

## Truth Series: Lesson 4

### How Do We Know Jesus is the Christ?

#### Life Question:

How do I know Jesus is the Christ?

#### Scripture:

Mark 14:60-64, Luke 1:35, John 10:25, John 10:38

#### Key Passage:

Mark 14:60-64

#### Reality Impact:

Students will learn evidence that Jesus is the Christ.

#### I. Prayer:

#### II. Introduction:

- a. **Review:** For the past three weeks, we've discussed:
  - i. The accuracy and authenticity of the Bible
  - ii. The truth of the Bible
  - iii. The evidence that God exists
- b. **Transition:** So what do we do with Jesus? Is He the Christ, or is He just some prophet from the Middle East? The question demands evidence *and* a verdict. Tonight, we will discuss five different categories of evidence, which shows that Jesus is the Christ:
  - i. Jesus' claim to be the Christ
  - ii. Old Testament Prophecies
  - iii. The Virgin Birth
  - iv. Jesus' Miracles
  - v. Changed Lives

#### III. Jesus Claimed to be the Christ

- a. **Illustration:** Asking a Girl Out  
Guys, give me a show of hands. Is it easy to ask a girl you really, *really* like out? Of course not! Asking a girl out is risky business. She might... why she might say no! In front of all her friends! And they might laugh! We might get rejected—but only rejected. Our lives are not on the line when we ask girls out, but it scares even the strongest of us men.
- b. **Jesus risked death when He claimed to be the Christ.** During Jesus' time, anyone who claimed to be God was guilty of blasphemy. The punishment for

blasphemy? Stoning to death. Everyone picked up big stones—as in rocks, not pebbles—and hurled them at the blasphemer until he finally died. Stoning took a while and was painful. By show of hands, how many of you would risk getting stoned—with *rocks*, not with that other stuff—for a lie just so your friends would think you were God?

i. Jesus publicly declared to be God many times.

1. Several times, His claim infuriated others so much that they actually picked up stones and prepared to stone Him.
2. The night before His crucifixion, Jesus declared in court that He was the Christ—right in front of the High Priest!

a. **Scripture:** Mark 14:60-64

<sup>60</sup>Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, “Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?” <sup>61</sup>But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer. Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?” <sup>62</sup>“I am,” said Jesus. “And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.” <sup>63</sup>The high priest tore his clothes. “Why do we need any more witnesses?” he asked. <sup>64</sup>“You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?”

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c. Jesus told others that He was the Christ without fear—even when His life was on the line.

i. Jesus not only knew He was the Christ, He also knew one day everyone would recognize Him as the one TRUE Christ. That gave Him confidence.

d. **Transition:** Jesus risked His life when He claimed to be God’s son, but we need more evidence than just Jesus’ claim to be Christ.

i. **Illustration:** Circular Evidence

A defense attorney needs more evidence to prove his client’s innocence than just his client’s testimony. Think about how that would work.

“Mr. Jones, did you, in fact, murder your wife?”

“Why no! I’d never do that!”

“There! You see, ladies and gentlemen of the jury? My client, under oath, insisted that he is innocent!”

1. **Application:** No trial attorney relies solely on the testimony of the defendant. Why? Because juries expect the defendant to say he's innocent, and they want harder evidence. If Jesus is the Christ, we should find hard evidence that supports His claim—and we have. Let me present to you exhibit A: the prophecies of the Old Testament concerning the Messiah that Jesus fulfilled.

#### IV. The Prophecies

- a. What is prophecy? **Definition:** Reception and declaration of a word from the Lord through a direct prompting of the Holy Spirit and the human instrument thereof.<sup>1</sup>
- b. Let's look at some Old Testament prophecies that refer to Christ. Remember, this is only a partial list. We'd be here all day if I read all of them.<sup>2</sup>

*[Once you've finished reading each page, dramatically toss it away. It gives the students a visual picture of the vast amount of prophecies Christ fulfilled when they see huge stacks of paper lying on the floor.]*

##### i. GOD WOULD COME TO EARTH AND BE BORN AS A HUMAN MALE

1. **Isaiah 9:6-7** <sup>6</sup>For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. 700 B.C.

