

IF Week #4
May 6, 2018



Is Jesus The Only Way To God?

John 14:6

6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

1. Fulfilled Old Testament Prophecies Regarding Jesus

2. A Life Of Working Miracles

3. The Resurrection

"About this time there lived Jesus, a wise man [if indeed one ought to call him a man.] For he was one who wrought surprising feats and was a teacher of such people as accept the truth gladly. He won over many Jews and many of the Greeks. [He was the Christ.] When Pilate, upon hearing him accused by men of the highest standing amongst us, had condemned him to be crucified, those who had in the first place come to love him did not give up their affection for him. [On the third day he appeared to them restored to life, for the prophets of God had prophesied these and countless other marvelous things about him.] And the tribe of the Christians, so called after him, has still to this day not disappeared."

Flavius Josephus

4. A Legacy Of Changed Lives

"Through Him movements have been set in motion which have made society for what mankind believes to be its best - the inward transformation in human lives, in political order, in the production and distribution of goods to meet the physical needs of men, in healing physical ills, in the relations between races and between nations, in art, in religion and in the achievements of the human intellect. Gauged by the consequences which have followed, the birth, life and resurrection of Jesus have been most important events in the history of man. Measured by His influence, Jesus is central in the human story."

Kenneth Scott Latourette

What About All Other Religions?

Options

- 1) None Are Correct
(No way to God)
- 2) All Are Correct
(Yet they contradict each other)
- 3) Only One Is Correct

Recommendation For Investigation

- 1) Pick The Religions And Their Leaders Which You Think Have The Most Merit, i.e.:
 - Confucianism (Confucius)
 - Buddhism (Siddhartha Guantama)
 - Islam (Mohammad)
 - Christianity (Jesus)
- 2) Pick A Handful Of The Most Critical Evaluative Issues And Do A Comparative Study, i.e.:
 - Teachings
 - Moral Life
 - Miracles
 - Prophetic Power
 - Present Status

Religions & Their Leaders

- 1) Confucianism (Confucius)
 - From China
 - 551 B.C. - 479 B.C.
 - Largest following at one time = 300 million
 - Only 6 million now
- 2) Buddhism (Buddha)
 - Siddhartha Guantama
 - From India
 - 563 B.C. - 483 B.C.
 - 360 million followers
- 3) Islam (Mohammad)
 - 570 A.D.
 - 1.2 billion followers
- 4) Christianity (Jesus)
 - 2 billion followers

*Note: Hinduism is not included because:

- no central leader associated
- no single God represented
- some consider it a social system more than a religion

Areas Of Contrast

1) Teaching

- Confucius
 - "Analects"
 - Wisdom editor only
- Buddha
 - Four Noble Truths (took from Hinduism)
 - First writing 400 years later (oral tradition)
 - "Scholars are increasingly reluctant to make unqualified claims about the historical facts of the Buddha's life & teachings"* –Wikipedia
- Mohammad
 - Koran
- Jesus
 - Old Testament & New Testament Of Bible

2) Moral Life

- Confucius
 - OK but not perfect
- Buddha
 - OK but not perfect
- Mohammad
 - Many moral struggles
 - Violated his own teaching (exceeding # of wives)
 - Changed his own teaching mid stream
- Jesus
 - Perfect

3) Miracles

- Confucius - none
- Buddha - none
- Mohammad - none
- Jesus - many
 - Not "if", but "how"

4) Prophetic Power

- Confucius - none
- Buddha - none
- Mohammad - few
- Jesus - constantly

5) Present Status

- Only Jesus claimed to be alive/overcoming death

Book of John Questions

19. What did Jesus mean when He said, "I am the resurrection"? (11:25)
20. What does Christ's being the resurrection mean for those who believe? (11:26)
21. What is the one condition Jesus gives for finding life? What does He mean by this? (12:25-25)
22. What does Jesus say is true of the person who serves Him? (12:26)
23. In Jesus' view, is there any other way than believing and following Him order for a person to find God? Why? (14:6)
24. How does Jesus describe His relationship with God the Father? (14:9-11)
25. What does Christ promise to those who will ask Him anything that honors Him? (14:13-14)
26. What is true of those who truly love Christ? (14:15, 21-24)
27. What does Jesus mean when He says He will leave a helper? (14:16-26)



TO SUBMIT A QUESTION ELECTRONICALLY:
Text your question to: 678.829.8879
Email your question to: IfGod@perimeter.org