

A Reasons to accept Jesus as the Christ:

❖ Evidence of the Father.

- Jesus performed many signs that made Him a special person. Undoubtedly, no one could deny the evidence (Mt. 11:5).
- Many people wondered if Jesus was the Christ. When asked directly about this matter, Jesus presented all these signs as evidence of his union with the Father and that he had been sent by Him (John 10:24-25; John 5:36).
- In this way, he left it to his investigators to draw their own conclusions. If they wanted to stone him by saying this (John 10:31-33), what would they have done if he had openly declared that he was the Christ?

❖ Evidence from the Scriptures.

- A second evidence that Jesus presented as proof of his divine mission was the testimony of the Scriptures, that is, the Old Testament.
- Some recognized in Jesus the Messiah announced by Moses and the prophets (Jn. 1:45; 4:25-26).
- Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, Peter, and the rest of the New Testament writers, underline again and again, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, how the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus to the Throne of God are the fulfillment of what was announced in the Old Testament.

❖ Evidence of the prophecies.

- The Old Testament has hundreds of prophecies and allusions concerning Christ, which were fulfilled in the life and ministry of Jesus. John mentions some of them:
 - (1) Isaiah 40:3 - John 1:23. The work of his predecessor
 - (2) Psalm 69:9 - John 2:17. Jesus' zeal in driving the merchants out of the Temple
 - (3) Jeremiah 2:13 - John 7:38. The provision of living water
 - (4) Micah 5:2 - John 7:42. The birth in Bethlehem
 - (5) Psalm 118:26 - John 12:13. The greeting of the multitude upon entering Jerusalem
 - (6) Zechariah 9:9 - John 12:14-15. The triumphal entry into Jerusalem
 - (7) Psalm 41:9 - John 13:18. The betrayal of a friend
 - (8) Psalm 22:18 - John 19:24. The soldiers divide up Jesus' clothes
 - (9) Psalm 69:20-21 - John 19:28. Thirst during the crucifixion
 - (10) Numbers 9:12 - John 19:36. No bones are broken in his death
 - (11) Zechariah 12:10 - John 19:37. Pierced by a spear
 - (12) Psalm 16:10 - John 20:9. The resurrection

B Reasons to reject Jesus as the Christ:

❖ Being “from below” and not “from above”.

- Why did the religious leaders reject Jesus?
 - (1) They did not know the Father (John 8:19, 27, 55). They professed to believe in God, but they had only a theoretical knowledge of Him.
 - (2) They were “from below” (John 8:23). They thought about earthly things, not heavenly things.
 - (3) They had put their traditions above the Word of God (Mt. 15:3)
 - (4) They clung to the letter of the Law and stripped it of its spiritual meaning (Rom. 2:27; Mt. 5:20-22)
 - (5) They came to think that the mere knowledge of the Scriptures could save them (John 5:39)
 - (6) They believed in Moses, but they did not accept that the Prophet he had announced had arrived (Jn. 5:46)
 - (7) They had forgotten mercy (Mt. 23:23)
- Despite the poor performance of the leaders, many Jews were able to discover for themselves who Jesus was.