- a. **Mark 1:1** The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
- b. **John 1:1-3, 14** <sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup>Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>14</sup>The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

##### ii. BORN OF A VIRGIN

1. **Isaiah 7:14** Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. 700 B.C.

- a. **Matthew 1:20-23** <sup>20</sup>But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup>“The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”—which means, “God with us.”

### iii. FROM THE HOUSE OF JUDAH

1. **Isaiah 37:31** Once more a remnant of the house of Judah will take root below and bear fruit above. 700 B.C.

- a. **Matthew 1:1-2, 16** <sup>1</sup>A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son [descendant] of David, the son of Abraham: <sup>2</sup>Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, <sup>16</sup>and [a later] Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.

### iv. FROM THE ROOT AND STUMP OF JESSE

1. **Isaiah 11:10** In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his place of rest will be glorious. 700 B.C.

2. **Isaiah 11:1-5** <sup>1</sup>A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. <sup>2</sup>The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD—<sup>3</sup>and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; <sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. <sup>5</sup>Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist. 700 B.C.

- a. **Romans 15:12** And again, Isaiah says, “The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; the Gentiles will hope in him.”

- b. **Matthew 1:1-2a, 5-6, 16** <sup>1</sup>A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of David, the son of Abraham: <sup>2</sup>Abraham was the father of Isaac, ... <sup>5</sup>...Obed the father of

Jesse, <sup>6</sup>and Jesse the father of King David. <sup>16</sup>and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.

v. **FROM THE HOUSE OF DAVID**

1. **Isaiah 16:5** In love a throne will be established; in faithfulness a man will sit on it—one from the house of David—one who in judging seeks justice and speeds the cause of righteousness. 700 B.C.

a. **Matthew 1:1-2A, 6, 16** <sup>1</sup>A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of David, the son of Abraham: <sup>2</sup>Abraham was the father of Isaac, ... <sup>6</sup>and Jesse the father of King David.... <sup>16</sup>and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.

vi. **BORN IN BETHLEHEM EPHRATHAH**

1. **Micah 5:2** But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times. 700 B.C.

a. **Matthew 2:1** After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem

b. Over the years there have been a number of “Bethlehems” in Israel. At the time of Jesus’ birth, Bethlehem Ephrathah, referred to in Matthew as “Bethlehem in Judea”, was a village about five miles south of Jerusalem, and there also was a town named Bethlehem about seven miles northwest of Nazareth.<sup>3</sup>

vii. **BE FROM NAZARETH OF GALILEE**

1. **Isaiah 9:1-2** <sup>1</sup>Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the Gentiles, by the way of the sea, along the Jordan—<sup>2</sup>The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. 700 B.C.

a. **Matthew 2:22-23** <sup>22</sup>But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, <sup>23</sup>and he went and lived

in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets: “He will be called a Nazarene.”

- b. **Matthew 4:13-16** <sup>13</sup>Leaving Nazareth, he [Jesus] went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali—<sup>14</sup>to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah: <sup>15</sup>“Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the way to the sea, along the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—<sup>16</sup>the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.”

viii. **HIS BIRTH WOULD TRIGGER A MASSACRE OF INFANT BOYS**

- 1. **Jeremiah 31:15** This is what the LORD says: “A voice is heard in Ramah, mourning and great weeping, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because her children are no more.” 625 B.C.

- a. **Matthew 2:16-18** <sup>16</sup>When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. <sup>17</sup>Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: <sup>18</sup>“A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.”

- b. An interesting side note: most people think that Herod killed thousands of babies. However, Bethlehem was “in the boondocks.” The chances are that less than thirty babies were killed.

ix. **COME OUT OF EGYPT**

- 1. **Hosea 11:1** When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. 725 B.C.

- a. **Matthew 2:14-15** <sup>14</sup>So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, <sup>15</sup>where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

x. **MISSION WOULD INCLUDE THE GENTILES**

- 1. **Isaiah 49:6** he [the Lord] says: “It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of

Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth.” 700 B.C.

