

# **Why should we believe?**

## **John 5:31-47**

What is truth?  
(Pontius Pilate, John 18:28)

Why do we not believe?





*How do we know, and how can we  
know that what we know is true?  
And what is truth anyway?*



Hello? This is the fraud department at  
your bank...

War propaganda, social media campaigns...

Confirmation bias!





*Jewish opinion has moved from*

Everyone who heard [Jesus] was amazed at his understanding and his answers.

(NIV Lk 2:46–47)

*to*

For this reason the Jews tried all the harder to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

(NIV Jn 5:18)





For this reason the Jews tried all the harder to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.  
(NIV Jn 5:18)

*Can you believe in such a claim that someone makes about himself? Clearly not!*

If I testify about myself, my testimony is not true  
(New NIV Jn 5:31)





A matter must be established by the testimony of two or **three witnesses** (NIV Deut 19:15b)

Will you believe me (v31)?

The first witness: John the Baptist (32-35)

The key witness: The Father (36-38)

The third witness: the scriptures, Moses(39-46)

Can you believe me (v47)?

Contemporary knowledge

**Solid evidence**

Historical context





# What evidence is there for Jesus' claims about himself?

The scriptures, Moses(39-46)  
Historical context

John the Baptist (32-35)  
Contemporary knowledge

The Father (36-38)  
**Solid evidence**





What evidence is there for Jesus' claims about himself? **The scriptures, Moses (39-46)**

The covenant of love (Deut. 6:4-6, 10:12-13 etc.)

Not more rules, but a person!

A blood sacrifice (Genesis 22)

A prophet (Deuteronomy 18:15)

A king (2 Samuel 7:16)

A true servant (Isaiah 53, Zechariah 3:8)

A high priest (Zechariah 3:8, Psalm 110:4)

A messenger of the covenant (Malachi 3)





# What evidence is there for Jesus' claims about himself? **John the Baptist**

I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. I would not have known him, except that the one who sent me to baptise with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is he who will baptise with the Holy Spirit.'

(NIV Jn 1:32–33)





What evidence is there for Jesus' claims about himself? **The Father**

For the very work that the Father has given me to finish, and which I am doing, testifies that the Father has sent me (v36)

What do the signs mean?  
They were done in public





The unexamined life is not worth living

(Socrates)

Belief requires scepticism!

Examine what you think you know

Beware of the mutual admiration society (v44)

You can't get rid of the signs...

... but you need to understand them

Trust the witnesses

1 Corinthians 1:22-24,30-31

