



## **Man, Myth, Messiah: Answering History's Greatest Question**

*Rice Broocks*

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## **Did Jesus Really Exist?**

The search for the historical Jesus continues to be headline news. Any speculative theory seems to get instant attention as the debate rages about His real identity and the claims made in His name. Did Jesus really exist? Is there real historical evidence that demonstrates that He lived and actually said and did the things the Gospels record? Is there any validity to the speculative claims that the Jesus story was a myth, borrowed from a variety of pagan cultures of the ancient world?

In this follow-up to the book *God's Not Dead* (that inspired the movie), *Man, Myth, Messiah* looks at the evidence for the historical Jesus and exposes the notions of skeptics that Jesus was a contrived figure of ancient mythology. It also looks at the reliability of the Gospel records as well as the evidence for the resurrection that validates His identity as the promised Messiah. *Man, Myth, Messiah* will be released concurrent to the *God's Not Dead* movie sequel, which will cover the same theme.

## **Man, Myth, Messiah: Answering History's Greatest Question Details**

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## **From Reader Review Man, Myth, Messiah: Answering History's Greatest Question for online ebook**

### **Tom Burkholder says**

In the book Man Myth Messiah, author Rice Broocks examines the historical evidence for the life of Jesus and exposes the flaws in the arguments that Jesus was a myth. He argues for the validity of the Gospels and shows their historical accuracies. This is the sequel to the book God's Not Dead.

I would recommend this book. It is academic at times but a very good apologetics book with a lot of facts and research.

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### **Jackson Reynolds says**

This is perhaps one of the worst books I have ever read. I have read a great deal of Christian apologetic literature (running the gamut from dreadful to superb), but this flaccid pamphlet falls far beyond the pale of even the most infantile titles I've hitherto had the displeasure of ingesting. The author's spectacularly conspicuous ignorance of basic science, coupled with his thinly (read: unsuccessfully) disguised certainty of conclusion from the outset, makes it painfully evident that one should not be surprised when one arrives at the bottom of the final page and discovers that not a single drop of original scholarship or legitimate critical questioning were anywhere to be found within this 300-page, question-begging Gospel tract. Having read this book, it is now of little mystery to me why the "God's Not Dead" films — which were based on this book and its prequel — were so unashamedly terrible. Let it be known: if one wishes for his or her cause (whatever it may be) to be in any respect seriously advanced, Pastor Rice Broocks is not the cheerleader one would be wise to employ to champion said cause.

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### **Rachel Scholz says**

The Romans Road is to the entire Gospel as Ryan Broocks's Man, Myth, Messiah: Answering History's Greatest Question is to an entire apologetics course. The book takes something very massive and complex and condenses it into a very readable and understandable crash course for believers on who Jesus is, why we believe it and what we should do with that information.

In this book, you will find Scripture, research, personal stories, and resources for further research that answer many questions including the following:

- How can we trust that the Bible is true?
- Why did Jesus have to die?
- Are miracles verifiable?
- If God is the Great Physician, why isn't everyone healed?

The book is not meant to be read once and dumped on your dusty bookshelf. It is meant to be studied and shared. The last two chapters of the book are dedicated to evangelism- so if you believe what the Bible says and you have complete faith in Jesus, you will want to share the good news. The first eight chapters are so convicting that a call to evangelism in the last two chapters are welcomed.

Broocks starts by saying that this book is intended for believers but welcome for unbelievers. Personally, I believe there are plenty of other great resources if you do not believe in God that prove Jesus's existence and the Bible's validity that are more geared towards you. Broocks uses a lot of Christian terminology that would come with experience in the church (like Gospel, commandment, commission) that are connecting directly with the believer and equipping them to share their new findings, but it may lose the unbeliever.

I would recommend the book to any believer that would stumble in answering someone asking "Why are you a Christian" and "How do you know that Christianity is real?" because it gives a great base for understanding and challenges you to pick up another book to dig deeper into several of the issues Broocks brings up.

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### **Kaylin Worthington says**

This was a good overview into the basics of why Christianity is true "beyond a reasonable doubt." I would have liked a little more detail, but he makes a lot of great points. I appreciated how he included the evidence from miracles, including his own testimony. I read this alongside "How Jesus Became God" by Bart Ehrman, and I have to admit that Ehrman's book was more thorough. However, ultimately, the evidence of a personal God in light of His miracles, still being carried out today, solidifies my faith, which is not blind but based on historical and personal evidence. I liked his first book "God's Not Dead" a little better, but this book is good for those who have decided that God is real, but wonders what Jesus has to do with any of it!

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### **Nathan Albright says**

[Note: This book was provided free of charge by BookLook/Thomas Nelson Publishers in exchange for an honest review.]

Picking up where his last book left off [1], Broocks decides to continue his career as our contemporary popular apologist de jour and, in the tradition of the great C.S. Lewis, try his hand at his own trilemma about the identity of Jesus Christ. Explicitly referencing Lewis' own trilemma [2], Broocks' own version of the trilemma is encapsulated in the title of the book, where the author makes the claim that Jesus Christ is either man, myth, or Messiah. He then proceeds to use savvy historical and philosophical reasoning to make it clear that Jesus Christ was not a myth, as He is too historically well-attested, and could not have done what He did as a mere man, leaving only the option that He was the savior, and then on top of that uses this discussion as a way to then motivate the reader to engage in more serious questions on how to live life: Who do you say that I am? And then, how now should I live my life?

In terms of its organization and structure, this book is organized with a very clear and unmistakable intent in mind. After a foreword by biblical historian Gary Habermas whose work on "minimal facts" that even skeptics believe about the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ provides the material for the second chapter of the book, the author spends about 250 pages covering ten chapters and a short epilogue. The first few chapters deal with the historical case for the death by crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ, pointing out reasons why the Bible is trustworthy, why the crucifixion of Christ was necessary, and the seminal importance of the resurrection in providing a hope for eternal life for mankind. The author tackles the widespread understanding of similarities between late pagan counterfeit gospels and Christianity, examines identity of Jesus Christ as the Son of Man and the Son of God, and then provides some evidence for miracles

and the supernatural. It should be noted, in the interests of fairness, that the author advances evidence here for the value of near death experiences that he makes fun of and casts doubt on earlier in the book by implying that many such examples are fraudulent or unreliable. The last two chapters of the book focus on what practical benefit coming to faith is supposed to result in--discipleship, following God in fellowship with other brethren, and in engaging in the work of sharing the Gospel of the Kingdom of God.

Overall, this is a work of very shrewd and practical importance that does not in any way neglect the honest truth about spiritual warfare as well as the barriers to belief in the eyes of many. There is a great irony that one notices as a reader of many works in apologetics [3]: most books on apologetics, including this one, are aimed at dealing with intellectual barriers to faith, but the strongest arguments against the practical role of Jesus Christ as Lord over our lives tend to be emotional in their origin. This means that so much of apologetics consists of shadowboxing, demolishing endless intellectual arguments that come out of nowhere while struggling to determine the true cause of the disaffection for a given person with God, often based in unreasonable expectations and emotional reasoning. The book particularly excels in its view of Judaism as being the essential ground from which Christianity spread, an obvious truth that is not as well-understood as it ought to be. This book makes for engaging and practical apologetics on a high level, and it deserves to be viewed fondly and hopefully remembered as well like Lewis' similar efforts have been treasured for decades.

[1] <https://edgeinducedcohesion.wordpress...>

[2] See, for example:

<https://edgeinducedcohesion.wordpress...>

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[3] See, for example:

<https://edgeinducedcohesion.wordpress...>

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### **Hector says**

Es un libro fácil de leer, no es complicado y en general es un libro bueno.

EL tema principal es de defensa de la fe, apologética, en otras palabras busca incentivar tu espíritu evangelista. Hay capítulos muy interesantes como el de la validez de los evangelios (excelente) y la pruebas que muestra.

Es muy interesante como expone como debes desbaratar los mitos cuando los ateos te abordan. Hay otros capítulos que habla solo un poco sobre las investigaciones que el autor hizo para demostrar algunos pero no las presenta a profundidad en el libro.

Hay algunas partes del libro un poco lentas, en las cuales repite varias veces el mismo argumento, aunque tengan una finalidad apologética.

En general es un libro bueno (calificación de 4), es un libro para afirmar tu fe y poder presentarla a los demás, evangelismo.

Para los que se vieron la película (Dios no está muerto 2) primero, así como yo lo hice, no hay problema. La película está basada en los argumentos del libro, el libro no es la película ni tiene una narración novelística para nada, es un libro expositivo, por lo tanto no se preocupen si lo quieren leer y se vieron la película, este libro es el fundamento la base de la película, en otras palabras el grueso de lo que se discutía en el juicio en la película.