2. **Isaiah 42:1-4, 6** <sup>1</sup>“Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him and he will bring justice to the nations. <sup>2</sup>He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets. <sup>3</sup>A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice; <sup>4</sup>he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth. In his law the islands will put their hope.” <sup>6</sup>“I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles. 700 B.C.

- a. **Matthew 12:14-21** <sup>14</sup>But the Pharisees went out and plotted how they might kill Jesus. <sup>15</sup>Aware of this, Jesus withdrew from that place. Many followed him, and he healed all their sick, <sup>16</sup>warning them not to tell who he was. <sup>17</sup>This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: <sup>18</sup>“Here is my servant whom I have chosen, the one I love, in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will proclaim justice to the nations. <sup>19</sup>He will not quarrel or cry out; no one will hear his voice in the streets. <sup>20</sup>A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out, till he leads justice to victory. <sup>21</sup>In his name the nations will put their hope.”
- b. Note that in Biblical usage the Gentiles are often referred to as “the nations.”

xi. **MINISTRY WOULD INCLUDE MIRACULOUS HEALINGS**

1. **Isaiah 29:18** In that day the deaf will hear the words of the scroll, and out of gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind will see. 700 B.C.
2. **Isaiah 35:5-6a** <sup>5</sup>Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. <sup>6a</sup>Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. 700 B.C.
- a. **Luke 7:20-22** <sup>20</sup>When the men came to Jesus, they said, “John the Baptist sent us to you to ask, ‘Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?’” <sup>21</sup>At that very time Jesus cured many who had diseases, sicknesses and evil spirits, and gave sight to many who were blind. <sup>22</sup>So he replied to the messengers, “Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The

blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor.”

xii. **MINISTRY WOULD DELIVER SPIRITUAL CAPTIVES**

1. **Isaiah 61:1-2** <sup>1</sup>The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, <sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, 700 B.C.

a. **Luke 4:16-21** <sup>16</sup>He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read. <sup>17</sup>The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: <sup>18</sup>“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, <sup>19</sup>to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” <sup>20</sup>Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, <sup>21</sup>and he began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

b. Not too shabby, considering it was His first sermon!

xiii. **DESPISED AND REJECTED BY MEN**

1. **Isaiah 53:3** He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. 700 B.C.

a. The Crucifixion narratives in all four Gospels show this prophecy fulfilled.

xiv. **HATED WITHOUT CAUSE**

1. **Psalms 69:4** Those who hate me without reason outnumber the hairs of my head; many are my enemies without cause, those who seek to destroy me. I am forced to restore what I did not steal. 1000 B.C.

2. **Isaiah 49:7** This is what the LORD says—the Redeemer and Holy One of Israel—to him who was despised and abhorred by

the nation, to the servant of rulers: “Kings will see you and rise up, princes will see and bow down, because of the LORD, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.” 700 B.C.

- a. **John 7:48-49** “Has any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed in him? <sup>49</sup>No! But this mob that knows nothing of the law—there is a curse on them.”
- b. **John 15:24-25** <sup>24</sup>“If I had not done among them what no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. But now they have seen these miracles, and yet they have hated both me and my Father. <sup>25</sup>But this is to fulfill what is written in their Law: ‘They hated me without reason.’”

#### xv. REJECTED BY RULERS

1. **Psalms 118:22** The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone [cornerstone of a building]; <sup>23</sup>the LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes. Before. 400 B.C.
  - a. **Matthew 21:42** Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: ‘The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes’?”
  - b. **John 7:48-49** “Has any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed in him? <sup>49</sup>No! But this mob that knows nothing of the law—there is a curse on them.”

