

Jesus is the Son of God! This fact is established not by some uneducated mental assent or by some simple desire to be a part of a respected group of followers. It is a fact because it can be proven. In other words, by faith Jesus is the Son of God, and the evidence is undeniable (Hebrews 11:1). Job said, “For I know that my redeemer liveth...”, and Paul said, “For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.” The Bible contains approximately 300 Messianic biblical prophecies so that we can know that Jesus is the Son of God. Therefore, it is no surprise that Jesus encouraged those that seek salvation to search the scriptures. Why? Because they testify of Him (John 5:39). Although it is not possible to investigate each prophecy in a short tract such as this, instead an outline of the main pillars of proof shall be briefly explored.

Pillar #1: First, there was a cross-section of witnesses, some of which were hostile, that affirmed Jesus is the Son of God. Consider the following:

1. Angel Gabriel - Luke 1:31-35
2. John the Immerser – John 1:29,34
3. Nathanael - John 1:49
4. Jesus – John 4:25-26
5. God the Father – Mat 3:17; Mat 17:5
6. Demons - Mat 8:28-29
7. Peter - Mat 16:16
8. Centurion at the cross - Mat 27:54
9. Saul – Acts 9:3-20

Pillar #2: Jesus’ miraculous works, which began at Cana, affirmed He was the Son of God. On one occasion, Jesus defied natural law when He walked on the water. As a result, those that were on-board the ship said, “Of a truth thou art the Son of God” (Matthew 14:33). Yet with another display of His miraculous abilities, Jesus demonstrated his Lordship over the creation when He calmed the boisterous sea. Further, He proved His prophetic power when He predicted the destruction of Jerusalem nearly 40 years in advance (Matthew 24:1-35). Although there are too many miracles to consider in this tract, their purpose was the same. They all proved that Jesus was the Son of God. In John’s account of the gospel he said, “And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name” (John 20:30-31).

Pillar #3: The virgin birth proves that Jesus is the Son of God. The first glimpse of the virgin birth is found in Genesis 3:15 in the term “her seed.” In other words, it was to occur without a man. Explicit details were supplied by the prophet Isaiah in Isaiah 7:14, “Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.” While some have argued that the text should have been translated “young woman,” the word “almah” translated “virgin” means virgin in the strictest sense. If a “young woman” conceives and gives birth to a son, what kind of sign would that be? In fact it would be no sign at all. With the exception of Jesus, every person born into this world has had a mother and father. The sign mentioned by Isaiah was undeniably miraculous (Liddell, 56-60).

Pillar #4: Approximately 700 years prior to the Lord’s birth in Bethlehem, Micah prophesied of the coming event Micah 5:2, and it proves Jesus is the Son of God. How could this happen? His mother was from Nazareth. Being pregnant, casually traveling to the city of Bethlehem would be considered unusual and extreme, but she was not given a choice. The Roman decree for world tax registration required this journey, and thus created the circumstance necessary to fulfill Micah’s prophecy. Timing was impeccable. When King Herod heard about the Messiah he also wanted to know the birthplace, so he gathered the scribes and Pharisees. They told him, “...In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel” (Matthew 2:3-6) (Wallace, 16-17, 20).

Pillar #5: The Son of God was to be a ruler. The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be (Genesis 49:10). When Jesus was born, Judah was subject to the Roman Ceasars. However, the Jews still had their Kings such as Herod. The scepter had not been given up until the fulfillment of Jacob’s prophecy. It was with Jesus that the scepter passed to Judah’s Shiloh (Wallace, 17). Hebrews 1:6-8 identifies Jesus as the fulfillment of Genesis 49:10. “And again, when he bringeth in the first begotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him. And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire. But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of

thy kingdom.” Here the Father hands the scepter to His Son to rule over His kingdom. Another detailed prophecy is found in Isaiah which says, “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this” (Isaiah 9:6-7).

Pillar #6: The Lineage of Jesus proves He is the Son of God. God made a promise to Abraham that of his seed shall all the earth be blessed (Genesis 12:2, 3). The promise then passed to Isaac, Jacob and eventually to King David (2 Samuel 7:12, 13; Psalms 132:11). The Messiah would come from David’s loins. Luke records the fulfillment of the promise in Acts 2:30, “Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne...” In verse 32, Luke identifies Jesus as the Christ and the seed from David’s loins. Thus, Jesus was qualified. It is interesting that the Jewish lineage was kept in the temple; however, God destroyed the temple in 70 AD. The only lineage left is within the Bible and it connects Jesus to David. God closed the door to any other possibilities or confusions. Either we accept Christ or we die in a lost condition. Outside of Jesus, the lineage is forever gone.

