

STORY #9 - JESUS

The Gospels

Disciples have one purpose: move people from darkness to light, death to life, and model the making of disciples.

The Old Testament foretold the Creator's arrival. Jesus fulfilled every Messianic prophecy for His first coming, including the 4,000-year guarantee that the Seed of the Woman would crush Satan.

Share the Story of Jesus to establish His deity. Restoring a covenant relationship with the Creator happens only through belief in His life, death, burial, and resurrection.

MAIN TALKING POINTS

1. The Eternal Word

The story of Jesus begins before time. He has always existed as God. His entrance into the world was not accidental, but part of an eternal plan, executed right on schedule.

Quote: *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men."* (NASB)

2. The Word took on human form.

Quote: *"And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth."* (NASB)

Jesus' birth and life were miraculous. He lived a perfect life, never having a reason to be ashamed of anything. The Jewish prophets had foretold the facts of His life, and Jesus' actions confirmed His identity as the Messiah. When asked if He was the Expected One, Jesus answered by pointing to His miracles:

Quote: *"The blind receive sight and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the Gospel preached to them."* (NASB)

3. Rejection and Public Crucifixion

Despite proving His identity through miracles, Jesus was met with rejection. His popularity led the religious leaders to plot to kill Him.

Quote: *"Jesus was in the world, and the world was made through Him, but the world did not know Him. He came to His own and His own did not receive Him."* (NASB)

Though Jesus was innocent, He was publicly crucified. His death is a fact known by everyone at the time.

4. Resurrection: The Final Victory

Jesus' death was the fulfillment of the ancient promise in Eden, where Satan would bruise the Messiah's heel. But that was not the end. The resurrection was the final, devastating blow—crushing Satan's head.

Quote this: *"I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel."* (NASB)

Jesus' resurrection is a fact. The tomb was discovered empty by reliable witnesses, and Jesus was seen alive by many people—over five hundred saw Him at one time!

5. Final Teachings and Promised Return

For forty days after His resurrection, Jesus taught His followers what the Hebrew Bible said about Him so they could tell others.

Jesus ascended back to heaven, vowing to return again when the time was right.

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

1. The Eternal, Pre-planned Nature of God's Action

God's plan for history, revealed through Jesus (the second member of the Godhead), was not a cosmic accident but an eternal certainty. Before time began, God had already determined the means (Jesus) by which He would glorify Himself and reveal His nature to humanity. This highlights God's absolute sovereignty outside of time and space.

2. The Constant Spiritual Conflict

The history and events surrounding Jesus are fundamentally defined by an ongoing

spiritual war between God and Satan. Understanding the story requires recognizing this background conflict, which was especially visible during Jesus' lifetime, as the primary driver behind His work and ultimate sacrifice.

3. Prophecy as a Divine Identification System

God provided prophetic markers in the Old Testament as an intentional, detailed system to ensure the accurate identification of Jesus. The fact that all first-coming prophecies were fulfilled in a literal manner demonstrates God's precision and the Bible's historical reliability as a divine blueprint.

4. The Essential Importance of Jesus' Jewish Context

It's essential to study and view Jesus' life within the historic Jewish context of the first century. Jesus was a Jewish man, born under the Law, and the Messiah of Israel. Taking Jesus out of His Jewish identity and context robs Him of His historical and ethnic identity, something we would never consider doing to people of any other ethnic group today. His words, actions, and very purpose are only fully understood when viewed through the lens of first-century Judaism and the Hebrew Scriptures.

5. The Unified and Absolute Demand of the Mosaic Law

The conditional Mosaic Law was a unified code given to Israel. Crucially, this Law contained 613 requirements, and breaking just one law meant breaking the entire Law. This detail proves that humanity could not achieve righteousness through its own effort, underscoring the necessity of a divine substitute.

6. The Transition from Old to New Covenant

Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection concluded the requirements of the conditional Mosaic Law. This monumental event instituted the unconditional New Covenant. While God's plan runs through the Jewish people historically, the ultimate target of redemption has always been all humanity.