#### xvi. REJECTED BY HIS OWN BROTHERS

1. **Psalms 69:8** I am a stranger to my brothers, an alien to my own mother’s sons. 1000 B.C.
  - a. **Mark 3:20-21** <sup>20</sup>Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, so that he and his disciples were not even able to eat. <sup>21</sup>When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, “He is out of his mind.”
  - b. **John 7:1-5** <sup>1</sup>After this, Jesus went around in Galilee, purposely staying away from Judea because the Jews there were waiting to take his life. <sup>2</sup>But when the Jewish Feast of Tabernacles was near, <sup>3</sup>Jesus’ brothers said to him, “You ought to leave here and go to Judea, so that your disciples may see the miracles you do. <sup>4</sup>No one who wants to become a public figure acts in secret. Since you

are doing these things, show yourself to the world.”<sup>5</sup> For even his own brothers did not believe in him.

xvii. **BETRAYED FOR 30 PIECES OF SILVER**

1. **Zechariah 11:12** I told them, “If you think it best, give me my pay; but if not, keep it.” So they paid me thirty pieces of silver. 500 B.C.

a. **Matthew 26:14-15** <sup>14</sup>Then one of the Twelve—the one called Judas Iscariot—went to the chief priests <sup>15</sup>and asked, “What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?” So they counted out for him thirty silver coins.

xviii. **SILVER RETURNED AND USED TO BUY POTTER’S FIELD**

1. **Zechariah 11:12-13** <sup>12</sup>I told them, “If you think it best, give me my pay; but if not, keep it.” So they paid me thirty pieces of silver. <sup>13</sup>And the LORD said to me, “Throw it to the potter”—the handsome price at which they priced me! So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the LORD to the potter. 500 B.C.

a. **Matthew 27:3-10** <sup>3</sup>When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty silver coins to the chief priests and the elders. <sup>4</sup>“I have sinned,” he said, “for I have betrayed innocent blood.” “What is that to us?” they replied. “That’s your responsibility.” <sup>5</sup>So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself. <sup>6</sup>The chief priests picked up the coins and said, “It is against the law to put this into the treasury, since it is blood money.” <sup>7</sup>So they decided to use the money to buy the potter’s field as a burial place for foreigners. <sup>8</sup>That is why it has been called the Field of Blood to this day. <sup>9</sup>Then what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled: “They took the thirty silver coins, the price set on him by the people of Israel, <sup>10</sup>and they used them to buy the potter’s field, as the Lord commanded me.”

xix. **DISCIPLES WOULD SCATTER**

1. **Zechariah 13:7** “Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, against the man who is close to me!” declares the LORD Almighty. “Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered, and I will turn my hand against the little ones.” 500 B.C.

2. **Matthew 26:31** Then Jesus told them, “This very night you will all fall away on account of me, for it is written: “I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.””

- xx. Remember, this is only a partial list.
  - xxi. Evidence of fulfilled prophecy clearly proves Jesus was the Christ.
- c. **Quote:** Yet we must admit that other Jewish men may have been born into the tribe of Judah, in the city of Bethlehem, and buried in a rich man's tomb. Is it possible to believe that some of the details of Jesus' life just happened to coincide with all those Old Testament prophecies? What if it was just a big coincidence?<sup>4</sup>
- i. To answer that question, we will turn to the science of statistics and probabilities. Professor Peter W. Stoner, in an analysis that the American Scientific Affiliation reviewed and pronounced sound, states that the probability of one person coincidentally fulfilling just eight prophecies is 1 in  $10^{17}$  (that's 1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000).<sup>5</sup>
  - ii. **Illustration:** Texas Quarters  
Sometimes it's hard to picture the enormity of  $10^{17}$ . Josh McDowell uses a great illustration in his book, *Beyond Belief to Conviction*. Picture in your mind the state of Texas. Got that? It's a big state so your picture should be huge. Now fill the entire state of Texas with quarters—three feet worth of quarters. (Don't get greedy; it's just an illustration.) Now, imagine that someone painted one of those quarters—somewhere in the state of Texas—red. If you sent a blind man into Texas and told him to choose one—and only one—quarter, the chances of that blind man finding the red quarter are the same as the chances of one man coincidentally fulfilling just eight—eight!—prophecies about the Messiah. And Jesus fulfilled over three hundred!
- d. Even during times of questioning and uncertainty we can rest in confidence that Jesus is the Christ because the evidence of the prophecies He fulfilled.
- e. **Transition:** We know that Jesus is the Christ because He claimed to be the Christ even in the face of danger. The prophecies He fulfilled support this claim, but that's not all.

