**Metamorphosis:**
A Gospel Sermon by an Amazing Animal
"Let the animals teach you... that the Lord has done this"
Job 12:7-12

* Designed by God to Disprove Macroevolution & Picture the Good News of Life-Death-Resurrection CHRIST’S & Ours!
  Mat 7:2; Rom 12:1-3; 2 Co 3:18

**“Be ready always to give an answer to every man that ASK you for the reason of the hope that is in you, yet with humility and reverence.”**
1 Peter 3:15

**WHO was your most loved PET?**
Will he or she be in Heaven?
Freddie (dove), Shiva (leopard) – PTSD?

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**A Massive Mountain of Evidence**
that most folks will NEVER examine, yet DON’T really NEED for a truly transformed life!

**SCRIPTURE & HISTORY SCHOLARS**
- Grace to You (GTY.org)
- More Than a Carpenter. Evidence That Demands a Verdict Josh McDowell
- Faith Founded on Fact Dr. Montgomery
- The Case for Christ, Lee Stoebel
- HEAVEN, Randy Alcorn

**SCIENCE SCHOLARS**
- Creation Ministries International
- Answers In Genesis
- Institute for Creation Research
- LOGOS Research Associates
- GOOD SHEPHERD INITIATIVE SoulCare.ORG
- EMAIL me about ANY questions …

**His LIFE: Soul-Blood**
“For I am not ashamed of the GOSPEL, (good news) because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes ….”
Romans 1:16 & 20

“For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse …” Romans 1:16 & 20

Beware: You will be held accountable at the END!

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**Video: NO SIMPLE LIFE** Romans 1:20 – No Excuse

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**Big Questions**
- Origin?
- Purpose?
- Destiny?
- Suffering?

Servant Leader
Mat 20:20-24
Gen 2:15 ...
Abad/Shamar

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**Jesus’ Relationship**
His Perfect Work is necessary - Mat 5:48; Rom 5

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Man’s Way vs. God’s Way

The GOSPEL is the opposite of ALL the man-made “Religions” Rom 5:1-10

**Man’s Religions**
“Good” Works are not enough Romans 3:23; 6:23

**Jesus’ Relationship**
His Perfect Work is necessary - Mat 5:48; Rom 5
**Video:** Metamorphosis  Romans 1:20 – No Excuse

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**Eph 2:8**

**BUT WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM? (Mat 16:15)**

Dr. John Warwick Montgomery, C. S. Lewis, Josh McDowell ...  

- **LEGEND?** - just a myth & not a real historical person?  
- **LIAR?** - said he was God but knew that he was not?  
- **LUNATIC?** - believed he was God but was just a man?  
- **LORD?** - truly was & is God in the flesh for you & for me!

So why won’t EVERYONE accept? As a rebellious boy!

**LEGEND? Nope! Bible is History (His-story)**

Sir William Ramsay, Oxford  
Renowned archaeologist and historian

- “Luke’s historical accuracy, supported by archaeological evidence, provides credibility to his depiction of Jesus Christ and the accuracy of his writings. Luke is a historian of the first rank; not merely are his statements of fact trustworthy, this author should be placed along with the very greatest of historians. The book of Luke is unsurpassed in respect of its trustworthiness.”

- [https://www.blueletterbible.org/faq/don_stewart/don_stewart_804.cfm](https://www.blueletterbible.org/faq/don_stewart/don_stewart_804.cfm)

**C.S. Lewis, Oxford Scholar:**

“I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him (Jesus):  

*Such as* “I’m ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but not His claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher.”

“He would either be a lunatic – on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg – or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice.”

**C.S. Lewis, continued ...**

“Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to. ...”

“Now it seems to me **obvious** that He was neither a lunatic nor a fiend: and consequently, however strange or terrifying or unlikely it may seem, I have to accept the view that He was and is God.”

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lewis%27s_trilemma](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lewis%27s_trilemma)

**JESUS claimed to be GOD in the flesh**

- John 8:56-59  Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad.  
- 57 the Jews said to Him, “You are not yet 50 years old, and have You seen Abraham?”  
- 58 Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was [existed], I AM.” (*YHWH – Exo 3*)  
- 59 Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.”

**Video:** Metamorphosis  Romans 1:20 – No Excuse

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**LUNATIC:** No! William Lecky – noted historian & opponent of institutional Christianity

• “It was reserved for Christianity to present to the world an ideal character, which through all the changes of eighteen centuries has inspired the hearts of men with an impassioned love; has shown itself capable of acting on all ages, nations, temperaments, and conditions; has been not only the highest pattern of virtue but the strongest incentive to its practice; ... the simple record of three short years of active life has done more to regenerate and to soften mankind than all the disquisitions of philosophers, and all the exhortations of moralists.”

