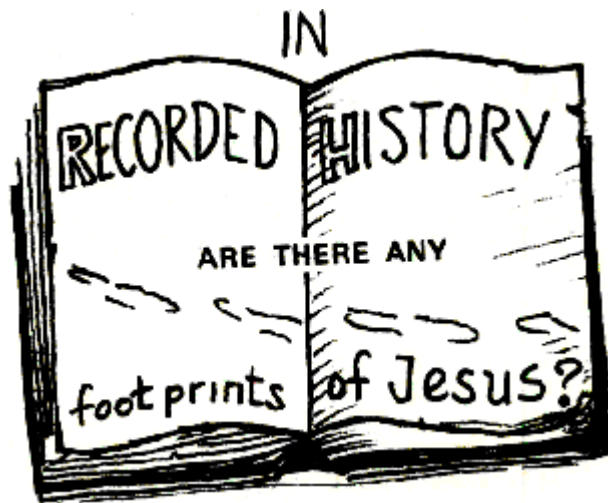


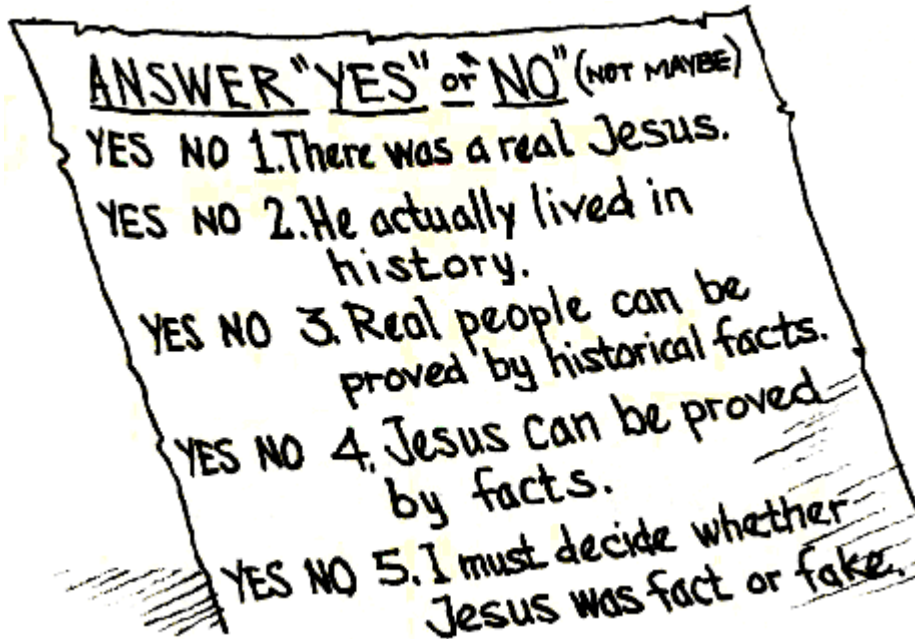
# WAS JESUS A FAKE?



BY  
JIM MASSEY

IS CHRISTIANITY HOAX OR HISTORY?

## CHRISTIANITY IS EITHER TRUE OR FALSE!



### WHICH IS TRUE FROM THE EVIDENCE?

Jesus was a real man in history, or he was a legend like Santa Claus. He actually walked on the earth, or he was only a storybook person like Mother Goose.

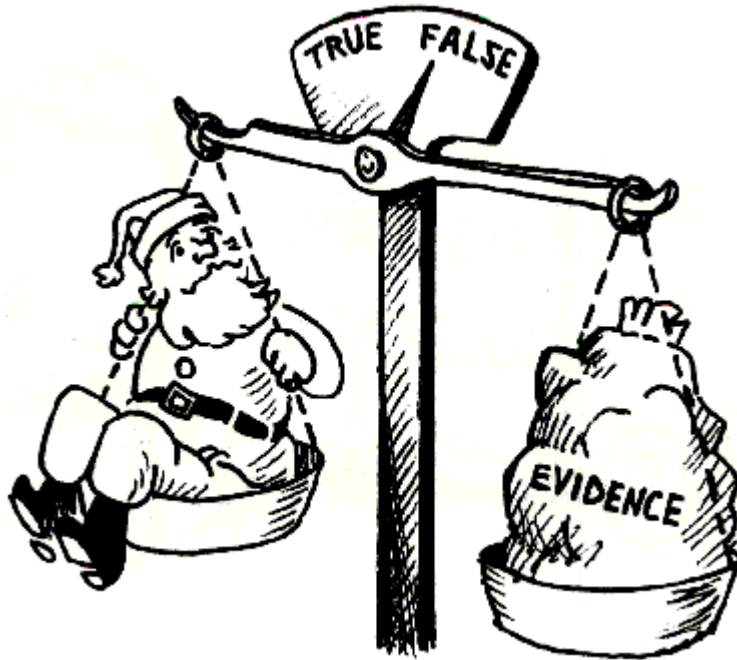
He cannot be both. You must decide. You must decide from the facts. The evidence will either prove or disprove Jesus.

