

**Introduction:**

- My personal journey
- The goal of this series / message
- Clarifying our pre-suppositions and focus

❖ **“Aren’t all religions essentially the same?”**

Answer = \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

❖ **“Does it really matter what a person believes as long as he / she is sincere and practices those beliefs?”**

Answer = \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

*Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.*

Jesus of Nazareth ~ Matthew 7:13-14

## 7 Reasons Why I Believe in the God of the Bible:

### 1. The Historical Evidence

Christianity is subject to objective verification

- Historical Events
- Trustworthiness of Biblical Records
- Manuscript Evidence
- Extra-Biblical Sources
- Eyewitness Accounts of the Resurrection

### 2. The Prophetic Evidence

Predictions of specific future events with 100% accuracy confirm authenticity.

- The Isaiah Principle Isaiah 44:6-7, 24-28 (NIV)
- The Test of a Prophet Deuteronomy 18:21-22 (NIV)
- The Fulfillment of Hundreds of Specific Prophecies

### 3. The Philosophical Evidence

The triune nature of God and testimony of Scripture best answer life's most timeless questions.

- The Problem of Unity and Diversity
- The Problem of Evil and Justice
- The Origin of Personality
- The Enigma of Man

#### 4. The evidence of impact

The long-term fruitfulness and greatness of Israel and the church argues for its truthfulness.

- The great nation of Israel
- The great laws of Israel
- The mustard seed conspiracy of Jesus
- The liberation of women, slaves, caste systems, basis of jurisprudence, economic impact, care for the poor, orphans, widows, and the disenfranchised of every age

#### 5. The pragmatic evidence

The teachings of Jesus and the New Testament work in real life!

- They promote healthy relationships, strong marriages, honest business, positive parenting, racial reconciliation, cultural kindness, and champion the value and dignity of all humans regardless of creed, race, sex, nationality, or orientation.

#### 6. The evidence of uniqueness

God's chief messenger (Jesus) and message (grace) stand in contrast to all religions and religious teaching.

- **The Messenger: Jesus**—Deity (John 1:1-18), Sinless (John 12), Creator (Colossians 1:15), Savior (John 3:16), His Outrageous Claim (John 14:6).
- **The Message: Grace**—the unconditional, unmerited love of God toward every human being that compels Him to forgive and reconcile them to Himself (all who are willing) based solely on the work of Christ on the cross, not on any religious performance or righteous works of their own... i.e. "a gift" (Ephesians 2:8-9).

## 7. The existential evidence

The millions of “changed lives” in the last 2,000 years argue experientially that Jesus is alive and is who He said He is.

- “I was \_\_\_\_\_, but now I \_\_\_\_\_.”
- “I was \_\_\_\_\_, but now I’m \_\_\_\_\_.”

### Summary: So why don’t people believe?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Romans 10:14-15
2. \_\_\_\_\_ John 12:42-43
3. \_\_\_\_\_ John 3:19-20

### Discussion Questions:

1. Why is it so important for us as believers to know “why we believe?”
2. Which of the six messages in this series helped you the most? Why? (Why I Believe in...the **Resurrection**, ... the **Bible**, ... **Life After Death**, ...**Creation**, ... the **God of the Bible**.)
3. Which aspect of today’s message strengthened your faith the most? Why?
4. What keeps you from believing fully in the God of the Bible...Ignorance? Pride? Moral Problem? What are you going to do about it?