

Rebel With a Cause: How to Take Over the World in Three Days

Witness 1

Jesus Christ conquered the world with a message of Love, without firing a single shot or even writing down a single word. He was, and is, the metaphysical ruler of all creation and heavenly realms, with authority granted by the Father. He earned this authority through overcoming significant trials and tests in his life as a human, earning his divine right of reign through his stripes given by us here on Earth.

The Son of God incarnating on Earth – sounds great, what could go wrong, right? Not like he would be betrayed by one of his closest friends, then brutally mocked, beaten, and judicially murdered, right? Leave it to us to find a way to mess up a good thing.

Yesterday I listened to an audio-Bible version of the Gospel of John:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l1kQIiy-DZU>

I highly recommend it to anyone with two hours to spare, as it really gets the message across in a unique, authoritative, and authentic way. It's really difficult to deny so many historical eyewitness accounts of the events.

There are no serious academics, historians, or scholars of antiquity who deny that Jesus existed as a person, had disciples, and was crucified by Pontius Pilate somewhere around the Passover in 33 AD.

The concept of Jesus not existing as a human is ludicrous, with even [Wikipedia](#) forced to admit, with five extremely credible and solid sources:

Virtually all scholars of antiquity and today accept that Jesus was a historical figure, and [attempts to deny his historicity](#) have been consistently rejected by the scholarly consensus as a [fringe theory](#). [\[6\]\[7\]\[8\]\[9\]\[10\]](#)

The arguments about the Gospels being written years after the events are moot, as it's obviously apparent that these events were dictated by John in Aramaic to, most likely, a group of Jewish scribes, writing in Hebrew, years after the events occurred, but when they were well within living memory. This dating of the Gospels, [from 40-70 AD](#), is not disputed, with John's gospel largely accepted as being the last one of the canon completed.

[Former Homicide Detective and College Professor](#) J. Warner Wallace writes:

John's Gospel was written early enough to have been written by the Apostle himself, a man who saw the events firsthand and recorded them within the lifetime of those who would know if he was lying.

Wallace provides numerous credible arguments supporting the historicity of John's gospel, such as extremely early historical attestation and references by church elders (Eusebius, Irenaeus, Origen, Jerome), papyrus and document evidence affirming early authorship, accurate historical descriptions and references to places, people, and events, and more.

For example, John refers to the Pool of Bethesda as extant, but it was destroyed by the Romans when they sacked Jerusalem between 70-73 AD. This mention of the pool in the present text implies an authorship of at or before 70 AD. As a side note, the utter destruction of Jerusalem and the temple fulfilled Jesus's prophecy that [the sign of Jonah would be given to the "evil, adulterous" generation that denied him](#) – the destruction of their city 40 prophetic day-years after his judicial murder.

The fact that God chose to incarnate in a largely illiterate region speaking a now almost-dead language is not an argument that debunks Christianity. The most striking thing about Jesus was that he was the opposite of what everyone expected. These events did happen, the people in the Bible were historical figures, and by all accounts, they appear to be giving honest recollections about events that they truly believed happened to them.

It is an incredible and unusual distortion of textual criticism and analytical norms to attempt to widely and uniformly discredit the multiple eyewitness accounts given in the Bible. I believe that if the historical figures in the Bible could be resurrected, they would testify in court that they believe they had the experiences they report in the Gospels, and their testimony should be given the same credence as anyone else's - careful scrutiny, but without a good means and motive for lying, why would we assume they were lying?

If telling the truth cost them everything, as it did for Jesus – and there is [extremely credible evidence that all 14 disciples and apostles were killed for their beliefs](#), with the exception of John who suffered exile, then why would we assume they aren't telling the truth?

With the Bible largely reduced and watered down by milquetoast pastors and snake-oil salesmen disguised as preachers, Jesus's message has become tarnished and bleached of its original authenticity and power. Churches today have become weak, cowardly, and apathetic – using Jesus's name as some kind of talisman, meant to evoke material wealth and blessings.

What we find, instead, is a promise from Jesus that if we follow him, we too – like him, will suffer.

What if Jesus Was Telling the Truth?

All that being said, the Gospels paint a compelling and authentic portrait of a disillusioned and disaffected young man, in fact, the archetypal portrait of a **young rebel**. When Jesus went to Jerusalem with his friends, the first thing he did was go to the temple.

Did he pose for a portrait, or perhaps place money in the coffers in front of admirers?

