TRUE GOD

Aren't All Religions The Same?

Do all faiths lead to heaven?
Don't all religions worship the same god
I don't like saying one religion is right, because it makes the other religions wrong.

THE INTOLERANCE OF TOLERANCE & THE DEATH OF DISCOURSE

Tolerance, and the right to everyone having an opinion has been a reaction to the world becoming more aware of different cultures and different people around us. Some might say it's a development of globalisation. And we tend to think that this is a completely modern development, but actually, looking into the Bible we'll see a similar picture.



AREOPAGUS

ACTS 17:16
Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. 17 So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the market-place every day with those who happened to be there. 18 Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, “What does this babbler wish to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities”—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. 19 And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? 20 For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean.” 21 Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

22 So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. 23 For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. 24 The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, 25 nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. 26

The freedom to discuss, and the desire for truth



So these are all the same, because they are all round.
But actually they are all very different, in terms of substance, in terms of purpose, in terms of design.
And yet, they're all round.
But if I was drowning in the ocean, i'd only want one of these thrown to me.



Most religions share an expression moral virtue and ethical behaviour.

That's what makes them round. But as any atheist will tell you, you don't need religion to have morality. Morality and ethics can come through cultural norms, through parental behaviours.

But religion, and beliefs, is not primarily about the moral actions of humanity. Most religions are dealing with the larger questions, that don't get answered by science. Because science cannot answer them.

The Real Questions

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What is the ultimate nature of the self
What is the ultimate truth about the spiritual universe
What is the ultimate truth about the human condition
What is the ultimate destiny of humanity
What is the meaning and purpose of mankind.

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These questions aren't answered by hard science, but is explored by philosophers, thinkers, and faiths.

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1. JESUS

Jesus claimed to be God.
He claimed to be the truth.

Explained it through the Word
Proclaimed it with his words.
Demonstrated it with his life.

There is no half-way house, and there is no parallel in other religions. If you had gone to Buddha and asked him, ‘Are you the son of Brahah?’ he would have said, ‘My son, you are still in the vale of illusion.’ If you had gone to Socrates and asked, ‘Are you Zeus?’ he would have laughed at you. If you had gone to Muhammad and asked, ‘Are you Allah?’ he would first have rent his clothes and then cut off your head.”

Jesus claim to be God himself, separates him from other religious leaders. It is what riled up the Jewish leaders at the time, but it's also what challenged and convicted those who listened to him. He did not just say these, but he demonstrated it in his life(sinl ess) in his actions (healing) and in his teaching (power of his words and understanding of Scripture).

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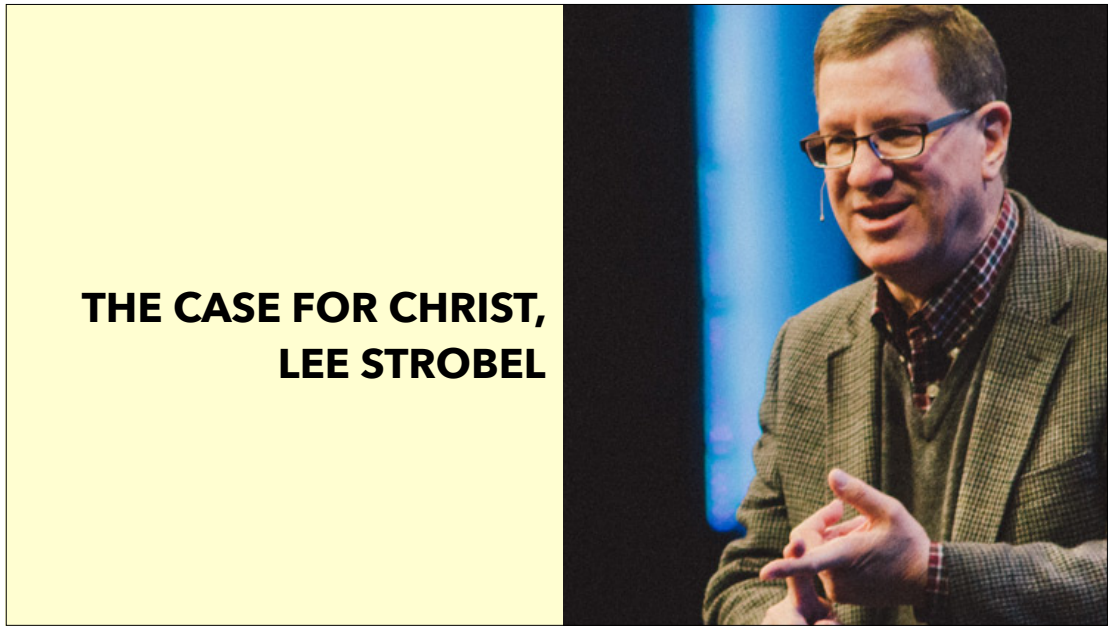
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Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. - John 14:6

Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.” - John 8:58

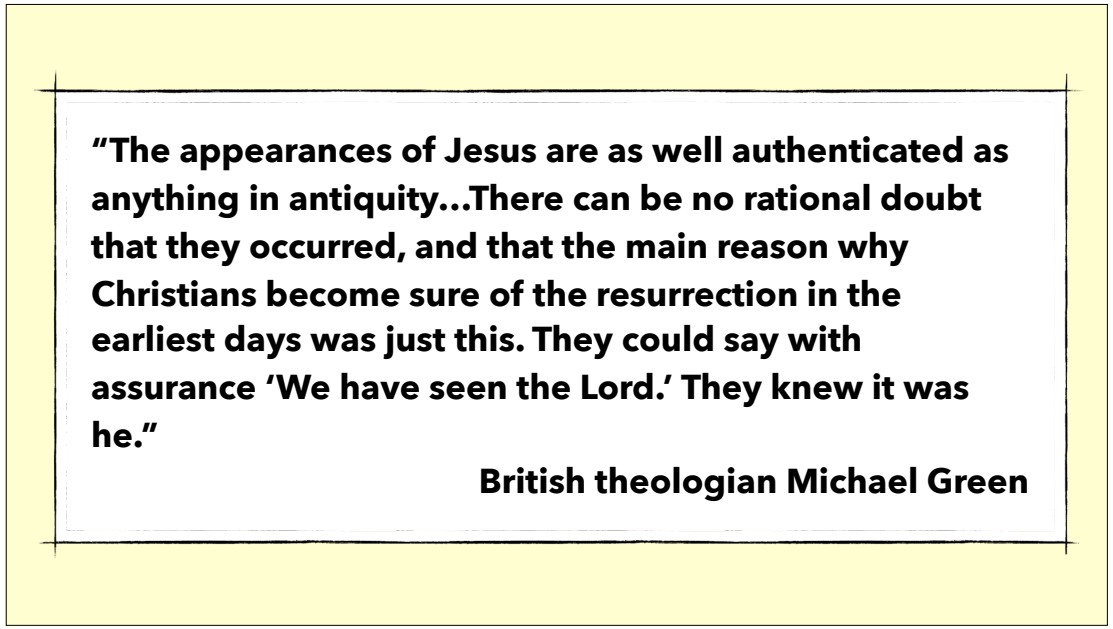
Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.” Luke 23:43

It’s not just about saying, “i am God.” It’s in his actions, in his understanding, in his words, in his life.



The Case for Christ
Strobel received a journalism degree from University of Missouri and a Master of Studies in Law degree from Yale Law School,[6] becoming a journalist for The Chicago Tribune and other newspapers for 14 years. Formerly an avowed atheist, he began investigating the Biblical claims about Christ after his wife's conversion. Prompted by the results of his investigation, he became a Christian on November the 8th of 1991[7].[8][9] Strobel has also been trained in journalism and law at Harvard University.[1]

The book summarises his research and interviews with experts to try and understand the truth about Jesus.



“The appearances of Jesus are as well authenticated as anything in antiquity…There can be no rational doubt that they occurred, and that the main reason why Christians become sure of the resurrection in the earliest days was just this. They could say with assurance ‘We have seen the Lord.’ They knew it was he.”
British theologian Michael Green

"And they were willing to spend the rest of their lives proclaiming this, without any payoff from a human point of view. Its not as though there were a mansion awaiting them on the Mediterranean. They faced a life of hardship. They often went without food, slept, exposed to the elements, were ridiculed, beaten, imprisoned. And finally, most of them were executed in torturous ways.
For what? For good intentions? No, because they were convinced beyond a shadow of a doubt that they had seen Jesus Christ alive from the dead. What you can't explain is how this partiuclar group of men came up with this particular belief system without having had an experience with the resurrected Christ." JP Moreland

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2. GRACE



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For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.
Ephesians 2:8-10

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A DIVINE EXCHANGE

Sacrificial God
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God who redeems us
God who adopts us
God who transforms our identity

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“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

Ask Jesus for the truth.
Seek the truth
Open your eyes.
Receive His gift for you.