
- In other words, one reason Jesus’ teaching can be trusted is because of His divine works (John 5:36).

Miracles

# John 5:36

- “But the testimony which I have is greater than *the testimony* of John; for the works which the Father has given Me to accomplish—the very works that I do—testify about Me, that the Father has sent Me” (NASB).



# Jesus Was More Than Just A Philosopher

- From conception to resurrection, the life of Jesus is filled with miraculous proof of His identity.
  - His birth (Matthew 1:18-21).
  - His life (Luke 7:22).
  - Undeniable physical healings (John 5:1-9; 9:1-9).
  - Supernatural miracles with eyewitnesses (John 2:1-11; Matt 14:15-21).
  - Raising the dead (Matthew 9:18-26; John 11:37-45).
  - His death and resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:1-9).
- These miracles were God's way of testifying Jesus was far more than a philosopher (Acts 2:22-24).

*Miracles*



# Acts 2:22-24

- “Men of Israel, listen to these words: **Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst**, just as you yourselves know— <sup>23</sup> this *Man*, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put *Him* to death. <sup>24</sup> But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power” (NASB).



# Jesus Was Not an Evil Person



- Some atheists believe Jesus was evil because He taught about judgment and hell.
- However, Jesus was never considered an evil sinner by the testimony of Scripture.
- Jesus once asked,
  - “Which of you convicts Me of sin?” (John 8:46)
  - No one could find an accusation.
- The disciples of Jesus declared His sinlessness.
  - 1 Peter 1:19; 2:22; 1 John 3:5
  - Matthew 27:3-4; Hebrews 4:15
- Even His enemies speak of His faultless character.
  - The thief on the cross (Luke 23:41).
  - Pilate (Luke 23:14, 22).

# 1 Peter 2:21-22

- “...Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, <sup>22</sup> **WHO COMMITTED NO SIN**, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH...” (NASB).



# 1 John 3:5

“You know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and **in Him there is no sin.**”



# Hebrews 4:15

“For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as *we are*, **yet without sin**” (NASB).



# Matthew 27:3-4

“Then when Judas, who had betrayed Him, saw that He had been condemned, he felt remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, <sup>4</sup> saying, “I have sinned by **betraying innocent blood.**” But they said, “What is that to us? See *to that* yourself!”



# Luke 23:14,22

“and said to them, “You brought this man to me as one who incites the people to rebellion, and behold, having examined Him before you, **I have found no guilt in this man** regarding the charges which you make against Him.”

“And he said to them the third time, “Why, what evil has this man done? **I have found in Him no guilt *demanding death***; therefore I will punish Him and release Him” (NASB).



# Jesus Was Not an Evil Person



- Some claim Jesus' condemnation of sinners is "immoral."
- However, is it moral to allow injustice and rebellion without punishment?
- Further, while Jesus condemns sin it was never His ultimate goal to see sinners condemned!

# John 3:17

“For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him”(NASB).