Christianity is fiction or fact. It stands or falls with Jesus. It is real if he is real. It is false if he was false. You must decide for yourself from the facts. Will you read on to weigh the evidence?

### Please Encircle Yes or No

- (yes) (no) 1. There was a real Jesus,
- (yes) (no) 2. He actually lived in history.
- (yes) (no) 3. Real people can be proved by historical facts.
- (yes) (no) 4. Jesus can be proved by facts.
- (yes) (no) 5. I must decide whether Jesus was fact or fake.

## EVIDENCE, NOT TRADITION, PROVES A FACT



### FACTS ARE DIFFERENT FROM FICTION.

Many persons live in our minds from folklore — people like Santa Claus, fairies, ghosts, or Superman. Was Jesus like this?

Other people were real characters from history — like Napoleon, Columbus, or Abraham Lincoln.

Sometimes we confuse which kind of character is which. Was Jesus like Columbus or like Superman? He was either historical or imaginary. Evidence, not tradition separates fact from fiction.

### Please Encircle Yes or No

- (yes) (no) 1. Was Jesus like Superman?
- (yes) (no) 2. Was Jesus like Columbus?
- (yes) (no) 3. If many people believe in fairies, are they real?
- (yes) (no) 4. If people believe in ghosts for a long time, are they real?
- (yes) (no) 5. Evidence proves a person real, not tradition.

## HISTORY CAN IDENTIFY REAL PEOPLE.



### REAL PEOPLE LEAVE BEHIND THEM

### REAL FACTS OF HISTORY

Footprints in history result from the feet of real people in history. Ghosts and legends leave no footprints.

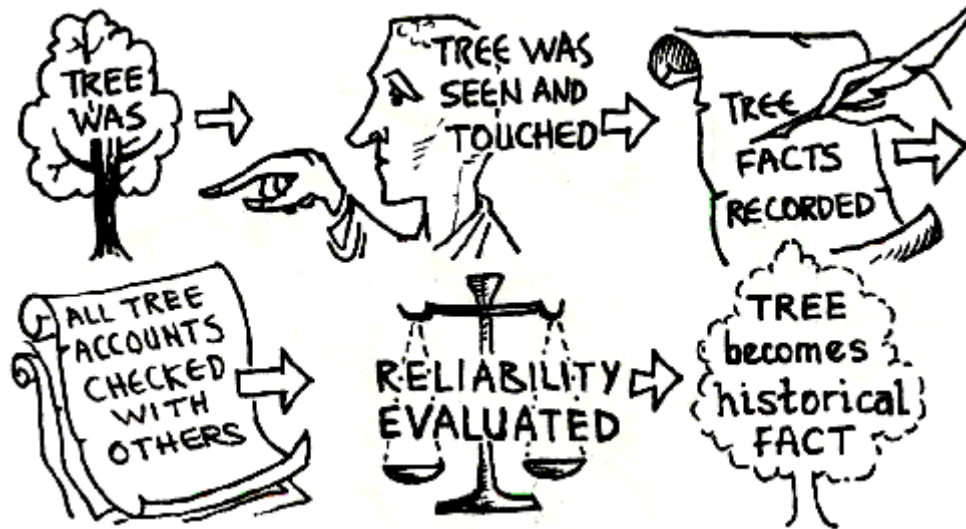
Concrete evidence results from real historical people. This evidence can be studied and weighed in future years.

Historical research separates fact from fiction. Examining the evidences of history will classify Jesus as true or false. I can know the reality of Jesus just as surely as I can know if there was an Abraham Lincoln.

### Please Encircle Yes or No

- |            |    |   |
|------------|----|---|
| (yes) (no) | 1. | Ghosts and legends leave checkable footprints,      |
| (yes) (no) | 2. | Real persons in history leave checkable footprints, |
| (yes) (no) | 3. | There is evidence in history for Santa Claus.       |
| (yes) (no) | 4. | There is evidence in history for Abraham Lincoln,   |
| (yes) (no) | 5. | I can tell a real person from a fictitious legend.  |

**HISTORIANS JUDGE REALITY BY EYEWITNESS EXPERIENCE  
AND RESEARCH, NOT BY FEELINGS OR SENTIMENT.**



**HOW COULD WE KNOW A TREE GREW IN  
PALESTINE IN THE FIRST CENTURY?**

A first century tree was. It was seen by eyewitnesses who touched it. These men wrote about the tree. Over many years many records of the tree were written.

