Jesus, the Only Way to God (John 6:66-69)

**Introduction:** Jesus’ first disciples made an audacious statement which generates controversy still today.

*“And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.”* (Acts 4:12)

These disciples claimed the same idea that Jesus taught: Jesus is the only way for mankind to gain forgiveness from sin, escape punishment, and find rest. Jesus maintained the exclusive rights to salvation. Just in case you need more than one statement to accept that Jesus believed this about Himself or that His followers taught it, listen to these verses.

*“Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.”* (John 8:24)

*“I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.”* (John 10:9)

 *“And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.’”* (Matt. 28:18)

*“I am the first, and the last, and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades.”* (Rev. 1:17-18)

*“He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”* (John 3:18)

*“There is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things and we exist for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist through Him.”* (1 Cor. 8:6)

*“For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.”* (1 Tim. 2:5)

 *“Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also.”* (1 John 2:23)

*“Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God.”* (2 John 1:9)

*“Jesus said to him, ‘I am* ***the*** *way, and* ***the*** *truth, and* ***the*** *life;* ***no one comes to the Father but through Me.****’”* (John 14:6)

These verses may not have convinced you that Jesus is the only Way, but by now, you should be satisfied that Jesus and the biblical writers *believed* He was. Why is their belief important? If Jesus was wrong about being *the* way, then He isn’t *a* way at all. The writers’ failure on this crucial issue would make all their other teachings suspect. Jesus’ identity and ability are the most important questions of eternity.

The fact that Jesus made this claim about Himself gives us cause to evaluate it. So we ask the question. What truths set Him and His way apart from all other faiths? What gives more merit to His case than to Muhammed’s or Buddha’s or Joseph Smith’s? Let’s examine Jesus’ claims and the evidence behind them to see what makes Him unique among all religious leaders.

1. Jesus alone is God. *“all the fullness to dwell in Him”* (Col. 1:19; 2:9)

Jesus did more than claim the means to get to God; He insisted He *was* God. The same people who belittle the first claim also attack the second. They even cast doubt on whether the Bible declares Him to be divine. The best way to deal with their skepticism is to show the claim and then present the evidence of its accuracy.

Here are the Bible’s statements about Jesus’ divinity:

*“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”* (John 1:1)

*“He [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God… it was the Father’s good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him…”* (Col. 1:15, 19)

*“…in Him [Jesus] all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form…”* (Col. 2:9)

*“…our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus…”* (Titus 2:13)

*“…of the Son He [the Father] says, ‘Your throne, O God, is forever and ever...’”* (Heb. 1:8)

The biblical writers attested to Jesus’ divinity. You know that followers will sometimes exalt their leader in a way that can make the leader sound superhuman. It can be embarrassing and can raise expectations too high. The leader often has to correct the overzealous praise of his followers and downplay some of their well-intentioned propaganda. So let’s have Jesus step up to the microphone and speak for Himself:

*“He [Jesus] answered them, ‘My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working.’ For this reason, therefore, the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God…’He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.’”* (John 5:17-18, 23)

*“‘Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad.’ So the Jews said to Him, ‘You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?” Jesus said to them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abrahamwas born, I am.’”* (John 8:56-58)

*“‘I and the Father are one.’ The Jews picked up stones again to stone Him. Jesus answered them, ‘I showed you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you stoning Me?’ The Jews answered Him, ‘For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy; and because You, being a man, make Yourself out to be God.’”* (John 10:30-33)

That’s probably not what you were hoping/expecting to hear. There were a lot of words, and not once in those words did you hear the simple declaration from Jesus, “I am God.” In fact, you may not be certain about what you *did* hear. The Jews, Jesus’ original audience, had no difficulty deciphering Jesus’ meaning. To them, Jesus’ message was clear enough and blasphemous enough to pick up stones and attempt Jesus’ execution.

