

A Man Attested Acts 2:22-28

Jesus trained and convinced twelve ordinary men that He was truly Lord and Christ by fulfilling the many prophecies in the O.T. Scriptures and by His undeniable miracles. He also gave them miraculous powers by the Holy Spirit. Within a century, these twelve men committed to the truth, led the church in a hostile environment to have more than a million members. They achieved this by persuading people of the truth, even in the midst of great persecution.

The apostle John wrote this in **1 John 1:1-4**, *“We proclaim to you the one who existed from the beginning, whom we have heard and seen. We saw him with our own eyes and touched him with our own hands. He is the Word of life. This one who is life itself was revealed to us, and we have seen him. And now we testify and proclaim to you that he is the one who is eternal life. He was with the Father, and then he was revealed to us. We proclaim to you what we ourselves have actually seen and heard so that you may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that you may fully share our joy” (NLT).*

The apostles preached the truth about Jesus passionately, persuasively, and joyfully, because they knew their message was the Word of Life that would bring eternal life. They wanted everyone to come into fellowship with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. They faced overwhelming opposition from a pagan society but gave their lives to preaching what they knew was the truth-what they saw and heard and even handled.

In **Acts 2:22**, Peter described Jesus as a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs. He wanted the people at Pentecost to recall what they themselves knew about Jesus. Jesus had performed many miracles in the presence of multitudes of people. He showed what He was and proved himself by His works. Miracles are works of power that go beyond what is natural, they are supernatural works that only God could do. *Wonders emphasize* how people marveled at what they saw or experienced. It was a matter of wonder and awe that Jesus could walk on water, still a storm, or heal a man born blind. *Signs are acts of God for a divine purpose*. Jesus worked miracles to show the Jews that He was indeed the Son of God. **It is also important to remember, He would not turn stones into bread for selfish reason. He only worked signs to point to God and His purposes.**

Jesus remarked to the apostles in **John 14:11**, *“Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.”* When Thomas doubted the resurrection of Jesus and wouldn’t believe until he saw the imprint of the nails in His hands and the wound in His side. Then in **John 20:29** he said, *“Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”*

Although the apostles and disciples were unbelieving and despondent after the crucifixion of Jesus, **Acts 1:3** says, *“He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.”* Jesus gave them convincing proofs that God had raised Him from the dead. He appeared to those who knew Him best, people He could not fool. They saw Him, heard Him, spoke with Him, touched Him,

and ate with Him. Because of this, they could stand together and proclaim, ***“This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses” (Acts 2:32).***

The N.T. lists fifteen appearances of Jesus after His resurrection. **1 Cor. 15:6** says, ***“Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.”*** If we were to ask any of those five hundred whether Jesus arose from the dead, they would surely tell us that they saw Him alive after His resurrection. Paul did not hesitate to acknowledge that they were eyewitness who could verify the resurrection.

We shouldn't imagine that the resurrection was the only miracle that people saw. The Lord Jesus performed many miracles in the presence of multitudes. **Mt. 4:23-25** says, ***“And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, those having seizures, and paralytics, and he healed them. And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.”***

In **Mt. 9** Jesus healed a paralytic lying on a bed. Seeing the faith of those who carried him to the house, Jesus said to the paralytic, ***“Take courage, son; your sins are forgiven.”*** This made the scribes and Pharisees to think evil of Jesus. But knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, ***“But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, “Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise and walk’? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he then said to the paralytic— “Rise, pick up your bed and go home.” And he rose and went home. When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men” (Mt. 9:4-8).*** If you had seen this miracle, I would think you too would have been awestruck and fearful.

On another occasion Jesus went along by the Sea of Galilee and went up onto a mountain. **Mt. 15:30-31** says, ***“And great crowds came to him, bringing with them the lame, the blind, the crippled, the mute, and many others, and they put them at his feet, and he healed them, so that the crowd wondered, when they saw the mute speaking, the crippled healthy, the lame walking, and the blind seeing. And they glorified the God of Israel.”*** The miracles of Jesus were undeniable. The word ***“crippled”*** here speaks of people who were maimed, missing some part of their bodies; an arm or a leg. They were visibly impaired. **Mt. 18:8** speaks of the crippled as people missing a hand or a foot. Large crowds witnessed these healings.

Mt. 17:24 tells of ***“those who collected the two-drachma tax came to Peter and said, ‘Does your teacher not pay the two-drachma tax?’*** Peter of course said yes. In **verse 27** Jesus said to Peter, ***“However, so that we do not offend them, go to the sea and throw in a hook, and take the first fish that comes up; and when you open its mouth, you will find a shekel. Take that and give it to them for you and Me.”*** Not many people find a coin in a fish's mouth, but Peter did! The coin was just enough to pay the tax for both of them. What would Peter have thought or done if he found no money in that fish's mouth? Would he have considered Jesus a fraud? But finding that coin just as Jesus said – and enough to pay both of their taxes, it became more

proof for Peter that Jesus was who He said He was, The Son of God. Matthew was the one telling the story, so more than Peter knew of this miracle.

