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100 Facts Argument for Christianity

***Rough Draft (I will provide explanations and back up each of these facts, so for right now just assume that all these facts are true).

Objective: Below is 100 facts concerning Jesus Christ's resurrection and Christianity. I didn't include any arguments, but only objective facts that everyone can agree upon on. I want the whole discussion to be about what can account for these facts, rather than arguing about the individual facts themselves.

Challenge: While reading these facts, all I ask of you is two things: **(1)** Have an open mind and think objectively about the big picture these facts are conveying, how all these facts intermingle with each other, and how this all relates to our reality; **(2)** Think of an answer to this question: **"Without saying anything is coincidence, what is your non-bias, most reasonable theory (or combination of theories) that adequately accounts for ALL these facts surrounding Jesus' resurrection and Christianity?"**

Tip: I recommend creating a theory (or combination of theories) concerning the minimal facts of Jesus' resurrection below, and then see if that theory stands firm based upon the rest of the supporting facts.

Minimal Facts

Summary: Gary Habermas created the minimal facts approach to Jesus' resurrection. Each fact has strong historical evidence supporting it and virtually all critical scholars accept them as fact. The only small exception is #11: Jesus' tomb was empty. Around 75% of scholars affirm the empty tomb, and most of them, at the very least, admit the empty tomb tradition contained some level of historicity.

Question: From just these facts alone, what naturalistic explanation can reasonably account for these?

1. Jesus of Nazareth was a real person.
2. Jesus died by crucifixion during the time of Pontius Pilate.
3. The disciples concluded that they had appearances of the risen Jesus.
4. The data from the Gospels (resurrection message) began to be taught exceptionally early, sometime between the initial year of the crucifixion itself and the next year or two.

5. The disciples were transformed by these events, even to the point of being willing to die for the resurrection message.
6. The resurrection was proclaimed in the very same city that Jesus was publicly executed and buried (Jerusalem).
7. James, the brother of Jesus, and Paul, the church persecutor, both became believers because they concluded that they, too, had witnessed appearances of the risen Jesus.
8. The Jewish leaders' response at the time implicitly admitted Jesus' resurrection.
9. Early preaching about Jesus' resurrection led to the early Christian Church.
10. Jesus' disciples and early Christians were mostly poor, uneducated people.
11. Christians worshipped on Sunday instead of Saturday, the Jewish Sabbath.
12. Jesus' tomb was empty.

Circumstances Surrounding Jesus' Death

13. The Bible says that an earthquake occurred right after Jesus' death (Matthew 27:50-56). Thallus, a Samaritan-born historian, reports this, along with Phlegon, a freed slave of Emperor Hadrian. In a study published in the International Geology review, geologists analyzed the earthquake activity at the Dead Sea (13 miles from Jerusalem) and concluded that Jesus was most likely crucified on Friday, April 3, 33 AD.
14. The Bible says that an eclipse occurred right after Jesus' death (Luke 23:44-45). Again, both Thallus and Phlegon report this. NASA found that a partial lunar eclipse occurred on the day that Jesus was most likely crucified on Friday, April 3, 33 AD.

Summary: It is quite weird that both an earthquake and eclipse occurred on the same day that Jesus died on (Friday, April 3, 33 AD), especially when the Bible also states these events occurred on the day of Jesus' death.

Question: How would you explain these strange events coinciding with each other?

Messianic Prophecies

15. Daniel 9:24-26 was written hundreds of years before Jesus lived and predicted that on March 30, 33 AD, the Messiah would show up and present Himself as Messiah to the nation. The prophecy says that he would die shortly after, along with the Jerusalem temple being destroyed. On March 30, 33 AD, this prophecy was fulfilled when Jesus Christ presented himself to the nation of Israel on with his triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Christ was crucified shortly after on Friday, April 3, 33 AD, and was resurrected on Sunday, April 5, 33 AD. Then within one generation of Christ's crucifixion, the Jerusalem temple was destroyed in AD 70.

- a. **Verse:** “Seven sets of seven plus sixty-two sets of seven will pass from the time the command is given to rebuild Jerusalem until a ruler—the Anointed One—comes. Jerusalem will be rebuilt with streets and strong defenses, despite the perilous times. After this period of sixty-two sets of seven, the Anointed One will be killed, appearing to have accomplished nothing, and a ruler will arise whose armies will destroy the city and the Temple.”
 - b. **Explanation:** Artaxerxes ordered Nehemiah "to restore and rebuild Jerusalem" on March 5, 444 BC. From that date, Daniel predicted it would be "seven sets of seven" ($7 \times 7 = 49$) plus "sixty-two sets of seven" ($62 \times 7 = 434$), which is 483 years until the Messiah would present Himself to the nation and then "cut off" (die) shortly after. But Israel used a 360-day lunar year calendar. So, 483 years \times 360 days = 173,880 days. The difference between 444 BC and 33 AD in solar years is 476. By multiplying 476 by 365.24219879, this equals 173,855.28662404 days. This leaves only 25 days to be accounted for between 444 BC and 33 AD. By adding the 25 days to March 5 (of 444 BC), one comes to March 30 (of AD 33), which was Nisan 10 in AD 33. On March 30, 33 AD, this prophecy was fulfilled when Jesus Christ presented himself to the nation of Israel on with his triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Christ was crucified shortly after on Friday, April 3 and was resurrected on Sunday, April 5, AD 33. The prophecy is then further fulfilled when within one generation of Christ's crucifixion, the Jerusalem temple was destroyed.
16. Malachi 3:1 was also written hundreds of years before Jesus lived and predicted that the Messiah, would be preceded by a messenger, and will visit the Jerusalem temple before 70 AD. The first part of this prophecy was fulfilled in 29 AD when John the Baptist started his ministry and was the messenger for the Messiah. Then shortly after that same year, Jesus started his ministry as well. The second part of this prophecy was fulfilled when Jesus visited the Jerusalem Temple on Tuesday, March 31, 33 AD, one day after his triumphal entry.
 - a. **Verse:** "Look! I am sending my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. Then the Lord you are seeking will suddenly come to his Temple. The messenger of the covenant, whom you look for so eagerly, is surely coming," says the LORD of Heaven's Armies."
17. Jesus fulfilled over 300 specific prophecies, and many were out of his control; no other person has fulfilled all these, or even gotten close.
 - a. **Important Prophecies:** seed of Abraham (Gen. 12:3), lineage of Isaac (Gen. 17:19), house of David (Jer. 23:5-6), born of a virgin (Isa. 7:14), both God and man (Isa. 9:6-7), born in Bethlehem (Mic. 5:2), preceded by a messenger (Mal. 3:1), worked miracles (Isa. 35:5), entered Jerusalem on a donkey (Zech. 9:9-10), rejected by Jewish people (Ps. 118:22), silent before accusers (Isa. 53:7), pierced (Ps. 22:16), prayed for his persecutors (Ps. 109:4), died with thieves (Isa. 53:12),

