

The Historical Jesus — A Study Guide

What history can establish, and where theology begins

A focused path through the evidence about Jesus of Nazareth, with each claim labeled by type.

What Can History Establish About Jesus? [historical]

The minimal facts most historians — across belief systems — accept about Jesus of Nazareth, and where history ends and theology begins.

The Resurrection: Claim, Evidence, and Interpretation [theological]

Separating the historical data (early testimony, the empty-tomb tradition) from the theological conclusion that it was a divine act.

How the New Testament Canon Formed [historical]

The canon was recognized over centuries through use, apostolic association, and conciliar confirmation — not invented at a single meeting.

How Early Did People Worship Jesus as Divine? [scholarly]

The evidence that devotion to Jesus as divine is strikingly early — and what that does and doesn't prove.

What Actually Happened at Nicaea? [historical]

Separating the popular myth of Nicaea (319 CE) from the documented history of the 325 council.

Liar, Lunatic, or Lord — Is the Trilemma Valid? [theological]

Steelmanning and stress-testing C.S. Lewis's famous argument about who Jesus claimed to be.

Old Testament Hope and the Suffering Servant [theological]

How texts like Isaiah 53, Psalm 22, and Daniel 7 are read messianically — and why the reading is contested.

The Problem of Evil — The Hardest Question [theological]

The strongest objection to belief in a good, all-powerful God — and the major responses, honestly weighed.

Faith and Reason — Enemies or Partners? [theological]

Whether faith is belief without evidence, or trust calibrated to evidence — and why the definition matters.

The Passion: The Tribulation of Jesus Christ [theological]

An overview of the suffering and death of Jesus across Passion Week — what the Gospels narrate and how the four accounts relate.

Gethsemane — The Agony in the Garden [theological]

Jesus' anguished prayer before arrest — and what it reveals about his humanity and his obedience.

The Trials of Jesus: Sanhedrin, Pilate, Herod [historical]

The sequence of religious and Roman hearings — what each court charged, and what history can and cannot confirm.

Educational use only. Not a substitute for professional medical, legal, or emergency advice. In a life-threatening situation, contact local emergency services and follow official guidance.