#### V. Jesus' birth supports His claim.

- a. **Quote:** Larry King, the CNN talk show host, was once asked who he would most want to interview if he could choose anyone from all of history. He said, "Jesus Christ." The questioner said, "And what would you like to ask Him?" King replied, "I would like to ask Him if He was indeed virgin-born. The answer to that question would define history for me."<sup>6</sup>
- b. **Critics' Claim #1:** The virgin birth is SCIENTIFICALLY IMPOSSIBLE.<sup>7</sup>

- i. Have you ever heard of *in vitro* fertilization? Embryonic transfer? Artificial insemination? Nowadays virgins can give birth.
  - ii. According to the Bible, God—not some doctor—worked the details of Jesus’ Immaculate Conception.
    - 1. **Scripture:** Luke 1:35  
The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.” NIV
      - a. This sounds miraculous—and it is, as were the resurrection and the creation of the Earth. The God who created the entire universe could certainly have caused a virgin to give birth.
- c. **Critic’s Claim #2:** The virgin birth is MYTHOLOGICAL.<sup>8</sup>
- i. Author Patrick Campbell (*The Mythical Jesus*) and Episcopal Bishop J.S. Spong suggest that the Bible’s account of the virgin birth is a “clearly recognized mythological element in our faith tradition whose purpose was not to describe a literal event but to capture the transcendent dimensions of God in the earthbound words and concepts of first-century human beings.”
  - ii. The problem with this theory? The Jewish culture would never have bought into a Greek/Babylonian mythological story as a basis for the account of their Messiah’s birth.
- d. **Critic’s Claim #3:** The virgin birth is HISTORICALLY UNSUPPORTED.<sup>9</sup>
- i. These historical accounts of the virgin birth are only a few that recognize the Immaculate Conception’s authenticity:
    - 1. The Apostles’ Creed—4th century
    - 2. The Nicene Creed, adopted at the Council of Nicea—325 A.D.
    - 3. The Athanasian Creed—about 450 A.D.
    - 4. The Chalcedon Definition, adopted at the Council of Chalcedon—451 A.D.
    - 5. The Small Catechism of Martin Luther—1529 A.D.
  - ii. Only modern day Bible critics have tried to cast doubt on this doctrinal truth.
- e. **Critic’s Claim #4:** The virgin birth is BIBLICALLY UNCONVINCING.<sup>10</sup>

- i. Some critics cite the Apostle Paul's silence on the subject of the virgin birth and the Gospel According to John's failure to mention Mary's virginity as evidence that Jesus was never born of a virgin.
  - 1. The argument from silence is a weak tactic to use when making a case—particularly in this circumstance. Both Paul and John knew Matthew and Luke's gospel accounts, and yet neither of them questioned or refuted the virgin birth.
- f. **Critic's Claim #5:** The virgin birth is STATISTICALLY UNWARRANTED.<sup>11</sup>
  - i. The critics who use this argument often cite a famous poll taken in 1965 of 7,441 Protestant clergy. The poll showed that many mainline denominational ministers were unconvinced of the virgin birth's authenticity.
  - ii. That was 1965. This is now. A recent Harris poll of 1,011 randomly selected adults showed that 91% of U.S. Christians believe in the virgin birth.
  - iii. All polls aside, we ought to turn to the Bible to determine spiritual truth—not polling data.
- g. **Transition:** Jesus' claims amidst the threat of death support that He is the Christ as do both the prophecies He fulfilled and His birth. His miracles also support His claims.