A modern historian gathers all accounts of the tree. He compares each record with all others. He weighs the reliability of each witness. He comes to a conclusion that the tree really was.

Now we have the recorded and verified fact of this tree for all time. No one can deny today that 2,000 years ago this tree really was.

**Please Encircle Yes or No**

- (yes) (no) 1. Is eyewitness proof good proof that a tree was?
- (yes) (no) 2. Could I be sure whether a tree was by evidence for it?
- (yes) (no) 3. Would I have to live when the tree lived to be sure?
- (yes) (no) 4. Could I be very sure because of recorded evidence?
- (yes) (no) 5. Can a doubter deny a tree that has been proved?

## HOW COULD WE DECIDE IF NAPOLEON WAS A REAL MAN?



### WE WOULD HAVE TO DEPEND ON HISTORY.

We have not seen Napoleon, but we all believe in him. We believe in men which history has proved. We accept the recorded facts about Napoleon.

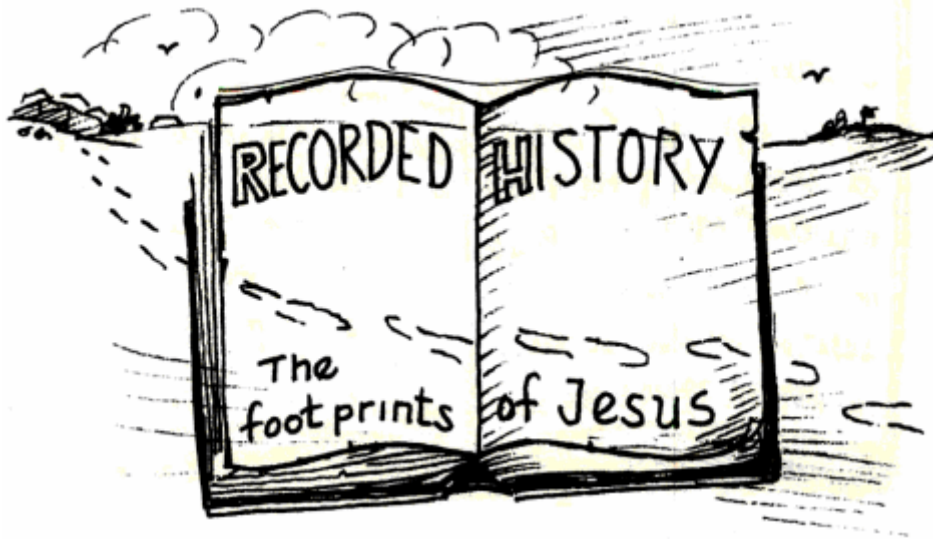
Many men did see him. He left many footprints in history. Eyewitnesses wrote the facts of his life. Historians have proved that there was a Napoleon.

History proves the reality of all real men the same way. It looks for their recorded footprints in history.

### **Please Encircle Yes or No**

- |            |    |  |
|------------|----|--|
| (yes) (no) | 1. | Do you believe in Napoleon though you have not seen him? |
| (yes) (no) | 2. | Do recorded facts fully convince you that Napoleon was?  |
| (yes) (no) | 3. | Is Napoleon real because we all want him to be?          |
| (yes) (no) | 4. | Is Jesus real because many want him to be?               |
| (yes) (no) | 5. | Does history decide whether a person is real?            |

**IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO DECIDE  
WHETHER JESUS LIVED IN HISTORY.**



**REAL CHRISTIANITY DEPENDS UPON A REAL JESUS.**

If Jesus was a fake, Christianity is a fake. If Jesus was not a real historical character, Christianity is just a legend. Everything about Christianity depends upon a real Jesus.

