

JESUS THE ONLY WAY

from
 **FAITH MAKES SENSE**

SOMETHING IS WRONG

Every world religion agrees something is wrong in the world. The ancient Norse believed the gods themselves were locked in a losing battle against chaos. The Egyptians believed the dead had to be weighed and measured before they could rest. The Greeks believed humanity was subject to the whims of powers beyond their control. Even today, across every culture and every century, human beings share the instinct that the world is not the way it is supposed to be. They are right. The Bible is specific about what went wrong, when it happened, and what it cost to fix it. It is not a vague spiritual feeling. It is a story with a beginning, a problem, and a solution. The answer to why Jesus is the only way to heaven is not found in a rule God invented or a preference He declared. It is found in the nature of the problem itself. The problem has a specific shape and the solution has to match that shape exactly. Understanding what broke, what the cost of repair required, and who alone could pay it is the only way to understand why the answer can only be Jesus.

WHY JESUS ISN'T AN ARBITRARY SAVIOR

THE BIG BIBLE STORY

The Bible is a collection of 66 books written across thousands of years that tells one story from beginning to end. God made a very good world and placed humanity in it to live in relationship with Him. He walked with them. He talked with them in the middle of the garden of Eden, God placed two trees and gave one instruction: Do not eat. The consequence for disobedience was death. Adam and Eve chose their own desires over God's design, and in that exact moment sin entered the world and corrupted everything. The intimate relationship humans had with God was irrevocably broken. Everything that follows in the Bible is the story of what that choice cost and what God did to fix it once and for all.

THE SIN-DEATH PROBLEM

When God decreed death as the consequence for sin, He was not speaking of just any human death. At the moment God gave the instruction, Adam was sinless. The payment required was the death of a sinless human being. The costly price for the sin of Eden has been on the table from the beginning. The problem is that every human being born after Adam inherits a sin nature. We did not choose it any more than a baby born to an addicted mother chooses an addiction. We inherited it. Which means no human being born naturally into this world can make the required payment. Do you see the problem. Sin requires the death of a sinless human, but all humans born naturally are corrupted by the inherited sin of Eden.

THE ONLY SOLUTION

The solution requires someone who is both fully God and fully human at the same time. Fully human, because the payment required is a sinless human death. A divine being who only appears human does not satisfy it. Fully God, because only God creates a miraculous birth that doesn't inherit the sin nature passed down from Adam. Only God has infinite worth sufficient to cover the sin of all humanity. This is what theologians call the hypostatic union. Jesus is one person with two complete natures, fully God and fully human simultaneously. This is not a theological technicality. It is the only way the sin-death problem is solved. Jesus is the only way because He is the only one who can pay the price.

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PREPARING FOR OBJECTIONS

When someone tells you Jesus is the only way to heaven, the most common responses in our culture are not theological arguments. They are feelings. It feels exclusive. It feels unfair. It feels like one group of people decided their way was right and everyone else was wrong. And in a culture that treats personal belief as a private matter and tolerance as the highest virtue, saying there is only one way sounds like the least tolerant thing a person could say. We get that. That reaction is real and it deserves to be taken seriously. But a negative feeling about a claim is not the same thing as a valid reason to reject it. If Jesus actually is who He said He was, and if the evidence for that holds up under scrutiny, then the feeling of narrowness does not change the truth of the claim. What follows are the most common objections people raise when they hear the gospel, and why each one deserves a closer look than it usually gets.

COMMON OBJECTIONS TO THE GOSPEL

THAT'S NARROW-MINDED

The person who says claiming Jesus is the only way is narrow-minded is also making a claim that only one view is correct. Their view. They are saying you must agree with them to be right. That is the same move, just dressed in more tolerant clothing. If a Jew, a Christian, a Muslim, a Hindu, and an atheist sit at the same table, those five would never say they agree on God, salvation, and/or eternity. Pluralism, the idea that everyone is right at the same time, does not resolve that. It just refuses to look at it directly.

More importantly, Jesus did not give us the option of calling Him one good path among many. He said I am the way, the truth, and the life, and no one comes to the Father except through Me. That is either true or it is not. The question is not whether the claim is narrow. The question is whether the claim is true, not who agrees with it.

I DON'T SIN SO I DON'T NEED A SAVIOR

This one sounds reasonable until you look at it carefully. When we say sin is the world's problem we are not pointing a finger at any one person's individual choices or actions. We are saying there is a corruption that exists in creation itself, and every human being was born into it. You did not choose to inherit a sin nature any more than a baby born to an addicted mother chooses an addiction.

The question is not whether one person feels like a sinner. The question is whether the world we live in is exactly the way it should be. Most people, if they are honest, will say no. That gap between the world as it is and the world as it should be is exactly what we are talking about. Jesus did not come because you are worse than everyone else. He came because the creation is corrupt and broken and everyone needs what only He can provide.

JESUS WAS NEVER REAL

This objection does not survive contact with the historical record. Tacitus, Josephus, Pliny the Younger, and Celsus are all non-Christian sources that attest to the historicity of Jesus. Every one of them places Jesus in history as a real figure who lived, taught, and was executed under Roman authority. He existed, the evidence proves it.

JESUS NEVER CLAIMED TO BE GOD

This objection does not survive contact with the gospel accounts. His enemies picked up stones to kill Him for it. The high priest tore his robes over it. The charge at His trial was blasphemy, a crime that only applies if the person making the claim is wrong. Everyone in the room understood exactly what Jesus was saying about Himself.

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