

## *The Real Jesus*

# The Jesus of History

### I. Introduction

- A. People have such a propensity to replace the real Jesus with whatever "Jesus" we want Him to be!
- B. There is a great amount of ignorance about Jesus these days!

### II. How Do We Know Jesus Was a Real, Historical Person?

- A. Jesus is talked about in lots of historical documents outside of the Bible.
- B. The testimony of Luke in the Bible
  1. Luke 1:1-4 (NLT) *<sup>1</sup>Many people have set out to write accounts about the events that have been fulfilled among us. <sup>2</sup>They used the eyewitness reports circulating among us from the early disciples. <sup>3</sup>Having carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I also have decided to write a careful account for you, most honorable Theophilus, <sup>4</sup>so you can be certain of the truth of everything you were taught.*
  2. Luke 1:1 (NLT) *Many people have set out to write accounts about the events that have been fulfilled among us.*
  3. Luke "carefully investigated" the stories of Jesus before writing his gospel.
  4. Luke 1:3 (NLT) *Having carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I also have decided to write a careful account for you, most honorable Theophilus.*
  5. Ramsay concluded that Luke was a remarkable historian!
- C. The testimony of eyewitnesses
  1. Luke 1:2 (NLT) *They used the eyewitness reports circulating among us from the early disciples.*
  2. An "eyewitness" is someone who is present at the time of the incident, and is able to give evidence regarding what they've seen and heard.
  3. Acts 1:21-22 (NLT) *<sup>21</sup>"So now we must choose a replacement for Judas from among the men who were with us the entire time we were traveling with the Lord Jesus—<sup>22</sup>from the time he was baptized by John until the day he was taken from us. Whoever is chosen will join us as a witness of Jesus' resurrection."*
  4. Acts 2:32 (NLT) *"God raised Jesus from the dead, and we are all witnesses of this."*
  5. Acts 3:15 (NLT) *"You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. And we are witnesses of this fact!"*
  6. Luke 24:17-24 (NLT) *<sup>17</sup>He asked them, "What are you discussing so intently as you walk along?" They stopped short, sadness written across their faces. <sup>18</sup>Then one of them, Cleopas, replied, "You must be the only person in Jerusalem who hasn't heard about all the things that have happened there the last few days." <sup>19</sup>"What things?" Jesus asked. "The things that happened to Jesus, the man from Nazareth," they said. "He was a prophet who did powerful miracles, and he was a mighty teacher in the eyes of God and all the people. <sup>20</sup>But our leading priests and other religious leaders handed him over to be condemned to death, and they crucified him. <sup>21</sup>We had hoped he was the Messiah who had come to rescue Israel. This all happened three days ago. <sup>22</sup>Then some women from our group of his followers were at his tomb*

*early this morning, and they came back with an amazing report. <sup>23</sup>They said his body was missing, and they had seen angels who told them Jesus is alive! <sup>24</sup>Some of our men ran out to see, and sure enough, his body was gone, just as the women had said."*

7. John 19:25 (NLT) *Standing near the cross were Jesus' mother, and his mother's sister, Mary (the wife of Clopas), and Mary Magdalene.*

D. The testimony of changed lives today!

### **III. Conclusion**