We don’t have the understanding the Jews did. A short direct statement would have been helpful. If Jesus is God, why didn’t He more clearly stake His ground? Why did He make it so difficult to recognize Him? Jesus didn’t look like the way you might expect God to appear. He was so…well…weak, normal, and unimpressive (Isaiah 53:2). Even Satan had a hard time recognizing Him in His human body.

Satan came to Jesus in the wilderness with a challenge that started with a question: “If you are the Son of God…” (Matt. 4:3). Satan wasn’t trying to get Jesus to doubt His identity; that would be fruitless. Satan was attempting to clear up his own doubts. He had just heard the Father identify Jesus as His Son (Matt. 3:17), but Satan wasn’t so sure. Is this guy God or not?

Satan wanted Jesus to act more God-like. “Come on Jesus. If you’re God, show off!” By refusing to listen to Satan, Jesus *was* acting God-like. He would not allow Satan to goad Him into self-serving actions. He exhibited self-control. By the time Satan left, he had no more doubts. Jesus was God. Only God could have resisted the temptations Satan brought.

Okay, the Bible says Jesus is God, Jesus said He was God, and even Satan seems to agree. Satan could be wrong. He’s been wrong about God before. And Jesus along with the biblical writers could have all been lying.

For Jesus to falsely claim He is the only means of salvation would be catastrophic for those who followed Him. If His claim to divinity is inaccurate, pretending to be God when He is not would be damning for Him. No one would do that lightly. Nor would they do it without evidence.

Christianity is not unique in its claim to have a divine leader. The Baha’i faith believes God has manifested Himself in multiple human leaders including Moses, Krishna, Muhammed, and Jesus. Muslims believe Allah is God but concur that Muhammed was not. According to Mormons, humans can become a god, saying: “As man is, God once was; as God is, man may become.” Buddhists don’t see a need for God, and Hindus have millions of gods – one for every place and every situation, but none that can save. Jesus alone can do that, and Jesus alone has proof of His divinity.

Jesus possessed an overwhelming supply of evidence. His authoritative teaching was enough to persuade some of His critics (Matt. 7:28-29; John 7:45-46). Other foundations for His claim are His fulfillment of prophecy, His sinlessness, and His miracles. We will deal with two of these in subsequent sections. Right now, let’s examine the evidence from His miracles.

Jesus’ loudest supporter was John the Baptist. But John started to have his own doubts about Jesus’ identity when he knew his death was approaching. Through his disciples, John asked Jesus, “Are you the one?” (Matt. 11:3).

Rather than answering John with a statement, Jesus pointed John to His works. Jesus said, “The blind behold their children’s faces, the lame dance, the lepers have come home, the deaf can join in on the conversation, and the formerly dead are making plans for the future.” More significantly, Jesus was cleansing people of their indelible sin stain (Matt. 11:4-5). These were things that only God could do (Mark 2:7).

Jesus used His miracles partially to alleviate suffering, but the primary reason He did them was as evidence of His divinity. They were signs telling people to turn to Jesus (John 10:25, 37-38; 14:11). It was a miracle (the star) that first convinced the magi a toddler was the King (Matt. 2:9).

Jesus gave John and us the evidence we need to believe Him – His works. Isn’t what we *do* more telling about who we *are* than what we *say* anyway?

Jesus is still God today. He can do miracles for you just like He did for them, including the miracle of forgiving your sin.

1. Jesus alone fulfilled Messianic prophecy. *“out of you shall come forth a ruler”* (Matt. 2:4-6)

The Father made the first prophecy about Jesus when the world was still new.

*“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall crush you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel.”* (Gen. 3:15 fulfilled in Gal. 4:4)

That began a long line of promises God made primarily to the Jewish people but having an impact on all of humanity. A Messiah was coming. Sin and its consequence, death, had entered the world. The Savior would take both away.

They didn’t know who the Savior was or how to recognize Him, so God gave the means they needed. The Messiah would fulfill prophecy. By some reckonings, there are over three hundred of them Jesus fulfilled. All of them extend back at least four hundred years before Jesus’ birth; some are a thousand years older than the wood in the manger. These are detailed prophecies with details: places, specific actions, and impossibilities.