Pillar #7: Jesus’ vicarious death proves He is the Son of God. “Vicarious” means to serve or benefit someone else. Isaiah prophesied about the vicarious nature of the Lord’s death. “Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he *was* wounded for our transgressions, *he was* bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace *was* upon him; and with his stripes we are healed” (Isaiah 53:4-5). Clearly, Jesus’ death was for the benefit of others and thus vicarious. John recorded that as Moses lifted up the serpent, so must the Son of Man be lifted up (John 3:14). It was a “must.” The serpent had to be lifted up to save the people. It was also the case with the Son of God. He must be lifted up in order to save His people. This illustrates the vicarious nature of Jesus’ death as he was suspended at Calvary between heaven and earth. To put a miraculous “stamp of approval” on the vicarious death of

the Lord, certain events took place:

1. Veil of the temple was rent
2. Earth quaked
3. Rocks rent
4. Graves opened and many bodies of the saints arose and appeared to many.

These events had an impact on the centurion. Matthew 27:54 records the impact, "Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God."

Pillar #8: Jesus' victorious resurrection, which is mentioned directly, at least 104 times in Scripture, also proves Jesus is the Son of God. In Matthew 12:39-40, Jesus predicted with accuracy His own time in the grave and His resurrection. He told how He was the antitype of Jonah in the belly of the great fish. Beyond the accurate prediction, there were eye witnesses to the resurrected Christ. These included Mary Magdelene, Thomas, and the rest of the Apostles (John 20:16, 25, 28). However, some of the greatest witnesses of the resurrected Lord are mentioned in 1 Corinthians 15:3-6. Paul is appealing to the Corinthians that if there are any unbelievers, they should call on the 500 witnesses most of which were still alive. The text states, "For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep." These eyewitness accounts prove the resurrection of Christ. Faking the resurrection was not possible. These eyewitnesses could not have harmonized their story around a lie. Further, the apostles and many disciples would not have accepted martyrdom for a lie especially on independent occasions. There was simply no way to remove the Lord's body from the tomb. That was the worry of his enemies and thus they had taken precautions and had the tomb militarily guarded (Matthew 27:62-65). It is beyond reason to conclude that someone or group:

1. Stole the body.
2. Was able to remove the sealed stone without the military guard knowing (especially given that the soldiers punishment for faltering on their duty was death).

3. Took the time to unwrap the burial clothing and leaving it carefully folded. Someone in a hurry would not have taken the time to do this.

Pillar #9: Being a hostile witness, Paul's conversion is perhaps one of the greatest evidences for Jesus being the Christ the Son of the Living God. He had set out to persecute the followers of Jesus. He was a Jew of all Jews and a Pharisee of all Pharisees. It is hard to imagine anyone more opposed to Jesus and the church than Saul of Tarsus. In Acts 7 Saul's opposition is manifested as he supports the stoning of Stephen. From this event, Saul sets out to imprison all of the Lord's church (Acts 8:3). However, Paul makes a peculiar statement in the epistle to the church at Philippi. Paul said, "But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ" (Philippians 3:7). What could account for the change in his life? He saw the resurrected Christ! He saw the Son of God in His glorified form on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:3-8). Paul repented from being a persecutor of Christianity to one that was willing to die for the cause of Christ.

Jesus is the Christ the Son of the Living God. Nine pillars have been listed that prove the same. These pillars are just the beginning. The Scriptures are filled with evidence beyond those listed. Hopefully, those that are listed are refreshing to those that haven't thought about this subject for some time, and hopefully it is enough evidence for someone to further study their Bible and when convicted by these facts submit to the gospel in humble obedience to Jesus Christ, The Son Of God.

Works Cited

- Wallace, Foy E. *The Gospel For Today*. Texas: Foy E. Wallace Publications, 1967.
- Liddell, Bobby. *The Gospel Of Christ*. Tennessee: Sain Publications, 2006.

This tract is condensed from a lesson presented at the
30th Annual Mid-West Lectures,
"I Know"

To hear or view the complete lesson go to
www.39thStreetChurchOfChrist.org
or contact the

39th Street Church of Christ
15331 East 39th Street

Independence, MO 64055-4240 USA

I Know...

Jesus Is The Son Of God

by
Lance Grimsley

© 2012



International Bible Studies
Tract Series