

John 10:10 (NLT) ¹⁰ The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.

NIV - I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

ESV - I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

NASB - I came so that they would have life, and have it abundantly.

BSB (Berean) - I have come that they may have life, and have it in all its fullness.

Psalms 16:11 (NLT) ¹¹ You will show me the way of life, granting me the joy of your presence and the pleasures of living with you forever.

John 1:16 (NLT) ¹⁶ From his abundance we have all received one gracious blessing after another.

Three Important Facts:

- I. Fact: Jesus of Nazareth Lived
- II. Fact: We Die
- III. Fact: Jesus spoke as an authority about life in this life, and life in eternity

Your Basic Options Regarding Jesus:

- A. Ignore (Him & Eternity)
- B. Act Like He's Your Lord
- C. Surrender To Him As Lord

Session #1 More Than a Carpenter!

Jesus is Much Much More Than A Carpenter!

Matthew 16:13–17 (NLT) *Peter's Declaration about Jesus* ¹³ When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ "Well," they replied, "some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say Jeremiah or one of the other prophets." ¹⁵ Then he asked them, "But who do you say I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ Jesus replied, "You are blessed, Simon son of John, because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being.

Would like to discuss three areas that clearly show us Jesus was Messiah!

1. Prophecy & Fulfilment Prove Jesus Is Messiah

The Bible is incredibly accurate, and we have a ridiculously large number of old transcripts...

Isaiah 53:3–9 (NLT) ³ He was despised and rejected— a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief. We turned our backs on him and looked the other way. He was despised, and we did not care. ⁴ Yet it was our weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows that weighed him down. And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for his own sins! ⁵ But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. ⁶ All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the LORD laid on him the sins of us all. ⁷ He was oppressed and treated harshly, yet he never said a word. He was led like a lamb to the slaughter. And as a sheep is silent before the shearers, he did not open his mouth. ⁸ Unjustly condemned, he was led away. No one cared that he died without descendants, that his life was cut short in midstream. But he was struck down for the rebellion of my people. ⁹ He had done no wrong and had never deceived anyone. But he was buried like a criminal; he was put in a rich man's grave.

We know Isaiah was written before Jesus due to the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls, which contain an ancient scroll of Isaiah dating to the 2nd century BC, and because of archaeological evidence and the internal historical context of the book itself. The prophet Isaiah himself lived in the 8th century BC, centuries before Jesus was born, and historical references within the book—such as [King Cyrus of Persia's](#) decree—place its composition long before the birth of Christ.

Psalms 22:16–18 (NLT) ¹⁶ My enemies surround me like a pack of dogs; an evil gang closes in on me. They have pierced my hands and feet. ¹⁷ I can count all my bones. My enemies stare at me and gloat. ¹⁸ They divide my garments among themselves and throw dice for my clothing.

Micah 5:2 (NLT)

A Ruler from Bethlehem ² But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, are only a small village among all the people of Judah. Yet a ruler of Israel whose origins are in the distant past, will come from you on my behalf.

- **Zechariah 11:12–13:** This prophecy foretells the betrayal of the Messiah for 30 pieces of silver, which was paid to Judas Iscariot and later used to buy a potter's field.
- **Psalm 41:9:** King David wrote of being betrayed by a close and trusted friend, an event fulfilled by Judas's betrayal of Jesus.

Exact Numbers are debated, but some say 60 major prophecies and 270 ramification prophecies fulfilled in Jesus!

Josh McDowell's "silver dollar" illustration, derived from [Peter Stoner's](#) work and featured in his book *Evidence That Demands a Verdict*, demonstrates the incredibly low probability of a single individual fulfilling the Old Testament messianic prophecies. The example posits that if the entire state of Texas were

covered with silver dollars two feet deep, and one was secretly marked, the odds of a blindfolded person picking the correct coin on the first try are comparable to the chances of just eight of these specific prophecies being fulfilled by one person.

2. Jesus' Life, Miracles, and Teaching Prove He is Messiah

The New Testament records Jesus performing numerous miracles, including healing the sick, raising the dead (like Lazarus), walking on water, feeding thousands with minimal food, calming storms, and turning water into wine. These acts were seen as proof of his divine authority, compassion, and his role as the Messiah.

