

Remain in the One True Christ; Beware of the Many False Christs

I John 2:18-28 / June 5, 2021

INTRODUCTION

- **3rd Century: The Divorce of History (Jesus as Man) from Theology (Jesus as God)**

"The "modern" problem of the historical Jesus was already raised, to some degree, by the third-century Christian theologian and philosopher Origen (185-253). *He described the gospels as "histories" but also stated that they narrate certain events that could not have happened.*" (Adela Yarbro Collins is Buckingham Professor of New Testament Criticism and Interpretation at Yale Divinity School. <https://reflections.yale.edu/article/between-babel-and-beatitude/historical-jesus-then-and-now>)

- **21st Century: The Divorce of History (Jesus as Man) from Theology (Jesus as God)**

"What I argue in the book is that during his lifetime, Jesus himself didn't call himself God and didn't consider himself God and that none of his disciples had any inkling at all that he was God. The way it works is that you do find Jesus calling himself God in the Gospel of John, our last Gospel. Jesus says things like: Before Abraham was, I am, and I and the father are one, and if you've seen me, you've seen the father."

"These are all statements that you find only in the Gospel of John, and that's striking because we have earlier Gospels, and we have the writings of Paul, and in none of them is there any indication that Jesus said such things about him. I think it's completely implausible that Matthew, Mark and Luke would not mention that Jesus called himself God if that's what he was declaring about himself. That would be a rather important point to make. "It's simply the view that the Gospel of John is providing a theological understanding of Jesus that is not what was historically accurate." "One of the things that historians cannot show as having happened in the past is anything that's miraculous because to believe that a miracle has happened, to believe that God has something in our world requires a person to believe in God, it requires a theological belief."

"I think it's important to understand that in this book I actually do not take a stand on either the question of whether Jesus was God or whether he was actually raised from the dead. I leave open both questions because those are theological questions based on religious beliefs, and I'm writing the book as a historian. I'm not allowing my religious beliefs or disbeliefs to affect how I tell the historical story of how Christology developed, how Jesus became God." (Bart Ehrman, *How Jesus Became God: The Exaltation of a Jewish Preacher from Galilee*. <https://www.npr.org/transcripts/300246095>)

Books By Bart Ehrman

1. The Triumph of Christianity: How a forbidden religion swept the world
2. Jesus Before the Gospels: How the earliest Christians remembered, changed, and invented their stories of the Savior
3. How Jesus Became God: The Exaltation of a Jewish Preacher from Galilee
4. The Other Gospels: Accounts of Jesus from outside the New Testament
5. Did Jesus Exist? The historical argument for Jesus of Nazareth
6. Forged: Writing in the Name of God—Why the Bible's authors are not who we think they are.
7. Jesus, interrupted: Revealing the hidden contradictions in the Bible (and why we don't know about them)
8. Misquoting Jesus: The story behind who changed the Bible and why
9. Lost Christianities: The battle for scripture and the faiths we never knew
10. Lost Scriptures: Books that did not make it into the New Testament
11. Jesus: Apocalyptic prophet of the New Millennium

- **21st Century: The Divorce of History (Jesus as Man) from Theology (Jesus as God)**

But, Sophie, *the only thing that matters is what you believe.*

History shows us Jesus was an extraordinary man.....a human inspiration. That's it. That's all the evidence has ever proved.

But.....when I was a boy...When I was down in that well Teabing told you about.....I thought I was going to die, Sophie. What I did.....I prayed. I prayed to Jesus to keep me alive.....so I could see my parents again.....so I could go to school again.....so I could play with my dog. Sometimes I wonder if I wasn't alone down there.

Why does it have to be human or divine? *Maybe human is divine.*

- **1st Century: The Marriage of History (Jesus as Man) and Theology (Jesus as God)**

Theology: What was from the beginning,

History: what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and our hands have touched,

Theology: concerning the word of life— and the life was revealed, and

History: we have seen and testify and announce to you

Theology: the eternal life which was with the Father and was revealed to us—

History: what we have seen and heard, we announce to you also,

Theology: in order that you also may have fellowship with us, and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.

History: And these things we write,

Theology: in order that our joy may be complete. (I John 1:1-4, Lexham English Bible)

Theme of I John 2:18-28: *During the last days, antichrists will arise, but you have received the anointing of the Holy Spirit, so you know the truth of Jesus as the antichrists deny Jesus. Those who deny Jesus reject the Father; those who confess Jesus accept the*

Father. So you must not deny Jesus as others want to deceive you about the truth of Jesus, so because you have received the anointing of the Holy Spirit, remain in Christ until the end of the last hour.

A) During the last days, antichrists will arise, (2:18-19)

Children, it is the last hour, and just as you have heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have arisen, by which we know that it is the last hour. They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us. But they went out, in order that it might be shown that all of them are not of us.

B) but you have received the anointing of the Holy Spirit, (2:20)

And you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know.