forsaken by disciples (Zech. 13:6-7), buried in rich man's tomb (Isa. 53:9), rose from dead (Ps. 16:10), ascended into heaven (Ps. 68:18).

18. Isaiah 52:13-53:12 refers unmistakably to Jesus Christ and was found with the Dead Sea Scrolls in 1947 and dated to 100 BC..
19. Peter Stoner estimated the probability of Christ just fulfilling 48 of the 300+ prophecies are 1 in 10^{157} .
20. The messianic prophecies about Jesus weren't known at the time by Jews or anyone because they could only be seen after the events took place, and the Jews had a different view of the Messiah.

Summary: It is quite weird how there are 300+ prophecies written about Jesus, hundreds of years before he lived, that described his life perfectly. As Peter Stoner estimated, it is virtually inconceivable that one person could even just fill 48 of these, let alone all 300 of them. And these prophecies predict the exact day of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, and from this prophecy we know the date that Jesus died (Friday, April 3, 33 AD), which also happens to coincide with what scholars ago. And these prophecies show that the Messiah had to come before the destruction of the Jerusalem Temple in AD 70. These prophecies could not have been "written" into the Gospels because many of them correlate with events that we don't even have to read the Gospels to know and these prophecies weren't known by anyone at the time. Everyone had the wrong view of the Messiah and believed he would be a ruling king, not a servant who sacrificed himself.

Question: What more could God have done to show that Jesus was the predicted Messiah, while still not giving it away completely (only after Jesus died), for Jesus to accomplish his mission to sacrifice Himself for us and not be crowned king by the people?

Jewish Circumstances Surrounding Jesus

21. Jews had a functioning temple, priesthood, and atonement system for around 1,000 years, and it suddenly gets destroyed in 70 AD. This is within just one generation of Jesus Christ's crucifixion. And then for more than 1,900 years, they have had no temple. While Christians claim that Jesus Christ perfectly was the perfect priest and was the perfect offering; thereby, rendering the Jewish temple useless.
22. The Jewish Talmud states that from forty years before the Temple's destruction in AD 70 and onward, God no longer accepted their sacrifices, along with other supernatural omens. And this happened to occur right at the start of Jesus' ministry in AD 29/30, where he preached for people to repent of their sins and turn to God. And again, Christians say that Jesus "offered one sacrifice for sins forever" (Hebrews 10:12); thereby, rendering sacrifices useless.
 - a. **Source:** "Forty years before the destruction of the Temple, the western light went out, the crimson thread remained crimson, and the lot for the Lord always came

up in the left hand. They would close the gates of the Temple by night and get up in the morning and find them wide open” (Jacob Neusner, *The Yerushalmi*, p.156-157).

23. Five weeks after Jesus is crucified, over ten thousand Jews (including priests and Pharisees) are following him and claiming that he is the initiator of a new religion and abandon social institutions they have been taught since childhood (J. P. Moreland).
24. Virtually overnight, the Jews abandon 1,500-year-old-plus institutions such as: animal sacrifice system, law of Moses, strict monotheism, Sabbath, and belief in a conquering Messiah. The Jewish people believed that these institutions were entrusted to them by God and to abandon these would be to risk their souls being damned to hell after death. And then they adopt new radical beliefs such as Sunday being the new day of worship, baptism as the new sign of the new covenant, and communion where you symbolically eat the body and drink the blood of Jesus.
25. Jews said he was a wonder-worker who performed unusual feats and was a sorcerer, implicitly admitting that Jesus did public miracles.
26. Jesus was buried by Joseph of Arimathea, a member of the Jewish Sanhedrin that sentenced Jesus to die.

Summary: Even the enemies of Jesus, during his time, provided evidence supporting his resurrection and divinity. It is quite weird that for over a thousand years, Jews had a functioning temple, priesthood, and atonement system. But whenever Jesus Christ’s ministry begins, God stops accepting their sacrifices, and then just one generation after Jesus Christ dies, the Jerusalem Temple is destroyed. Now the Jews have had none of these for more than 1,900 years. Did their God leave them? What is even weirder is that Christians claim that Jesus Christ was the perfect priest who “offered one sacrifice for sins forever,” thereby rendering sacrifices and the temple useless. The Jews even implicitly admitted that the tomb was empty (from minimal facts section) and said that Jesus was a wonder-worker who performed unusual feats and a sorcerer, implicitly admitting he did public miracles. And then, Jesus was buried by a member of the same council that sentenced him to die. Then to top it all off, over ten thousand Jews, only five weeks after Jesus is crucified, are following him and abandoning their 1,500-year-old social institutions that they have been taught since childhood. By abandoning these, they risked their souls being damned to hell after death. They must have seen good evidence for this to occur.

Question: What more evidence could God have provided from the enemies of Jesus to affirm that He was the messiah?