- Healing the Sick
- Casting Out Demons
- Feeding Huge Crowds
- Raising The Dead
- The Resurrection - His own resurrection from the dead is considered the ultimate miracle, a testament to his victory over death.
- Control Over Nature

Mark 4:39–41 (NLT) *Jesus Calms the Storm* ³⁹ When Jesus woke up, he rebuked the wind and said to the waves, **“Silence! Be still!”** Suddenly the wind stopped, and there was a great calm. ⁴⁰ Then he asked them, **“Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?”** ⁴¹ The disciples were absolutely terrified. “Who is this man?” they asked each other. “Even the wind and waves obey him!”

Jesus's teachings were often delivered with an authority that set him apart from other religious leaders of the time.

Luke 4:31–32 (NLT) ³¹ Then Jesus went to Capernaum, a town in Galilee, and taught there in the synagogue every Sabbath day. ³² There, too, the people were amazed at his teaching, for he spoke with authority.

3. Transformed People Prove Jesus is Messiah

Because of Jesus, there are waves of transformed people, then, since then, and today!

Three Biblical Examples:

- a. **Zacchaeus** -A tax collector who was widely despised, Zacchaeus encountered Jesus and, moved by their interaction, pledged to give half of his possessions to the poor and repay anyone he had defrauded four times over, showing a radical shift in his behavior and priorities.
- b. **Disciples** - Jesus transformed his disciples from fearful, confused people into empowered, bold witnesses to his resurrection through His teachings, example, and the Holy Spirit. This process included both a spiritual transformation after His ascension, as well as a direct, physical and spiritual transformation during His transfiguration on a mountain and His post-resurrection appearances where He gave them a new understanding of the scriptures and a mission for the future.
- c. **Paul** - A zealous persecutor of Christians, Saul had a profound encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus. This transformed him into the apostle Paul, one of the most influential spreaders of the gospel, demonstrating that God's grace can change even the most hardened individuals.

Two Questions:

A. Is Jesus Liar, Lord or Lunatic?

Some people try to dismiss Jesus a good and godly prophet, but not Messiah.

However,

1. Jesus claimed to be God .
2. If he wasn't God, he must be either a Liar or a Lunatic :
 - **Liar:** He made his claims knowing they were false.
 - **Lunatic:** He made his claims without knowing they were false, meaning he was deluded or insane.
3. Evidence suggests he was neither a liar nor a lunatic :
 - **Liar:** His moral teachings, the depth of his wisdom, and the love and compassion he displayed are inconsistent with someone knowingly deceiving others.
 - **Lunatic:** He showed great wisdom, compassion, and authority, which are not typical of a raving lunatic.
4. Therefore, the only remaining option is that he is Lord .

B. Who Would Die for a Lie?

The Deaths of the Twelve Apostles plus Paul and Matthias

- **James (Son of Zebedee):** The Bible states he was beheaded by [King Herod Agrippa I](#) around 44 AD.
- **Peter:** According to church tradition, he was crucified upside down in Rome under [Nero](#), as he requested not to die in the same manner as Jesus.
- **Andrew:** He was crucified on an X-shaped cross in Greece, enduring a long period of suffering.
- **John:** He is the only apostle believed to have died a natural death, having been exiled to the island of Patmos before returning to serve the church.
- **Philip:** Accounts vary, but tradition suggests he was crucified or stoned to death in [Asia Minor](#).
- **Bartholomew:** He was reportedly flayed alive.
- **Thomas:** He is said to have been martyred in India by being stabbed with a spear or four spears.
- **Matthew:** He was likely killed by the sword in Ethiopia.
- **Simon the Zealot:** He was martyred in Persia.
- **Jude (also known as Thaddeus):** He was killed with arrows for refusing to deny his faith.
- **James (Son of Alphaeus):** Accounts suggest he was stoned and then clubbed to death.
- **Judas Iscariot:** The Bible says he died by hanging himself after betraying Jesus.

Other Key Figures

- **Paul:** He was beheaded in Rome during the reign of Emperor Nero.
- **Matthias:** He replaced Judas Iscariot and is believed to have been martyred in Syria.

The details surrounding the deaths of most of the apostles are based on church tradition and early Christian writers rather than explicit biblical accounts.

John 14:6 (NLT) ⁶ Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.

Matthew 7:13–14 (NLT) *The Narrow Gate* ¹³ “You can enter God’s Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. ¹⁴ But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it.

Revelation 3:20 (NLT) ²⁰ “Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends.

"Dear God, I know I'm a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe Jesus Christ is Your Son. I believe that He died for my sin and that you raised Him to life. I want to trust Him as my Savior and follow Him as Lord, from this day forward. Guide my life and help me to do your will. I pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen."