

What is the evidence for Jesus' Deity?



The evidence for Jesus' Deity is necessarily indirect because nobody alive today was there to see the events of his life. Current understanding is based on a set of facts that are hard to explain otherwise. There are independent lines of evidence that point to similar conclusions. Some of them are presented here.

The evidence described here is mostly drawn from the Bible. The poster on "What is the evidence for the Historical Accuracy of Luke" describes why it can be considered a reliable source.

1. Prophets foretold his life

Written **thousands to hundreds of years before Jesus' day** by many different authors, the *Old Testament* records **more than 100 predictions** about his life. These range from general (born of a woman, born in Bethlehem, entered the temple) to specific (fled to Egypt, rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, **betrayed for 30 pieces of silver that were then thrown into the temple in disgust**, pierced hands and feet, no broken bones, buried in a rich man's tomb) to the miraculous (born of a virgin, lived a life without sin, healed the blind and sick and lame). These predictions came true. There are **staggeringly small odds** that even the non-miraculous ones would happen to any single person.

2. God called Jesus "son"

The gospels of *Matthew*, *Mark*, and *Luke* report an experience in which Jesus meets Elijah and Moses on a mountaintop during which God says **"This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased"**. All three of them and *John* report that the same happened when Jesus was baptized.

3. He performed miracles

The gospels of *Matthew*, *Mark* and *Luke* record many instances of Jesus' power over sickness (**healing the lame, blind, mute, and ill**), demons (exorcisms), death (**raising Lazarus** and two others), and nature (turning water into wine, **calming a storm**, walking on water, using a few loaves and fish to feed over 4000). These both confirm prophecy and provide independent evidence.

4. He claimed to be God

The gospel of *John* records a number of instances of Jesus referring to himself as God, once using the name God gave for Himself to Abraham, **"Before Abraham was born, I am"**. All four gospels report that this was the chief charge brought against him that **led to his crucifixion**.

5. He came back from the dead

All four gospels report Jesus' tomb being found empty on **Easter Sunday**. All four and *Acts* report encounters with Jesus after his death. His closest followers, who had scattered in fear upon Jesus' death, returned to **boldly proclaim his resurrection** – and maintained this in the face of beatings, imprisonment, and death. **Saul of Tarsus**, who persecuted Christians, became a Christian after meeting the risen Jesus.