Jesus’ Divinity

27. Jesus directly and indirectly claimed to be God, along with forgiving sins, giving new commandments, requesting prayer in his name, accepting worship on at least 9 occasions, and commending those who acknowledged his deity.
28. Jesus' disciples who spent three years with him, claimed that Jesus was sinless, including Jesus' enemies and Pontius Pilate.
29. No writer has ever ever invented a character like Jesus who is perfect and sinless, and that continues to give wisdom to millions of people today.
30. People do not look at Jesus as crazy or out of his mind, as we all would with anyone else claiming to be God.
31. Christ taught simple things that everyone could understand, yet these simple things were full of wisdom; he is still recognized as one of the wisest people who ever lived, and he never even wrote a book.
32. Jesus said that his mission was to die and sacrifice Himself, so he was careful to never be too explicit when telling others who he was and ran away with people tried to make him king by force.
 - a. **Verse:** "Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself" (John 6:15).
33. Jesus predicted his death and resurrection to the disciples and predicted the fall of the Jerusalem temple, which occurred in one generation after his death; this was recorded in Mark which almost all scholars date before the fall of the temple.

Summary: It is quite weird how nobody looks at Jesus as crazy or out of his mind, when He is claiming to be God. For example, imagine your neighbor making some of the claims that he did! Along with this, Jesus even predicted his death and resurrection and the fall of the Jerusalem Temple. And he lived a sinless life, which even his enemies admitted. No writer has ever created a character like Jesus who is perfect and sinless and continues to give wisdom to millions of people today.

Question: What more could Jesus have done to prove his divinity, while still not giving it away completely to accomplish his mission to sacrifice Himself for us?

Historical Reliability of the New Testament

34. Archaeology has never contradicted the New Testament and findings have confirmed characters, locations, and more.
35. Compared to the ancient world, the New Testament has more manuscripts, earlier manuscripts, and more abundantly supported manuscripts than anything else.
36. Even though there are thousands of small errors in the New Testament manuscripts, it is about 99.5 percent; the 0.5 percent in question doesn't affect a single Christian doctrine.
37. The entire New Testament, except for eleven verses, can be reconstructed just from the quotations of the early church fathers.

38. Most of the New Testament documents are written before AD 70, and we have source material that goes back into the 30s; nearly all scholars agree that the death, burial, and resurrection testimony in 1 Corinthians 15 comes from the year of Jesus' resurrection up to two years after, and there are at least 40 other creeds with very early origin.

Summary: The New Testament has been verified by hundreds of different archeological findings and has been transmitted accurately where no single Christian doctrine is affected.

Question: What more evidence could God have provided to ensure the historical reliability of the New Testament?

Trustworthiness of the New Testament Writers

39. The New Testament contains eyewitness testimony; all writers either witnessed or were associates of witnesses to the risen Jesus; in total, there are at least six independent sources for the resurrection within one generation of the events.
40. Paul lists 14 people whose names are known as witnesses and 500+ others who saw Jesus.
41. Apostles make bold proclamations to powerful people.
42. There are over 140 historically confirmed details in John, Luke, and half of Acts (some are very specific, almost insignificant details such as depth of water); and in these same books, they record several miracles in the same historical manner.
43. The writers include many embarrassing details about themselves and Jesus.
44. The writers include difficult and demanding sayings of Jesus that made their lives harder, and distinguished Jesus' words very clearly.
45. The writers say that women were the first witnesses of the empty tomb.
46. The writers include more than thirty historically confirmed people in their writings.
47. The writers include divergent details (undesigned coincidences) that would allude to being too subtle and widespread to have been planned or contrived.
48. The writers challenge their readers to check out verifiable facts, even facts about miracles.
49. The writers describe miracles like other historical events: with simple, unembellished accounts.
50. Independent non-Christian writers collectively reveal a storyline like the New Testament.
51. The New Testament contains multiple independent accounts of events from nine different over a 20- to 50-year period, who were spread all over the ancient world.

Summary: The writers all either witnessed or were associates of eyewitnesses to the risen Jesus. What would motivate these writers to lie, embellish, or exaggerate their stories? They nothing to gain and only got persecution and death for testifying. They had every motive to deny New Testament events, not to invent embellish, or exaggerate them. They didn't need a new religion,

and Jesus' demanded sayings made their life harder. The writers took the time to carefully record almost insignificant historical details, so why wouldn't they also accurately record Jesus' life? These writers collectively reveal a storyline like the New Testament and the writers backed up their claims more by inviting others to confirm their facts and miracles. And then, they included historically confirmed people of notoriety, that would have ended the Christian movement, if they were lying. They included verses that made them look embarrassing, along with Jesus. Something dramatic must have happened to jolt them out of their dogmatic slumbers and into a new belief system that promised them nothing but earthly trouble (Frank Turek & Norman Geisler).

Question: What more evidence could the writers have provided to prove that they were telling the truth about Jesus?

Genesis

52. Through observation and recent scientific discoveries, we have discovered that ourselves and the world would allow for (even point towards) a Creator with certain characteristics; the Old Testament describes this exact potential Creator (God) who is spaceless, timeless, immaterial, self-existent, infinite, simple, personal, powerful, intelligent, morally perfect, and purposeful.
- a. The Bible says that "In the beginning (time) God created the heavens (space) and the earth (matter)," and this matches up with science where time, space, and matter came into existence at the Big Bang.
 - b. If God created the entire universe out of nothing, then smaller miracles are possible.
 - c. We know that time cannot be infinite because you can't traverse an infinite number of days; but we have reached today, so time must have begun at a particular point and proceeded to today.
 - d. Our universe, solar system, and planet have hundreds of fine-tuned characteristics which make life possible.
 - e. Earth is the best place, along with living right now, is the best possible time to uncover the secrets of the universe.
 - f. The living world is filled with complex biological information billions of letters long, sequenced according to specific genetic codes.
There are many organs, systems, and processes in life that are irreducibly complex systems which are "composed of several well-matched, interacting parts that contribute to the basic function, wherein the removal of any one of the parts causes the system to effectively cease functioning."
 - g. Most species exhibit no directional change during their tenure on earth and appear in the fossil record looking much the same as when they disappear; morphological change is usually limited and directionless.

