

# WHY JESUS?

COLLEGE EDITION

This paper is dedicated to  
you the reader.

Al Provost

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Why Jesus?

Why are you reading this paper? Perhaps you are a Christian who wants to learn more about your Christian faith. Or perhaps, you received this paper from a friend, someone who “just cares” about you or from a loved one. You may believe deeply in the Bible or you may have questions concerning some of its content. Whatever your position may be I hope your questions will be answered by the following information. The reason for this writing is prescribed in the Scriptures by the Lord. So please stay with me! The Bible, in Jude 3, urges us . . . *“to contend earnestly for the faith”* . . . and 1Peter 3:15 states to . . . *“always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks for the reason for the hope that is in you”* . . . I am writing this paper as directed by our Lord and Creator. I urge you to read all of the enclosed information and keep an open mind to the facts and evidence that is presented. In most cases, I will not present a proof of a particular subject, simply because a proof is not possible. For example, I can not prove creation. Also, there is no proof for evolution. However, I will present strong evidence for creation. Facts and evidence will be presented, with which, you will be able to answer the question . . . **WHY?** I will reason with you and present evidence so that you and you alone will decide what is true and what is not true. All of the following information is written and presented in love.

It is true that *“faith”* is a basic ingredient within Christianity. However, the more knowledge of the facts and evidence that we obtain will increase our confidence that our faith is reality. For example, let’s say; you have a legal problem and you have faith in Mr. Smith because he is a lawyer. Then you hear from one of his clients and he tells you that Mr. Smith went to a good university, is up to date with all the latest legal data and court cases, and he listens very well to what you have to say. You read an article that Mr. Smith has written on your legal problem and you like what you read. As the evidence increases, your confidence in Mr. Smith has increased and likewise your faith in his ability, even though you may have never met him. Do you see the comparison to Jesus? We have never seen Him yet we have faith in Him because of the evidence. We have used logic and reason to develop the evidence.

This paper will discuss two main subjects: 1) were we and all that is around us created or not?; and 2) is Jesus Christ the one and only God and creator or not?

### **Were We Created?**

There are many questions that could be asked about these two subjects. A first question here may be **“WHY** are we here?”; and how did our existence on earth begin? The answer is very simple: either we were created or we were not created. If we were created, it logically follows that there is a creator.

However, if we were not created, how did we come to be? By chance? Evolution? Well, let’s talk about evolution for a moment. Is the earth old enough to support the theory of evolution? Is there **any evidence** to back the claims for evolution? Some believe that the earth is approximately 6000 years old as indicated in the Bible (one day of creation is 24 hours). The evolutionists agree that it would take billions of years for life to form. The young earth proposal does not fit the idea of evolution by anyone’s standards. It doesn’t allow nearly enough time for evolution to take place. So what

about the old earth idea? Some old earth believers say that the earth and universe are somewhere between 3 billion years and 13 billion years old. There is not enough space or time to cover all the areas associated with the possibility of a human evolving to the intellect and physical stature as we are today. However, just a few points of evidence to show that evolution is not feasible.

Point One: scientist Sir Fred Hoyle explains that it would be difficult if not impossible for the accidental formation of only one of the many chains of amino acids in a living cell. And in every human cell there are about 200,000 such amino acids. Now if you would (could) compute the time required to get all 200,000 amino acids for just one human cell to come together, by chance, it would be about 294 times the estimated (old) age of the earth (set at 4.6 billion years).<sup>①</sup>

Point Two: evolution says that things started from nothing then grew and changed from one specie to another - i.e. say an alligator to a dog. If that is true, there should be fossils from the animals between the alligator and the dog. However, a fossil of these transition animals has never been found. It is completely missing. **WHY?** Now, just a few additional points to consider:

1. Abiogenesis, the production of living organisms by nonliving matter
2. There is no mechanism to propel an organism through successive stages of development and very limited capacity for change.
3. There are insufficient results for a unit of time.
4. The universe is finite.

The theory of evolution says that all living things improve with time. However, the very complicated second law of thermodynamics, in physics, states that all energy decreases with time so that at some point in time all things will die. For example, our sun, will not burn “forever”, it is dying. And, the first principal of physics states from nothing, nothing derives. Therefore, the universe started from something. Who made that something? **AND WHY?**

The theory of evolution really pertains to the physical. How does evolution account for moral consciousness, feelings like love, hate, depression and so many more?