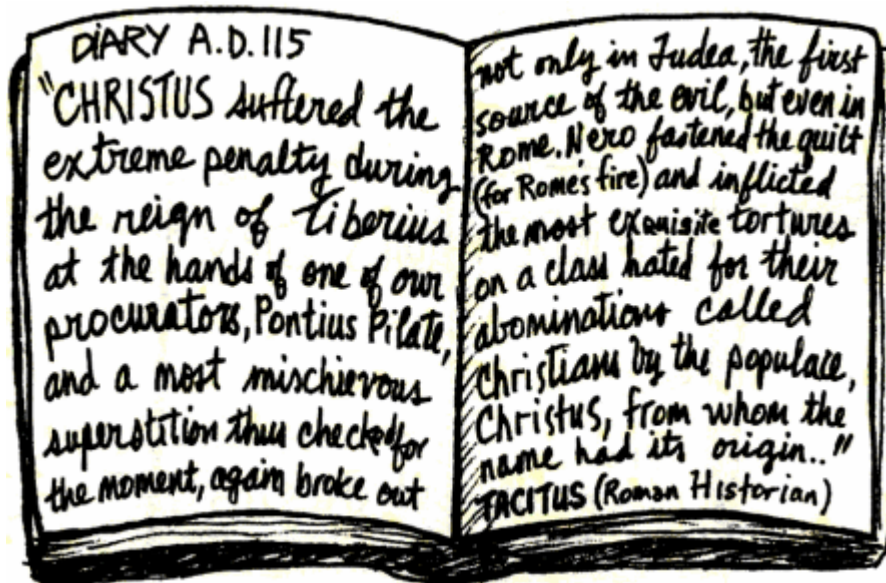
But real men are proved by real history. Real facts make real men. Jesus stands or falls upon whether history proves him. Christianity stands or falls upon whether history proves Jesus.

You personally have much at stake as to whether Jesus is real. You have a big decision to make. You must be fair and honest with facts. You must look for the historical footprints of Jesus.

**Please Encircle Yes or No**

- (yes) (no) 1. If Jesus was a fake, could Christianity still be real?
- (yes) (no) 2. If Jesus was not real in history, could he still be real?
- (yes) (no) 3. Is it important to me whether Jesus is real?
- (yes) (no) 4. Are the recorded historical footprints of Jesus important?
- (yes) (no) 5. Would I be fair with evidence if my mind is closed?

## WHAT ARE HISTORY'S BARE FACTS ABOUT JESUS?



**A REAL JESUS LIVED AND DIED!**

**NON-CHRISTIAN HISTORIANS CERTIFY IT.**

Tacitus, a 2nd century Roman historian who opposed Christ and Christianity, clearly says that Jesus lived and died. Tacitus verifies that the death of Jesus was by the Roman governor Pontius Pilate in the reign of the Roman emperor Tiberius Caesar.

Tacitus records that Christianity began in Judaea in Palestine and spread to Rome, where the Emperor Nero tortured Christians, and the people hated them for their faith.

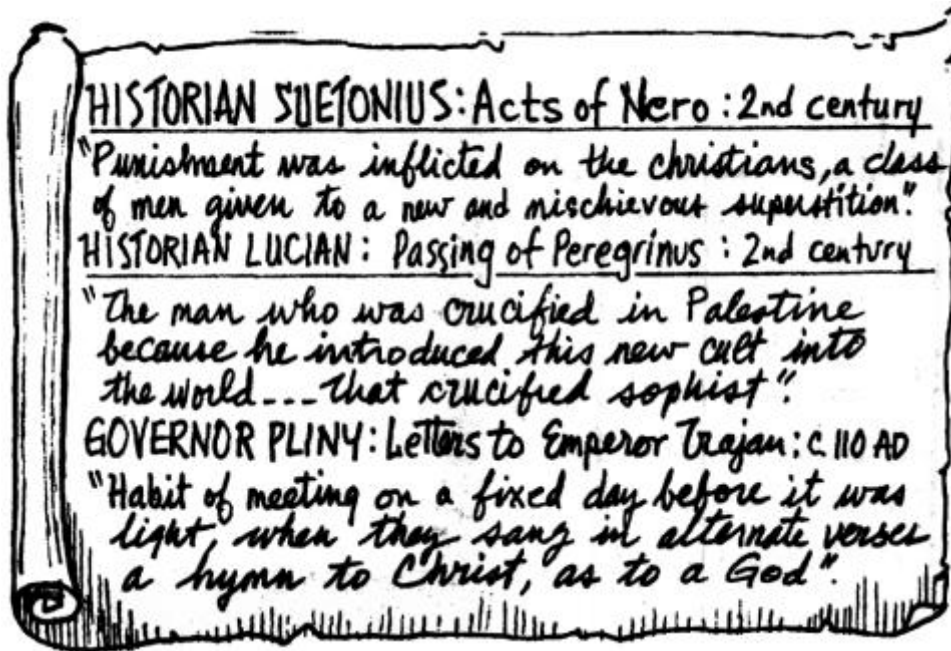
Tacitus calls Christianity a "mischievous superstition." This shows his opposition, since he believed in Roman gods and even made gods of the emperors. This also shows that Christians believed that Jesus was more than just a man. They had become hated for faith in Jesus as a God.

**Please Encircle Yes or No**

- (yes) (no) 1. Did Tacitus favor Christ and Christianity?
- (yes) (no) 2. Did Tacitus verify Jesus by other real people?
- (yes) (no) 3. Did Tacitus verify Jesus by real places?
- (yes) (no) 4. Did Christians believe Jesus was only a man?
- (yes) (no) 5. Would they have been hated for believing only in a man?



