
But Maybe Jesus Was Not God.
By Arnold Lunn.

Question XVI. Even if we admit that Jesus rose from the dead, we need not accept the Christian theory that he was God. There is good evidence for some psychical phenomena. Jesus may have been a super-medium.

Answer. The super-medium theory is the most plausible, indeed the only plausible alternative, but it breaks down on the fact that the Resurrection was a miracle which testified to a claim, Our Lord's claim to be God.

Now the resurrection could not have taken place without the cooperation of God, and it is inconceivable that God would have cooperated with an imposter to endorse by a miracle a false claim to divinity.

Maybe Jesus Didn't Claim To Be God.

Question XVII. How do you know that Jesus did claim to be God? For you cannot expect us to accept the Fourth Gospel as historical.

Answer. Why not? There has never been an effective reply to Salmon's defense of the historicity of the Fourth Gospel and recent research has certainly strengthened the case for the traditional authorship. But we need not rely exclusively on the Fourth Gospel to prove that Jesus claims to be God.

No mere prophet, claiming to be nothing more than an inspired leader of men, could say

"Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.....He that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me." (St. Matthew X. 32, 40.)

And only one who was either God or a deluded lunatic would have uttered those tremendous words "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.....Lo, I am with you always even unto the end of the world."

Or again, "No man knoweth who the Son is but the Father; and who the Father is, but the Son." (St. Luke, x. 22.)

The synoptics agreed that Jesus claimed that all nations should be gathered before him on the Judgment Day and that he would sit on the throne of glory and pronounce judgment on them. It was indeed Jesus' persistence in this claim to the end which was responsible for his condemnation.

The case therefore stands thus. Jesus claimed to be the Son of God, and rose from the dead to prove that claim. The Resurrection was permitted by God as the supreme credential for Our Lord's divine claim.

Question XVIII. I concede that the evidence for the Resurrection is plausible, but is isn't it really rather absurd to expect us to believe in this story of a Galilean Jew who proved himself to be God by rising from the dead? Nothing less than coercive evidence would serve to establish so tremendous and so fantastic a claim.

The Devil's Two Ruses.

Ruse No. 1: "Try this sin just once. If you find that it makes you wretched, why quit it." Ruse No. 2: "There is no use trying now; you simply cannot quit sinning."

PRAYERS: (deceased) Mrs. G. Allan Hancock, Los Angeles. Ill, mother of Ralph Cardinal (Alum.); friend of Ray Schleck (Morr.). One special intention.