So now let's go back to the idea of a creation and a creator, whom we will call GOD. Some questions we have, simply don't have an answer, like, “Who made God”. Some answers must be left to faith. We as humans have faith in many things. Such as: **“WHY”** does the earth have perfect tilt and rotation?? **“WHY”** does the sun give us perfect heat, light and gravity (one sun/three powers)? **“WHY”** are the magnetic poles and the star locations perfect for navigation?? **“WHY”** and how does the human heart get enough rest between 3,400,000,000 beats in a lifetime?? You know that we could go on with a list like this for a long time.

One of the greatest scientists of all times, Einstein, formulated the necessity for a beginning “and the presence of a superior reasoning power, a creator”.<sup>②</sup> Just what

does it take for the universe to stay in fine tune?? Review the following parameters and judge for yourself:

1. There must be “entropy” or energy degradation at the proper amount.
2. The ratio of the electromagnetic force constant to the gravitational force constant.
3. Ratio of electron to proton mass.
4. Expansion rate of the universe.
5. Velocity of light
6. The size of the earth - If smaller- no atmosphere; If larger deadly hydrogen.
7. Perfect distance from the sun - a small change would make earth too hot or cold.③

Are these parameters complicated? Yes! **WHY?** All the more evidence for creation and not by chance. There are actually many, many more characteristics that could be mentioned.

The words “by chance” always come up when discussing evolution. However, no one would believe that a computer could come into being without an intelligent designer, or a watch or a building or a car or an airplane etc. . . Could a monkey set up the type for Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address? How much more incredible is it to believe that the universe, in all its infinite complexity, could have “just happened” by chance.

### **Is the Bible Reliable?**

Allow me to change directions and discuss the Bible for a moment. The Bible is a compilation of 66 books. It was written by many different authors over a period of about 1600 years. Yet all of the Bible “fits” together as if it were written at one time. Unfortunately, some people disregard the relevance of the Bible while at the same time rely on other history books as factual, such as writings about the roman empire, the pharaohs of Egypt, the history of the United States, and so on. What evidence can be presented to establish the Bible as an accurate and reliable document? **WHY** not archeology? We are fortunate to live in a time of history that is so very rich in archeological discoveries. Since the middle of the 19th century, the number of “digs” have increased dramatically. Much of the work, or digs, have been in the area mentioned in the Bible. There have been uncountable locations, names and treasures that are indicated in the Bible that have been verified with these archeological digs. Not one of the archeological findings have shown the Bible to be wrong. On the contrary, when a dig involved an area of the Bible, it verified in detail, the description in the Bible. For example: A dig in 1923 discovered, without doubt, Ur of the Chaldees. Also found were clay tablets with Biblical names of that era.④ Another find: Even though the Hittites are mentioned 47 times in the Bible, scholars doubted that they existed because no historical evidence of such people had been found. Then in 1876, Hugo Winckler uncovered 5 temples and 10,000 clay tablets. They were deciphered and shown that the Hittites did really exist in the area described in the Bible.⑤ Also, the location of Christ’s trial, the “Pool of Bethesda” and the fact that there was a “census” at the time of Christ and that Quirinus was governor have all been verified with archeological discoveries. Obviously, we could list many more, however, that is not the purpose of

this paper. History tells us that the early Jewish historians were extremely careful in copying existing documents (i.e. the Torah). In the early centuries after Christ's Resurrection, the rapidly growing number of churches and home groups required an increased supply of copies of the Old and New Testament books. The Gospels and Letters in the New Testament, which were written from 50 A.D. to 95 A.D., were transcribed with every bit the same accuracy as the Old Testament books by the early Jewish historians.

The oldest Greek version of the Old Testament is called the Septuagint. It was completed at the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Century B.C. In 405 A.D., Jerome translated the Bible into Latin which was called the Vulgate. In 1380 A.D., John Wycliff used the Vulgate to translate the Bible into English. In 1456 A.D., the Gutenberg Bible was printed. In 1517 A.D., Martin Luther posted his 95 theses (The Reformation). From 1520 to 1530 A.D., Tyndale studied Greek and Hebrew for a translation into English. Through the years, there were translations into many languages. In 1901 A.D., the American Standard edition changed England's dialect to American dialect.

