

**05 – Reasonable faith – Who is Jesus?****Who is Jesus?****Is Jesus a myth?**

**“I think that atheists have done themselves a disservice by jumping on the bandwagon of mythicism because, frankly it makes you look foolish to the outside world. You are much better off going with the historical evidence... rather than coming up with some theory that Jesus did not exist at all”.**

**Is Jesus a fishing story?**

**... what is written about him in the bible was a later development**

**The earliest accounts ... contain the whole story**

**... biblical accounts of Jesus are heavily supported by the accounts of Jesus written by those who were deeply opposed to him.**

**“The Christ files” by John Dickson.**

**... 17 ancient sources**

- 1) There was a man named Jesus**
- 2) He had a brother James**
- 3) He lived during the reign of Tiberius**
- 4) He was a doer of ‘startling deeds’ or ‘sorcery’**
- 5) He was crucified under Pontius Pilate**
- 6) He was reported to be alive three days later**
- 7) The multitude of people who followed him were called Christians**
- 8) They worshipped Jesus as God**

**Jesus of the Bible**

***“no one reading these scenes can doubt the reality of the figure behind them ... after two centuries of higher criticism the outlines of the life, character and teaching of Christ remain reasonably clear and constitute the most fascinating feature in the history of western man”***

**1) Jesus is God**

**John 1:1, ... Jesus is God**

**John 1:3, “Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made”.**

**JW translation = “Apart from him not even one thing came into existence”.**

**Isaiah 44:24, “*This is what the LORD says – your Redeemer, who formed you in the womb: I am the LORD, the Maker of all things, who stretches out the heavens, who spreads out the earth by myself,*”**

The bible claims that Jesus is both God and Man.

Mark 1:27 ... the authority that he spoke with.

miraculous things... ‘sorcerer’ or a ‘doer of startling deeds’.

Mark 4:35 ... calming a storm with a word

Psalm 107:29, “He (YHWH) stilled the storm to a whisper and the waves of the sea were hushed”.

Mark 2:1-12 ... Jesus forgives a man of his sin.

... claiming to act with the power and authority of God.

The first Christians worshipped Jesus as God.

The empty tomb and Jesus’ resurrection in bodily form.

## 2) Jesus is Saviour

Gen 3:15 ... one day the offspring of Adam and Eve would fix the problem of human sin.

Isaiah 53

v 12 *“for he bore the sins of many and made intercession for the transgressors”*

Matthew 1:21, *“She will give birth to a son and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save people from their sins.”*

## 3) Jesus a stumbling block

... a stumbling block for many.

## For us today

1) Your own response to “who Jesus is” matters.

2) A loving (but confronting) message

3) Reasonable belief