Some of these predictions were about what Jesus would do. Most of them were about what others would do to Him. Jesus had limited control over the former but none over the latter.

The Bible prophesied that the Messiah would do miracles.

*“On that day the deaf will hear words of a book, and out of their gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind will see.”* (Isaiah 29:18)

*“Say to those with anxious heart, ‘Take courage, fear not. Behold, your God will come with vengeance; The recompense of God will come, but He will save you.’ Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, and the ears of the deaf will be unstopped. Then the lame will leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute will shout for joy.”* (Isaiah 35:4-6)

If someone prophesied I was going to do a miracle, I could not make that happen no matter how hard I tried. I’m not God. The fact that Jesus did miracles is a double evidence of His divinity. It proved He had the power, and it fulfilled prophecy.

Skeptics try to negate the value of those prophecies predicting the actions of Jesus’ contemporaries. They say Jesus’ life was an orchestrated conspiracy to provide a Messiah, a king to lead Israel out of Roman oppression. In doing so, the critics have to admit events happened as the Bible predicted. Secondly, by saying Jesus caused people, some of whom were His mortal enemies, to fulfill these prophecies, you attribute to Him the power only God possesses. How would Jesus control the place of His birth and its miraculous circumstances if He was not God?!

If Jesus’ life was a human plan, then who perpetrated the hoax of Jesus’ identity as the Messiah – Joseph and Mary? The disciples? The Pharisees? Whoever did so failed miserably because the Jewish people ended up rejecting and killing their Messiah. He left before the kingdom was in place. Jesus Himself rejected this role as king, at least for now (John 6:15).

No, these prophecies weren’t a human idea (2 Peter 1:20-21), nor was their fulfillment a human accomplishment. They came from God. Jesus, the Son of God, fulfilled them precisely as men recorded them.

Here is a partial list of the prophecies Jesus fulfilled.

* Micah 5:2-5 🡪 Matt. 2:1-6 Born in Bethlehem
* Isaiah 7:14 🡪 Matt. 1:18-23 Born of a virgin
* Psalm 72:10-11🡪 Matt. 2:1-11 Kings bring gifts
* Jer. 31:15 🡪 Matt. 2:16-18 Massacre of children
* Isaiah 40:3-5 🡪 John 1:23 Messenger prepares way
* Zech. 9:9 🡪 John 12:14-15 Arrival in Jer. on donkey colt
* Psalm 55:12-14 🡪 Matt. 26:23 Betrayed by a friend
* Psalm 27:12 🡪 Matt. 26:60 False witnesses accuse
* Isaiah 53:7 🡪 Matt. 27:12 Jesus quiet before accusers
* Micah 5:1 🡪 Matt. 27:30 Struck on head
* Psalm 22:16 🡪 Matt. 27:35 Killed through crucifixion
* Psalm 22:18 🡪 John 19:23-24 Gambling over clothing
* Zech. 12:10 🡪 John 19:34-37 His body pierced
* Isaiah 53:9 🡪 Matt. 27:57-60 Buried with the rich
* Psalm 16:8-11 🡪 Acts 2:32 Resurrection

Jesus’ birth, His life, His ministry, His death, and His resurrection were all fulfillments of God’s plan. None of this surprised God, but it should astonish you how much of Jesus’ life matched up with ancient prophecy. It’s uncanny. It cannot be coincidental. If Jesus is not the Messiah, and if He is not God, then supply for me another answer to how this could happen. It’s impossible.

That’s why no other religion has dared attempt to duplicate it. Prophecy of the quality, detail, age, and accuracy of the Bible is unparalleled. Jesus is unique because of the prophesies He fulfilled.

1. Jesus alone doesn’t share your weakness. *“yet without sin”* (Heb. 4:15)

We’re all sick. We’ve been sick ever since Eve and Adam ate from the tree God quarantined. That sin, though seemingly small, had catastrophic consequences. Our original ancestors poisoned the spiritual (and physical) DNA they passed to us when they chose to disobey God. Every human infant now has a sin nature.

A sin nature means sin is natural for us. It’s natural, normal, expected. Doing right only occurs when we successfully fight our instincts, and we don’t do that very often. Sin, like cancer, exists inside each of us (Rom. 3:23). It has metastasized into every part of our existence. It rules us (Rom. 6:16). Where sin is present, death will eventually follow (Rom. 5:12; 6:23).

How could something as microscopic as an afternoon snack create such havoc? Every sin seems small to the offender. But to the one the sin offends, the only One who is fully healthy, it looks like the Bubonic Plague. Think how you would respond to a single drop of blood if you knew it contained HIV.

God didn’t give us death. It’s not His punishment on us. It is a result of the sickness to which we willingly expose ourselves believing we are immune to its effects. Death is the natural result of walking away from Life (John 14:6).

The dread disease of sin lulls us into passivity. The Bible is clear. Every human has this sickness (Rom. 3:23). The temptation is to think it must not be that bad since everyone has it. But then we remember the fact that everyone who has ever lived (with only three exceptions) is in the grave or is on their way there.

Time is the other factor that limits our urgency. Sin is patient. It lies seemingly dormant inside us, slowly but aggressively infecting every thought, every desire, every action, and every relationship. The only One time does not limit expressed urgency in procuring sin’s antidote.

When the time was right (Gal. 4:4), Mary, a sinner, birthed Jesus, the Messiah, into this sin-sick world (Isaiah 7:14; 9:6). The virgin birth spared Jesus the contamination of a sin nature. Mary gave Jesus humanity’s frailties, but not our sickness.

Jesus knew sadness, laughter, frustration, joy, loneliness, and anger. He had friends. He had enemies. He experienced hunger, weariness, thirst, pain, and weakness. He even knew what it was to die. But He never knew sin (Heb. 4:15).

What other religion can rightly say they have a leader who never sinned? Oh, they can claim it, but eventually, someone tells their secrets. They can excuse sin by saying it does not exist (Scientology, Buddhism, Baha’i, Wicca), or they can diagnose a different cause for our obvious symptoms.

Islam says the world would be healthy if everyone were a Muslim. Earth’s problem is not the people of other faiths but the strength of man’s faith in himself (Humanism) and the weakness or non-existence of his belief in Jesus.

We are not basically good; we are inherently evil. According to Hinduism, our problem is faulty thinking about who we are and our insane conviction that we exist. No, our sickness comes from our wrong thinking about who *God* is and our idiotic notion that *He* does not exist (Atheism) or that His existence doesn’t matter (Deism).

Humanity has tried so many different solutions. None of them has worked. Do not lose hope. There is a cure. His name is Jesus.

1. Jesus alone paid the debt you owe. *“canceled out the certificate of debt”* (Col. 2:13-14)

Four men lowered their friend through a hole in the roof (Mark 2:3-4). They wouldn’t permit the crowd, their fear of heights, the stares of onlookers, or the cost of repairs to prevent their lame friend from getting the healing he lacked.

Their persistence paid off in a larger way than they expected. Their friend got a double-healing – first internally and then externally.

Everyone there was startled when they saw the pieces of roof fall into Jesus’ hair and interrupt His teaching. They thought He’d be offended. Instead, *He* offended *them* when He said to the man at His feet, “You are clean from your sins” (Mark 2:5).

Jesus knew healing for this man’s legs would be meaningless if he didn’t get cleansing for his soul. So Jesus gave the man with friends what he needed most: forgiveness. Doing so led others to falsely believe that Jesus had sinned. By offering absolution from sins, a right God reserved for Himself, Jesus was once again claiming to be God (Mark 2:6-7). That would be blasphemy…if it wasn’t true. But what if it was?