Another source that shows the reliability of the Bible are the "Dead Sea Scrolls".<sup>③</sup> These scrolls were first discovered in 1948 in some caves in the area of Qumram, near the Dead Sea in Israel. It is believed that the scrolls were placed in clay jars around 70 A.D. at the end of the uprising against Rome. These scrolls have been reviewed for content and discovered to be the same as the Bible of today.<sup>④</sup> In other words, our Bible has not changed in 2000 years. **WHY?**

Besides the "Dead Sea Scrolls", many historical writings have been found to verify the reliability of the Bible. We will discuss the writings in the next section.

There are three principles in determining the historical reliability of any document. These principles are the bibliographical test, the internal evidence test and the external evidence test.

**The Bibliographical Test** as explained by Josh McDowell is an examination of the textual transmission by which documents reach us. Since we do not have the original documents, we should ask, how reliable are the copies we have in regard to the total number of manuscripts and the time interval between the original and the extant copy. This time frame in some cases is less than 50 years. When comparing the original manuscripts of the New Testament with those of ancient secular history, you will see that the quantity of New Testament manuscripts are abundant. Let's take a look at these numbers:

AUTHOR	WRITTEN	EARLIEST COPY	TIME SPAN	COPIES
Caesar	100-	900A.D.	1000	10

	44B.C.		years	
Plato	427-347B.C.	900A.D.	1200 years	7
Aristotle	384-322B.C.	1100A.D.	1400 years	49
Homer	900B.C.	400B.C.	500 years	643
New Testament	48-110A.D.	125A.D.	15-90 years	20,000+

**The Internal Evidence Test** is that, one should consider the claims of the document and not assume error unless there are known inaccuracies. For example; Luke says “I myself have carefully investigated everything . . .”; Peter said; “. . . we were eyewitnesses of His majesty”; John said “We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard”. The internal testimony of the New Testament contains eyewitness testimony of the ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth. The primary-source of Matthew and Mark are verified by non-biblical sources using the external evidence test. What historical materials and writers confirm the external evidence test? Due to time and space, only a few will be noted here:

- Epistle of Pseudo-Barnabas A.D.70
- Clement A.D.95
- Ignatius A.D.110
- Papias A.D.130
- Tacitus A.D.112
- Lucian & Josephus 2nd century
- Suctonius A.D.120
- Pliny A.D.112©.

As was stated at the beginning of this paper, nothing has been “proven” here. However, the evidence for the Bible being an accurate document is far beyond reasonable doubt. It’s not hard to understand **WHY?**

Let’s look at more evidence. Besides the question of accurate transcription of the Biblical books, another question that is usually brought up is one of reliability of the Bible “stories.” I will mention only one such “story” here. Many people do not believe the story of Shadrach, Mechach and Abednego, Daniel’s friends, who where thrown into a fiery furnace. They were not harmed by the fire. That story seems a bit hard to believe, I’ll admit. However, in the year 168A.D., Polycarp, the leader of the church in Smyrna, was ordered to be burned alive. He was tied to a stake and the fire was set. According to eyewitnesses, Polycarp did not burn. Then the executioner stabbed him and his blood poured out and quenched the fire. Unlike Shadrach, Mechach and Abednego, Polycarp did die, but from the stab wound not the fire. **WHY?** ⑦

### **Did Jesus Live?**

The New Testament writings are about Jesus Christ. So, the next question might be,

did Jesus really live? Many 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Century non-Christians mentioned Christ in their writings as listed above. These writings confirm the fact that Jesus did live 2000 years ago. Now, since we have determined that Jesus lived and that the Bible is a very reliable document, then our next question should be, **“Is Jesus The Creator and God?”** Noted author, C. S. Lewis, makes the point that Jesus was either a liar and lunatic or He is Lord and Creator of the universe. There is no place for anything else, like “He was a good teacher.” Nothing in the Bible or the action of his followers indicates this point of view. Let’s first look at the possibility that Jesus was a liar and a lunatic. If Jesus was an ordinary man, and He claimed all that is in the Bible, then surely He was a liar and a lunatic. If that is the case, then all Christians should be pitied because they believe lies and are completely lost spiritually. What remains is the proposition that Jesus is the Lord, Savior and Creator of the universe. Jesus Christ was crucified for “who He said He is” not for anything He did! He said, “The Father and I are One”. Evidence shows that the Bible is a very reliable document. So let’s review a few prophecies in the Bible about Christ:

PROPHECY	OLD TESTAMENT REFERENCE	NEW TESTAMENT FULFILLMENT
Born of a Virgin	Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:22
Called Emmanuel (GOD with us)	Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:23
Born in Bethlehem	Micah 5:2	Matthew 2:5
The Word (Jesus) was rejected	Isaiah 53:1-3	John 1:10-11
Raised from the dead	Psalms 16:10	Matthew 28:2-8

There are at least 40 more major prophecies that were exactly in line with the life of Jesus. The odds of one man fulfilling all of the prophecies is astronomical and impossible without divine intervention. In fact, Hugh Ross has calculated that the probability of the chance fulfillment of only 13 Bible predictions showed less than one chance in 10 with 138 “zeros” following.

What was so profound about what Jesus said and WHY? Jesus said “I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, no-one comes to the Father (God) except through me.” This was not some casual statement or threat. Jesus said it as fact. Jesus is God incarnate! God the Son! If we want glorious eternal life, it comes through Jesus. Through the Gospel, which is the power of God, for the salvation of everyone who believes!

Christians worship Jesus, the one true God. One objection to Christianity seems to be the unwillingness of the human psyche to “Worship” anyone, even if that “one” is God. Most say “I will be O.K. if I am just a good person.” Another objection to Christianity is the concept of the “trinity”. If Jesus is God then the concept of the trinity (three persons but one God) must be true. Surely, God would not come to earth as a human and leave heaven unoccupied! Most people reject the trinity!

Because Christians believe that Jesus Christ is the only way to salvation, many think of Christians as intolerant. However, Jesus commanded His followers to spread His word to all nations. Jesus told us to love Him and to love others. WHY did Jesus say these things? Because Jesus wants all to know the joy that is found in knowing Him. That pure “joy” is WHY Christians share Jesus with friends and relatives.

The Christian’s assurance for everlasting life after death is based on the “faith” that Jesus Christ died for our sins and we will be with Him in heaven. Other religions require “works” in order to be “good enough”. Within these two options lies a world of difference. Let’s look into the difference. Say, all other religions and cults are right and Christianity is wrong. It seems to me that if I naturally do “good” for others and the community I will be “good enough” to go to heaven or where ever one goes after death.

So, it appears I will be O.K. along with folks from other religions. However, if Jesus is God, and if Christ is the “*Way the Truth and the Life*” then the Christian is doing what God (Jesus) said to do and will be with Jesus, in heaven, after death.

What about the person who has heard about Jesus and rejects Him? Can you say for certain what will happen to that person’s soul?

### **What is a Christian?**

I have mentioned Christianity a number of times in this paper. Just what is it that makes a person Christian? Well, there are five basic beliefs:

1. Believe that the Bible is from God and is without error.
2. Believe the “trinity” and that Jesus is the one true God.
3. Believe in the virgin birth and other miracles in the Bible.
4. Believe that Jesus, God the Son, died on the cross for our sins.
5. Believe that Jesus rose from the dead, is alive today and will return as King over all creation.

It doesn’t hurt to believe in Jesus. But I wouldn’t want you to accept Him blindly. Therefore, ask the Lord Jesus to reveal himself to you. Jesus is alive today and He wants you and I to have a **personal relationship** with Him. **WHY?** So we can love Him and be with Him for eternity!

Ask the person who gave you this paper for more information and to pray with you. Jesus is concerned with the attitude of your heart and with your relationship with Him and your family and friends. If you are a member of another religious faith, you probably have some questions. Your questions are welcome and encouraged.

**References Used:**

- ① Know why you Believe, Paul Little, page 27
- ② The Creation Hypothesis, J.P. Moreland, page 145
- ③ Creator of the Cosmos, Hugh Ross, page 118
- ④ Archeology Proves the Bible, page 11
- ⑤ The Stones Cry Out, Randall Price, page 83
- ⑥ A Ready Defense, Josh McDowell, page 48
- ⑦ A paper written by Jonathan Cederberg

**Additional Reading:**

- The Bible
- Mere Christianity, C.S. Lewis
- More Than A Carpenter, Josh McDowell
- The Stones Cry Out, Randall Price
- What is Creation Science?, Henry Morris
- Essential Christianity, Walter Martin
- Know Why You Believe, Paul Little
- Is the New Testament Reliable?, Paul Barnett