

The Case for Christ (documentary)

1. Lee Strobel thought that, if Jesus existed, he was probably a nice guy and good teacher, but he certainly wasn't the Messiah and he certainly wasn't the Son of God.
2. When Leslie started to go to church, Lee thought nothing good that would come out of it.
3. Lee saw sermon on 'Basic Christianity' and realized that if this is true, this had huge implications for his life.
4. He thought it was going to be so easy to expose the fallacious thinking behind Christianity.
5. Lee didn't accept the New Testament as the inspired word of God, but he had to accept it as a set of historical documents, which it undoubtedly is.
6. The expert witnesses interviewed by Lee
 - a. JP Moreland, Professor of Philosophy, Biola University
 - b. Mark Strauss, Professor of New Testament, Bethel Seminary
 - c. Craig Blomberg, Professor of New Testament, Denver Seminary
 - d. Craig Evans, Professor of New Testament, Acadia Divinity College
 - e. N.T. Wright, Bishop of Durham, United Kingdom
7. What you find in the Matthew, Mark, Luke and John comes up in 3 dimensions and says, "My goodness, this actually belongs, it makes sense, it fits" – N.T. Wright
8. These (the Gospels) are biographies. They are very clearly attempts by eyewitnesses to describe exactly what Jesus said and did. – J.P. Moreland
9. Luke's prologue is one of the finest Greek sections in the whole New Testament ... this is the work of a historian, someone who has done his research – Mark Strauss
10. We have, actually, very early attestation of the authorship of the gospels – Mark Strauss
11. Papias (a disciple of the apostle John) identifies Mark's gospel as essentially the eyewitness account of Peter – Mark Strauss
12. Scholars generally agree that the gospel of Mark was written first, between 60-75 AD. Matthew (60-85 AD) & Luke (60-85 AD) were written shortly after, followed by John (65-95 AD).
13. The New Testament Gospels are, by far, our earliest and most reliable records of Jesus of Nazareth – Mark Strauss
14. Eyewitnesses are still around. If they (the gospel writers) were passing around untruths we expect eyewitnesses to say "Wait a minute, this isn't what happened" – Mark Strauss
15. All of the gospel writers were eyewitnesses or they interviewed eyewitnesses – Mark Strauss
16. In the first century, the primary way that information was preserved and passed on was through oral tradition, which had been memorized. – Craig Blomberg
17. The first century apostles, who passed on information about Jesus, were deeply concerned to get this information correct, because they saw it has sacred, holy tradition. – J.P. Moreland
18. Oral tradition is a community event and is self-correcting – Mark Strauss
19. Most of these 'apparent contradictions' between the gospel accounts are quite easily resolved – Mark Strauss
20. Had every single account given us exactly the same detail, we might've accused them of some form of collusion. – Craig Blomberg
21. Its natural when you have multiple eyewitnesses to the same event, you're going to get different perspectives. And that's ok, you want that! What you're looking for is a "core" to the testimony that's the same – that's consistent. – Lee Strobel

22. We have better manuscript attestation for the New Testament than any other ancient document. – Mark Strauss
23. Much of the New Testament is preserved in the quotations of the early church fathers, so that if we had no copies of it, we could reconstruct it from these quotations. –J.P. Moreland
24. Non biblical Jewish historian Josephus, in AD 93, published ‘Antiquities of the Jews’ – talked about Jesus
25. The Gnostic Gospels – a collection of religious writings from the 2nd and 3rd centuries:
 - a. Gospel of Thomas
 - b. Gospel of Truth
 - c. Gospel of the Egyptians
 - d. Gospel of Peter
 - e. Gospel of Philip
 - f. Gospel of the Twelve Apostles
 - g. Gospel of Mary Magdalene
 - h. Gospel of Matthias
 - i. Gospel of Eve
 - j. Gospel of Judas
 - k. Secret Gospel of Mark
 - l. The Dialogue of the Savior
 - m. Secret Book of James
 - n. Gospel of Nicodemus
 - o. Gospel of the Lord
 - p. Pistis Sophia
 - q. Acts of Thomas
 - r. Acts of John
 - s. First Apocalypse of James
26. These documents are almost universally recognized to be much later than the gospels of the New Testament and to **not** record historically reliable material related to Jesus – Mark Strauss
27. There’s a view among some that there were all these competing views of Jesus Christ and the one that “won out” became the orthodox perspective of Christ reflected in the Gospels. All the evidence runs contrary to that. Jesus was a 1st century Jewish teacher, who revealed and demonstrated himself to be the Messiah. – Mark Strauss
28. What I’ve come to discover is that, the Gospels in the New Testament, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, are our best sources for Jesus, and I’ve also found that they are reliable and that from these sources we can form a picture that I believe is very accurate – that tells us about Jesus – what He taught, how He was perceived by His contemporaries and what His life was really all about. – Craig Evans
29. Jesus didn’t come to help me discover who I really am. He came to tell me who He knew I really was and to do something about it, and that’s much better news. –N.T. Wright
30. More scholars interviewed to determine ‘Who Was Jesus’:
 - a. Michael Rydelnik, Professor of Jewish Studies, Moody Bible Institute
 - b. Ben Witherington III, Professor of New Testament Interpretation, Asbury Seminary
31. People say that no one teaches like Him – he teaches with His own authority. – Michael Rydelnik
32. He would clarify, even overrule in some ways the Old Testament law – Mark Strauss.

33. Jesus (Yeshua) went into the synagogue and read Isaiah 61:1 and claimed that it was referring to Him.
34. Jesus clearly presents himself as the self-revelation of God – Mark Strauss
35. Over 80 times in the New Testament, Jesus refers to Himself as the Son of Man – this refers to Daniel 7:13-14
36. Jesus' contemporaries – people who liked Him, people who were indifferent (neutral) and people who opposed Him all acknowledged He did extraordinary things – Craig Evans
37. The New Testament Gospels record at least 40 separate miracles performed by Jesus.
38. One of the most astonishing things that Jesus did was when He claimed to forgive sins in Mark 2...Only God forgives sin. – Mark Strauss
39. Guy typed out Isaiah 53 without any indication where it was from. He showed it to everyone in his office and asked them who it was describing and where it was from. All said Jesus, NT.
40. In the Old Testament, you have 2 kinds of prophecies. You have those that are fulfilled uniquely in Christ and prophecies that are fulfilled 'typologically' in Christ. – Mark Strauss
41. Some skeptics have said that Jesus could've engineered the fulfillment of these prophecies. But many of these couldn't have been engineered. – Mark Strauss
42. The odds of any human being fulfilling 48 of these ancient prophecies would be one chance in a trillion (13 times). – Lee Strobel
43. Jesus recognizes Himself clearly as the climax of God's plan of salvation – Mark Strauss
44. There were so many reasons why I didn't want there to be a God, because I didn't want to be held accountable for my life – Lee Strobel
45. Lee got so made over Leslie being part of this Christian sub-culture he didn't fit into, that he kicked a hole in their wall.
46. Expert witnesses for the resurrection of Jesus:
 - a. William Lane Craig, Research Professor of Philosophy, Biola University
 - b. Gary Habermas, Professor of Apologetics and Philosophy, Liberty University
 - c. Michael Licona, Director of Apologetics, North American Mission Board, Southern Baptist Convention
47. The resurrection of Jesus really is the pivotal event of history. Anybody can claim to be the Son of God, as Jesus clearly did. The question is, 'Can ya back it up?' – Lee Strobel
48. Chances of surviving crucifixion were extremely bleak – Michael Licona
49. Jesus was being tried and executed as a rebel leader, now in the Roman army, if you were responsible for looking after one prisoner of war, even if he was a rather insignificant prisoner of war, if you let him get away, your life would be forfeited in place of his – and life was very cheap. If you were looking after the execution of a rebel leader and you let him get away, you're in deep trouble ... the Romans were very, very good at killing people. N.T. Wright
50. The presence of Joseph of Arimathea in the empty tomb narrative (in all 4 gospels), indicates that this is a historically reliable account of what really happened. – J.P. Moreland
51. It is highly unusual to find that the person who, alone, has the courage to go Pilate and give Jesus an honorable burial is not: 1) members of His family, 2) faithful disciples who followed Him to the end. Instead it is a member of Jewish Sanhedrin, the very high court, all of whom Mark says, had condemned Jesus of Nazareth to the cross. The fact that it is Joseph of Arimathea who is the person responsible for giving Jesus an honorable burial is an awkward and embarrassing

- fact for the early church, and yet this tradition is faithfully preserved in almost all of the traditions that we have about the burial of Jesus – William Lane Craig
52. The empty tomb story features women, which is an embarrassment in 1st century Palestine where women were considered 2nd class citizens. – William Lane Craig
 53. If you were going to invent an account about an empty tomb, then why on earth would you invent primary witnesses whom no one would believe? - Michael Licona
 54. Justin Martyr and Tertullian both verify the charge by the Jewish Leaders that the disciples stole His body. If the body is still in the tomb, why are you saying that the disciples had stolen it? Michael Licona
 55. These people (who saw Jesus), Paul tells us, were still alive. The implication is, we have hundreds of people who actually saw Jesus risen from the dead. If you don't believe me, you can ask them about it, because they're still alive. – J.P. Moreland
 56. The accounts of the resurrection were creedal traditions that were passed onto Paul. So, if 1 Corinthians was written in the early to mid-50's, these traditions were much earlier than that, going back to the period of Paul's conversion. – Mark Strauss
 57. Critics say that Paul got this material (1 Cor. 15) in Jerusalem, in about 35 AD – Gary Habermas
 58. The full impact of the event (resurrection) is perhaps best measured by the subsequent growth of the early Christian church in the face of intense persecution.
 59. Without belief in Jesus' resurrection, the early Christian movement could never have come into being. – William Lane Craig
 60. When they met the risen Lord, their skepticism was transformed into a very confident faith, a great joy, and a determination to preach the good news to everyone else. – Craig Evans
 61. Somehow you have to explain the explosion from scared followers, who run away, to "lets worship Him, lets sing to Him, lets pray to Him". – Gary Habermas
 62. If there was no resurrection, and more to the point, if there were no resurrection appearances of Jesus to those who doubted, denied and betrayed Jesus, we would not be sitting here talking about this today. – Ben Witherington III
 63. The transformation of the disciples, from a bunch of cowards to boldly and fearlessly proclaiming the Gospel, even to the point of death, confirms that something happened on that first Easter morning. – Mark Strauss
 64. After Jesus' crucifixion, the disciples lived lives of hardship for 20, 30 or 40 years, suffered greatly in their ministries and eventually suffered martyrdom and execution, without recanting, for their belief that they had seen Jesus risen from the dead. –J.P. Moreland
 65. You also have to remember that the disciples died, not just for something that they believed was true - they died for something they actually saw with their own eyes. – J.P. Moreland
 66. In light of this avalanche of evidence pointing toward the truth of Christianity, it would require more faith for me to maintain my atheism than to become a follower of Jesus Christ. Lee Strobel
 67. Jesus is the truth – everything hinges on His identity – in fact, everything hinges on the resurrection. If Jesus really did return from the dead, then He is who he claimed to be and that changes everything! -Lee Strobel.