## FOOTPRINTS OF JESUS IN HISTORY



### UNDENIABLE HISTORICAL RECORDS.

Three other early writers verify Jesus and early Christianity. They say that Jesus was crucified because he claimed greatness for himself, that Jesus was a real man, but more of a madman because of the claims of his followers.

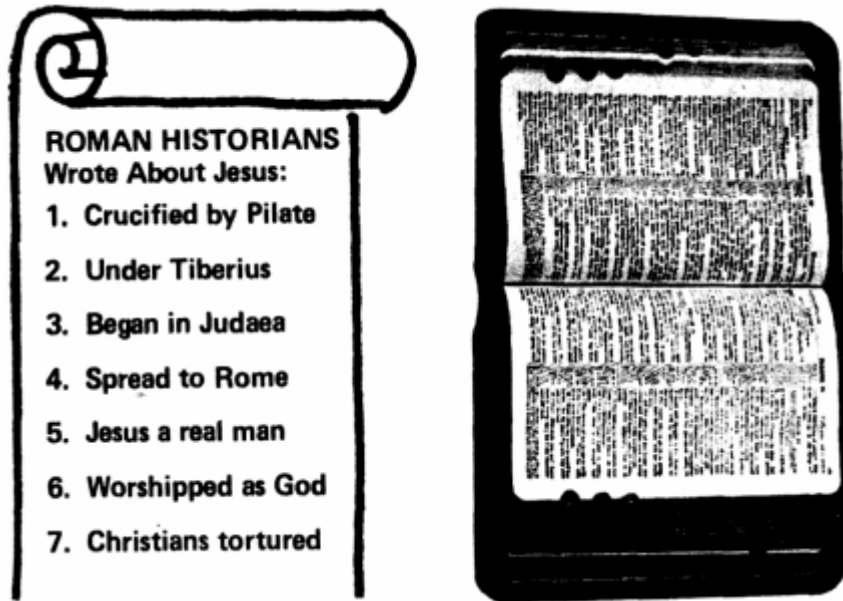
Roman Governor Pliny records that Christians in his territory met regularly and sang hymns to Christ as to a God. This shows that early Christians believed that Jesus was more than just a man and regularly worshipped him.

These clear facts of history prove that Jesus really lived and died. They also prove that Christians died because they worshipped Jesus as a God. Jesus was a real man like Tiberius Caesar, but his followers died because they believed that he was God, more than just a man.

### Please Encircle Yes or No

- |            |    |  |
|------------|----|--|
| (yes) (no) | 1. | Did historian Suetonius believe Christians were correct? |
| (yes) (no) | 2. | Did historian Lucian accept Jesus' claims?               |
| (yes) (no) | 3. | Did Governor Pliny worship as a Christian?               |
| (yes) (no) | 4. | Did he tell of others who did?                           |
| (yes) (no) | 5. | Did these worshippers believe Jesus to be only a man?    |

## FACTS OF HISTORY EXACTLY MATCH BIBLE FACTS



### JESUS WAS NOT IN A "NEVER-NEVER" LAND

Jesus lived and died in history. We know who was emperor and who was procurator. Jesus is as indisputably a person of history as they. His reality nor theirs can be denied.

Bible facts are identical with facts of history. History confirms that Jesus lived and died exactly as the Bible records these facts. Both records are reliable history.

History records that Jesus was worshipped as a God. Enemies of Christ do not consider him just an average man. His followers claimed that he was more than a man. History records widespread early belief in Jesus as a God.

### Please Encircle Yes or No

- (yes) (no) 1. Was Jesus' time just "once upon a time"?
- (yes) (no) 2. Was Jesus' life lived in a real country?
- (yes) (no) 3. Do we know who the governor was who executed him?
- (yes) (no) 4. Do we know who the emperor was?
- (yes) (no) 5. Do Bible records of Jesus agree with other historical records?

## FACTS ARE NOT AFRAID OF EXAMINATION



### WOULD A FAKE EXPOSE HIMSELF TO FACTS?

Would a fake pretending to be Santa Claus claim to be historical? No, we have no facts in history about legendary persons. They did not live in history.

If Santa Claus claimed to have lived under Tiberius Caesar, that could be checked. If he pretended to have been crucified by Pontius Pilate, facts would tell. Legendary people are not historical.

No pretender would expose himself to a checkable time and to checkable places. He would claim to have lived at the North Pole or in some Never-Never Land. History clearly shows that Santa Claus was not real.