## VI. The Miracles Support His Claims

- a. Jesus' miracles point to one conclusion: He was and is the Christ.
  - i. **Scripture:** John 10:25  
<sup>25</sup>The miracles I do in my Father's name speak for me.
  - ii. **Scripture:** John 10:38  
<sup>38</sup>But if I do it, even though you do not believe me, believe the miracles, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father." NIV
- b. Critics might debate Jesus' authenticity over one two or possibly five miracles, but they can't explain away all of them. Here is a partial list of the miracles recorded in the Bible:<sup>12</sup>
  - i. Old Testament
    - 1. Creation of the universe, including plants, animals and humans (Gen. 1-2)

2. The flood (Gen. 7,8)
3. Confusion of languages (tongues) at Babel (Gen. 11:1-9)
4. Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 19:34)
5. Lot's wife turned into a "pillar of salt" (Gen, 19:26)
6. Birth of Isaac at Gerar (Gen. 21:1)
7. The burning bush not consumed (Ex. 3:3)
8. Aaron's rod changed into a serpent (Ex. 7:10-12)
9. The ten plagues of Egypt (Ex. 7:20-12:30)
  - a. waters become blood
  - b. frogs
  - c. lice
  - d. flies
  - e. murrain
  - f. boils
  - g. thunder and hail
  - h. locusts
  - i. darkness
  - j. death of the first-born
10. Red Sea divided; Israel passes through (Ex. 14:21-31)
11. Waters of Marah sweetened (Ex. 12:23-25)
12. Manna sent daily, except on Sabbath (Ex. 16:14-35)
13. Water from the rock at Rephidim (Ex. 17:5-7)
14. Nadab and Abihu consumed for offering "strange fire" (Lev. 10:1,2)
15. Some of the people consumed by fire at Taberah (Num. 11:1-3)
16. The earth opens and swallows up Korah and his company. (Num. 16:32-34)
17. Fire at Kadesh (Num. 16:35-45)
18. Plague at Kadesh (Num. 16:46-50)
19. Aaron's rod budding at Kadesh (Num. 17:8)
20. Water from the rock, smitten twice by Moses, Desert of Zin (Num. 20:7-11)
21. The brazen serpent in the Desert of Zin (Num. 21:8,9)
22. Balaam's donkey speaks (Num. 22:21-35)
23. The Jordan divided, so that Israel passed over dryshod near the city of Adam (Josh. 3:14-17)
24. The walls of Jericho fall down (Josh 6:6-20)
25. Gideon's fleece (Jud. 6:37-40)
26. The sun and moon stayed. (Josh. 10:12-14)
27. Hailstorm. (Josh. 10:12-14)
28. The strength of Samson (Jud. 14-16)
29. Water from a hollow place "that is in Lehi" (Jud. 15:19)
30. Dagon falls twice before the ark. (1 Sam. 5:1-12)
31. Emerods on the Philistines (1 Sam. 5:1-12)
32. Men of Beth-shemesh smitten for looking into the ark (1 Sam. 6:19)

