

Belief #4 **Jesus, Life, Crucifixion, Resurrection, Ascension**

We believe that Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God who took on human flesh, lived a sinless life among us, was crucified on the cross as an atoning sacrifice for our sins, rose bodily from the dead on the third day, and ascended in glory to the right hand of the Father where he now reigns as Lord and Mediator. His life, death, resurrection, and ascension are the four pillars of the gospel and the foundation of our faith.

Reason 1 Jesus lived a sinless, perfect life — fully God and fully man

Jesus did not merely appear human — he truly became flesh, lived among us, and was tested in every way we are, yet without sin. His sinless life qualified him to be the perfect sacrifice for our sins and the perfect High Priest who intercedes for us.

John 1:14

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."

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Hebrews 4:15

"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are — yet he did not sin."

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Reason 2 The crucifixion — Jesus died on the cross as an atoning sacrifice for our sins

The cross is the heart of the gospel. Jesus was crucified, bearing the full weight of our sin and the wrath of God in our place. His death was not accidental or merely martyrdom — it was the deliberate, loving act of God to redeem humanity from sin and death.

Isaiah 53:5–6

"But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all."

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Romans 5:8

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

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Reason 3 The crucifixion fulfilled prophecy and accomplished our redemption

Jesus' death was not an unexpected tragedy but the fulfillment of centuries of prophecy and the deliberate plan of God. Peter declared that Jesus was handed over by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge, and Paul affirms that through his blood we have redemption and the forgiveness of sins.

Acts 2:23

"This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross."

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Ephesians 1:7

"In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace."

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Reason 4 The resurrection — Jesus rose bodily from the dead on the third day

The resurrection is the cornerstone of the Christian faith. Christ died, was buried, and rose again on the third day, just as the Scriptures foretold. Paul declares that without the resurrection our faith is worthless — but because Christ was raised, death has been defeated and eternal life is secured for all who believe.

1 Corinthians 15:3–4

"For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures."

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Romans 6:4

"We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life."

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Reason 5 The resurrection was witnessed and confirmed by hundreds

The risen Christ was not a vision or a symbol — he appeared bodily to Peter, to the twelve, then to more than five hundred believers at one time, and finally to Paul. These eyewitness appearances make the resurrection one of the most historically attested events of the ancient world.

1 Corinthians 15:5–8

"...and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also."

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Reason 6 The ascension — Jesus was taken up in glory to the right hand of the Father

Forty days after his resurrection, Jesus ascended bodily into heaven before the eyes of his disciples. He was taken up into a cloud and the angels promised he would return in the same way. At the Father's right hand he reigns as Lord of all, interceding for his people until he returns.

Acts 1:9–11

"After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. 'Men of Galilee,' they said, 'why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.'"

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Reason 7 Jesus is now seated at the right hand of the Father — reigning, interceding, and returning

The ascended Christ did not retire from involvement with his people — he sat down at the Father's right hand, poured out the Holy Spirit, and now lives to intercede for us. He holds all authority in heaven and on earth, and he is coming again in the same glory in which he ascended.

Hebrews 7:25

"Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them."

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Ephesians 1:20–21

"He raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come."

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Summary — Belief #4

- **Jesus lived a sinless, perfect life — fully God and fully man** — John 1:14 and Hebrews 4:15 establish his full humanity and sinless perfection.
- **The crucifixion — Jesus died as an atoning sacrifice for our sins** — Isaiah 53:5–6 and Romans 5:8 show God's love poured out at the cross.
- **The crucifixion fulfilled prophecy and accomplished our redemption** — Acts 2:23 and Ephesians 1:7 show it was God's deliberate, redemptive plan.
- **The resurrection — Jesus rose bodily on the third day** — 1 Corinthians 15:3–4 and Romans 6:4 are the foundational resurrection texts.
- **The resurrection was witnessed and confirmed by hundreds** — 1 Corinthians 15:5–8 records eyewitness appearances that anchor the historical fact.
- **The ascension — Jesus was taken up in glory to the Father's right hand** — Acts 1:9–11 records the bodily ascension and the promise of his return.
- **Jesus now reigns, intercedes, and is coming again** — Hebrews 7:25 and Ephesians 1:20–21 show his ongoing authority and intercession.