– Babylonian Talmud, Sanhedrin, other rabbinic writings
– Josephus
– Bar Serapion
– Thallus
– Lucian
– Tragan
– Pliny
– Seutonius
– Tacitus

**LEGAL PROOF** of His Crucifixion

• Tacitus—Roman historian AD 15-65—Christ crucified by order of Pontius Pilate when Tiberius was emperor, deadly cult was breaking out again.
• Suetonius—Roman historian AD 120—Christians expelled from Rome under Claudius—see Acts 18:2.
• Lucian—2nd century Roman writer—Christ crucified in Palestine.
• Thallus—3rd century Roman historian—unreasonably tried to explain darkness at noon (Matt. 27:45, Mark 15:33, Luke 23:44) as an eclipse according to Julius Africanus a 3rd century historian.
• Pliny—Governor of Bithynia AD 110—Christians executed and tortured.
• Trygaeus—Emperor AD 110—Affirmed Pliny’s action.
• Bar Serapion—Syrian AD 75—Jesus executed Jesus.
• Josephus—Jewish historian and general born AD 37—reference to Jesus as Messiah, miracles, crucifixion under Pilate, followers claimed resurrection.
• Babylonian Talmud, Sanhedrin and other rabbinic writings—3rd century—Christ crucified for magic and leading Israel astray on Passover Eve.

**LIAR?** No! – The model of maturity.

• Psychiatrist J. T. Fisher: “If you were to take the sum total of all authoritative articles ever written by the most qualified of psychologists and psychiatrists on the subject of mental hygiene - if you were to combine them and refine them, and cleave out the excess verbiage - if you were to take the whole of the meat and none of the parsley, and if you were to have these unadulterated bits of pure scientific knowledge concisely expressed by the most capable of living poets, you would have an awkward and incomplete summation of the Sermon on the Mount. And it would suffer immeasurably through comparison. For nearly 2,000 years the Christian world has been holding in its hands the complete answer to its restless and fruitless yearnings. Here ... rests the blueprint for successful human life with optimism, mental health, and contentment.”

– https://www.cru.org/how-to-know-god/who-is-jesus-god-or-just-a-good-man.html

**LORD?** Beyond any reasonable doubt!

• OLD Testament Prophecies
• Sinless Life
• Miracles
• NEW Prophecies
  – DEATH
  – RESURRECTION

**His DEATH**

Predicted in the Old Testament
- Isaiah 53; Psalm 22

Fulfilled by Jesus of Nazareth

**LEGAL PROOF** of His Crucifixion: External

• New Testament—a first century document

• Early Christian writers
  • Clement of Rome—AD 95, Bishop of Rome (appointed by Peter?), Epistle to the Corinthians
  • Ignatius—AD 70-110, Bishop of Antioch, 7 letters
  • Polycarp—AD 70-135, Bishop of Smyrna, disciple of John, letters
  • Clement of Alexandria—AD 150-212, scholar, teacher, Exhortation to the Pagans
  • Justin Martyr—AD 133, Scholar, apologist, founded school in Rome, Dialogue with Trypho.
  • Tertullian—AD 160-220, Lawyer, apologist, many writings, coined term “Trinity”
  • Origen—AD 185-255, Head of School in Alexandria at 17, 6000 works, apologist, disciple of Clement
• Gnostic Writers (gnostic—special knowledge, 2nd century mysticism, Gospel of Thomas, etc)


– https://www.cru.org/how-to-know-god/who-is-jesus-god-or-just-a-good-man.html

– GOOD SHEPHERD INITIATIVE - © Sid Galloway BS, M.Div. – www.SoulCare.ORG – For HIM and for THEM
His Garden Prayer:
Sweat like blood!
Separation from His Father for His sheep.

Spiritual Strength that was more than His human physical body could handle.
- He didn’t run.
- He didn’t pass out.
- He stayed & prayed!

Mat 20:20-28
Gen 2:15

Protect/Serve

His CROSS & Ours:
Intersection of His Holiness & Love

His Cross
John 3:16
Rom 5:1-10

Our Cross
Luke 9:23-26
John 12:23-26
Rom. 12:1-3

His RESURRECTION
Not Reincarnation or Spiritual Evolution
John 11; 1 Cor 15:1-58

“After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive.”
Acts 1:3

Video: REUNION – a picture of HEAVEN

LEGAL PROOF of His Resurrection: Eyewitnesses
- Matthew 28:16-17 The disciples saw him on a mountain in the Galilee
- Matthew, a disciple, was confirmed as the author by early Christian writers.
- Matthew, a tax collector, shows familiarity with money (Matt 17:24,27; 18:24).
- John 20:19-21 The disciples saw him in a room in Jerusalem
- John 21:24 This is the disciple who is testifying to these things and wrote these things, and we know that his testimony is true.
- 1 John 1:1 What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands,
- 1 Peter 1:3 Confirms Christ's resurrection, was a disciple eyewitness
- 1 Cor 15:3-8 Paul saw Christ on the road to Damascus
- Paul identifies himself as the author in 1 Corr1:1.
- 2 Peter 1:16-18 For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty….
LEGAL PROOF of His Resurrection: 2nd hand