Jesus fed the 5,000 men besides the women and children from five loaves of barley bread and two fish (Mt. 14:17-21). The people watched Him bless the food and break the loaves to give to the crowds. They were outside of the villages with no source of food but the lad's loaves and fishes were able to feed them; Jesus fed this crowd miraculously. The thousands of people ate as much as they wanted. And afterward they picked up the broken pieces, twelve full baskets. **John 6:14** says, *“Therefore when the people saw the sign which He had performed, they said, ‘This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world.’”* They were convinced of His power. They knew Jesus was fulfilling the O.T. prophecies about the coming Messiah. **Verse 15** reveals that they were intending to come by force and make Him king, but He withdrew into the mountain alone.

Mt. 15:32-39 tells how Jesus, feeling compassion for the people, fed the four thousand men besides the women and the children. The disciples wondered how they would get so many loaves in this desolate place to satisfy such a *“large crowd.”* On this occasion they had seven loaves and a few small fish, but the Lord once again fed them all until they were satisfied. When they took up the left overs they filled seven large baskets. The people saw and knew His power that it was from God.

Jesus later raised Lazarus from the dead. You know he had been in the tomb four days. **John 11:45-46** says, *“Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him, but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done.”* Many saw it (*that is the raising of Lazarus from the dead*) and believed! They began telling the story, and even the enemy of Jesus heard it! **John 11:47-48** says, *“So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the council and said, ‘What are we to do? For this man performs many signs. If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation.’”*

The enemies of Jesus knew about and even admitted that His miracles and signs were real.

The evidence was so convincing that everyone would *“believe in Him.”* They feared what the Romans would do if they let Jesus continue to preach and do miracles; so, they conspired to kill Him, because His miracles were real. If Jesus had been a fraud, they could have showed him up as a fraud, but since His miracles were real, he posed a threat to them.

After Lazarus' resurrection, six days before Passover, Jesus came to Bethany. In **John 12:9-11** the Bible says, *“When the large crowd of the Jews learned that Jesus was there, they came, not only on account of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. So, the chief priests made plans to put Lazarus to death as well, because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus.”* Not only did the leading priest want to kill Jesus, they wanted to kill Lazarus in order to stop people from believing in Jesus.

In **Acts chapter 3** Peter and John healed the lame beggar. This over 40-year-old man (**Acts 4:22**), had been lame from his mother's womb. He had to be carried every day the Beautiful gate, so he could beg for money. Peter with the Power of God healed the man. In **Acts 3:8-10**

we read, ***“And leaping up, he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. And all the people saw him walking and praising God, and recognized him as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, asking for alms. And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.”*** The people understood that the apostles worked with the Power of God. Soon after this incident, Peter and John were preaching in the temple, when the temple guards arrested them.

The next day the chief priests and other temple officials wanted to know how this man was healed. Peter answered in **Acts 4:10**, ***“let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well.”*** The council then convened in private saying, ***“What shall we do with these men? For that a notable sign has been performed through them is evident to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it.”*** (**Acts 4:16**).

When the Romans were trying Paul before Governor Festus and King Agrippa, he defended himself by speaking of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. In **Acts 26:23-26**, Paul argued ***“that the Christ must suffer and that, by being the first to rise from the dead, he would proclaim light both to our people and to the Gentiles.”*** And as he was saying these things in his defense, Festus said with a loud voice, ***“Paul, you are out of your mind; your great learning is driving you out of your mind.”*** But Paul said, ***“I am not out of my mind, most excellent Festus, but I am speaking true and rational words. For the king knows about these things, and to him I speak boldly. For I am persuaded that none of these things has escaped his notice, for this has not been done in a corner.”***

Why does all of this matter? Jesus was indeed a man attested to the people by God with many miracles and wonders, and signs. They knew, in that age, what power He had shown for years. To preach God had raised Him from the dead was not strange to them.

You might be saying, ***“I know the Bible says Jesus worked miracles, but I have never seen anyone walk on water or raise the dead. How can you be so sure that the miracles of Jesus happened?”*** My faith rests in the testimony of the apostles, who could speak of His miracles and says, ***“just as you yourselves know.”*** Jesus had performed His miracles in large crowds and even before His enemies. There was no doubt either by His enemies or the crowds, that Jesus had performed miracles. They were awestruck! If you could talk face to face with them, they would tell you what they had seen and heard. If we had lived in those days and witnessed these things ourselves, we would think it strange for anyone to deny His miracles.

Multitudes had witnessed the miracles of Jesus; hundreds could verify His resurrection. The twelve apostles risked their lives to testify that God raised Jesus from the dead. They believed! And the writings found in the N.T. are the most studied, copied, and attested books of all time. If the resurrection of Jesus was mere fantasy, the first century church would never have existed. The fact that His disciples died proclaiming the Lord’s miracles proves they were more than myths and legends.

Will you not believe the evidence found in these 27 books of the N.T., evidence prophesied in the O.T. When the Jews on Pentecost realized God raised up the Lord Jesus Christ, whom they had crucified, they asked what they should do about their guilt. Peter undeniably told them to “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” Three thousand were baptized that day; they wanted forgiveness. The Lord forgave them, washed away their sins in baptism (*Acts 22:16*) and gave them newness of life in baptism, according to the Apostle Paul in *Romans 6:4*. Won’t you believe too? Come this morning believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, repenting of your sins, and by obeying the Lord in baptism!