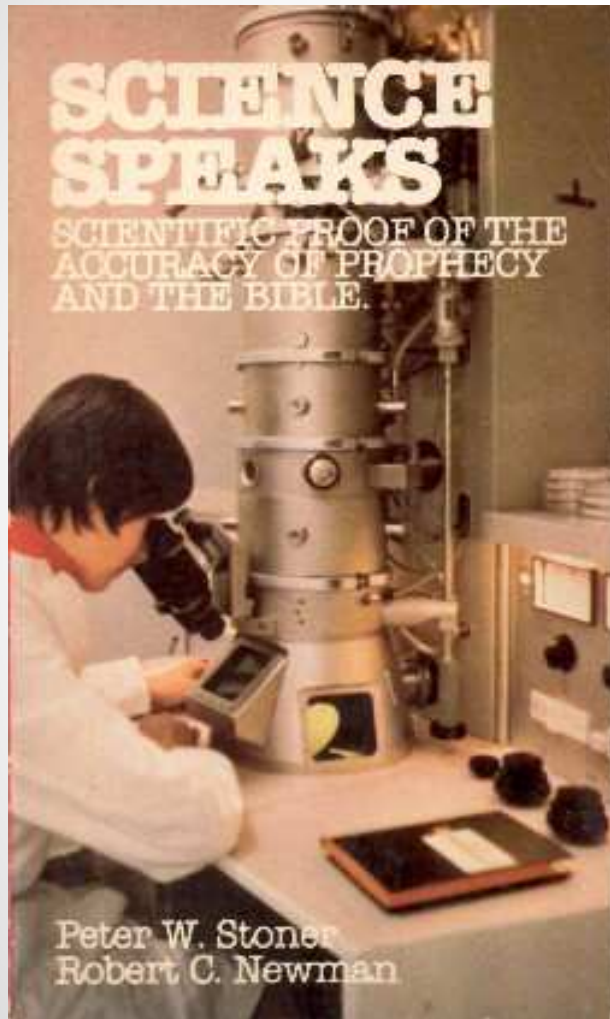


# Jesus Did Not Manipulate Prophecy



- How does Jesus manipulate...
  - The place of His birth (Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:1-6)?
  - The manner of His birth (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-23)?
  - His betrayal by a friend (Psalm 41:9; John 13:18)?
  - The reaction of the crowd (Psalm 22:7-8; Matthew 27:39-44)?
  - His being pierced with a sword (Zech 12:10; John 20:24-28)?
  - His burial place (Isaiah 53:9; Matthew 27:57-60)?
  - His resurrection (Psalm 16:10; Matthew 28:6)?

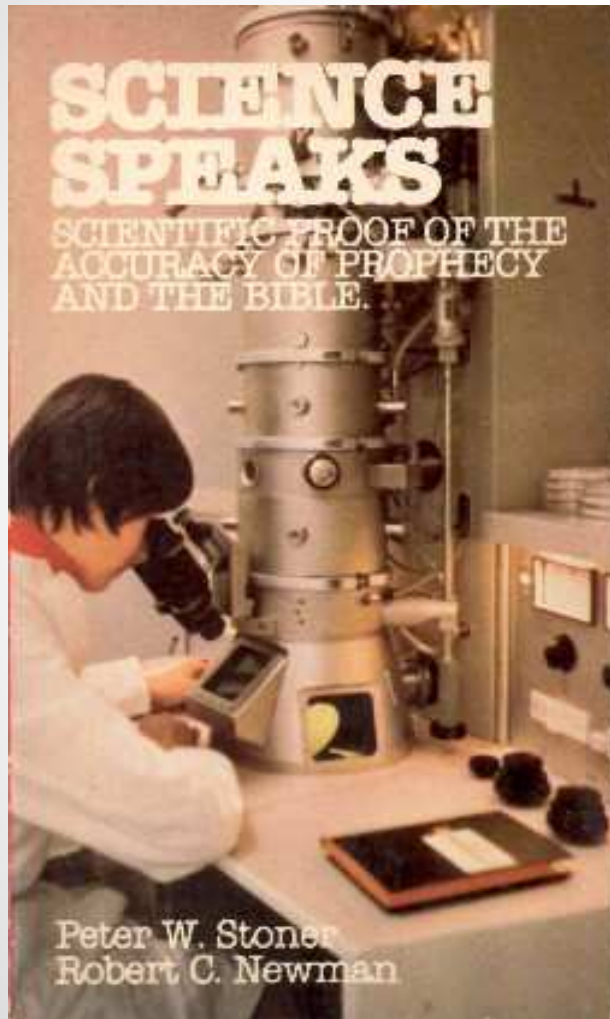
# Jesus Did Not Manipulate Prophecy



“We find that the chance that any man might have lived down to the present time and fulfilled all eight prophecies is 1 in 10 to the 17th power. That would be 1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000 ...suppose we take 10 to the 17th silver dollars and lay them on the face of Texas. They will cover all of the state two feet deep. Now mark one of these silver dollars and stir the whole mass thoroughly, all over the state. Blindfold a man and tell him that he can travel as far as he wishes, but he must pick up one silver dollar and say that this is the right one. What chance would he have of getting the right one?”



# Jesus Did Not Manipulate Prophecy



“Just the same chance that the prophets would have had of writing these eight prophecies and having them all come true in any one man, from their day to the present time, providing they wrote them according to their own wisdom.”