- Mark 16:1-14 Christ appeared to Mary M, two on the road, the disciples
- John Mark was a follower, not one of the 12 apostles.
- He gave Peter’s account according to some early church fathers.
- Luke 24:1-14 Christ appeared to two on the road, the disciples and others
- Physician and historian, not a follower at the time
- Luke 1:1-4 Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile an account of the things accomplished among us, … it seemed fit for me as well, having investigated everything carefully from the beginning, to write it out for you in consecutive order, most excellent Theophilus; so that you may know the exact truth about the things you have been taught.
- 1 Cor 15:3-8 According to Paul, Christ Appeared to Peter, the 12, 500, James, all the apostles, and then to Paul

John Warwick Montgomery says,

- 10 Degrees (including 3 doctorates – law, theology, philosophy)
- Dr. Montgomery is considered by many to be the foremost living apologist for biblical Christianity. He is the Distinguished Research Professor of Philosophy and Christian Thought, Patrick Henry College and Emeritus Professor of Law and Humanities at the University of Luton, England.
- He holds 10 earned degrees, including the LL.B., LL.M. from Cardiff University, Wales; the A.B. with distinction in Philosophy (Cornell University, Phi Beta Kappa); LL.D. and M.A. (UC Berkeley); B.D. and S.T.M. (Wittenburg University); M. Phil. in Law (University of Essex, England); Ph.D. (Univ of Chicago), and the Doctorate d’Université from Strasbourg, France. He served on the faculty of the University of Chicago and was Chairman of the Department of History at Wilfrid Laurier University, Canada.
- Dr. Montgomery is author of over one hundred scholarly journal articles and more than forty books.
- His legal specialty is the international and comparative law of human rights and he regularly defends religious freedom cases before the European Court of Human Rights.

John Warwick Montgomery says,

“In 56 AD Paul wrote that over 500 people had seen the risen Jesus and that most of them were still alive (1 Corinthians 15:6). It passes the bounds of credibility that the early Christians could have manufactured such a tale and then preached it among those who might easily have refuted it simply by producing the body of Jesus.”

WHAT’S COMING? In your LIFE? After you DIE?

NEW CREATION: Isa 11; Rom 8; under HIS LAW of LOVE
- He is the only source of pure unselfish love and life
- He is the JUDGE and He is the only SELF-existent Being.
- The Hebrew term “bara” means to CREATE new out of nothing.
- Only God can do this (2nd Law of Thermodynamics).
- He HELD all things together totally at the beginning
- His form of punishment is SEPARATION
- He LETS GO & things fall apart. He does NOT lash out.
- Our SIN causes SEPARATION, SUFFERING, & DEATH.
We cannot be good enough by our efforts.
We need Him to forgive us & transform us (metamorphosis).

Safe and Secure: Under God’s Hand

1 Peter 5:5-7
“God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may lift you up, casting all your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you.”

Natural = avoid or attack
Supernatural = CROSS

HIS Life - Death - Resurrection

1 John 5:13 “These things were written to you that you may KNOW that you have eternal life.”

BUT

Jesus will say to some “Christians”, Depart from me for I never knew you.
So examine yourself to see if you’re in the faith

Your Choice by
His grace alone through faith alone, apart from our good works
New Creation: Coming Soon!

YES, your pets will be there,
and all my zoo animal friends!

"... the wolf will lay down with the lamb ... and a little child will lead them ...
... the lion will eat straw like the ox ...
... they will not hurt or destroy in all my Holy Mountain, for the Earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD."

Isaiah 11:6-10

Scholar John Wesley’s Sermon: The General Deliverance (Rom 8)

They could not sin, for they were not moral agents. Yet how severely do they suffer! – yea, many of them, bears of burden in particular, almost the whole time of their abode on earth; So that they can have no retribution [hope] here below. But the objection vanishes away, if we consider that something better remains after death for these poor creatures also; that these, likewise, shall one day be delivered from this bondage of corruption, and shall then receive an ample amends for all their present sufferings."

One more excellent end may undoubtedly be answered by the preceding considerations. They may encourage us to imitate Him whose mercy is over all his works. They may soften our hearts towards the meaner creatures, knowing that the Lord careth for them. It may enlarge our hearts towards those poor creatures, to reflect that not one of them is forgotten in the sight of our Father which is in heaven. Through all the vanity to which they are now subjected, let us look to what God hath prepared for them. Yea, let us habituate ourselves to look forward, beyond this present scene of bondage, to the happy time when they will be delivered therefrom into the liberty of the children of God."