- h. Nearly all the major groups of animals known to exist appear in the fossil record abruptly and fully formed in strata from the Cambrian period (about 600 and 500 million years ago).
 - i. Macroevolution has never been observed, only microevolution has.
 - j. When people say that one set of moral ideas can be better than another, they are comparing them both with some Real Morality, admitting that there is such a thing as a real Right, independent of what people think, and that some people's ideas get nearer to that Real Right than other (similar to a footballer cannot commit a foul unless there was some agreement about the rules of football).
 - k. The laws of logic provide an unchanging independent measuring stick of truth across changing time, culture, and human belief; they are true everywhere, at any time, and for everyone.
 - l. Everything in this world (conscious beings and nonconscious things) appears to be working towards a goal.
 - m. Evil cannot exist on its own and only makes sense against the backdrop of good; and if objective evil exists, then objective good exists.
 - n. Belief in free will is intuition held by people of varying worldviews and we condemn and praise people depending on their actions.
 - o. One could give an exhaustive physical description of a painting, but it is not reducible to any of these properties or to any combination of them; yet, this beauty is not merely subjective either, it exists objectively and mind-independently.
 - p. Creatures are not born with desires unless satisfaction for these desires exists; and we find desires which no experience in this world can satisfy (C. S. Lewis).
 - q. The idea that humans are a composite of a physical body, and an immaterial mind/soul (dualism) has been believed by most people, at most times, in most places, at most ages in almost all known human cultures (Mark Baker & Stewart Goetz).
 - r. We've never seen anyone before, since their "ego" or "self" is inside their body.
 - s. By simply introspecting, we have a way of knowing what is happening in our mind that is not available to anyone.
 - t. We have first-person, subjective points of view with our consciousness that physical facts alone cannot explain (you must experience them).
 - u. We can only do science reliably because of immaterial realities: reason, information, intentionality, final causality, laws of logic and math, objective morality, orderly laws of nature, etc.
53. Genesis contains a story of how God created us and the world, and it could be interpreted to coincide with scientific discoveries.
- a. If God exists, then he could used a combination of miracles plus processes to create the universe, earth, and plant and animal life.

- b. The days in Genesis 1 can mean long periods of time.
- c. *13.8 - 13.4 billion years ago - Genesis (Day Zero):* God creates time, space, and matter, and sets all the laws of physics; the universe is finely tuned for life (Gen. 1:1: “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth”). **Science:** (1) Time begins rapidly at Big bang. The universe expands rapidly in the first moments. Stars and galaxies coalesce from gases produced after the Big Bang (H, He).
- d. *4.55 billion years ago & ongoing - Genesis (Day Zero):* The universe continues to evolve by the natural laws appointed by God; yet God maintains control through every phase (Gen. 1:1: “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth”). **Science:** (1) Heavy elements form within large stars. Supernova explosions spread these new elements into space. New stars continue to form and die, enriching the universe’s elemental mix. (2) A shockwave from a nearby supernova initiates the collapse of a giant cloud of gas and dust. In its wake, thousands of new stars form, including our solar system.
- e. *4.4 billion years ago - Genesis (Day Zero):* God selects a water world to cultivate for life; thick clouds shroud the earth in darkness (Gen. 1:2: “The earth was without form and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters”). **Science:** Earth forms and cools within about 100-200 million years. Earth has a world-wide ocean and a thick and clouded atmosphere.
- f. *4.4-4.0 billion years ago - Genesis (Day One):* God causes the atmosphere to become a translucent, allowing light to reach the surface of the earth (Gen. 1:3-5: “Then God said, ‘Let there be light’; and there was light...”). **Science:** Earth’s atmosphere is gradually altered as the solar, wind, chemistry, cooling, and other processes transform it. A body about the size of Mars collided with Earth.
- g. *3.9-3.8 billion years ago - Genesis (Day Two):* Clouds lift, and water is reduced in the atmosphere; the water cycle begins (Gen. 1:6-8: “...Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament...”). **Science:** (1) The Late Heavy Meteor Bombardment occurred. Extreme heating may have made the Earth temporarily uninhabitable as the oceans boil. (2) Some atmospheric components lost into space. Low temperatures return. First microorganisms appear.
- h. *3.0-2.0 billion years ago - Genesis (Day Three):* God created land through plate tectonics; he controls the forces of nature (Gen. 1:9-10: “Then God said, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear...”). **Science:** For a billion years the earth underwent massive crust building. During this period over half of earth’s land mass formed.
- i. *850-500 million years ago - Genesis (Day Three):* Plant life is created. Though scientists currently draw a distinction between plants, fungi, and microorganisms, ancient people would not. The point is the origin of photosynthetic life on land,

not any specific species. (Gen. 1:11-13: “God said, ‘Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit which is their seed, each according to its kind’”). **Science:** Marine plants, photo-plankton, and algae thrive on the continental shelves. Land plants may have been present by 700 million years ago. This would have included moss-like species. Lichens and algae also flourished on land.

