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Jesus: One of a Kind





Dr. Andy Woods
Senior Pastor – Sugar Land Bible Church
President – Chafer Theological Seminary

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John 1:14

“And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten [*monogenēs*] from the Father, full of grace and truth.”



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The Uniqueness of Jesus Christ

1. A man of verifiable history

2. A man of fulfilled prophecy


3. A man of predictive prophecy

4. A man of unimpeachable morality

5. A man of profound teaching

6. A man of authentic miracles

7. A man of bodily resurrection



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Christopher Hitchens
(AD 1949–2011)



“Jesus of Nazareth is not a figure in history...There is no reason at all to believe that the so-called Jesus of Nazareth ever existed.”


<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zBxvLmRsKiw>

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Author	Date Written	Earliest MSS	Time Span	No. MSS
Caesar	100–44 BC	AD 900	1,000 yrs	10
Plato	427–347 BC	900 AD	1,200 yrs	7
Thucydides	460–400 BC	AD 900	1,300 yrs	8
Tacitus	AD 100	AD 1100	1,000 yrs	20
Suetonius	AD 75–160	AD 950	800 yrs	8
Homer (Iliad)	900 BC	400 BC	500 yrs	643
New Testament	AD 40–100	AD 125	25–50 yrs	>24,000!

<http://creationrevolution.com/2012/05/should-we-trust-the-bible/>

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Cornelius Tacitus

(AD 55–120)

Annals XV, 44

“Consequently, to get rid of the report, Nero fastened the guilt and inflicted the most exquisite tortures on a class hated for their abominations, called **Christians** by the populace. **Christus**, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus, and a most mischievous superstition, thus checked for the moment, again broke out not only in Judea, the first source of the evil, but even in Rome, where all things hideous and shameful from every part of the world find their centre and become popular.”

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Josephus

Antiquities 18.3.3

“About this time there lived **Jesus**, a wise man, if indeed one ought to call him a man. For he was one who performed surprising deeds and was a teacher of such people as accept the truth gladly. He won over many Jews and many of the Greeks. He was **the Christ**. And when, upon the accusation of the principal men among us, Pilate had condemned him to a **cross**, those who had first come to love him did not cease. He appeared to them spending a third day restored to life, for the prophets of God had foretold these things and a thousand other marvels about him. And the tribe of the **Christians**, so called after him, has still to this day not disappeared.”

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Secular Historians Mentioning Christ	
Secular Historian	Date
Tacitus	AD 55–120
Lucian	AD Second Century
Suetonius	AD 69–122
Pliny the Younger	AD 112
Thallus	AD 52
Mar Bar Serapion	AD 70
Josephus	AD 78

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John 5:39, 46


"³⁹You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me...⁴⁶ For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me, for he wrote about Me."




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Luke 24:44

"²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures...⁴⁴ 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.'"



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Josephus
Antiquities 18.3.3

“About this time there lived **Jesus**, a wise man, if indeed one ought to call him a man. For he was one who performed surprising deeds and was a teacher of such people as accept the truth gladly. He won over many Jews and many of the Greeks. He was **the Christ**. And when, upon the accusation of the principal men among us, Pilate had condemned him to a cross, those who had first come to love him did not cease. He appeared to them spending a third day restored to life, for **the prophets of God had foretold these things** and a thousand other marvels about him. And the tribe of the Christians, so called after him, has still to this day not disappeared.”

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OT Prophecies About Christ		
Prophecy	Scripture	Years in Advance
Manner of Birth	Isaiah 7:14	700 years
Place of Birth	Micah 5:2	700 years
Nationality	Numbers 24:17	1400 years
Tribe	Genesis 49:10	1800 years
Time of & Response to His Messiahship	Dan. 9:25-26	600 years

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OT Prophecies About Christ		
Prophecy	Scripture	Years in Advance
Crucified Between Thieves	Isaiah 53:9	700 years
Pierced	Isaiah 53:5	700 years
No Broken Bones	Psalms 22:17	1000 years
Gamble for His Clothing	Psalms 22:18	1000 years
Buried in Rich Man's Tomb	Isaiah 53:9	700 years

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John 11:10; 14:29

"¹⁹ From now on I am telling you before *it* comes to pass, so that when it does occur, you may believe that I am *He*...^{14:29} Now I have told you before it happens, so that when it happens, you may believe."




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Christ's Short-Term Predictions	
Prophecy	Scripture
Betrayal by a Friend	John 13:21
Three-fold Denial by Peter	Matthew 26:34, 75
Manner of His Own Death	Matthew 20:18-19
Manner of Disciples' Deaths	John 21:18-22
AD 70 Events	Luke 19:41-44

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Tertullian
Prescription Against Heretics, 36



"...where the Apostle John was first plunged, unhurt, into boiling oil, and thence remitted to his island-exile!"