### Please Encircle Yes or No

- |            |    |  |
|------------|----|--|
| (yes) (no) | 1. | Does Santa have historical credentials?                                    |
| (yes) (no) | 2. | Would a wise pretender claim historical connections that could be checked? |
| (yes) (no) | 3. | Does Santa live in a real place?   |
| (yes) (no) | 4. | Did Jesus live in a real place?  |
| (yes) (no) | 5. | Did he live under real rulers?   |

## THE WRITERS AND RECORDS OF REAL MEN ARE REAL.



### JESUS IS AS DIFFERENT FROM BUNNY RABBIT AS CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS IS.

Writers of history can easily be separated from writers of fiction. A book about Bunny Rabbit is not the same as a book about Christopher Columbus. Those who wrote about Jesus wrote about him like those who wrote about Columbus.

I cannot deny Jesus, just as I cannot deny Christopher Columbus. To do so I would have to discredit the writers of history who lived when he lived. Proven facts cannot be denied.

If I believe in anyone, I must believe in Jesus. If I don't believe in Jesus, I do not accept the facts which prove real people.

No person in history has better credentials than Jesus. If I throw away Jesus, I must also throw away history. If I don't believe in Jesus, I cannot believe in anyone. I can reject writings about Bunny Rabbit, but I cannot reject historical and proven facts about Christopher Columbus and Jesus Christ.

#### **Please Encircle Yes or No**

- (yes) (no) 1. Are all writers of all kinds of equal believability?
- (yes) (no) 2. Is a Bunny Rabbit book in the same class as a Columbus book?
- (yes) (no) 3. Can I discredit Columbus if I cannot discredit his biographers?
- (yes) (no) 4. Can I discredit facts about Jesus because I prefer not to believe?
- (yes) (no) 5. Is Jesus as real as Columbus?

**EYEWITNESS TESTIMONY OF THE APOSTLES OF JESUS  
MAKES THEIR QUALIFICATIONS INDISPUTABLE.**



**NO OTHER REAL CHARACTER OF HISTORY  
HAS BETTER QUALIFIED TESTIMONY.**

The eyewitness observations of twelve men who lived three years with Jesus are history's clearest facts about him.

Two of these closest associates of Jesus wrote long accounts of his life and teachings. Two other detailed books were written by their associates. These are eyewitness records of historical facts.

Everything the world knows about the teachings of Jesus are found in the books of the Bible. Anyone today who quotes a statement from Jesus is necessarily quoting from Bible writers. Unless you disregard everything these writers said, you cannot disregard anything they said.

Writers of history must meet definite qualifications. They can be carefully followed and checked. We don't just swallow before we examine a writer's credentials. Historians must have first-hand information. They must prove instead of assume their facts. They must be honest men of integrity.

By every requirement demanded of writers of history, the Bible writers of Jesus amazingly pass each test. Their qualifications are indisputable, their facts are undeniable, their subject is historical.

**Please Encircle Yes or No**

- (yes) (no) 1. Bible writers about Jesus have first-hand information?
- (yes) (no) 2. Can I quote Jesus without depending upon Bible writers?
- (yes) (no) 3. Are there any qualifications which they do not meet?
- (yes) (no) 4. Can I pick and choose from the Bible what I want to believe?
- (yes) (no) 5. Can Jesus be untrue if Bible writers about him are true?

## CROSSES REALLY HAPPENED



## CROSS VICTIM FOUND

Time news magazine of January 18, 1971, records the finding of a crucifix victim named John. He was executed sometime between 7 and 70 A.D. (as Jesus was.) He was a real man, as Jesus was real. His death was real, as Jesus' death was real.

History shows that crosses were reserved for notable criminals, like Jesus was thought to be. Crucifixion was designed to cause lingering and shameful suffering. That is how Jesus died.

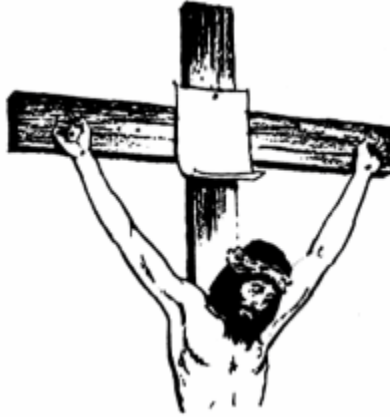
History shows that Bible records of Jesus' death are accurate. Jesus would have been executed exactly as the Bible states. Modern research says that crosses really happened. The cross of Jesus really happened.

Jesus' death is not imaginary. It happened in history. It happened exactly as Bible history says. Jesus lived and died precisely as Scripture records that he did. His death was real, his life was real, he was real.