Anointing

Jacob: Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it." And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." So early in the morning Jacob took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called the name of that place Bethel, but the name of the city was Luz at the first. (Genesis 28:13-19, ESV)

Aaron: "For Aaron's sons you shall make coats and sashes and caps. You shall make them for glory and beauty. And you shall put them on Aaron your brother, and on his sons with him, and shall anoint them and ordain them and consecrate them, that they may serve me as priests. (Exodus 28:40-41, ESV)

David: Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah. (I Samuel 16:13, ESV)

Solomon: There Zadok the priest took the horn of oil from the tent and anointed Solomon. Then they blew the trumpet, and all the people said, "Long live King Solomon!" And all the people went up after him, playing on pipes, and rejoicing with great joy, so that the earth was split by their noise. (I Kings 1:39-40, ESV)

Isaiah: The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, / because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; / he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, / and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, / and the day of vengeance of our God; / to comfort all who mourn; to grant to those who mourn in Zion— / to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, / the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, / the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified. They shall build up the ancient ruins; / they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, / the devastations of many generations. (Isaiah 61:1-4, ESV; Luke 4:16-19)

Daniel: Know therefore and understand that from the going out of the word to restore and build Jerusalem to the coming of an anointed one, a prince, there shall be seven weeks. Then for sixty-two weeks it shall be built again with squares and moat, but in a troubled time. (Daniel 9:25, ESV)

Jesus: And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." (Matthew 3:16-17, ESV)

C) so you know the Truth of Jesus, (2:21)

I have not written to you because you do not know the **truth**, but because you do know it, and because every **lie** is not of the **truth**.

Jesus: The True Anointed Messiah

"Men of Israel, hear these words:

History: Jesus of Nazareth,

Miracles: a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him

Eye-Witnesses: in your midst, as you yourselves know—

Crucifixion: this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.

Resurrection: God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.

Prophecy: For David says concerning him, "I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption. You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'

"Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption.

Resurrection: This Jesus God raised up, and

Eye-Witnesses: of that we all are witnesses.

Ascension: Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit,

Holy Spirit: he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing.

Prophecy: For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, "The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool."

Identity of Jesus: Let all the house of Israel therefore know **for certain** that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified." (Acts 2:22-36, ESV)

D) as the antichrists deny Jesus.

(2:22)

Who is the **liar** except the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This person is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son.

God's Chosen in Christ

Adam/Eve: So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Serpent: I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." (Genesis 3:15, ESV)

Seth: And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and called his name Seth, for she said, "God has appointed for me another offspring instead of Abel, for Cain killed him." To Seth also a son was born, and he called his name Enosh. At that time people began to call upon the name of the LORD. (Genesis 4:25-26, ESV)

Noah: But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD. (Genesis 6:8, ESV)

Abram: I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." (Genesis 12:3, ESV)

Isaac: I will bless her, and moreover, I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her." (Genesis 17:16, ESV)

Jacob: The first came out red, all his body like a hairy cloak, so they called his name Esau. Afterward his brother came out with his hand holding Esau's heel, so his name was called Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them. (Genesis 25:25-26, ESV)

Joseph: Then Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him, for he is our brother, our own flesh." And his brothers listened to him. (Genesis 37:26-27, ESV)

Moses: When the child grew older, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, "Because," she said, "I drew him out of the water." (Exodus 2:10, ESV)

Joshua: After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, "Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the people of Israel. (Joshua 1:1-2, ESV)

David: Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah. (1 Samuel 16:13, ESV)

John Baptist: And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared." (Luke 1:16-17, ESV)

Jesus: For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. (Luke 2:11, ESV)

Recognition of the Messiah

Andrew: He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means Christ). (John 1:41, ESV)

Martha: She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world." (John 11:27, ESV)

Demons: And demons also came out of many, crying, “You are the Son of God!” But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Christ. (Luke 4:41, ESV)

Peter: Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” (Matthew 16:16, ESV)

Pilate: So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them, “Whom do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?” (Matthew 27:17, ESV)

Philip: But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. (Acts 8:12, ESV)

Paul: When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with the word, testifying to the Jews that the Christ was Jesus. (Acts 18:5, ESV)

John: that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. (I John 1:3, ESV)

E) Those who deny Jesus rejects the Father; (2:23a)
Everyone who denies the Son does not have the Father either;

E¹) those who confess Jesus accept the Father. (2:23b)
the one who confesses the Son has the Father also.

D¹) So you must not deny Jesus (2:24-25)
As for you, what you have heard from the beginning must remain in you. If what you have heard from the beginning remains in you, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father. And this is the promise which he himself promised us: eternal life.

C¹) as others want to deceive you about the Truth of Jesus, (2:26)
These things I have written to you concerning the ones who are trying to deceive you.

B¹) so because you have received the anointing of the Holy Spirit, (2:27)
And as for you, the anointing which you received from him remains in you, and you do not have need that anyone teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you reside in him.

A¹) remain in Christ until the end of the last hour. (2:28)
And now, little children, remain in him, so that whenever he is revealed we **may have confidence** and not be put to shame before him at his coming.

1st Century: The Marriage of History and Theology	20 th Century: The Marriage of History and Theology
<p>Theology: What was from the beginning, History: what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and our hands have touched, Theology: concerning the word of life— and the life was revealed, and History: we have seen and testify and announce to you Theology: the eternal life which was with the Father and was revealed to us— History: what we have seen and heard, we announce to you also, Theology: in order that you also may have fellowship with us, and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. History: And these things we write, Theology: in order that our joy may be complete. (I John 1:1-4, Lexham English Bible)</p>	<p>He (C.S. Lewis) was aware of two elements in the Christian understanding that he could not connect. 1. One was that Jesus had actually lived, at a specific time and place, had died and then (according to reports he saw as probably reliable ones) returned to life. 2. The other was the role of Christ as redeemer, propitiation, “Lamb of God”—what seemed to him a mythic and therefore non-historical role. “The Gospels then, have the peculiar quality of being straightforwardly, almost naively factual accounts but at the same time (because of the events being recounted) accounts imbued with a mythic dimension.” (Lewis on the Gospel as True Myth, by Bruce W. Young.</p>