Could Jesus forgive sins? *Can* Jesus forgive sins? No, not unless someone erases the debt sin creates. God is just. Sin always has a high cost, and that cost must be paid (Rom. 6:23).

Blood is the only cleansing agent strong enough to wipe away the guilt. People of the past would sacrifice an innocent animal and use the stain of its blood to hide the stain of their sin. Hiding has never been good enough.

Camouflage didn’t work for Adam and Eve; it doesn’t work today. We need something to remove our guilt not cover it. That’s like giving painkillers to a heart attack victim. It temporarily takes away the symptoms, but it doesn’t deal with the cause.

“Behold the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29). With those words, John the Baptist introduced Jesus to humanity.

Jesus was not a placebo; He was the cure.

To bring us life, Jesus had to die (Isaiah 53:5). That’s what sacrificial lambs do. He took the debt I owed and placed it on His shoulders (Isaiah 53:6). Only He could pay my debt. Being sinless, He had no debt of His own. His pain brought our healing because He substituted His righteousness for our sin (2 Cor. 5:21).

To the Buddhist, pain originates from desire. Eve wanted the fruit. She took it – Pain. Jesus wanted us. He became a human and died – Pain. The Buddhist is right, but only partially. The eradication of desire, if it were possible, might prevent me from committing any further sin, but it can do nothing about the sin I have already committed. The issue is not desire; the issue is desiring anything more than we desire God.

So if eliminating desire is not effective, then perhaps indulging in it will solve my problem. That’s what Hookers for Jesus and Scientologists would have you believe. There is no such thing as sin they say. That’s not your problem.

Your problem, according to Scientology, is your engrams – your psychological hang-ups from your past which you can only overcome through the help of an auditor. The church will cheerfully provide one for a small fee. I don’t need an auditor to get me past my hang-ups. My wife will gladly do it for free! What I require is a Savior to forgive my sin. For that, I needed Jesus to hang on a tree.

Scientology is right about one thing. My past is my problem. Emptying my mind through meditation won’t erase the memory of the wrongs I’ve committed. Yoga *might* give grace and flexibility to my body (that would be a miracle), but it won’t give peace to my soul. And it won’t produce any bend in God’s standards.

Islam, along with most of the world’s religions, tells me that I can find spiritual health through exercise. If I go, and I give, and I fast, and I say, and I pray, then *maybe* God will be merciful. God’s mercy is only available through Jesus. Jesus took God’s wrath in our place because no amount of good works could ever atone for the crime we committed (Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 3:5-6).

Answer me this: In what other religion does God personally fix the problems His creatures produced? Which one has God not just taking on human form but becoming one of us…permanently, and then allowing lowly mortals to judge Him? All religions that believe in a god have their god send a messenger. In Christianity, God sent a messenger to tell us that God Himself was coming, not to judge but to save. Christianity is unique.

1. Jesus alone overcame death. *“Jesus died and rose again”* (1 Thess. 4:14)

Jesus followers watched Him die. They thought Jesus was extraordinary and believed His story would end differently. Dying made Him look so ordinary. They did not understand.

Jesus didn’t die because He was human. He died because He was God. As a human, death is natural. As God, death is *not* natural, but love is (John 3:16; 1 John 4:8). Jesus died not because He had to but because He chose to. The soldiers didn’t nail Jesus to that cross; His love did.

Something else made Christ’s death unusual. Though the payment for sin was finished, Jesus was not. Three days later, the angel rolled away the stone to reveal that Jesus was no longer dead!

Though the Bible records the reanimation of others, Jesus’ resurrection is unique. Every person who ever came out of the grave eventually had to return, with the exception of Jesus. Jesus died “once for all” (Heb. 10:10). He only had to die one time because His death was sufficient to purchase forgiveness for all who will come to Him.