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The 7 Churches in Revelation
Rev. 1:11



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Luke 19:41-44


⁴¹ "When He approached Jerusalem, He saw the city and wept over it, ⁴² saying, "If you had known in this day, even you, the things which make for peace! But now they have been hidden from your eyes. ⁴³ For the days will come upon you when your enemies will throw up a barricade against you, and surround you and hem you in on . . .



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Luke 19:41-44

... every side,⁴⁴ and they will level you to the ground and your children within you, and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not recognize the time of your visitation.”



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(AD 55–120)

Annals XV, 44

"Consequently, to get rid of the report, Nero fastened the guilt and inflicted the most exquisite tortures on a class hated for their abominations, called Christians by the populace. Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus, and a most mischievous superstition, thus checked for the moment, again broke out not only in Judea, the first source of the evil, but even in Rome, where all things hideous and shameful from every part of the world find their centre and become popular."

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Josephus

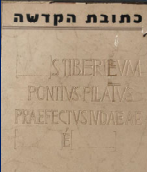
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"About this time there lived Jesus, a wise man, if indeed one ought to call him a man. For he was one who performed surprising deeds and was a teacher of such people as accept the truth gladly. He won over many Jews and many of the Greeks. He was the Christ. And when, upon the accusation of the principal men among us, Pilate had condemned him to a cross, those who had first come to love him did not cease. He appeared to them spending a third day restored to life, for the prophets of God had foretold these things and a thousand other marvels about him. And the tribe of the Christians, so called after him, has still to this day not disappeared."

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"(Pontius Pilatus, the prefect of Judaea, (erected) a (building dedicated) to (the emperor) Tiberius".





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The Incomparable Christ


Anonymous

“He never wrote a book, and yet all the libraries of the country could not hold the books that have been written about Him. He never wrote a song, and yet He has furnished the theme for more songs than all the song writers combined. He never founded a college, but all the schools put together cannot boast of having as many students. He never marshaled an army, nor drafted a soldier, nor fired a gun; and yet no leader ever had more volunteers who have, under His orders, made more rebels stack arms and surrender without a shot fired. He never practiced psychiatry, and yet He healed more broken hearts than all the doctors far and near.”

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Matthew 5:21-22

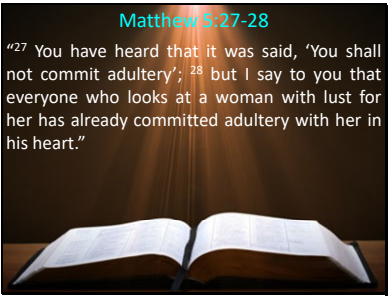
“²¹ “You have heard that the ancients were told, ‘You shall not commit murder’ and ‘Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.’ ²² But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, ‘You good-for-nothing,’ shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, ‘You fool,’ shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell.”




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Matthew 5:27-28

"27 You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery'; 28 but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart."



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Who is Jesus to you? 

Logical Syllogism: Tri-Lemma

Jesus Claimed To Be God

TRUE

LIAR, LUNATIC, LORD?

HE KNEW



DIDN'T KNOW

LIAR

LUNATIC

ACCEPT

REJECT

 **KAIROS**  **ATTENTION** **Kairos**

The University of Campus Crusade for Christ, Dallas
Your Best Opportunity on Campus

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John 3:2


"this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."



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Matthew 11:2-6

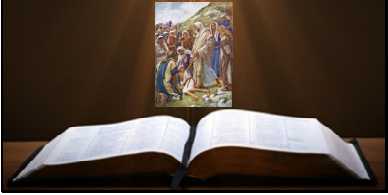
"² Now when John, while imprisoned, heard of the works of Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to Him, 'Are You the Expected One, or shall we look for someone else?' ⁴ Jesus answered and said to them, 'Go and report to John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive sight and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear . . .



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Matthew 11:2-6


. . .the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. ⁶ And blessed is he who does not take offense at Me."



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Acts 2:22


“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.”



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John 20:30-31

“Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 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.”



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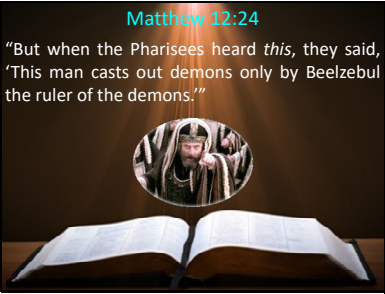
“SEVEN SIGNS” in Gospel of John

	Changing Water into Wine	2:11	
	Healing official's son	4:46-54	
	Healing an invalid at the Pool of Bethesda	5:1-18	
	Feeding the 5,000	6:5-14	
	Walking on water	6:16-21	
	Healing a blind man	9:1-7	
	Raising dead Lazarus	11:1-45	


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Matthew 12:24

"But when the Pharisees heard *this*, they said, 'This man casts out demons only by Beelzebul the ruler of the demons.'"