33. Thunderstorm causes a panic among the Philistines at Eben-ezer (1Sam. 7:10-12)
34. Thunder and rain in harvest at Gidal (1 Sam. 12:18)
35. Sound in the mulberry trees at Rephaim (2 Sam. 5:23-25)
36. Uzzah smitten for touching the ark at Perez-uzzah (2 Sam. 6:6,7)
37. Jeroboam's hand withered. (1 Kings 13:4)
38. Jeroboam's new altar destroyed at Bethel (1 Kings 13:4-6)
39. 31. Widow of Zarephath's meal and oil increased (1 Kings 17:14-16)
40. Widow's son raised from the dead (1 Kings 17:17=24)
41. Drought at Elijah's prayers (1 Kings 17, 18)
42. Fire at Elijah's prayers (1 Kings 18:19-39)
43. Rain at Elijah's prayers (1 Kings 18:41-45)
44. Elijah fed by ravens (1 Kings 17, 18)
45. Ahaziah's captains consumed by fire near Samaria (2 Kings 1:10-12)
46. Jordan divided by Elijah and Elisha near Jericho (2 Kings 2:7, 8, 14)
47. Elijah carried up into heaven (2 Kings 2:11)
48. Waters of Jericho healed by Elisha's casting salt into them (2 Kings 2:21, 22)
49. Bears out of the wood destroy forty-two "young men" (2 Kings 2:24)
50. Water provided for Jehoshaphat and the allied army (2 Kings 3:16-20)
51. The widow's oil multiplied (2 Kings 4:2-7)
52. The Shunammite's son given, and raised from the dead at Shunem (2 Kings 4:32-37)
53. The deadly pottage cured with meal at Gidal (2 Kings 4:38-41)
54. A hundred men fed with twenty loaves at Gidal (2 Kings 4:42-44)
55. Naaman cured of leprosy, Gehazi afflicted with it (2 Kings 5:10-27)
56. The iron axe-head made to swim, river Jordan (2 Kings 6:5-7)
57. Ben hadad's plans discovered. Hazael's thoughts, etc. (2 Kings 6:12)
58. The Syrian army smitten with blindness at Dothan (2 Kings 6:18)
59. The Syrian army cured of blindness at Samaria (2 Kings 6:20)
60. Elisha's bones revive the dead (2 Kings 13:21)
61. Sennacherib's army destroyed, Jerusalem (2 Kings 19:35)
62. Shadow of sun goes back ten degrees on the sun-dial of Ahaz, Jerusalem (2 Kings 20:9-11)
63. Uzziah struck with leprosy, Jerusalem (2 Chr. 26:16-21)
64. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego delivered from the fiery furnace, Babylon (Dan. 3:10-27)
65. Daniel saved in the lions' den (Dan. 6:16-23)
66. Jonah in the fish's belly. Safely landed (Jonah 2:1-10)

## ii. New Testament

1. Cure of two blind men (Matt. 9:27-31)
2. Piece of money in the fish's mouth (Matt. 17:24-27)
3. The deaf and dumb man (Mark 7:31-37)
4. The blind man of Bethsaida (Mark 8:22-26)
5. Jesus passes unseen through the crowd (Luke 3:28-30)
6. The miraculous draught of fishes (Luke 5:4-11)
7. The raising of the widow's son at Nain (Luke 7:11-18)
8. The woman with the spirit of infirmity (Luke 13:11-17)
9. The man with the dropsy (Luke 14:1-6)
10. The ten lepers (Luke 17:11-19)
11. The healing of Malchus (Luke 22:50-51)
12. Water made wine (John 2:1-11)
13. Cure of nobleman's son, Capernaum (John 4:46-54)
14. Impotent man at Bethsaida cured (John 5:1-9)
15. Man born blind cured (John 9:1-7)
16. Lazarus raised from the dead (John 11:38-44)
17. Draught of fishes (John 21:1-14)
18. Syrophenician woman's daughter cured (Matt. 15:28; Mark 7:24)
19. Four thousand fed (Matt. 15:32; Mark 8:1)
20. Fig tree blasted (Matt. 21:18; Mark 11:12)
21. Centurion's servant healed (Matt. 8:5; Luke 7:1)
22. Blind and dumb demoniac cured (Matt 12:22; Luke 11:14)
23. Demoniac cured in synagogue at Capernaum (Mark 1:23; Luke 4:33)
24. Peter's wife's mother cured (Matt. 8:14; Mark 1:30; Luke 4:38)
25. The tempest stilled (Matt. 8:23; Mark 4:37; Luke 8:22)
26. Demoniacs of Gadara cured (Matt. 8:28; Mark 5:1; Luke 8:26)
27. Swine rush into and drown (Mark 5:1-20)
28. Leper healed (Matt. 8:2; Mark 1:40; Luke 5:12)
29. Jarius's daughter raised (Matt. 9:23; Mark 5:23; Luke 8:41)
30. Woman's issue of blood cured (Matt. 9:20; Mark 5:25; Luke 8:43)
31. Man sick of the palsy cured (Matt. 9:2; Mark 2:3; Luke 5:18)
32. Man's withered hand cured (Matt. 12:10; Mark 3:1; Luke 6:6)
33. A lunatic child cured (Matt. 17:14; Mark 9:14; Luke 9:37)
34. Two blind men cured (Matt. 20:29; Mark 10:46; Luke 18:35)
35. Jesus walks on the sea (Matt. 14:25; Mark 6:48; John 6:15)
36. Jesus feeds 5,000 "in a desert place" (Matt. 14:15; Mark 6:30; Luke 9:10; John 6:1-14)
37. Many fulfilled prophecies (also see: prophets)
38. The conception of Jesus Christ by the Holy Ghost (Luke 1:35)
39. Star of Beth of Bethlehem
40. The transfiguration (Matt. 17:1-8)
41. The resurrection (John 21:1-14)
42. The ascension (Luke 2:42-51)

