



# DUPED?

QUESTIONING THE LOGIC  
OF POP SPIRITUALITY



## Part 5: Did Jesus Exist?

You would think that a guy who rose from the dead and ascended into Heaven for all eyes to see and performed the wealth of miracles acclaimed to him would have made it into the historical record. It didn't because once the evidence is weighed, there are very high odds that the figure known as Jesus did not exist.

~ Peter Joseph, *Zeitgeist*

The evidence suggests that the New Testament is not a history of actual events, but a history of the evolution of Christian mythology.

~ Timothy Freke & Peter Gandy,  
*The Jesus Mysteries*

Of all religious beliefs in the world, past or present, none have more thoroughly based themselves on history than Judaism and Christianity. The divine-human encounter in the biblical faiths always involves claims about *real* people, living in *real* places, who acted in *real* events of the past, many of which are also cited in secular ancient history.

~ Paul L. Maier, *professor of ancient history  
at Western Michigan University*

From the standpoint of literary evidence, the only logical conclusion is that the case for the reliability of the New Testament is infinitely stronger than for any other record of antiquity.

~ Howard Vos, *New Testament Scholar*

While some believe that we know almost nothing about Jesus from ancient, non-New Testament sources, this is plainly not the case. Not only are there many such sources, but Jesus is one of the persons of ancient history concerning whom we have a significant amount of quality data. His is one of the most mentioned and most substantiated lives in ancient times.

~ Dr. Gary R. Habermas,  
*New Testament Scholar & Philosopher*

The evidence for the existence of Jesus is stronger than the evidence for the existence of Socrates, Alexander the Great, and so forth. Virtually every ancient historian believes that Socrates is a historical figure, even though Socrates never wrote anything himself and we only know him through the writings of others.

~ Tim Peck, *Historical Researcher*

There exists no document from the ancient world witnessed by so excellent a set of textual and historical testimonies and offering so superb an array of historical data on which an intelligent decision may be made. An honest [person] cannot dismiss a source of this kind. Scepticism regarding the historical credentials of Christianity is based upon an irrational bias.

~ Clark Pinnock, *Set Forth Your Case*

The Jesus I know in prayer is the same Jesus I meet in the historical evidence.

~ N. T. Wright,  
*New Testament Scholar and Historian*

After six years given to the impartial investigation of Christianity, as to its truth or falsity, I have come to the deliberate conclusion that Jesus Christ was the Messiah of the Jews, the Saviour of the world, and my personal Saviour.

~ Lew Wallace, *Former skeptic and  
author of Ben-Hur*

Truth is tough. It will not break like a bubble at a touch; nay, you may kick it about all day like a football, and it will be round and full at evening.

~ Oliver Wendell Holmes Sr.,  
*Physician, Poet, Professor*

Let's play ball.

~ Bruxy Cavey