

JESUS REVEALS GOD

Open-Book Review - Cube 5: Incarnation as Proof

Instructions: Complete this review as you work through the ThinkCube. Use the material to find each answer. The goal is not simply to finish the questions, but to become prepared to explain why Jesus provides Christianity's clearest revelation of God.

Premise 1: The Incarnation Is Evidence That God Exists

Christianity does not present God merely as an abstract idea. The incarnation teaches that the eternal Son of God entered human history in the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus was a real historical figure, and the New Testament presents His life as God's direct and personal revelation to mankind. John describes Jesus as the eternal Word who was God and then "became flesh."

1. What does the Christian doctrine of the incarnation mean?

- A. Jesus was only a prophet inspired by God
- B. God, in the person of Jesus Christ, became fully human while remaining fully divine
- C. Jesus became divine only after His resurrection
- D. God temporarily appeared to be human

2. According to John 1, how is Jesus described before He became human?

- A. As an angel created by God
- B. As a prophet waiting to be born
- C. As the Word who was with God and was God
- D. As a human who later received divine power

3. Why is the incarnation significant as evidence for God?

- A. It presents God as entering human history in a visible and personal way
- B. It proves every religious claim is equally true
- C. It removes the need for historical evidence
- D. It teaches that God cannot be known

4. What kind of revelation does Jesus provide beyond the general revelation seen in creation and conscience?

- A. Natural selection
- B. Special revelation
- C. Cultural tradition
- D. Philosophical speculation

Premise 2: Jesus Is God's Special Revelation of His Exact Nature

Hebrews describes the Son as the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His being. Jesus did not merely claim to bring information about God; Scripture presents Him as making the invisible God personally knowable. His words, character, compassion, holiness, wisdom, and actions reveal what God is like.

1. According to Hebrews 1:3, Jesus is:

- A. One of many representations of God
- B. The exact representation of God's being
- C. Merely God's greatest prophet
- D. A symbolic picture of human goodness

2. What did Jesus mean when He said, "Anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father"?

- A. He physically looked like God the Father
- B. His life and character perfectly reveal the nature of God
- C. Every person is divine
- D. God the Father became Jesus

3. Colossians describes Jesus as:

- A. The image of the invisible God
- B. The first human prophet
- C. A religious reformer
- D. An angelic messenger

4. Why is Jesus called God's "special revelation"?

- A. Because He reveals specific truths about God's nature, character, and purposes
- B. Because only scholars can understand Him
- C. Because nature reveals nothing about God
- D. Because His message was intended to remain secret

Premise 3: Jesus Demonstrated Divine Power and Wisdom

The Gospel accounts present Jesus performing public works that displayed authority over disease, nature, physical processes, spiritual forces, and even death. Jesus Himself pointed people to His works as evidence supporting His claims. His miracles were not presented merely as spectacles, but as signs pointing to His identity and divine authority.

1. What was the primary purpose of Jesus' miracles in the Gospel accounts?

- A. Entertainment
- B. To gain political power
- C. To act as signs revealing His identity and authority
- D. To avoid teaching people

2. Which miracle most directly demonstrates authority over death?

- A. Turning water into wine
- B. Raising Lazarus
- C. The miraculous catch of fish
- D. Feeding the five thousand

3. In John 10:37-38, what did Jesus tell people to consider if they struggled to believe His words?

- A. His popularity
- B. His education
- C. His works
- D. His political influence

4. How did some of Jesus' critics respond to His extraordinary works?

- A. They always denied anything unusual happened
- B. They sometimes disputed the source of His power
- C. They immediately became disciples
- D. They claimed Jesus never existed

Premise 4: Jesus Himself Claimed to Be God

Jesus cannot easily be reduced to merely a wise moral teacher. The Gospel accounts repeatedly portray Him making claims associated with divine identity and authority. He forgave sins, spoke of unique unity with the Father, used striking "I am" statements, and accepted the consequences of claims His opponents understood as blasphemous. C. S. Lewis famously argued that these claims force us to take Jesus' identity seriously.

1. Why did Jesus' claims provoke charges of blasphemy?

- A. He rejected all Jewish Scripture
- B. His opponents understood Him to be claiming divine identity and authority
- C. He refused to perform miracles
- D. He claimed to be a Roman ruler

2. Which statement most clearly expresses Jesus' claimed unity with the Father?

- A. "Blessed are the meek"
- B. "I and the Father are one"
- C. "Love your neighbor"
- D. "Give to Caesar"

3. What is the basic point of C. S. Lewis's Liar-Lunatic-Lord argument?

- A. Jesus never claimed divinity
- B. Jesus' claims make the category of merely a great moral teacher inadequate
- C. Jesus was primarily a political revolutionary
- D. All religious teachers made the same claims

4. Jesus' willingness to maintain His claims despite the danger strengthens which point?

- A. He treated His identity claims as central rather than incidental
- B. He did not understand what He was saying
- C. He wanted to avoid controversy
- D. His followers invented all His teachings

Premise 5: The Resurrection Demonstrated Jesus' Power Over Death

The resurrection stands at the center of the Christian claim about Jesus. Paul openly acknowledged that Christianity rises or falls with whether Christ was actually raised. The resurrection is therefore not an optional detail of Christian belief; it is presented as God's decisive vindication of Jesus and the ultimate demonstration of His authority over death.

1. According to 1 Corinthians 15, what happens to Christian faith if Christ has not been raised?

- A. Nothing changes
- B. Christian faith becomes useless or futile
- C. Only the miracles become doubtful
- D. Christianity becomes purely philosophical

2. Why is the resurrection central to the case for Jesus' divine identity?

- A. It demonstrates authority over death
- B. It proves Jesus was wealthy
- C. It made Jesus politically powerful
- D. It removed the need for His earlier ministry

3. How did Paul treat the resurrection claim?

- A. As a symbolic story only
- B. As historically unimportant
- C. As foundational to Christianity's truth
- D. As a private experience

4. Which statement best summarizes the argument of this premise?

- A. Jesus' death alone proves every claim He made
- B. The resurrection is presented as divine confirmation of Jesus' identity
- C. Resurrection was common in the ancient world
- D. Jesus never predicted His death

BE PREPARED TO SHARE

1. A friend says: "I believe Jesus was a great moral teacher, but I don't believe He was God." Using what you learned in this ThinkCube, explain why Jesus' own claims make that position difficult to maintain.

2. Someone asks: "Why should Jesus be considered evidence that God exists?" Give a concise response using the incarnation, Jesus' revelation of God's nature, His works, His claims, and the resurrection.
