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1. What did Jesus claim about Himself?

John 18:37-38, ³⁷ “You are a king, then!” said Pilate. Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.” ³⁸ “What is truth?” retorted Pilate.

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John 14:6, Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

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John 8:31-47, ³¹ To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. ³² Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

³³ They answered him, “We are Abraham’s descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?”

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³⁴ Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. ³⁵ Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. ³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. ³⁷ I know that you are Abraham’s descendants. Yet you are looking for a way to kill me, because you have no room for my word.

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³⁸ I am telling you what I have seen in the Father's presence, and you are doing what you have heard from your father."

³⁹ "Abraham is our father," they answered.

"If you were Abraham's children," said Jesus, "then you would do what Abraham did.

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⁴⁰ As it is, you are looking for a way to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. Abraham did not do such things. ⁴¹ You are doing the works of your own father.”

“We are not illegitimate children,” they protested.

“The only Father we have is God himself.”

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⁴² Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I have come here from God. I have not come on my own; God sent me. ⁴³ Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say.

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⁴⁴ You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

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⁴⁵ Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me!

⁴⁶ Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don't you believe me?

⁴⁷ Whoever belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God."

The image features a background of a Bible page with faint, overlapping text. The word "the" is written in a red, cursive font, and "GOSPEL" is written in large, bold, orange-outlined letters. The letters of "GOSPEL" have a bubbly, hand-drawn appearance.

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2. Lee Strobel, "The Case for Christ"

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5 pieces of circumstantial evidence that can convince us that Jesus rose from the dead:

1. The Disciples Died for Their Beliefs

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Acts 2:22-36, ²² “Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. ²³ This man was handed over to you by God’s deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross.

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Acts 2: ²⁴ But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.....²⁹ “Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. ³⁰ But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne.

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Acts 2: ³¹ Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. ³² God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. ³³ Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.

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Acts 2: ³⁴ For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said, “The Lord said to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand ³⁵ until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.”” ³⁶ “Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.”

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5 pieces of circumstantial evidence that can convince us that Jesus rose from the dead:

1. The Disciples Died for Their Beliefs
2. The Conversion of Skeptics
3. Changes to key social structures
4. Communion and Baptism
5. The Emergence of the Church