No, John reports that Jesus “fashioned a whip”, and started flipping tables and chasing people out.

To put this in a modern context, this would be like your crazy friend telling you: “Watch, bro - I’m gonna go into this bank/courthouse with a baseball bat and smash it up, then just walk out - and they won’t even arrest me”, and then actually doing it.

In fact, John reports several times in his gospel that Jesus would have been arrested, but instead used his supernatural powers to simply walk through the crowd undisturbed. John also reports that Jesus’s first miracle was turning water into wine, to ease his mother’s friend’s embarrassment at having run out of wine at a wedding in Canaan. This was a shameful miscalculation in a time when social status depended largely on public gatherings and conspicuous consumption at special events like weddings. This initial, reluctant miracle demonstrates the compassionate nature of Jesus quite well.

Now, if we were to transpose Jesus to modern-day times, and say he was part of your friend group of 12 people, and this same friend was telling you that “they” were going to kill him and make him horribly suffer and die, you’d probably tell him to **calm down**, right?

You’d be like, “Jesus, bro, you’re just being paranoid. No one’s trying to kill you.” **In fact, this is exactly what we find reported in all four Gospels.** No one believed that he would be killed, even when he literally predicted the method they would use: a cross.

In most cases you’d be right, that would just be the paranoia talking. But in Jesus’ case, it actually happened. Now, here’s what really sets Jesus apart from other charismatic figures and “cult leaders” along the lines of Jim Jones and Charles Manson – he did *actually die* for it.

Not only did Jesus literally create the archetype of the “suicidal, incredibly charismatic leader” who would eventually martyr himself for his cause, but he was also the *only one* that actually followed through with his promise, and was **murdered by systematic power structures** within society **operating on the corrupt and demagogical whims of the state.**

All the other ones just want to cash the checks, and go on to live a life of luxury, with their cheap pleasures and facsimiles of satisfaction. There’s really no one else like Jesus that put their money where their mouth is, and gave it all up in the most brutal, horrific, and public way possible.

I'd like to post this old joke, as I think it sums up a decent amount of what I'm getting at:

Pope: "Do you know Jesus?"

Alien: "Oh, Jesus. Great guy. He comes to our planet twice every year."

Pope: "Every year?! It's been about two millennia and we're still waiting for his second coming."

Alien: "Maybe he didn't like your chocolate."

Pope: "Chocolate?"

Alien: "He loves it. Every time he visits, we gather the best chocolate from each factory and give it to him before he leaves. Why, what did you do the first time he came here?"

Haha, no, I mean seriously – what? How is it possible that this guy came here, claiming to be the Son of God, the Messiah, performing miracles in public, and we *crucified* him? Take the Latin word – [cruciare](#) – which means “to torture”, which we literally tore the heart out of and turned it into the word “excruciating”, and that’s what we did to the guy?

Like, this was the one way to die that was *so painful* the Romans literally named it after their verb for “to torture someone to death”, and that’s what we did to him? And not only that, but we also had to beat him, bludgeon him, mock him, verbally abuse him, put a sharp crown of thick thorns on his head until he bled, and to top it all off, put a little sign up reading, “King of the Jews”?

What kind of sick people would do this stuff?

Is there something wrong with humanity? Jesus literally didn’t even do anything wrong except conspicuously heal people on the Sabbath and claim to be the Messiah.

Everyone’s a Victim but Jesus

Honestly, in a society where everyone claims to be and wants to be a victim, Jesus gets way too little respect. Everyone suddenly has autism, ADD, depression, anxiety, whatever else you want to say, but they refuse to admit it’s because they live in a Satanic, perverted version of a twisted world – exactly what Jesus predicted would happen immediately before his return.

Everyone wants to be oppressed these days. Everyone wants to “fight the man”, but in reality, they crave subjugation. Jesus was one of the few characters in history with enough courage and conviction to actually put his life on the line and die for his right to speak truth to power.

Of course, his death is also notable for another reason - the extremely credible historical evidence, presented in *The More Rational Worldview*, that Jesus rose from the dead three days later.

Now, let's zoom out and look at the big picture: What if Jesus was telling the truth?

Is it credible to take Jesus at face value? What would it imply? Only you can answer that for yourself, but for one thing, I believe every word in the Bible is literally true.

People want to believe in anything these days: aliens, ghosts, witchcraft, Buddhism, Hinduism, politics, movies and TV, the news, science, humanism, or nothing at all – anything, but the Bible.

