

JESUS AND JUDGMENT ARE REAL

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Do you believe God created the heavens and the earth, and that He delivered the three men from the fiery furnace as described in Daniel 3? More than likely, you would say yes (at least I hope you would). After reading several verses from the New Testament that state salvation is through Jesus and only through him, do you believe this?

Some people choose to believe just parts of the Bible. To do so is a mistake. The Bible is to be taken as the truth, the Word of God, and must be followed as written. I don't understand how a person can believe in Genesis 1:1 and not believe in Jesus. [*"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."*](#) (John 1:1) The Greek word in the original text is Logos. This is a title for the Son of God. In other words, Jesus was with God when the world was created. Jesus Christ is as real as you are.

The late Chuck Colson, who was a lawyer in the Watergate scandal, stated that "all ten of us decided on our answer to the authorities. All ten of us couldn't keep our answers the same." However, in I Corinthians 15, Paul writes that Jesus appeared to 500 people. Those five hundred people were living eyewitnesses to Jesus' resurrection. If ten couldn't keep their account straight, how did 500 do so? It's because they saw the risen Savior.

Atheist turned Christian Lee Strobel is the former award-winning legal editor of The Chicago Tribune and best-selling author of more than 20 books. His classic, *The Case for Christ*, is a perennial favorite that details his conversion to Christianity. His book, *The Case for Grace*, won the 2016 Nonfiction Book of the Year from the EPCA. For the last 25 years, his life's work has been to share the evidence that supports the truth and claims of Christianity and to equip believers to share their faith with the people they know and love. Is there other evidence that Jesus did exist? Let's look at some historians who lived in the first and second centuries.

~Roman Historians Tacitus and Josephus ~

Flavius Josephus was a Jewish politician, soldier, and historian who lived around AD 37-100. He was born in Jerusalem shortly after Christ's crucifixion. As his father, Matthias, was a highly respected priest, Josephus was born into a family that would have been acutely aware of the early Jesus followers, a movement that would have been viewed as a threat to Judaism. He may have even heard some of the apostles preach in prison. Scholars view Josephus as the single most important Jewish historian of the ancient world. Among his works, Josephus penned *Antiquities of the Jews*, to explain the Jewish people and their beliefs to the Romans in an effort to reduce anti-Jewish bigotry. *Antiquities* is important in our investigation of the historicity of Jesus.

For example, Josephus writes about the death of James, at the instigation of the Jewish high priest Ananus. Josephus clearly labels James, the brother of Jesus, "who was called Christ." By including these details, he offers us a clear, non-Christian attestation of the historicity of Jesus.

Cornelius Tacitus, another important Roman historian, lived approximately between AD 56 and 120. Modern historians view his *Annals* (which covers Roman emperors Augustus to Nero) to be the best source of information about this period in Roman history. It is from Tacitus, for example, that we know that Nero blamed a devastating fire that happened in Rome in AD 64 on Christians. Wrote Tacitus: "Therefore, to squelch the rumor, Nero created scapegoats and subjected to the most refined tortures those whom the common people call 'Christians,' hated for their abominable crimes. Their name comes from Christ, who, during the reign of Tiberius, had been executed by the procurator Pontius

Pilate.” There is evidence outside of the Bible that supports the Bible with historical evidence. I have provided two examples that you might not have been aware of.

Jesus and judgment are real. Jude warns his readers, “¹⁴ It was also about these men that Enoch, in the seventh generation from Adam, prophesied, saying, ‘Behold, the Lord came with many thousands of His holy ones, ¹⁵ to execute judgment upon all, and to convict all the ungodly of all their ungodly deeds which they have done in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.’” (Jude 1:14-15)

Here are a couple of scriptures that support that Jesus and judgment are real. “²⁷And just as it is appointed for people to die once—then judgement, ²⁸so also the Messiah, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for Him.” (Hebrews 9:27- 28)

There is proof positive that Jesus is God’s Son. He most certainly is real. He came to the earth and lived for 33 years, was crucified, rose on the third day, appeared to many, and salvation is through Him and Him alone. Jesus told them, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” (John 14:6)

The cross stands as God’s ultimate warning of the consequences of sin and as the greatest expression of His love for us. “For God so loved the world in this way: He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16) Scripture tells us, “For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.” (Ecclesiastes 12:14)

You must turn from your sins. Go back; go back from the sin that will destroy what is most precious to God—you. He judges sin. He desires to show mercy. He loves you. He gave His Son for you. Come to the arms that will embrace you with love and life; come to God. Is he speaking to you? Come to the One who provides salvation—that is, Jesus Christ, and no one else. Have a blessed week.

Jesus, Our Judge and Our Savior:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-LdOV5iG91M&list=RD-LdOV5iG91M&start_radio=1