



Is Jesus Human?

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The “Humanity” Debate

There is, and has been for centuries, a great debate about the **humanity** of Jesus Christ. The implications of the Son of God becoming human are as amazing as they are intense. Did God actually become “flesh and blood?” Did God humble Himself to be born like the humans He Created? Did God spend 12 years as a child and 7 years as a teenager? Did God call a woman “mother” and a man “father?” Did God sleep at night and wake in the morning? Did God eat breakfast with his mother and father and brothers and sisters? Did God play with his siblings and friends in his village? Did God attend His local synagogue and hear religious leaders read and teach about Him from the Old Testament? Did God work in a carpentry shop with His step-father as He was growing up? Did God go to a man named John to be baptized in the Jordan River? Did God call men to follow Him and learn how to be His disciples? Did God walk the dusty streets and roads of Israel preaching to fellow Jews about salvation? Did God allow men to beat Him and nail Him to a Cross? Did God die on that Cross? Did men bury God in a tomb? Did God rise from the dead? Did God show Himself to His followers after His Resurrection? Did God eat food with His disciples and spend time teaching them about His Kingdom before He ascended back to Heaven? Did God really do these things? Is Jesus Christ, the Son of God, also human? Really?

This is an important question for Christians to answer and defend. Attacks on the “humanity” of Jesus Christ began in the 1st century (as early as 70 A.D.), so it’s been an issue for the Church almost from the beginning. This opposition to the true humanity of Christ was known as “Docetism,” from the Greek word *dokeo* – “to appear or seem.” Docetics taught that Christ only appeared or seemed to be human, but actually was not human – He was an “illusion.”

The Apostle John was still alive when the early Docetics presented this variation of the teachings of the Church. He was quick to address it:

“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.” 1 John 4:1-3

“Do not believe every spirit, but “test” the spirits, whether they are of God. Good advice. The word “test” is the Greek *dokimazo* and means “to test, prove, examine with expectation of approving.” The word “spirits” is *pneumata* and speaks of the invisible beings that are involved with the physical world. Some spirits are of God. Some are not. The Apostle John says Christians must “test, prove, examine” the “spirits,” whether they are of God.

Now, how in the world can Christians, who are part of the visible world, test spirits that are part of the invisible world? First, understand that “spirits” often work in and through humans. John wrote – “because many false prophets have gone out into the world.” A false prophet (*pseudoprophetes*) is a person who speaks forth or openly false words. They are not to be believed because their message is false. Christians have the Holy Spirit in them Who “confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh.” False prophets have spirits in them that do “not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh.” John says that spirits that do not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh are “not of God.” The apostle goes further to say that “this is the spirit of the Antichrist.” Yikes! I thought we were waiting for the Antichrist? No, John says, “which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.” The “spirit of the Antichrist” has been in the world for a long, long time. That’s who we are dealing with when someone says Jesus Christ did not come in the flesh. You are face to face with the spirit of the Antichrist! I highly recommend you pray for God’s help when you face that spirit.

Testing the spirits is the job of every Christian, but is the special work of apologists. Ignatius, a student of John the Apostle, defended the Truth of Christ’s Humanity against the Docetics.

“He was baptized by John, really and not in appearance ... He was crucified in reality, and not in appearance ... Now, He suffered all these things for us; and He suffered them really, and not in appearance only, even as also He truly rose again. But not, as some of the unbelievers, who are ashamed of the

formation of man, and the cross, and death itself, affirm, that in appearance only, and not in truth.” Ignatius

Ignatius warned against “any talk that ignores Jesus Christ, of David’s lineage, of Mary; who was really born, ate and drank ... He genuinely suffered, even as he genuinely raised himself ... Unbelievers who say the passion was a sham are themselves a sham ... and their fate will fit their fancies – they will be ghosts and apparitions.” Other early Christian apologists who defended the Humanity of Christ against the Docetic heresies were Polycarp, Iraenus, and Tertullian.

Doceticism is a hyper-dangerous viewpoint by many who have called themselves Christians from the 1st century to the 21st century. Docetics deny every aspect of Christ’s humanity – including His Death and Resurrection. If Jesus was not human, He could not die – He could not be buried – He could not rise from the grave – because His humanity was just an illusion. John addressed the issue powerfully in his Gospel account:

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God ... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” John 1:1-2, 14

Answering The “Humanity” Question

How do you determine physical humanity? By using physical testing. Seeing and hearing is not enough. It is possible to see and hear something in the spiritual world. Even smelling and touching may not be enough to claim reality. **Touching** is the ultimate test. You know something is real in the physical world when you can touch it, hold it, handle it, and (if possible) move it.

The first verse in the New Testament, Matthew 1:1, reads – “The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham.” This is the first statement about the Humanity of Jesus Christ. He has a “genealogy.” The Greek word is *geneseos* and denotes a person’s lineage, origin, birth line, generation. Jesus Christ was of the human lineage of King David, who was of the human lineage of Abraham.

Some will be quick to point out that Joseph was not the biological father of Jesus. That’s true, but we’re not finished. The lineage of Joseph is important to the claims of Jesus as Messiah and King of Israel. Matthew is careful to point out that Jesus’ lineage through Joseph goes back to King David and King Solomon as well as to Abraham. Plus, there is another lineage of Jesus that traces back through His biological mother, Mary.

“Now Jesus Himself began His ministry at about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, the son of Heli, the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, the son of Melchi, the son of Janna, the son of Joseph, the son of Mattathiah, the son of Amos, the son of Nahum, the son of Esli, the son of Naggai, the son of Maath, the son of Mattathiah, the son of Semei, the son of Joseph, the son of Judah, the son of Joannas, the son of Rhesa, the son of Zerubbabel, the son of Shealtiel, the son of Neri, the son of Melchi, the son of Addi, the son of Cosam, the son of Elmodam, the son of Er, the son of Jose, the son of Eliezer, the son of Jorim, the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, the son of Simeon, the son of Judah, the son of Joseph, the son of Jonan, the son of Eliakim, the son of Melea, the son of Menan, the son of Mattathah, the son of Nathan, the son of David, the son of Jesse, the son of Obed, the son of Boaz, the son of Salmon, the son of Nahshon, the son of Amminadab, the son of Ram, the son of Hezron, the son of Perez, the son of Judah, the son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, the son of Terah, the son of Nahor, the son of Serug, the son of Reu, the son of Peleg, the son of Eber, the son of Shelah, the son of Cainan, the son of Arphaxad, the son of Shem, the son of Noah, the son of Lamech, the son of Methuselah, the son of Enoch, the son of Jared, the son of Mahalalel, the son of Cainan, the son of Enosh, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.” Luke 3:23-38

This is the “human” lineage of Jesus that takes His physical birth all the way back to the first man, Adam. This is the lineage that addresses God’s promise to Adam and Eve that “her Seed” (Genesis 3:15) would one day defeat Satan. Jesus is that Seed. The lineage through Mary also shows that Jesus was related directly to King David, Abraham, Shem, Noah, and Seth.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was born from a long lineage of real people we can read about in the Old Testament. Each person in His lineage was really human. If you and I were able to go back in time and visit each one of them, we’d find that they were truly human. We could touch them and they could touch us. They were not apparitions, appearances, or illusions. They were born to human parents, grew up in human families, got married to a human spouse, had human children, and died as humans do. They were human beings in a world of human beings. Jesus’ birth was part of that human lineage.

Knowing whether Jesus was real human flesh or an appearance (illusion) is simple. Did He appear to be human to the people who knew Him? Could they see Him, hear Him, and touch Him? Did Jesus do human things – like walk, talk, eat, drink, sit, stand, and sleep? Did He experience hunger and thirst? Did He feel pain? Did He feel the presence of others around Him? Did He know when someone touched Him? Did He suffer? Did He laugh and cry? Did He have human emotions? Did He love people? Did He care about people and express compassion toward them? Did He get angry? Did He express that anger? Did physical objects move when He moved them? Did physical objects move Him? The answer to all of these

questions is a resounding YES!

The first human being to “feel” Jesus was His mother. Mary was a virgin when the Holy Spirit “came upon her” and the power of the Highest “overshadowed” her (Luke 1:35). The angel who told Mary what God was going to do through her, said – ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS.’” (Luke 1:30-31) Notice the physical language the angel used with Mary – “you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son.” **Conceive, womb, and bring forth** are used in the Greek (*sullambano, gaster, teze*) as physical processes. What the angel told Mary was that she would conceive a child in her womb and give birth to a Son, Whose Name would be Jesus. What did Mary understand was going to happen to her? “Then Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I do not know a man?’” (Luke 1:34) Mary knew the angel was talking about her becoming pregnant with a physical child – not an apparition. She didn’t understand how what the angel said was going to happen to her could happen because she was not having sexual relations with a man – which Mary knew was how a child was conceived. After the angel told Mary that the Holy Spirit would come upon her and the power of the Highest would overshadow her, Mary replied – “Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.” (Luke 1:38)

The second human being to be impacted by the physical conception of Jesus was Joseph – the man who was going to be Mary’s husband. Here’s how Joseph found out Mary was pregnant with a physical baby.

“Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly.” Matthew 1:18-19

Joseph discovered that Mary was pregnant before they had come together sexually. He could have made Mary a public example, but he didn’t. He intended to dissolve their relationship secretly so no trouble would come to Mary or her family. As Joseph was considering this, an angel came to him in a dream with this message:

“Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.’ So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: ‘Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,’ which is translated, ‘God with us.” Matthew 1:20-23

Joseph woke from his dream and did what the angel told him to do. Joseph took Mary to be his wife and had no sexual relations with her until she “gave birth to a son.”

The story of the birth of Jesus is one of the best-known stories in the world. People know the birth of Jesus as the Christmas story. We tell the story every year about the Baby Jesus born in a manger because there was no room for His parents in the inn. We love to hear about the shepherds keeping their flocks at night who learn about the Baby Jesus and how they go to Bethlehem to see the Child. We are reminded every year about the wise men who came from the East searching for the prophesied King of Israel. The Birth of Jesus is well documented in Matthew and Luke’s Gospels. The story is always about a physical baby born to physical parents. There’s never a word or hint that the baby was an illusion. Mary gave birth to her first Child. She felt the pains of childbirth. Ask Mary and she would tell you she had a real baby.

Everything we read about Jesus in the years after His Birth is physical. He spent His first days wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger (Luke 2:7). That’s physical. Jesus was circumcised when He was eight days old (Luke 2:21-24). No way to circumcise an illusion. Simeon held the Baby Jesus in his arms and prophesied about the Lord (Luke 2:25-32). That’s physical. An angel warned Joseph that King Herod wanted to kill the Baby Jesus, so Joseph took Mary and Jesus and traveled to Egypt. They stayed there until Herod was dead. God warned Joseph in a dream about returning to Judea, so Joseph took Mary and Jesus to live in the city of Nazareth

in the region of Galilee (Matthew 2:13-23). Joseph's concern was about physical harm coming to Jesus. Illusions can't be harmed. When Jesus was 12 years old, He spent three days on His own in Jerusalem both listening to and asking questions of teachers in the Temple. Joseph and Mary searched for Jesus for days and finally found Him at the Temple. They were concerned about His safety. They all returned to Nazareth and Jesus was subject to them (Luke 2:41-52). Again, a physical relationship and concern for his physical safety.

Evidence of Jesus' Humanity

The New Testament Books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, and the first chapter of Acts, are a brief overview of the Life of Jesus Christ on this planet. In those ancient documents, we learn Who and What He is and what He did for the world. As we saw in our last study, the Son of God became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14). However, as clear as it seems by reading the Gospels, many believe God's Son was an apparition, an illusion, and never became flesh. That kind of teaching is what the Apostle Paul called "a different gospel" (Galatians 1:6). People who teach a different gospel do so to trouble you and "pervert the gospel of Christ" (Galatians 1:7) Anyone who teaches any other gospel than what Paul taught will be "accursed" (Galatians 1:8)

If I may add a personal note – this is a life and death topic. Whether Jesus was and is Human is not a light discussion. It has eternal consequences. To believe that Jesus was not human is to disbelieve the entire Bible. The Old Testament pointed to the time when God's Son would become human and die for the sins of the world. The New Testament reveals the time when God's Son became human and died for the sins of the world. There is no other way to see it from the plain reading of God's Word.

Jesus began His Public Ministry by being baptized by the Prophet John the Baptist. He went into the water and came up out of the water (Matthew 3:13-17; John 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22; John 1:29-34). Water baptism is a physical act. An illusion could not be baptized. It would be obvious to everyone watching, especially John who did the baptizing, if Jesus was an illusion. There is no touching an illusion and water would not be disturbed by something that was not physical.

Jesus left John the Baptist and went immediately into the wilderness – “Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry.” (Matthew 4:1-2) Illusions don’t fast and don’t get hungry because they don’t eat. Illusions and apparitions are not physical, so they do not need physical food.

As you look at Satan’s testings of Jesus, each one is physical in nature: (1) command that stones become bread, (2) throw yourself down from the top of the temple to show that the angels will bear you up “lest you dash your foot against a stone” to prove you’re the Son of God, (3) worship Satan and he will give you all the kingdoms of the world and their glory (Matthew 4:3-11) If Jesus was an illusion, an apparition, Satan’s tests would not have been physical in nature.

The evidences of the Humanity of Jesus are so numerous that I could fill many pages naming each one. Here are some from Matthew’s Gospel you may find helpful when sharing with someone about Jesus being Human. Look for the physical act in each example that an illusion or apparition could not do (e.g. touching, being touched by

others, sitting, walking, eating, sleeping, etc).

“And behold, a leper came and worshiped Him, saying, ‘Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean.’ Then Jesus put out His hand and touched him, saying, ‘I am willing; be cleansed.’ Immediately his leprosy was cleansed. ” Matthew 8:2-3

“Now when Jesus had come into Peter’s house, He saw his wife’s mother lying sick with a fever. So He touched her hand, and the fever left her. And she arose and served them.” Matthew 8:14-15

“And Jesus said to him, ‘Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.’ Matthew 8:20

“And suddenly a great tempest arose on the sea, so that the boat was covered with the waves. But He was asleep.” Matthew 8:24

“Now it happened, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, that behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Him and His disciples.” Matthew 9:10

“ And suddenly, a woman who had a flow of blood for twelve years came from behind and touched the hem of His garment.” Matthew 9:20

“But when the crowd was put outside, He went in and took her by the hand, and the girl arose.” Matthew 9:25

“ Then He touched their eyes, saying, ‘According to your faith let it be to you.’ Matthew 9:29

“On the same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the sea. And great multitudes were gathered together to Him, so that He got into a boat and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore.” Matthew 13:1-2

“And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitudes.” Matthew 14:19

“And when the men of that place recognized Him, they sent out into all that surrounding region, brought to Him all who were sick, and begged Him that they might only touch the hem of His garment. And as many as touched it were made perfectly well.” Matthew 14:35-36

“Jesus departed from there, skirted the Sea of Galilee, and went up on the mountain and sat down there.” Matthew 15:29

“And He took the seven loaves and the fish and gave thanks, broke them and gave them to His disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitude.” Matthew 15:36

“But Jesus came and touched them and said, “Arise, and do not be afraid.” Matthew 17:7

“ Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them.” Matthew 18:2

“Then little children were brought to Him that He might put His hands on them and pray, but the disciples rebuked them. But Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven.’ And He laid His hands on them and departed from there.” Matthew 19:13-15

*“So Jesus had compassion and touched their eyes. And immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed Him.”
Matthew 20:34*

In this last verse, we also see one of the many human emotions Jesus expressed while He was on earth, compassion. Jesus had human emotions and human experiences – because He was and is Human.

The Strongest Argument

The strongest argument for the Humanity of Jesus Christ is what happened to Him in Jerusalem.

“Now Jesus, going up to Jerusalem, took the twelve disciples aside on the road and said to them, ‘Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death, and deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock and to scourge and to crucify. And the third day He will rise again.’” Matthew 20:17-19

What Jesus described here are physical actions – “betray, condemn, deliver, mock, scourge, crucify, rise.” Let’s look closely at Matthew’s account of what happened to see if we can find anything that looks remotely like an illusion or apparition.