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Josephus
Antiquities 18.3.3

"About this time there lived Jesus, a wise man, if indeed one ought to call him a man. For he was one who performed surprising deeds and was a teacher of such people as accept the truth gladly. He won over many Jews and many of the Greeks. He was the Christ. And when, upon the accusation of the principal men among us, Pilate had condemned him to a cross, those who had first come to love him did not cease. He appeared to them spending a third day restored to life, for the prophets of God had foretold these things and a thousand other marvels about him. And the tribe of the Christians, so called after him, has still to this day not disappeared."

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1 Corinthians 15:6-7

"⁶ After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; ⁷ then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles..."



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Naturalistic Theories

1. Swoon theory

2. Theft theory

3. Hallucination theory


4. Wrong tomb theory



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Naturalistic Theories


1. Swoon theory
2. Theft theory
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4. Wrong tomb theory



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Naturalistic Theories


1. Swoon theory
2. Theft theory
3. Hallucination theory
4. Wrong tomb theory




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2. Theft Theories


A. Rome




B. Jews



C. Disciples






Slide 49


2. Theft Theories


A. Rome


B. Jews

C. Disciples










Slide 50


2. Theft Theories


A. Rome


B. Jews

C. Disciples










Slide 51


2. Theft Theories


A. Rome


B. Jews

C. Disciples









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Naturalistic Theories

1. Swoon theory

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Slide 53


Naturalistic Theories

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How Does Jesus Compare?	
Deity	Tomb Status
Confucius	Occupied
Buddha	Occupied
Mohammed	Occupied
Jesus	***EMPTY***
G.B. Hardy, <i>Countdown</i>	

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Conclusion

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Seven "I AM" statements in John



I am the Bread of Life	6:35
I am the Light of the world	8:12
I am the Gate for the sheep	10:7; cf. v.9
I am the Good Shepherd	10:11,14
I am the Resurrection and the Life	11:25
I am the Way and the Truth and the Life	14:6
I am the true Vine	15:1; cf. v.5

John 11:25-27

"25 Jesus said to her, **I am the resurrection and the life:** he who **believes** in Me will live even if he dies, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and **believes** in Me will never die. Do you **believe** this?" 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.'"



“The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.” (NIV)

Christopher Hitchens-“Jesus of Nazareth is not a figure in history...There is no reason at all to believe that the so called Jesus of Nazareth ever existed.”

John 5:46-For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me,
for he wrote about Me.

Peter Stoner- In 1969, Dr. Peter Stoner published a book called “Science Speaks.” Dr. Stoner was the Chairman of the

Departments of Mathematics and Astronomy at Pasadena City College until 1953, when he became Chairman of the Science Division at Westmont College. In other words, he was a capable mathematician. And in “Science Speaks,” Dr. Stoner calculated the probability that any one man could fulfill just these eight prophecies to be 1 chance in 10 to the 17th power, meaning a 1 with 17 zeros after it. To illustrate how unlikely a chance that would be, Stoner gave this illustration. Cover the entire state of Texas with silver dollars to a level of two feet deep. The total number of silver dollars needed would be 10 to the 17th power. Now, choose just one silver dollar, mark it, and put it back. Then thoroughly stir all the silver dollars all over the state. Now, blindfold someone and tell them they can travel wherever they want in Texas, but sometime they must pick one of the silver dollars. The chance of finding that one silver dollar that we marked in a pile 2 feet deep covering the state of Texas would be the chance the prophets had for these eight prophecies coming true in any one man in the future. (Peter Stoner, **Science Speaks: Scientific Proof of the Accuracy of Prophecy and the Bible** (Chicago, Moody Press, 1969), 107.

3. Predictions

John 13:21- When Jesus had said this, He became troubled in spirit, and testified and said, “Truly, truly, I say to you, that one of you will betray Me.”

Matt. 26:34- Jesus said to him, “Truly I say to you that this *very* night, before a rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.”

Matt. 26:75- And Peter remembered the word which Jesus had said, “Before a rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.” And he went out and wept bitterly.

Matt. 20:18-19- ¹⁸“Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of Man will be delivered to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn Him to death, ¹⁹ and will hand Him over to the Gentiles to mock and scourge and crucify *Him*, and on the third day He will be raised up.”