And I don't know why.

Let's say the Bible is true. It gives us meaning in life. Jesus promises eternal life for all who "eat of his flesh" in John – at the time, they had no idea what he was talking about.

This is the best news of all – there **is** a God that loves us, and we **can** live forever with him. And people just reject this.

Even better: Jesus already did the hard part for you – the part the other "cult leaders" that mimic him in a sick parody usually tell you to do, by abusing others to bend to their will – dying for the belief. **Jesus literally laid his life down so you wouldn't have to, when everyone else on this planet seems to want you to lay down your life for them.**

John 13 reads:

A new command I give you: **Love one another**. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

I mean, how cool is that? Here we are, 2000 years or so before the Beatles released *All You Need is Love*, and Jesus already had it figured out!

Even better, the Bible is full of credible historical mysteries that people overlook – what really was the [Ark of the Covenant](#)? Who was King Solomon, and [what was in his temple](#)?

So, let's say that God did have a direct line to humanity for the last 6,000 years at least, as the Bible says. He sent his prophets, and they were repeatedly killed and denied by their own people. Then he sent his son, who was also killed.

The implications are that everything you think you know about the world might be a lie. Everything the modern academics and scientists say is carefully designed to discredit the Bible. In fact, these scientists do exactly what they accuse us of doing - they started with the conclusion that the Bible had to be false, and worked backwards from there to come up with their theories on time, the universe, and the meaning, or lack of, for human existence.

At the end of the day, everyone just wants to do whatever they want. And that's why they hated Jesus so much - and still do today.

As a side note, people often overlook John the Baptist when they read the Bible. This was Jesus' cousin, and not only did Jesus give up his life for these beliefs but John did too – he spent his whole life as an ascetic in the wilderness preaching one message – the Messiah has arrived, prepare ye and make straight the paths for the way of the Lord! John spent his life in the wilderness, eating honey and locusts, and was beheaded by the King for... well, for some good reason, at least. Right?

Literally another guy showed up right before Jesus and gave up his life too, just to act as a witness to those who would be trying to discern these events in the future.

And people just throw these arguments out like they're nothing. Anyways, I could go on forever about this. You can too – all you have to do is believe.

In closing, let's look at excerpts from [Matthew 21](#), an excellent chapter, as it sums this all up nicely:

Jesus Cleanses the Temple

Then Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those selling doves. And He declared to them, "It is written: 'My house will be called a house of prayer.' But you are making it 'a den of robbers.'"

The blind and the lame came to Him at the temple, and He healed them. But the chief priests and scribes were indignant when they saw the wonders He performed and the children shouting in the temple courts, "Hosanna to the Son of David!"

“Do you hear what these children are saying?” they asked.

“Yes,” Jesus answered. “Have you never read:

‘From the mouths of children and infants

You have ordained praise?’”

Then He left them and went out of the city to Bethany, where He spent the night.

Jesus’ Authority Challenged

When Jesus returned to the temple courts and began to teach, the chief priests and elders of the people came up to Him. “By what authority are You doing these things?” they asked. “And who gave You this authority?”

“I will also ask you one question,” Jesus replied, “and if you answer Me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. What was the source of John’s baptism? Was it from heaven or from men?”

They deliberated among themselves and said, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ He will ask, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘From men,’ we are afraid of the people, for they all regard John as a prophet.” So they answered, “We do not know.”

And Jesus replied, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.”

The Parable of the Wicked Tenants

Listen to another parable: There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a tower. Then he rented it out to some tenants and went away on a journey.

When the harvest time drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his share of the fruit. But the tenants seized his servants. They beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. Again, he sent other servants, more than the first group. But the tenants did the same to them. Finally, he sent his son to them. ‘They will respect my son,’ he said.

But when the tenants saw the son, they said to one another, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and take his inheritance.’ So, they seized him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard returns, what will he do to those tenants?”

“He will bring those wretches to a wretched end,” they replied, “and will rent out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him his share of the fruit at harvest time.”

Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures:

'The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.
This is from the Lord,
and it is marvelous in our eyes?'"

Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit. He who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, but he on whom it falls will be crushed."

When the chief priests and Pharisees heard His parables, they knew that Jesus was speaking about them. Although they wanted to arrest Him, they were afraid of the crowds, because the people regarded Him as a prophet.