- j. *700-500 million years ago* - **Genesis (Day Four):** An oxygen/nitrogen atmosphere is transparent to visible light; the sun, moon, and stars can be seen from Earth’s surface (Gen. 1:14-19: “Then God said, ‘Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years’”). **Science:** Oxygen levels rise significantly as global scale photosynthesis prevails. The atmosphere becomes comparable to ours by the end of this time.
- k. *542-488 million years ago* - **Genesis (Day Five):** God created sea animals; nearly all animal phyla are known to have originated during this time. (Gen. 1:20-23: “Then God said, ‘Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth...’”). **Science:** The Cambrian Explosion occurred, which was the massive and abrupt appearance of ancient sea animals in the fossil record.
- l. *199-65 million years ago* - **Genesis (Day Five):** Birds existed since the dinosaurs. But Genesis only lists birds since dinosaurs didn’t evolve to the present and were irrelevant to ancient people (Gen. 1:20-23: “Then God said, ‘Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth...’”). **Science:** Dinosaurs roamed the earth. Theropods would be the only dinosaur group to have descendants that survive to the present (modern birds).
- m. *65-1 million years ago* - **Genesis (Day Six):** God creates the familiar land mammals that exist today (cattle, lions, tigers, wolves, mice, elephants, etc.) (Gen. 1:24-25: “Then God said, ‘Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and the creeping thing and the beast of the earth, each according to its kind...’”). **Science:** Large mammals appear in the fossil record soon after the extinction of the dinosaurs. Recent evidence confirms that placental mammals originated during this time.
- n. *3-2.5 million years ago* - **Genesis (Day Six):** God creates homo Genus through a process of miracles plus processes to help prepare the world for modern humans (Gen. 1:24-25: “Then God said, ‘Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and the creeping thing and the beast of the earth, each according to its kind...’”). **Science:** There was a sudden appearance of bipedal, tool-using primates with large brains.
- o. *130-40 thousand years ago* - **Genesis (Day Six):** God creates Neanderthals through a combination of miracles plus processes to help prepare the world for

modern humans (Gen. 1:24-25: “Then God said, ‘Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and the creeping thing and the beast of the earth, each according to its kind...’”). **Science:** There was a sudden appearance of anatomically modern humans that made instruments, jewelry, weapons, and ritually buried their dead.

- p. *40 thousand years ago* - **Genesis (Day Six):** God specially creates humans made in the image of Himself and were not the end product of hominid evolution (Gen. 1:26-31: “Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness...’”). **Science:** There was a sudden appearance of modern humans that were distinguished by their spiritual aptitude and practice.
- q. *40 thousand years ago & ongoing* - **Genesis (Day Seven):** God rested and ceased from the creation process (Gen. 2:2-3: “...God rested from all his work. And God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, because it was the day he rested from all his work of creation”). **Science:** Since the arrival of humans, the introduction rate of new animal species immediately plummeted to a virtual zero and has yet to be documented.
- r. *30-11 thousand years ago* - **Genesis (Day Seven):** God imposes a restriction on the long lives of human beings, limiting them to 120 years to control their wickedness (Gen. 6:3: “Then the Lord said, ‘My Spirit will not put up with humans for such a long time, for they are only mortal flesh. In the future, their normal lifespan will be no more than 120 years’”). **Science:** The Vela supernova exploded and produced more than thirty times the radiation on earth of the next most intense supernova.
- s. *20-11 thousand years ago* - **Genesis (Day Seven):** God sent a flood to kill all the human race and creatures in the world because of human wickedness; they all lived in the Mesopotamia area (Gen. 7:4: “The Lord said to Noah, ‘Seven days from now I will make the rains pour down on the earth. And it will rain for forty days and forty nights, until I have wiped from earth all the living things I have created’”). **Science:** A great flood swept from the Atlantic, Mediterranean, and Indian oceans over Europe and Asia, which drowned a hundred million animals and exterminated an ancient race of men.
- t. *12-11 thousand years ago* - **Genesis (Day Seven):** God scattered the people around the world and caused them to speak in different languages (Gen. 11:9: “That is why the city was called Babel, because that is where the Lord confused the people with different languages. In this way, he scattered them all over the world”). **Science:** Evidence shows the world had a single language at one time. The migration of human beings from East Asia to North America occurred when the Bering Strait was passable by land.

54. Archaeology has provided evidence which supports the historical reliability of Genesis.

- a. Sixteen thousand clay tablets were discovered at Ebla in modern Syria, dating to 2250-2580 BC. They predate any other written material by hundreds of years and parallel and confirm early chapters of Genesis.
 - b. Modern geography suggests the Garden of Eden was in the south-central portion of the Mesopotamian plain or in the foothills north of it.
 - c. Similar flood accounts to Genesis are found all over the world by the Greeks, the Hindus, the Chinese, the Mexicans, the Algonquins, and the Hawaiians; sumerian kings treat the flood as historical.
55. Genesis gives explanations that seem to perfectly explain the origin of evil and natural disasters, Greek gods, Titans, demigods, magic, ghosts, and aliens.
- a. **Greek Gods, Goddesses, Titans, & Demigods:** The Bible describes how Fallen angels walked as giants amongst mankind, which correlates with what the Greeks called Titans; they lived as gods and were worshiped as gods by most mankind. The gods such as Zeus and others correlate with these same angelic sons of God, especially when they appeared as men at the stature of men and took human wives and had relations with women. The women also bore them sons called Nephilim. (Genesis 6:4) The Nephilim were all males, giant men, but not as huge as their “forefathers” the Titans, aka angels. They may have been about 10 feet tall on average. Their extraordinary height came from the DNA of their materialized angelic fathers, who transformed into human form. They were also hybrids, of human and materialized angelic (angels in physical human form) origin that could not reproduce. The Nephilim were what the Greeks would call demigods, half human (man) and half god (possessing traits of materialized angels in human form). The Nephilim were famous before the flood because of their feats of strength, endurance, agility and prowess. After the global flood the rebellious angels were rendered powerless to transform into human or physical form and banished from heaven while imprisoned within parallel dimensions, the Bible calls them “heavenly places” within the atmosphere of the earth. Jude 14, 15; 2Pe 2:4; Jude 6; Eph 6:11, 12 (Gen. 6:2: “The sons of God saw the beautiful women and took any they wanted as their wives”; Gen. 6:4: “In those days, and for some time after, giant Nephilites lived on the earth, for whenever the sons of God had intercourse with women, they gave birth to children who became the heroes and famous warriors of ancient times”).
 - b. **Ghosts, Magic, & Aliens:** Today, the rebellious angels (demons) exist invisibly on earth as spirits posing as unseen gods, ghosts, producing the effects of magic in some cases, clairvoyance and the activities of aliens in the sky and on earth at times. They are the power behind real magic.
56. In this same book that has good evidence for being historically reliable, is also a story that has specific predictions to a Messiah that will accomplish God’s salvation plan for history.

