

# Was Jesus Christ a Muslim?

Insights into Jesus based on Material Evidence

... Discover the reality of God's Peace. Ancient Artifacts discovered in the 20<sup>th</sup> century provide trustworthy insights into Islam and Christianity.

Why the Evidence is Credible 2  
 Classic scholar, Dr. Colin Hemer shows 162 of 165 items match up between the texts in the book of Acts and archaeological discoveries. The graph on the backside shows this data. The parallel is certain at the 99.9% confidence level.

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... to their brothers in Damascus". As Saul traveled to arrest Christians, something happened. "suddenly a bright light from heaven flashed around me. I fell to the ground and heard a voice say to me, "Saul! Saul! Why do you persecute me?" "Who are you, Lord? I asked." "I am Jesus of Nazareth" (Acts 22:4-8). As a result, Saul became the Apostle Paul, who worked to spread faith in Christ across the Roman Empire. Is Paul's story true?

Do you want to have peace with God?

Muslims and Christians share many common beliefs. Both agree that people should live moral lives and do good works. However, the major beliefs of Christians and Muslims are directly opposed to each other.

## Did Jesus Die on the Cross?

The major Christian belief is that Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead. Instead, Muhammad claimed that Jesus never died. "...they said, "We killed Christ Jesus the son of Mary, the Messenger of Allah"; but they killed him not, nor crucified him" (Surah 4:157). Muslims believe that God took Jesus to heaven and that someone else (Judas Iscariot) was nailed to the cross. That person on the cross was made to appear as Jesus.

Consider the Muslim belief. If someone replaced Jesus on the cross, then Jesus would not have risen from the dead. But biblical texts claim that skeptics became Christians "only" when they saw Jesus resurrected. For that reason, if Jesus did not die on the cross and rise from the dead, no skeptics of Jesus would have become Christians. Without evidence, skeptics go on. Is this true?

To begin, Saul of Tarsus hated Christians. "I persecuted the followers of this Way to their death, arresting . . . and throwing

If the book of Acts is a myth, then we would expect to find no correlation between the ancient artifacts and what Luke wrote. Since the parallel is so good, the chance that it is myth is about 4 chances in 10<sup>37</sup> (1 followed by 37 zeros).<sup>3</sup> Saul's testimony as skeptic/persecutor turned Christian appears to be true. Very little faith is needed to believe the details in the book of Acts. Let's consider four other skeptics.

Jesus had four brothers (James, Jude, Simon, & Joseph) that were skeptics. After Jesus' death and resurrection, they accepted Jesus as Messiah. Is this true?

Modern scholars use logical guidelines to arrive at realistic conclusions about ancient characters. Consider James, the brother of Jesus. The guideline of "independent attestation" requires us to have unique authors write about James. Since Josephus, a non-Christian, 6 biblical authors, and the James ossuary (below) identify James, the stories about James are credible.

Artifact #1 (released in 2002) Ossuary inscribed, "James, Son of Joseph, the Brother of Jesus"

Josephus refers to James as being martyred as a Christian about AD 62 in Antiquities 20.9.1: "...brother of Jesus, who was called Christ, whose name was James" Recent tests and analysis by Professor Krumboltz, a world-renowned expert on geology, geochemistry and microbiology supports the artifact is authentic.<sup>4</sup>



Another guideline is called "dissimilarity." If a person testifies against their interest, that testimony is more likely to be true. For example, Jesus dying on the cross meets the criteria since it is a harmful expectation for Messiah. Just as certain, Jesus' brothers and sisters being skeptics fits this criteria.

A third guideline is called "contextual credibility." Any tradition that does not fit into the early 1st century era would not be reliable. Luke is a credible 1st century author who wrote about Jesus' brothers and refers to James 3 times as the early Christian leader.<sup>5</sup>

Based on ancient artifacts and the guidelines above, Jesus' skeptical brothers are credible. Probability supports that James' life story appears credible at the 99.996% confidence level (only 4 chances in 100,000 that we would be misled by the evidence). Jude is credible at 99.7% confidence level. Simon and Joseph are credible at the 99.2% confidence level.<sup>2</sup>

If the Qur'an were true that Jesus did not die on the cross (or rise from the dead), then no skeptics would have accepted Jesus as the Son of God. For example, if Saul of Tarsus had not experienced the resurrected Jesus on the road to Damascus, Saul would not have become a Christian. As a result, the claim that Jesus did not die on the cross appears wrong at the 97.5% confidence level.<sup>2</sup>

Due to skeptics becoming Christians, other evidence is credible. Ancient artifacts dug up in the 20th century verify people existed who saw Jesus die on the cross. This evidence shown on the next page makes Jesus' death on the cross certain.