

In an effort to answer the question, “What is the purpose for my life?”, we began in the article Fundamentals, 1, with three foundational questions:

1. Is there a Personal God who created me for His purpose?
2. If so, did He communicate His Will to me in the Bible?
3. Was Jesus just a man or who He claimed to be, God resurrected on the third day?

The articles Fundamentals 1 and 2 answered the first two questions in the affirmative providing a sampling of the abundant scientific and biblical evidence that supports a resounding ‘yes’ in both cases. That leaves us to answer the third question about who Jesus was, the purpose of this article.

Was Jesus just a man or who He claimed to be, God resurrected on the third day?

Does Jesus fit into my purpose for living? Definitely! The passage quoted above, Ephesians 3:9-12, clearly states our approach to God is through Jesus Christ. Again, Jesus stated, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” (John 14:6) Coming to the Father through Jesus actually means coming to Jesus as well. Colossians 3:1 explains, “If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.”

Someone says, “But Jesus was just a man.” True, the Bible presents Him as a man, but more accurately God in human flesh, born of a virgin and put to death on a cross for the sins of mankind. Jesus claimed to be the Son of God, God Himself.

For the skeptic, there is considerable evidence that Jesus was more than a man. During His lifetime, over 100 detailed prophecies, scattered throughout the Bible, were fulfilled in Him and His journey on earth. The odds of all of those being fulfilled in one man has been calculated to be 10^{38} , or one chance in 100 billion, billion, billion, billion!!

A number of noted atheists in times past have set out to prove there is no personal God of the Bible, particularly that Jesus Christ is not God and His resurrection account is a hoax. Honest consideration of the evidence caused each one to become a believer. Here are a few:

- ❑ Frank Morrison – English atheist was converted while trying to prove for his doctoral thesis that the resurrection of Jesus was a hoax. The results are in his book, *Who Moved the Stone*.¹
- ❑ Simon Greenleaf (1783-1853), one of the founders of Harvard Law School, author of the authoritative 3-volume text, *A Treatise on the Law of Evidence* (1842). Greenleaf wrote the *Testimony of the Evangelists* after his study of the resurrection evidence.²
- ❑ Lee Strobel, atheist, Legal Editor of the Tribune and expert in courtroom analysis examined evidence, wrote *The Case for Christ*.³
- ❑ Sir Lionel Luckhoo (1914-1997), one of the greatest lawyers in British history, is in Guinness Book of World Records as the "World's Most Successful Advocate;" has 245 consecutive murder acquittals. He said, “...I have spent more than 42 years as a defense trial lawyer appearing in many parts of the world and am still in active practice. I have been fortunate to secure a number of successes in jury trials and I

say unequivocally the evidence for the Resurrection of Jesus Christ is so overwhelming that it compels acceptance by proof which leaves absolutely no room for doubt.”⁴

Those who doubt the divinity of Jesus Christ have not carefully considered the evidence. Jesus claimed to be God in human flesh. In John 8:58, Jesus said, “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.” This is a clear reference to His eternal nature. The apostle John also wrote in John 1:1, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” And in verse 14, John affirmed, “...the Word became flesh and dwelt among men,” God in human flesh. Jesus.

Jesus’ claims to divinity were either true or made by a liar or a lunatic. Any honest evaluation of the evidence will prove He was neither lying or deluded. Jesus was and is God Almighty.

Endnotes

¹ Morrison, Frank, *Who Moved the Stone* (1958) Zondervan, Grand Rapids, Michigan

² Greenleaf, Simon, *Testimony of the Evangelists* (1995) Kregel Classics, Grand Rapids, Michigan

³ Strobel, Lee, *The Case for Christ* (1998) Zondervan, Grand Rapids, Michigan

⁴ Luckhoo, Sir Lionel, quoted on <http://www.gotquestions.org/why-believe-resurrection.html>