John 21:18-22- ¹⁸ Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to gird yourself and walk wherever you wished; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and someone else will gird you, and bring you where you do not wish to go.” ¹⁹ Now this He said, signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He *said to him, “Follow Me!” ²⁰ Peter, turning around, *saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following *them*; the one who also had leaned back on His bosom at the supper and said, “Lord, who is the one who betrays You?” ²¹ So Peter seeing him *said to Jesus, “Lord, and what about this man?” ²² Jesus *said to him, “If I want him to remain until I come, what *is that* to you? You follow Me!”

Luke 19:41-44- ⁴¹ When He approached *Jerusalem*, He saw the city and wept over it, ⁴² saying, “If you had known in this day, even you, the things which make for peace! But now they have been hidden from your eyes. ⁴³ For the days will come upon you when your enemies will throw up a barricade against you, and surround you and hem you in on every side, ⁴⁴ and they will level you to the ground and your children within you, and they

will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not recognize the time of your visitation.

4. Morality

John 8:46-**Which one of you convicts Me of sin?** If I speak truth, why do you not believe Me?

Matt. 17:1- Six days later Jesus took with Him **Peter and James and John** his brother, and led them up on a high mountain by themselves.

1 Pet. 2:21-23- ²¹ For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, ²² WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH; ²³ and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting *Himself* to Him who judges righteously

John 13:23- There was reclining on Jesus' bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved.

1 John 2:1- My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, **Jesus Christ the righteous.**

Matt. 27:22-24- ²² Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said, "Crucify Him!" ²³ And he said, "Why, what evil has He done?" But they kept shouting all the more, saying, "Crucify Him!" ²⁴ When Pilate saw that he was accomplishing nothing, but rather that a riot was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of

the crowd, saying, “**I am innocent of this Man’s blood**; see *to that* yourselves.”

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!**”

5. Teaching

“He never wrote a book, and yet all the libraries of the country could not hold the books that have been written about Him. He never wrote a song, and yet He has furnished the theme for more songs than all the song writers combined.” “He never founded a college, but all the schools put together cannot boast of having as many students. “He never marshaled an army, nor drafted a soldier, nor fired a gun; and yet no leader ever had more volunteers who have, under His orders, made more rebels stack arms and surrender without a shot fired.” “He never practiced psychiatry, and yet He healed more broken hearts than all the doctors far and near.” —*The Incomparable Christ*

Matt. 5:21-22- ²¹“You have heard that the ancients were told ‘YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT MURDER’ and ‘Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.’²² But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, ‘You good-for-nothing,’ shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, ‘You fool,’ shall be guilty *enough to go* into the fiery hell.

Matt. 5:27-28- ²⁷“You have heard that it was said, ‘YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY’;²⁸ but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Matt. 7:28-29-²⁸ When Jesus had finished these words, the crowds were amazed at His teaching; ²⁹ for He was teaching them as *one* having authority, and not as their scribes.

Matt. 22:46-No one was able to answer Him a word, nor did anyone dare from that day on to ask Him another question.

John 10:31-33-³¹ The Jews picked up stones again to stone Him. ³² Jesus answered them, "I showed you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you stoning Me?" ³³ The Jews answered Him, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy; and because You, being a man, make Yourself out *to be* God."

6. Miracles

John 3:2- this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You have come from God *as* a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."

Matt. 11:2-5-² Now when John, while imprisoned, heard of the works of Christ, he sent *word* by his disciples ³ and said to Him, "Are You the Expected One, or shall we look for someone else?" ⁴ Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and report to John what you hear and see: ⁵ *the* BLIND RECEIVE SIGHT and *the* lame walk, *the* lepers are cleansed and *the* deaf hear, *the* dead are raised up, and *the* POOR HAVE THE GOSPEL PREACHED TO THEM. ⁶ And blessed is he who does not take offense at Me.

Mark 4:38-³⁸ Jesus Himself was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You

not care that we are perishing?”³⁹ And He got up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Hush, be still.” And the wind died down and it became perfectly calm.⁴⁰ And He said to them, “Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?”⁴¹ They became very much afraid and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?”

Acts 2:22-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

John 2:11- **This beginning of His signs** Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory, and His disciples believed in Him.

John 4:54- This is again a **second sign** that Jesus performed when He had come out of Judea into Galilee.

7. Resurrection

John 2:18-22-¹⁸ The Jews then said to Him, “What sign do You show us as your authority for doing these things?”¹⁹ Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”²⁰ The Jews then said, “It took forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?”²¹ But He was speaking of the temple of His body.²² So when He was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He said this; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had spoken.

John 19:32-34- ³² So the soldiers came, and broke the legs of the first man and of the other who was crucified with Him; ³³ but coming to Jesus, when they saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. ³⁴ But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.