- a. The Messiah will be born from a woman's seed (virgin birth) and will crush Satan (Gen. 3:15: "And I [God] will enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel").
- b. The Messiah will be a descendant Shem, a son of Noah (Gen. 9:26: "Then Noah said, 'May the LORD, the God of Shem, be blessed, and may Canaan be his servant!'").
- c. The Messiah will be a descendant of Abraham (Gen. 12:3: "I [God] will bless those who bless you [Abraham] and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you").
- d. The Messiah will be a descendant of Isaac (Gen. 17:19: "But God replied, 'No-- Sarah, your wife, will give birth to a son for you. You will name his Isaac, and I will confirm my covenant with him and his descendants as an everlasting covenant'").
- e. The Messiah will be a blessing to everyone--including Gentiles (Gen. 22:18: "'And through your [Abraham] descendants all the nations of the earth will be blessed--all because you have obeyed me [God']").
- f. The Messiah will be a descendant of the tribe of Judah (Gen. 49:10: "The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from his descendants, until the coming of the one to whom it belongs, the one whom all nations will honor").

Summary: Genesis was written thousands of years ago and can be interpreted to accurately describe the origins of our universe and our Creator. And the weird thing is that in this old book, it has messianic predictions that point toward the coming Messiah who will accomplish God's salvation plan for history. And these prophecies coincide with Jesus exactly.

Question: What more could God have done when giving proof of how he created the universe and in this same old book included prophecies that pointed toward Jesus?

Old Testament

57. All the historical events in the Old Testament either match up with history or history allows for them (haven't been disproven).
58. Archaeology has never produced anything that contradicts the Old Testament and has provided evidence for the historical reliability of the book.
59. The historical events in the Old Testament are closely tied with a select group of people (Israelites) with events that make the people look bad and glorify God.
60. The Old Testament describes hundreds of miracles performed in public and seen by thousands, if not millions, of observers.
61. In the Old Testament, there are hundreds of predictions that have all been correct (some very specific) with no incorrect predictions; one test of a prophet was whether they ever uttered predictions that did not come to pass (Deut. 18:22). Those whose prophecies failed were stoned (18:20).

62. The Old Testament was written by about thirty different authors from diverse backgrounds over 1,500 years from different countries and contains a single, unified story (God's promise to redeem mankind) with no errors or contradictions.
63. The Old Testament has an ending that does not complete the story and contains unexplained sacrifices, unfulfilled prophecies, and unsatisfied longings.
64. The Old Testament was unlike any other ancient book and introduced many new concepts and ideas.
65. In the Old Testament, God Himself said that what we are reading today is what He meant for us to get.
66. The Old Testament was carefully transmitted from scribes who wanted to ensure accuracy.
67. In this same book containing all these confirmed facts, it also has hundreds of prophecies that points towards a coming Messiah that completes the story and accomplishes God's promise to redeem mankind.

Summary: Same with Genesis, the Old Testament was written long before Jesus came, and gives specific predictions for Him. And in this same book contains events that are closely tied with a group of people where the only "person" glorified is God. Every hero in the story has problems with sin and not one person is perfect. This book describes miracles performed in public in front of millions of observers. It was written by about thirty different authors from all over the world in 2,500 years that has a single, unified story that ends abruptly and isn't complete. The New Testament weirdly happens to complete this story and fulfill its prophecies.

Question: What more could God have done to show that Jesus' coming has been planned since the beginning of time?

Bible

68. Jesus said that the Old Testament events were accurate and promised that the apostles would be led in the truth in writing the New Testament.
69. The Bible consists of so many individual books written over such a long time, in different languages, by so many authors who mostly didn't know each other and were sometimes even from different continents, and somehow had a common archetypal plan and purpose in the story of redemption.
70. The Bible has the power to grip a person and bring changes in his or her life if followed; it has given wisdom to billions of people.
71. The Bible has contributed significantly to three developments that have shaped the consciousness and conscience of western civilization: (1) individual autonomy and the democratic process, (2) a separation of secular government from the religious institution, and (3) the maintaining of a system of justice.
72. The Bible is the #1 selling book of all time.

73. The Bible has inspired great works of art, literature, and music.
74. People go to college to study and learn more about the Bible and discover its deep meanings and intricacies.
75. No other written work has been so attacked, scrutinized, and persecuted as have the canonical books of the Bible; and still after thousands of years, there have been no actual errors in the Bible.

Summary: It is crazy to think how forty authors who didn't know each other, over thousands of years, could write a coherent story with no errors or contradictions in it. And this story is based on historical facts and events that are tied closely with a group of people with an overarching theme in history. The Bible is the #1 selling book of all time and has shaped culture more than any other book. Billions of people have had their life changed by reading it. And people go to college to study it more in-depth because of the wisdom.

Question: What more could God do to show that His book was divinely inspired?

Christ's Impact on Society

76. The Scientific Revolution was led by Christian scientists who used their belief in Jesus as a foundation to map out the universe and to unlock the secrets of science—things no other human had been able to unlock in the ages before them.
77. All the first nine universities founded in North America were by Christian groups. 167 of the first 182 colleges and universities in North America were started by Christians with the express purpose to teach people to read the Christian scriptures.
78. Most of the most respected hospitals in the world were started by Christian founders and by doctors who were educated at Christian-founded universities (e.g., Mayo Clinic); nine out of the ten top hospitals in the United States had Christian founders who declared their Christian faith as their motive for establishing the hospital.
79. Slavery was overthrown in the U.S. and globally with the help of notable abolitionists who were Christians and declared a biblical case against slavery.
80. Graduates of the early Christian schools and universities often used their education to start other schools, and this Christian movement resulted in children of all social classes educated.
81. Societies heavily influenced by Christianity have led the world in science, medicine, and industry for the last two hundred years.
82. Christianity has helped shaped social morality more than any other religion; on average, Christians make up 75 percent of the populations that lead the world with best women's rights (Iceland, Norway, Finland, Sweden, Ireland, Rwanda, Philippines, Switzerland, Slovenia, and New Zealand).
83. Jesus was a penniless preacher from Nazareth is irrevocably the very center of history; he easily the most dominant figure in all of history, and happened to claim to be God;

