

Evidence that Demands a Verdict

by Josh McDowell (1972)

This is a book of apologetics (defense of Christianity). The value is not in the one believing, but the one who is believed in. The Bible has been translated more than any other book. If you are an intelligent person, you will read the one book [Bible] that has drawn more attention than any other, if you are searching for the truth. Some people trust the writing of Homer more than the New Testament and yet the earliest copy is 500 years after it was written & only 643 copies (compared to 50 years after & 24,000 copies). Homer's Iliad had 5% textual corruption compared to 0.5% in the NT. The Jews painfully copied Synagogue scrolls of the Old Testament & any found with a mistake were condemned as unfit.

1947 a Bedouin shepherd boy discovered the Dead Sea Scrolls in a cave 8 miles south of Jericho. The leather scrolls were sealed in clay jars and placed there about 68 AD. No archaeological discovery has ever proved the Bible in error. Jesus said He was the Son of God & convicted of Blasphemy. Thus, He was crucified for being who He really was. Jesus forgave sins that by Jewish law this was only for God. Either He was Lord, a lunatic or a liar.

The closer we get to God, the more aware we become of our sins. His disciples were raised Jews and were aware of their sins & those of others; yet they saw the Christ was sinless. He had to be to die for our sins (the perfect lamb). His enemies did not deny His miracles. Jesus said His words would not pass away & 2000 years later they are still alive. People have said they had a spiritual vacuum that Jesus filled.

Christ fulfilled 61 prophecies. The probability of fulfilling only 8 would be the same as covering TX 2-feet deep with silver dollars & marking one, and then ask a blind man to pick it out. Christianity is the only religion that claims a resurrection from the dead (Confucius, Buddha & Mohammed did not). Pilate required four executioners to exam & certify that Jesus was dead. They wrapped Him in cloth & 70 lbs of spices, placed Him in the tomb & sealed the large stone in front of it. There would have been 4 Roman guards on duty (punishable by death if neglecting their post). Witnesses documented that Christ appeared to men after His resurrection.

Bottom line is this: if what Jesus said is true & we accept Him as our Savior we go to heaven (& if we deny Him, we go to hell); if what He said was false at least we lived a good life. But most people testify that Christ filled a void in their life that could not be filled by anything else.

Quotes:

"The evidence of God's existence and His gift is more than compelling, but those who insist that they have no need of Him or it will always find ways to discount the offer." (Pascal)

Scriptures:

I Peter 3:15 = ...always being ready to make a defense...