# Why Believe Jesus Is The Son of God?

He Was Not A Legend, But a Verifiable, Historical Character

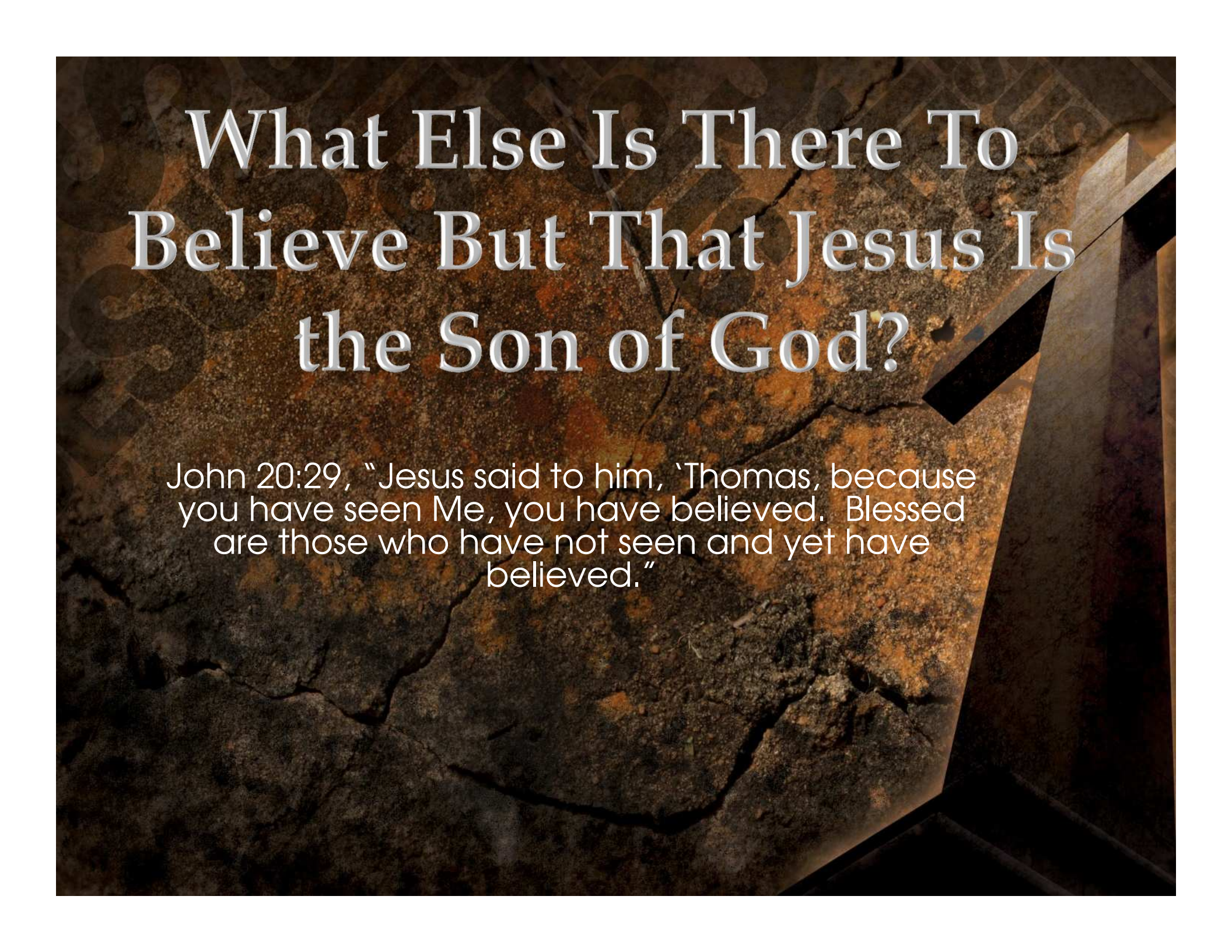
He Claimed and Others Testify He Was More than a Prophet

His Miracles Prove He was More than Just a Philosopher

His Sinless Life and Teachings Prove His True Character

He Fulfilled the Prophecies Proving His Identity as the Messiah





# What Else Is There To Believe But That Jesus Is the Son of God?

John 20:29, "Jesus said to him, 'Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.'"



# The Gospel Plan of Salvation

HEAR JESUS

BELIEVE JESUS

CONFESS JESUS

TURN TO JESUS

**REPENTANCE**

BAPTIZED INTO JESUS





# Mark 16:16



*“He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned” (NKJV).*