- 43. Peter and the healing of a the paralytic Aeneas at Lydda (Acts 9:32, 35, 38)
- 44. Miraculous ability to speak and/or understand a foreign language (tongue) previously unknown to the speaker.
- 45. Inspiration of Scripture by God.

- c. Jesus performed over 35% of the miracles in the Bible.
- d. **Transition:** The fulfilled prophecies support Jesus' claim to be Christ. The circumstances of His birth support His claim to be Christ. His miracles support His claim to be Christ. Such evidence is astounding. One other piece of evidence supports His claim better than anything we've discussed thus far: the evidence of changed lives.

## VII. Changed Lives Support them All

- a. NO ONE can argue with the unmistakable evidence of CHANGED LIVES.
  - i. The Day of Pentecost, when three thousand people became Christians.
  - ii. The Protestant Reformation
  - iii. The Jesus Movement in the 70's
  - iv. Me
  - v. You

## VIII. Closing:

### a. Lesson Recap:

- i. We know that Jesus is the Christ because:
  - 1. He claimed to be the Christ—even when His life was threatened.
  - 2. Old Testament Prophecies: Jesus fulfilled over 300 Old Testament Prophecies about the Messiah.
  - 3. The Virgin Birth
  - 4. Jesus' Miracles
  - 5. Changed Lives—probably the strongest evidence we have.

## IX.

### a. Life Lessons:

- i. What if it is not true? What if Jesus was just a nice man with delusions of grandeur and a bunch followers? What if all I believe today is based on a lie? If that's so, then I've lived a great life. I'm content.
- ii. What if it is true? What if Jesus is who He claims He is? If it is true, I'm content—and I'm going to heaven. But what about you? If this is true, and you were to die in a car accident on your way home tonight, where would you be?

**X. Action Steps**

- a. Jesus claimed to be Christ, even when His life was in danger. Will you commit to sharing Christ with others, even when you fear rejection?
- b. Jesus knew His words were truth, and that gave Him confidence. When we tell others about Christ, we are speaking the truth. This should give us confidence. If your friends reject you or tease you because of your faith, remember that your faith is based on evidence—it's based on truth.

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<sup>1</sup> Need note for definition

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.godonthenet.com/evidence/messiah.htm>

<sup>3</sup> Kenneth Barker, ed. *Zondervan NIV Study Bible* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1984) 1442

<sup>4</sup> Where did this quote come from?

<sup>5</sup> This too?

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.christiananswers.net/q-aiia/virginbirth.html>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.christiananswers.net/q-aiia/virginbirth.html>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.christiananswers.net/q-aiia/virginbirth.html>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.christiananswers.net/q-aiia/virginbirth.html>

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.christiananswers.net/q-aiia/virginbirth.html>

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.christiananswers.net/q-aiia/virginbirth.html>

<sup>12</sup> <http://christiananswers.net/dictionary/miracle.html>

## **Truth Series: Lesson 4**

### **How Do We Know Jesus is the Christ?**

1. What five pieces of evidence prove that Jesus is the Christ?
2. How has your belief in Jesus changed your life?
3. If Jesus was not afraid to tell others He was God, should we?

How is your relationship with Jesus right now? Do you have one? Are you struggling with the answer?