

PREPARED

RELIABLE WITNESS

PREPARED MINDSET

Being **prepared** to defend
what you **believe** (hope)
when there is **little** time
and even **less** interest.



*But in your hearts **revere**
Christ (**Jesus**) as **Lord** (Master).
Always be **prepared** (ready)
to give an **answer** (defense)
to everyone who **asks** you
to give the **reason** (explanation)
for the **hope** that **you** have.
But **do this** with
gentleness and respect, ...*

1 Peter 3: 15 NIV



PREPARED TO ANSWER: “WHY JESUS?”

Be prepared to defend
your decision to follow Jesus.

Be prepared to defend
your hope and confidence in him.



The Resurrection



THE ANSWER TO “WHY JESUS?”

I believe that Jesus **died** for my sin,
was buried and **rose** from the dead.

But I don't **believe** it
because the **Bible** says so,
it's better than that ...



THE BIBLE

The **infallible** but
seemingly **undefensible**
foundation of your faith.

You **don't** have to **defend**
the entire **book** (Bible).



*“We **evangelicals**, with our **infallible view** of scripture
ripped from our hands, were left gasping for air.
If you crumple and toss out
a **literal** reading of the **Bible**,
then what does it **mean** to talk about **Jesus**
literally dying for your **sins**?”*

Jessica Misener

Why I Miss Being A Born-Again Christian?

BuzzFeed.com



Christians (Jesus followers) should
take the Old Testament seriously
because Jesus did.



*“Do not think
that I have **come** to **abolish**
the Law or the Prophets;
I have **not come** to abolish them
but to **fulfill** them.”*

Matthew 5: 17 NIV



OBJECTION

Since the Bible is the source
of what Jesus said,
aren't we using the Bible
to prove the Bible?



THE BIBLE = 66 BOOKS

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah & Malachi (39 O.T. Documents)

MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE & JOHN

Acts, Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, 1 & 2 Peter, 1, 2 & 3 John, Jude & Revelations
(27 N.T. Documents)



Christians **don't** believe
that the **Gospels** are **reliable**
because they are **in** the **Bible**.

Christians **believe** the Gospels
were **included** in the Bible **because**
they are considered **reliable**.



The Gospels are considered reliable
not because they are in the Bible
but because of who wrote them
and when they were written.



AD 70: JEWISH TEMPLE DESTROYED

*“The **slaughter within** was even more dreadful than the **spectacle from without**. Men and woman, old and young, insurgents and priests, those who **fought** and those who **entreated mercy**, were **hewn down** in indiscriminate **carnage** ...*

*The legionaries had to clamber over **heaps** of dead **bodies**, to carry on the **work** of **extermination**.”*

- Josephus in H.H. Milman's
The History of the Jews









WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

There's **no mention** of the **war** against the **Jews** or the **destruction** of the Jewish **Temple** anywhere in the **New Testament**.

WHY?

It hadn't **happened** yet!



Why Jesus?



PREPARED TO ANSWER: “WHY JESUS?”

Old Testament

Jesus

**Matthew, Mark, Luke,
John, Peter, James & Paul**



I believe that Jesus **died** for **my** sin,
was **buried**, and **rose** from the dead,
but not because the Bible says so.

It's better than that!

I believe because Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Peter, James, Paul, Jude and the writer of Hebrews who were eyewitnesses and friends of eyewitnesses said so.

And I believe they were reliable witnesses because none of them reference the destruction of the Jewish Temple in 70 AD, hence their writings were within 40 years of Jesus' resurrection.