“So the disciples went and did as Jesus commanded them. They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them, and set Him on them.” Matthew 21:6-7

The disciples “set” Jesus on the colt. They physically lifted Jesus onto the animal and Jesus rode it into Jerusalem. Lifting someone onto something is a physical action on a physical body. People don’t lift an illusion. An apparition doesn’t “ride” on the back of an animal. There can be no physical interaction between physical beings and an

illusion.

The Jewish rulers of Israel had long wanted to kill Jesus, but the Lord was so popular with the people that the rulers had not risked arresting Jesus before; but that was about to change.

“Then the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders of the people assembled at the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, and plotted to take Jesus by trickery and kill Him. But they said, ‘Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar among the people.’” Matthew 26:3-5

One of the physical actions in the burial of a dead body was pouring oil on it. We see in Matthew’s Gospel evidence of that and more proof for the Humanity of Jesus.

“And when Jesus was in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, a woman came to Him having an alabaster flask of very costly fragrant oil, and she poured it on His head as He sat at the table. But when His disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, ‘Why this waste? For this fragrant oil might have been sold for much and given to the poor.’ But when Jesus was aware of it, He said to them, ‘Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a good work for Me. For you have the poor with you always, but Me you do not have always. For in pouring this fragrant oil on My body, she did it for My burial. Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her.’” Matthew 26:6-13

Jesus described His Body as a physical body – *“For in pouring this fragrant oil on My body, she did it for My burial.”* Oil could not be poured “on” an illusion. Oil has physical properties and could not be poured “on” an apparition. If Jesus was an illusion, this would have been an opportunity for Him to explain why the oil passed through Him without touching Him. He did not have to explain that because He was not an illusion. He was and is Human.

The rulers of Israel needed a way to arrest Jesus to kill Him and one of the Lord’s own close disciples gave them that way. *“Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, ‘What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?’ And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver. So from that time he sought opportunity to betray Him.”* (Matthew 26:14-16)

Judas knew that he could do what the Jewish rulers wanted him to do because Jesus was Human. Judas had been with Jesus and the other disciples for three years and had seen every aspect of the Lord’s Humanity. Judas knew Jesus was not an illusion. Judas knew that Jesus could be physically betrayed and arrested. Judas used his position as a disciple and his knowledge about Jesus to betray the Lord.

“And while He was still speaking, behold, Judas, one of the twelve, with a great multitude with swords and clubs, came from the chief priests and elders of the people. Now His betrayer had

given them a sign, saying, 'Whomever I kiss, He is the One; seize Him.' Immediately he went up to Jesus and said, 'Greetings, Rabbi!' and kissed Him." Matthew 26:47-48

Judas betrayed Jesus with a kiss. A human being cannot kiss an illusion. The kiss was physical; another proof of the Humanity of Jesus.

The arrest, trial, scourging, and crucifixion of Jesus are dynamic proofs of His Humanity. All of these verses are from Chapters 26 – 27 of Matthew's Gospel. None of these human activities could be performed with or on an illusion.

"Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and took Him."

"And those who had laid hold of Jesus led Him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled."

"Then they spat in His face and beat Him; and others struck Him with the palms of their hands."

"And when they had bound Him, they led Him away and delivered Him to Pontius Pilate the governor."

"Then he released Barabbas to them; and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered Him to be crucified."

"Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole garrison around Him. And they stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him. When they

had twisted a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' Then they spat on Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head. And when they had mocked Him, they took the robe off Him, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him away to be crucified."

"And when they had come to a place called Golgotha, that is to say, Place of a Skull, they gave Him sour wine mingled with gall to drink. But when He had tasted it, He would not drink. Then they crucified Him, and divided His garments, casting lots."

"Then two robbers were crucified with Him, one on the right and another on the left. And those who passed by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads and saying, 'You who destroy the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross.' Likewise the chief priests also, mocking with the scribes and elders, said, 'He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He is the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him. He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now if He will have Him; for He said, 'I am the Son of God.'"

"Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, 'Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?'

that is, 'My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?' Some of those who stood there, when they heard that, said, 'This Man is calling for Elijah!' Immediately one of them ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine and put it on a reed, and offered it to Him to drink. The rest said, 'Let Him alone; let us see if Elijah will come to save Him.' And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. "

"Now when evening had come, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be given to him. When Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and laid it in his new tomb which he had hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb, and departed."

"On the next day, which followed the Day of Preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered together to Pilate, saying, 'Sir, we remember, while He was still alive, how that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise.' Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day, lest His disciples come by night and steal Him away, and say to the people, 'He has risen from the dead.' So the last deception will be worse than the first.' Pilate said to them, 'You have a guard; go your way, make it as secure as you know how.' So they went and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting the guard."

In every detail of Matthew's account of Jesus' arrest, trial, scourging, crucifixion, death, and burial, we see the Humanity of Christ. Not once do we see any hint of an apparition or illusion.

It is clear from the Gospel accounts of the Life of Jesus Christ that He was Human, but is He still Human or did He shed His Humanity after death?

“Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it. His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men. But the angel answered and said to the women, ‘Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you.’ So they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to bring His disciples word. And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, ‘Rejoice!’ So they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him. Then Jesus said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. Go and tell My brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me.” Matthew 28:1-8

An angel of the Lord spoke to the women who had come to see the body of Jesus. He told them that Jesus, who had been crucified (killed by means of crucifixion), had risen from the dead and was alive. Jesus met the women and told them to “rejoice!” Notice – “they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him.” The women “held” Jesus by His feet. That is physical. Jesus was still in the Physical Body He had before His death, but He had been Raised and was alive.

What other proofs of His Humanity after Resurrection do we see in the Gospels? He continued to appear human and did physical things that humans do. Here we see Jesus walking, sitting at a table, picking up bread, blessing it, breaking it, and giving it to others to eat. Then Jesus did something humans don’t do – He vanished into thin air. It is a demonstration of the abilities of the Glorified Body of Christ.

“Then they drew near to the village where they were going, and He indicated that He would have gone farther. But they constrained Him, saying, ‘Abide with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent.’ And He went in to stay with them. Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight. And they said to one another, ‘Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?’ So they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, saying, ‘The

Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!’ And they told about the things that had happened on the road, and how He was known to them in the breaking of bread.” Luke 24:28-35

The following verses are some of the most powerful evidence of the Humanity of Jesus after His Resurrection. Jesus knew His disciples thought He was a spirit, so He proved to them that He was physically present with them.

“Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, ‘Peace to you.’ But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit. And He said to them, ‘Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts? Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have.’ When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. But while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, He said to them, ‘Have you any food here?’ So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb. And He took it and ate in their presence.”

Here is another interesting aspect of the Lord’s Resurrection – He still carried some of the marks of His Crucifixion. Those marks convinced Thomas that Jesus had indeed risen from the dead.

“Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said to him, ‘We have seen the Lord.’ So he said to them, ‘Unless I see

in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.’ And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, ‘Peace to you!’ Then He said to Thomas, ‘Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing.’ And Thomas answered and said to Him, ‘My Lord and my God!’ Jesus said to him, ‘Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.’”
John 20:24-29

The Holy Spirit, the Writer Who inspired the writers of the Gospels, has carefully crafted the story of Jesus Christ so that we would know everything He wanted us to know, for that is the Holy Work of the Spirit.

“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.” John 16:12-15

We Christians have the finest documents ever written. We have the Holy Writer living inside our body. He will guide us into all truth, tell us of things to come, and glorify the Great God and our Savior Jesus Christ. We have much to thank Him for. When someone questions why you believe what you believe, you have the answers in the Holy Word. Speak what you have heard with great confidence and joy.

“Then He said to them, ‘These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.’ And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. Then He said to them, ‘Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And you are witnesses of these things. Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.’ And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven. And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple praising and blessing God. Amen.” Luke 24:44-53

Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, is both Human and Divine. What He did for us 2,000 years ago and what He is doing for us today is the greatest thing our God could do for those He loves.

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