A one-time death has a certain level of appeal to a Hindu or Buddhist. Reincarnation is a trap. The theoretical hope is that you will have an infinite number of lives to escape the karma of the past and correct your fallacious thinking. The cruel reality is that it only takes one life to sow so much evil that you will never escape its grip on your own. To eternally pay for your past is Hell. Jesus resurrected to free you from the reincarnation of your past.

Hinduism, Buddhism, and Scientology claim reincarnation followed by annihilation. Christianity claims resurrection – Jesus’ first and His followers’ later. Since the resurrection of believers is predicated on Jesus’ resurrection, what evidence is there that it happened to Him?

First, Jesus’ tomb was empty. His body was gone. The only people who don’t admit this are those who don’t believe Jesus ever occupied a grave.

The ones who delivered Jesus to the Roman officials knew the men they requested to guard Jesus’ tomb had failed in their job. The Pharisees paid the guards anyway – to report that Jesus’ disciples had stolen His body, a testament to their incompetence (Matt. 28:12-13). They all knew their accusation was a lie. Though the authorities arrested Jesus’ disciples for other supposed crimes, they did not for this one.

The presence of the grave clothes in the tomb also give evidence to Jesus’ resurrection. What thief would take time to unwrap Jesus’ body before they ran away? If Jesus revived in the tomb, He wouldn’t have been able to get out of the clothes on His own or push away the stone from the inside. And the presence of the clothes in the tomb destroys the argument of those who would say Mary and the disciples went to the wrong cave.

People saw, touched, and talked with Jesus. Hundreds of them! Over five hundred saw Him at one time (1 Cor. 15:6). He also appeared to smaller groups in numerous places under a variety of conditions. Some of them longed to see Jesus; some of them didn’t believe their eyes. They didn’t hallucinate Jesus. Though you can get a large group of people to see something that isn’t there, it’s impossible to get them to imagine the exact same thing.

Jesus is alive! I’m not lying, and I’m not dreaming. He defeated death not just for Him but for you (1 Cor. 15:54-57). Jesus resurrected, and if you place your faith in Him, death will lose its power over you too.

1. Jesus alone wants you as a friend. *“Christ also loved the church”* (Eph. 5:25)

Islam describes Allah as loving but limits his love to those who meet certain requirements and act in a way he approves.[[[1]](#endnote-1)] The God of the Bible spreads His love to all (John 3:16). Baha’i also teaches a god of love but says he is unknowable and inaccessible.[[[2]](#endnote-2)] Though Deists believe God exists and has personality, these facts have no meaning for humanity. God does not involve Himself in His creation. He “poses no threat and offers no hope” to earth’s inhabitants.[[[3]](#endnote-3)]

Hindus have millions of gods, but their ultimate goal is to become one with Brahman, the highest Universal Principle, the Ultimate Reality in the universe. Brahman has no personality. It is impersonal energy much like the Force in Star Wars or the electricity in your laptop. Union with Brahman will have the same result as joining with electricity; annihilation, not relationship.

The Bible presents a personal God. He communed with Adam in the Garden of Eden and continued to do so with Adam’s descendants. It wasn’t until thousands of years later in a desert that someone thought to ask God His name. To Moses, God first revealed Himself as Jehovah – the God who never changes and who defines Himself by the people He relates to (Exodus 3:13-15).

Jehovah desires unity with His people. Unity was the theme of Jesus’ longest recorded prayer spoken just hours before His crucifixion (John 17:20-21). He desires an intimate relationship with us where we maintain our individuality but draw great joy from the companionship (Gen. 2:24).

In Greek and Roman mythology, the gods came down to intermingle with humanity. The gods related to humans like they were pets, playthings, or means for their sexual pleasure. There was no relationship. These gods were myths; Jesus is real. Jesus is working toward a permanent relationship with us.

The adherents of Baha’i are correct. Relating to God is impossible. The Bible agrees that God is unknowable and inaccessible (Isaiah 55:8-9). That creates a problem for God’s plan. Sin compounded the problem. It separated us from Holy God (Isaiah 59:2) and made us His enemies (Rom. 8:7). Because God is out of our league, and because we have nothing in common with Him, we weren’t seeking a relationship with Him (Rom. 3:11). Thankfully, God was seeking a relationship with us. He still is.

