

**Title:** *“The Apologetics of the Centrality of Christ”*

**Sub-Title:** *“The Apologetics of the Promised Messiah”*

**Key Verse:** *I Timothy 3:16 “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”*

**Introduction:** As we look at Isaiah today the central verse of the book is also the central verse in chapter nine. As we have said that Jesus Christ is the central message and theme of the Isaiah, thus Jesus Christ is the focus of this lesson.

By way of review, the biblical definition of apologetics is seen in *I Peter 3:15 “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:”*

In addition to reviewing what apologetics is, it is important to understand that apologetics must be based

upon doctrine which is simply, Bible teaching. The doctrine of Christ, therefore will be the focus of our study, all within the context of Isaiah's apologetic for the prophesied Messiah.

**I. What is the key verse in Isaiah chapter nine?**

*Isaiah: 9:6-7 "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this."*

**II. Isaiah's apologetics for the centrality of Christ.**

A. The first argument that comes to mind is that Isaiah made the prophecy about Christ' centrality, which would become the central event in human history, about 700 years prior to the prophecy being fulfilled.

B. The fulfillment of Christ as the promised Messiah was also a fulfillment of the first prophetic passage in the Bible, **Genesis 3:15**, which Adam Clarke dated at B.C. 4004. This first prophecy took over four millennia to fulfill.

C. “God is alive. And not only in philosophy, but in sociology as well. Fifty years ago sociology was convinced that God was on the way out. The scholars had bought into secularization theory; you know the idea—the more modern and technological the world becomes, the more secular it becomes. Peter Berger was one of the leading proponents of this theory. Today he has abandoned it.”<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Vince Vitale. “Easter Evidence: Academics who Believe in the Resurrection of Jesus,” <https://www.solas-cpc.org/easter-evidence-academics-who-believe-in-the-resurrection-of-jesus/> (accessed May 26, 2019).

- D. “Probably the most influential British philosopher of religion of the last half century is longtime Oxford professor Richard Swinburne. In 2003 Swinburne published a book entitled *The Resurrection of God Incarnate*, and in that book he concludes that, on the available evidence today, it is 97% probable that Jesus truly—miraculously—rose from the dead, proving that he is the God he claimed to be.”<sup>2</sup> (I am 100% sure!).
- E. J. Warner Wallace gave a counter argument to the theory that all those that gave a personal account of Christ’ forty day, post resurrection ministry that all lying. “Wallace insists Christianity couldn't have just been a conspiracy of liars who never cracked. There were way too many witnesses to Christ's life and resurrection – hundreds of them – later facing too much persecution and torture for at least a few to not 'fess up if they were all simply lying.”<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid, 1.

<sup>3</sup> Paul Stand. “The Jesus Evidence that Turns Atheists into Followers of Christ,” <https://www1.cbn.com/cbnnews/us/2018/december/you-may-believe-in-the-baby-jesus-but-how-about-god-the-father-son-and-holy-spirit> (accessed May 26, 2019).

1. **I Corinthians 15:3-6** “For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

2. And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

3. And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:

4. After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.”

F. The central event in history. “The event that the Central Event view declares is the Central event of all of human history is *the Christ Event*. The Christ Event encompasses the Incarnation, Passion, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. Working with the Central Event view of human history as

its foundation, this study has developed the Central Event Teaching Model for Christian apologists.”<sup>4</sup>

G. It is widely accepted that the Resurrection of Jesus Christ is accepted to be an irrefutable, historical event in our world's history. There are many presuppositions that result from this settled historical fact. Here are just a few of them:

1. If the resurrection has been documented to be the central event in history, than Christ must be the only Saviour of the world. If Christ is central to human history; and is the Saviour of the World; than He must be accepted as one's personal Saviour.
2. If the resurrection is the accepted, central event in all human history, than the Bible, which records this central event must be truth.

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<sup>4</sup> Jerry Sutton. Scholars Crossing, <https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/doctoral/1412/> (accessed May 26, 2019).

If the Bible is truth, it must be pursued as the central theme to one's life.

3. If the resurrection is the accepted, central event in human history; and if the Bible records the account of the resurrection; and if the Bible is truth, than one must be an active student of the Bible.

4. If the central event in human history is the resurrection; If the Bible accurately records the central event in human history, therefore the Bible must be truth; If Jesus Christ is central to that central event in human history; If Christ is the only One Saviour of the World; If believers are active students of the Bible; Than every student of the Bible will be a teacher of the Bible.

### **III. The foundation of the apologetics for Christ.**

**A. Christ the Creator: Col. 1:15-17** “Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.”

#### **B. Christ, the non-created being:**

- 1.) **John 3:13** “And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.”
- 2.) **John 3:31** “He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all.”



## **C. The assents of Christ:**

### **1. Eternality**

- a.) **John 8:58** “Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.”
- b.) **John 17:5** “And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.”

### **2.) Omnipresence (Christ is everywhere at once)**

- a.) **Matt. 18:20** “For where two or three are athered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”
- b.) **Matt. 28:20** “Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

3.) Omniscience (Christ knows everything)

- a.) **Luke 6:8** “But he knew their thoughts, and said to the man which had the withered hand, Rise up, and stand forth in the midst. And he arose and stood forth.”
- b.) **John 4:29** “Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?”

4.) Omnipotence (Christ is all powerful)

- a.) **Mark 5:11-13a** “Now there was there nigh unto the mountains a great herd of swine feeding. And all the devils besought him, saying, Send us into the swine, that we may enter into them. And forthwith Jesus gave them leave. And the unclean spirits went out, and entered into the swine:”

b.) **John 11:43-44** “And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.”

**Conclusion:** The book of Isaiah is a wonderful narrative and prophecy about the Lord Jesus Christ. The ability and opportunity for believers to give a reason for their faith in Christ has never been greater than it is today. The fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy of the Messiah encourages every believer of the soon returning Christ. The changed minds and hearts in academia toward the resurrection of Jesus Christ is a great impact the Bible has had on our society. Understanding the resurrection is the central event in human history is proof Christianity is the only truth and way to heaven. The assents of Christ help us to understand our Lord better.

## **Applications:**

1. Trust Jesus Christ today, if you have not done so. Tell someone that you have become a Christian today!
2. Download Knight's Notes on: Excellent Way.tv.
3. Read Isaiah chapter ten before we get together again.
4. Study and discuss Isaiah chapter nine with family and friends.
5. Share our ministry website on you social media.
6. Subscribe and share on our YouTube channel.

**Where we began:**

- We reviewed what apologetics is.
- We discussed Isaiah 9:6-7.
- We discussed Christ being central to Isaiah's apologetics.
- We talked about academics who has come to believe in the resurrection of Christ.
- We discussed the apologetics of the resurrection being central in history.
- We talked about the doctrine of the apologetics of Christ.
- We concluded with the assents of Christ.

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**Next time:**

- Further background and the Apologetics of Isaiah chapter ten.
- We'll see how God used the Assyrians.
- We'll look at God's remnant.
- Apologetic applications offered.