84. Jesus has more followers than any other person in history, with about 2.3 billion followers today—even though he lived two thousand years ago; and his followers are worshipping him as God.
85. Jesus is recognized on every continent and in every country and civilization, and his influence has invaded every corner of the globe.
86. 98 nations or empires have overtly stated that they are a “Christian state” and follow Jesus’ teachings.
87. Western civilization was so intertwined with Christianity that it was referred to for hundreds of years as “Christendom.”
88. One out of every three people in the world claims to be influenced by Jesus—many of them gather yearly for Christmas and Easter or weekly for Sunday worship.
89. There is one calendar that is accepted around the world today in every major global society and is based on the life of one real person in human history—Jesus Christ.
90. The two of the most celebrated holidays around the globe today are Christmas (the remembrance of Jesus’ birth) and Easter (the remembrance of Jesus’ resurrection); other several holidays are named after Jesus’ followers, people whose faith in Christ motivated their lives and are known as “saints” (St. Patrick’s Day, St. Valentine’s Day, Halloween) and Martin Luther King Jr. Day.
91. Billions of people in the world get off work on Sundays, whether they use this day to attend church or not.
92. There are as many thirty or forty thousand cities named in honor of Jesus around the world and over 37 million churches built in his honor.

Summary: Jesus was a penniless preacher from Nazareth but was irrevocably the center of history. He is the most dominant figure in history, and He also claimed to be God. Our global calendar is based on Him. He has inspired millions of people that have helped shape the world for the better, especially western civilization. Nobody has accomplished many of the points that Jesus has done. People around the world celebrate holidays in honor of Him and get off work because of Him. He has millions of monuments and buildings dedicated to Him.

Question: How much more would Jesus have to affect our society and world to show that He was God?

Personal Experiences

93. There are documented case studies where miracles have occurred throughout the world and have multiple and independent eyewitnesses with reputations for integrity; and the timing is usually the most dramatic element—instantaneous results right after prayers to Jesus (if God exists and created the world out of nothing, then smaller miracles are possible).

94. Billions of people have been transformed through experiences with Jesus: biblical wisdom, specific changes in one's life, specific religious experiences, and answers to prayer.
95. Billions of people who have been saved claim to have the Holy Spirit inside them.
96. More Muslims have become Christians in the last couple of decades than in the previous fourteen hundred years since Muhammad, and a quarter to a third of them experienced a dream or vision of Jesus before their salvation experience.
97. Millions of people have had near-death experiences where the common core experiences is entirely consistent with the Bible; some are documented studies that also provide corroborating evidence with their NDE claims.

Summary: There have been thousands of miracles documented throughout the world in case studies with observable evidence. And the weird part is that many happen right after prayers to Jesus. Billions of people have claimed to have a spiritual experience with Jesus and claim to have the Holy Spirit inside them. Even people who aren't Christians (Muslims), have had vivid dreams of Jesus before their salvation experience. And then the weird part is that millions of people have had near-death experiences where the common core details match up with the biblical afterlife.

Question: What more could God do to show that He exists, and that Jesus was God?

Concluding Factors

98. Many of the end times predictions that Jesus and the prophets made thousands of years ago are coming true today.
99. Christianity teaches many things that are contrary to what humans and our society values and is unlike any other religion where they are forms of "control" for society because Christianity says that its members are free. Christians are supposed to live under grace and not abuse their freedom. Yes, some fake "Christians" use grace as an excuse to sin, but that is not what Christianity teaches.
100. If God exists, then Christianity makes the most sense of our problem of evil, getting to heaven, and being in the presence of our holy and just God.

Summary: Predictions that were made thousands of years ago are coming true today. Christianity is such a unique religion because almost everything in it is contrary to our human nature. And it makes the most sense of our sinful condition and how we can go to heaven.

Question: What other religion solves the problem of evil like Christianity has done?

Conclusion

Final Question: How is it and what would the point be of 40+ authors independently of each other, from around the world, over thousands of years, wrote a cohesive story that told about real historical events which happened to a group of people, which made all them look terrible, and featured great leaders and kingdoms in the world, that all tied together to create a unified picture of a Being with “one voice” throughout the whole Bible, and that each person only had one chance to write this story with its predictions and public miracles because if any of them was wrong about just one event or prophecy then the whole Bible would be discarded including the work of past authors writing this same salvation story hundreds of years ago, and a book that has been scrutinized line-by-line with no known and agreed upon errors or contradictions, and that also has predicted hundreds of events without ever failing, and a person just happen to fulfill hundreds of these prophecies and complete the story that was hundreds of years in the making perfectly, while also claiming to be God, having people see him resurrected, an eclipse and earthquake happening at his death, and become the most famous person of all time, with billions of people claiming that they have the Holy Spirit in them from this person, and seeing the same afterlife in near-death experiences?

Most Reasonable Explanation: It is obvious if you are being objective and honest that Christianity must be true. I am not even trying to be bias here, even though I am a Christian. If you disagree, I ask you, how many “coincidences” will it take to make you consider, maybe it is just true? Sure, maybe Jesus fulfilled a one in a billion billion... chance for the prophecies...and maybe the prophecies just happened to coincide...maybe an earthquake and an eclipse occurred on his date of death...maybe he just happened to claim to be God and become the most influential person in history with the calendar built around his birth...maybe the Jewish temple and sacrifices just happened to stop at Jesus’ generation...maybe forty authors independently of each other over thousands of years wrote a book with no errors in it that tells a single, unified story with no false predictions...maybe Jesus and the prophets got lucky guessing all the end times events happening now...maybe the Bible just happened to become the #1 selling best book of all time and shaped our culture...maybe billions of people are lying about feeling Jesus’ love and having the Holy Spirit inside them...maybe all the miracles were just all anomalies that happened right after praying to Jesus...maybe there is something in our head that just happens to produce events in near-death experiences that happens to coincide with the Bible...maybe the events in Genesis just happened to get lucky and describe the events of our universe...and maybe all these independent authors took great risks in writing these miraculous events and predictions in a book knowing that they only get one chance to do so to convince everyone the Bible is true and just all happened to agree on each other and predict correctly, while also writing a single, unified story with no errors, and the book is deeply studied line-by-line from scholars who continue to learn more things about it and a book that provides wisdom to billions...or maybe I’ve got it there’s been a secret illuminati group behind all these events of our time, including a solar eclipse, Jesus’ resurrection, convincing people they saw the risen Jesus, who somehow know that people would lie about having the Holy Spirit in them, and people would lie about seeing heaven and hell in near-death experiences, but then also potentially destroying society