### Please Encircle Yes or No

- (yes) (no) 1. Was crucifixion a legendary death that never really happened?
- (yes) (no) 2. Is it logical that Jesus would have been crucified?
- (yes) (no) 3. Was the John in Time any more real than Jesus was?
- (yes) (no) 4. Was John's death any more real than Jesus' death?
- (yes) (no) 5. Are Bible records of Jesus' death accurate and true?

**THE REASON FOR THE CROSS IS AS  
REAL AS THE CROSS ITSELF.**



**OUR SINS WERE LAID UPON HIM.**

God cannot stand sin. But God loves man. He therefore chose to punish Jesus instead of man by sending him to bear sin's penalty in man's place. This is the meaning of the cross of Jesus.

Because God's wrath against sin was fully satisfied by the atonement death (at-one-ment death) of Jesus, believers in Jesus can be forgiven of all sins. Jesus took the punishment of our sins, and we no longer bear it.

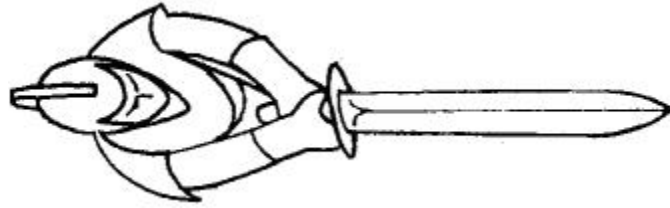
The death of Jesus was real. The necessity for it was real. Fellowship with God broken by man's sin is restored by the cross of Jesus. Jesus suffered sin's penalty in man's place. This is the real reason for the real death of Jesus.

Have you ever done wrong? Did you know that sin separates you from God? Do you see why Jesus had to die? The death of Jesus is as real as your sins against God. The purpose of his death was to restore the broken fellowship between you and God.

**Please Encircle Yes or No**

- |            |    |   |
|------------|----|---|
| (yes) (no) | 1. | Does God both hate sin and love man?                  |
| (yes) (no) | 2. | Do believers have to bear the penalty of their sins?  |
| (yes) (no) | 3. | Is the meaning of the death of Jesus reasonable?      |
| (yes) (no) | 4. | Did Jesus' suffering satisfy God's anger against sin? |
| (yes) (no) | 5. | Will the cross restore your fellowship with God?      |

**FACTS ABOUT JESUS DEMAND SO MUCH  
MORE THAN ORDINARY FACTS.**



**THE MESSAGE OF JESUS IS THE ONLY  
ONE ON EARTH WORTH DYING FOR.**

The greatest test of a writer's conviction is his willingness to die for his message. He may in fact be wrong, but we know that he thinks he is right if he dies for what he says. We cannot question a writer's integrity who dies for what he writes. Men will not die for a known error.

By every required qualification Bible writers were fully convinced. They lived in real places at real times. They were daily eyewitnesses of Jesus for years. Their number was many, not few. Their testimony fully agrees. Above all, they died before denying their message.

They knew their facts were true, they knew their subject was real, and above all, they knew his message was incredibly significant.. Because they were totally convinced about Jesus, they knew his message was worth dying for. Anyone today who so believes, is also so convinced.

Their conviction will be yours when you know the facts as they did. Bible facts about Jesus are historical, but they are not just trivial facts. They are the greatest facts of history. They are facts that tell the meaning of history. They are facts about the author of history. They are facts worth dying for.

**Please Encircle Yes or No**

- (yes) (no) 1. Will a writer die for what he knows to be a lie?
- (yes) (no) 2. Do you doubt that Bible writers believed their own message?
- (yes) (no) 3. Are some facts more important than others?
- (yes) (no) 4. Do you agree that their facts, if true, were worth dying for?
- (yes) (no) 5. Is Jesus history's greatest fact?



**YOU MUST NOW FACE LIFE'S GREATEST DECISION**

**YOU CANNOT AVOID MAKING THIS CHOICE**



**BELIEF IN JESUS DEMANDS YOUR LIFE**

You don't know all the facts, but you know enough to decide. You cannot reasonably deny Jesus, but you must commit yourself to what the known facts demand. What undeniable facts demand must be met undeniably by you. Do you believe in Jesus?

Your answer is life's greatest decision. You must make it upon the basis of life's greatest facts. It demands more than any other truth, but it also rewards more than words can tell.

