

#### **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 indefensible 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.

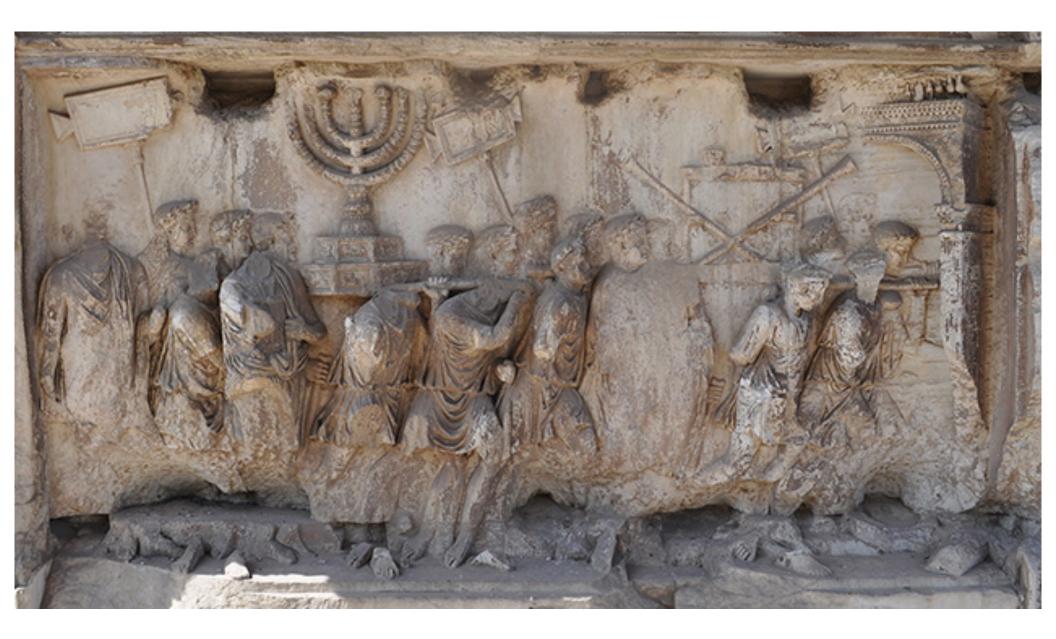


#### **AD 70: JEWISH TEMPLE DESTROYED**

"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?"**



#### 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.