with people abusing living under God's grace and not being bound by the law anymore, etc. etc. etc. How many more examples do you need? Sure, you can propose a theory, but is that theory the most reasonable? If you had to place your life on it (because you practically are, if Christianity is true, it's the most important thing in the universe), what would you place it on? I would have to say if you think all these are mere coincidences, then you aren't a logical, reasonable person. I'm not trying to be mean at all. I believe there is only two options when looking at these facts: (1) you believe that Christianity is true; or (2) you have a bias against Christianity and aren't a reasonable person. Honestly, if this was any other topic, would you still be this skeptical? And here is the kicker that makes all this make sense. God wants people to love and choose him freely; he doesn't want robots who are forced to love Him. Therefore, this makes so much sense where God gave enough evidence to convince the open-minded, but not enough to overwhelm the free will of those wishing to cling to their own traditions. What more evidence could God have provided that would still allow free choice? I say He has provided more than enough. God keeps trying to show Himself to people, but after a while God stops because he knows the person will never believe and follow Him, so God leaves them to their own wicked desires. So, please, I beg and urge you to consider placing your faith in Jesus Christ. If not, you will go to hell because you freely chose to sin and separate yourself from God. None of us can be in God's holy presence in hell through our own works. We have all sinned, me included. It is only when we place our faith in Jesus Christ's death and resurrection for the payment of our sins that we can go to heaven. So, please look at the Gospel message clearly communicated below, and I hope to see you in heaven with me! God bless you!

The Gospel of Jesus Christ (How Can I Be Saved?)

Why Do I Need to Be Saved? (We Are All Sinners)

1. We are all infected and born with sin (Rom. 3:23; Ps. 51:5).
2. We have all sinned (Eccles. 7:20). Have you ever lied, stolen, or used God's name in vain? Jesus said, "Whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart." If so, God sees you as lying, thieving, blasphemous, adulterer at heart.
3. Sin separates us from God and on the path to eternal destruction.

Saved From What? (Eternal Destruction in Hell)

1. Because of our sin, we all deserve death (Rom. 6:23).
2. Sin results in physical and spiritual death because all sin is ultimately committed against an eternal and infinite God (Ps. 51:4). Because of that, the just penalty for our sins is also eternal and infinite.

3. What we need to be saved from is eternal destruction (Matt. 25:46; Rev. 20:15). Hell is the place that is separated from God. God does not send anyone to hell; everyone sends themselves through their own sin.

How Did God Provide Salvation? (Through Jesus' Sacrifice)

1. Because the penalty for sin is infinite and eternal, only God could pay the penalty, because only He is infinite and eternal.

2. Out of God's love for us, He became a human in the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus lived a perfect sinless life that we couldn't live in our place and sacrificed Himself for us, allowing Himself to be crucified.

3. Because Jesus Christ was human, He could die; and because Jesus Christ was God, His death had an eternal and infinite value. It was outside of time, and he died for ALL our sins (past, present, and future). That's why He said on the cross, "It is finished!" (Jn. 19:30).

4. Jesus took our punishment that we deserved. His sacrifice was the perfect and complete payment for our sins (1 Jn. 2:2). This was proven when Jesus was resurrected by God three days later and appeared to witnesses including his disciples and 500+ people (1 Cor. 15:3-5).

What Do I Need to Do? (Faith in Jesus' Death & Resurrection)

1. To be saved, you must have faith in Jesus. You must believe who Jesus is (God in human form) and trust what Jesus has done (died and resurrected). This faith in the person and work of Christ is what saves. "If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved" (Rom. 10:9). "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (Jn. 3:16).

2. Salvation is God's free gift. "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 your works, so that no one may boast" (Eph. 2:8-9).

3. Believing in Jesus is not just knowing that He is the Son of God. It's also an act of will where you trust in Him for the forgiveness of your sins and believe that he died for you and was resurrected. You are acknowledging that you can never reach heaven through your own good deeds and are trusting in Jesus alone. It is a change of mind from embracing sin to rejecting sin and from rejecting Christ to having faith in Christ (repentance) (Lk. 24:47). "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be

saved” (Acts 4:12). Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through me” (Jn. 14:6).

4. Anyone who places their faith in Jesus has the promise of eternal life. Without faith in Jesus, we remain in sin and cannot be accepted into God’s presence in His perfect heaven. With faith in Jesus, we are given access to the Father as God’s own children (John 1:12).\

Accepting Jesus Christ As Your Savior

Are you ready to place your faith in Jesus? Do you trust Him to save you? If so, there is no special prayer you must pray or “magical” words that result in salvation. Saying a sinner’s prayer will not accomplish anything on its own. It is simply a way of declaring to God that you are relying on Jesus Christ as your savior. It is only faith in Jesus’ death and resurrection that can save us. If you understand that you are a sinner and in need of salvation through Jesus Christ, you can respond now with a prayer like this: “Dear God, I realize that I am a sinner and could never reach heaven by my own good deeds. Right now, I place my faith in Jesus Christ as God’s Son who died and rose again to give me eternal life. I trust in Jesus alone. Please forgive me of my sins and help me to live for you. Thank you for accepting me and giving me eternal life.”