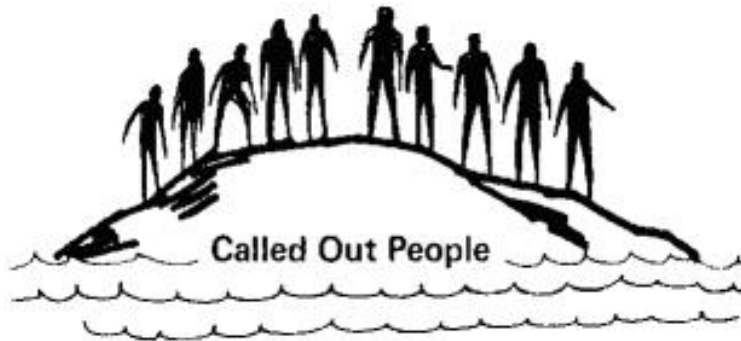
Believing in the Bible is commitment. It is staking everything upon God and Jesus. It is trust that obeys without reservation. It is giving one's all because Jesus gave his all.

This is beautifully symbolized in baptism. Baptism is the burial of an old life and the rising of a new. It is the point of entering the death of Jesus which forgives our sins. It is when I become a Christian. What a momentous choice you make when you decide (or fail to decide) to be baptized.

**Please Encircle Yes or No**

- (yes) (no) 1. Are some facts more demanding than others?
- (yes) (no) 2. Does life offer a more important choice than choosing Jesus?
- (yes) (no) 3. Is belief without commitment real belief?
- (yes) (no) 4. Is baptism the point of my surrender?
- (yes) (no) 5. Have you been buried with Christ in baptism?

**THE FACTS ARE AS CLEAR ABOUT THE CHURCH  
OF JESUS AS THEY ARE ABOUT JESUS HIMSELF.**



**YOU GIVE JESUS GLORY IN HIS CHURCH**

By definition the word "church" means "called out" believers in Jesus. The gospel message calls and God adds obedient believers to the church. The facts about the church in the Bible are just as clear as the facts about Jesus, its founder, purchaser, owner, saviour, and head. We cannot accept Jesus without accepting what he says about his church.

The glorious fact of who Jesus is must be daily demonstrated by Christians in the church. We glorify God in Christ Jesus and in the church. Jesus has all pre-eminence in his position as head of the church. Communion each Lord's day with Jesus is part of worshipping him weekly in the church. The church will one day be presented to God in heaven.

There is one church in the Bible as there is one Jesus, its head. It was founded by Jesus in Bible times, not begun by men in modern times. Men are added to it by the commandments of the Lord, they do not join it by the regulations of men. It is just as clearly set forth in the Bible as is Jesus. It is vitally significant and important, because Jesus is supremely significant and important.

**Please Encircle Yes or No**

- (yes) (no) 1. Does the word "church" mean a building?
- (yes) (no) 2. Are Bible facts about the church clear
- (yes) (no) 3. Can I accept Jesus and reject his church
- (yes) (no) 4. Is Jesus my Lord if I don't commune with him
- (yes) (no) 5. Will you be added by the Lord to his church when you are baptized into Christ?

**THE FOLLOWING LIST OF BIBLE FACTS IS LISTED FOR  
REFERENCE ABOUT JESUS, HIS MESSAGE & HIS CHURCH!**

Jesus was born in Bethlehem, Judaea, in Palestine, under a decree of Emperor Augustus Caesar (Luke 2:1, 15). Jesus and his forerunner John began preaching in the fifteenth year of Emperor Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, when Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of Ituraea and Trachonitis, when Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene, when Annas and Caiphas were the Jewish high priests (Luke 3:1, 2). Christianity began in Jerusalem, where Jesus was crucified, then spread to all Judaea, then to Samaria, and then to the uttermost part of the earth (Acts 1:8). It had spread as far as Rome when the apostle Paul wrote his letter to Roman Christians (Romans 1:7). The apostles were qualified eyewitnesses of what they wrote (I John 1:1—4). They testified that Jesus was God in human flesh (John 1:1, 14). Early Christians gave their lives for their testimony (Revelation 12:11). God made Jesus our sin-offering that we might be righteous in him (2 Corinthians 5:21). The death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus for our sins is the gospel message which saves us (I Corinthians 15:1—5). When this message is preached, men must believe and be baptized to be saved (Mark 16:15, 16). Baptism is our burial with Christ that unites us with his death (Romans 6:3—5). The saved are added by the Lord to the church (Acts 2:47). Jesus is head of the church which is his spiritual body, and receives all pre-eminence (Colossians 1:18). There is one body (Ephesians 4:4). Jesus is the church's builder (Matthew 16:18), owner (Ephesians 5:25), purchaser (Acts 20:28), saviour (Ephesians 5:23), and head (Ephesians 1:22, 23). The church is called out Christians (2 Corinthians 6:17) who will one day be presented to God in heaven (Ephesians 5:27).

**READ:  
LUKE 3:1, 2  
ACTS 1:8  
ROMANS 1:7**