God *is* higher, but He came lower. We can’t reach up to God, so He reaches down to us. He uses two means to do so.

The first means God uses to bridge the gap between Him and us is His written Word (1 Tim. 3:16). The same passage that speaks of God’s transcendence also communicates His immanence. The God whose thoughts and ways far exceed ours recorded them so that we could understand and emulate them (Isaiah 55:10-11). Through the prophets, God spoke to His people.

God spoke loudest and with the most clarity through His Son, the Living Word (Heb. 1:1-2; John 1:1-1-2). Communion with us is so important to Him that He became one of us so that we could understand Him (John 1:14; Phil. 2:5-6). Jesus is God made visible, huggable, and relatable (Col. 1:15; John 14:8-9). Jesus became man so that He could bring the Father and us together (1 Tim. 2:5; Eph. 2:16). Jesus saved us from our sin and our separation.

Rescuers rarely have the opportunity to develop a long-term relationship with those they save. They don’t usually want one. But God wants a connection with us. Think about all the terms He uses to describe our interaction – Father and child, Husband and bride. He even calls us His friends (James 2:23; Exodus 33:11; John 15:15).

Sadly, friendships can’t last forever. At least not normally. Even Jesus’ friendship with His original disciples came to an end when He left them to go back to Heaven. To them and to us, He made a promise. He’s coming back (John 14:1-3; Acts 1:11).

1. Jesus alone is coming back to earth. *“Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, shall appear a second time.”* (Heb. 9:28)

Jesus is coming back, but He’s not coming back to stay, not yet anyway. He’s coming back to get us. And He’s not returning alone. He’s bringing all those who chose Jesus as their way of salvation and their way of living. They knew Jesus was the only source of life and the single means to overcome death.

You say, if Jesus wants a relationship with us, why did He leave? Why didn’t He stay? He left to do the same thing any loving groom does for his bride. He left to prepare everything so that it will be just right for when He escorts His bride home. And when He comes to get us, He will also prepare us. He will transform our bodies and our souls so that we have everything we need to enjoy eternity with Him forever.

All religions that believe in a god and a conscious afterlife promise a future where their adherents either become a god, live like one, or enjoy His favor forever. Some religions offer only annihilation. Others offer endless cycles of reincarnation.

Mormons and Muslims hope for an eternity filled with unbridled sex. The depth of their hope is limited to the height of the physical. Only Christianity offers resurrection followed by transformation and transportation to Heaven where we will enjoy an intimate relationship with our Creator and Savior forever.

**Conclusion:** There’s one final reason to choose Jesus over all these other religions. Jesus alone has what you need. Jehovah’s Witnesses limit God’s best to those who came first. The best the rest can hope for is the leftovers. For Jesus, *that* you come not *when* you come is the determinant of your place at the table.

*Jesus is THE ONLY WAY*.

But Jesus’ group is not exclusive. The way millions have chosen is available to you. But like many parts of life that are “only,” limitations are included. Jesus requires *your* “only” – your whole devotion. Jesus alone, not “Jesus and.” He loves you; He requires that you love Him with all that you are (Exodus 20:2-3; Matt. 22:37; 1 John 2:15-17).

The other limitation is time (2 Cor. 6:2). All Jesus’ competitors will one day know the truth. The same Jesus who, due to His love for you, became a man, will one day bask in the worship offered Him by every creature in the universe (Phil. 2:9-11).

Be smart. Take advantage of Jesus’ offer while it’s available. He wants to pour out His love on you both now and for all eternity.

1. “Religious views on love”; Wikipedia; retrieved Feb, 2018 [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. “Persona god”; Wikipedia; retrieved Feb, 2018 [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. “Persona god”; Wikipedia; retrieved Feb, 2018 [↑](#endnote-ref-3)