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### **Kyle Robertson says**

Rice Broock's book "God's Not Dead" was the inspiration for a popular movie of the same name. This book is billed as the "evidence behind God's Not Dead 2", in which we will see a debate over whether a teacher can even mention the name of Jesus in a classroom. I have read many books defending the Christian faith and the Biblical accounts of Christ's birth, death, and resurrection, but none that delve as deeply into the debate as this book does. It is apparent that Broocks took the time to study both sides of the issue. He draws directly from the Bible and backs it up with historical research from scholars and skeptics alike. There is a growing body of literature in today's society that claims that Jesus was not the Messiah that he demonstrated and claimed to be. That, along with the rise of internet skeptics that proclaim this type of writing to be scholarly and authoritative, is what led Broocks to research and write this book. These false claims have evoked a renewed effort to set the record straight. Atheism is a religion. It is a set of beliefs about the nature of the world and of us as humans. At the heart of this anti-theistic system is the necessity to dismiss the supernatural, especially the supernatural birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Rice Broocks makes an effort to encompass all views, opinions, and philosophies from skeptics and atheists on the subject, and then he proceeds to disprove them entirely. He boldly tackles ridiculous alternative theories for the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus.

Broocks provides a succinct definition of the message of the gospel: The gospel is the good news that God became man in Jesus Christ. He lived the life we should have lived and died the death we should have died -

in our place. Three days later He rose from the dead, proving that He is the Son of God and offering the gift of salvation to those who repent and believe in Him. Both the book and the Movie "God's Not Dead" sought to clearly establish the fact that real faith isn't blind. It is based on evidence, laid out from science, philosophy, history, and personal experiences. Now in "Man, Myth, Messiah", Broocks takes a closer look at the evidence for the historical Jesus. The majority of the book is centered around a method developed by Gary Habermas called the "Minimal Facts Method". Using this method you can show how the foundation of Christianity is so strong that even skeptical scholars accept its bedrock truths. Dr. Habermas is the Chair of the Department of Philosophy at Liberty University and is regarded as a leading expert in historical evidence for the resurrection.

This book can be divided into three or four sections. In the first three chapters, Broocks introduces the topics of history, the Minimal Facts Method, and the reliability of Scripture. The next three chapters present some of the historical basis for Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, along with His uniqueness. The next two subjects after that are devoted to Jesus' deity and the reality of the supernatural world. Broocks argues that the Gospels stand head and shoulders above the vast majority of ancient literature in terms of manuscript evidence and support for historical accuracy. The weight of historical evidence demonstrates that the Gospels are very reliable, and that the Bible is the inerrant and infallible Word of God. Many historians have come to recognize this fact, even if they did not originally accept that it was true. Christ's resurrection sets Him apart from all other religious leaders and sets Christianity apart from all other religions. The Scripture offers this as the event that verifies the identity of Jesus and the truth of His words. Conversely, if one could show that Christ was not raised, then the Christian faith would be proven false. Jesus' advent was the fulfillment of prophecies that God had spoken through the prophets for centuries.

In the later chapters Broocks discusses miracles, discipleship, and evangelism and how they are important to us today. The section on miracles, healings, and near-death experiences was very interesting. A man by the name of Steve Murrell led a team in Manila to establish a church that emphasized reaching university students. They modeled their ministry around four principles (called the four E's) that serve as the foundation of what we believe and practice about discipleship: We are called to Engage unbelievers with the gospel, Establish biblical foundations in their lives and help them learn God's Word, Equip them to do the work of the ministry, and Empower them to fulfill their God-given purpose. In the last chapter, Broocks outlines a simple evangelism process that is represented by the word GREAT. It stands for Gospel, Reasons, Empathy, Approach, and Tools. These five steps provide a clear roadmap in becoming an effective witness for Christ. Together with a leading pastor, effective teachers, and a believing congregation, the result is an engaging church that can impact the world for the glory of God.

I often refer to the importance of equipping yourself with the Whole Armor of God, and Broocks makes reference to it in his book as well. This book provides powerful evidence that can be referenced to defend your faith. I would recommend it to all Christians, young and old. I would also recommend it to those that are unsure about their faith or that are unsure about about their salvation. I received this as a free ARC from Thomas Nelson - W Publishing on NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Shelley Alongi says**

Nice book. I started it on May 30. It has very academic moments but the concepts are not so overinflated they can't be understood. It's a nice book for someone just starting to explore Jesus and also someone who

has followed Christ a long time and wants concrete evidence of existence. I'll let you know what I think when I've finished this book. That will be soon, I'm sure. I think this is a great read for anyone going into a situation where there is a lot of skepticism about Christ's claims. He mentions some classic writers on the subject. He writes this book in a very secular environment so his information is updated and relevant. I don't like academic books having read my share of them. I could deal with this one. Very nicely done without attacking or belittling anyone

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### **Cindy says**

#### **INFORMATIVE!**

As someone who has grown up in the "Church", I found this book to be a breathe of fresh air. It make me want to Give an account for my faith! I have never read anything such as this; it opened my eyes so much. I grew up believing by faith alone, yet to have actually proof just make my faith that much stronger. I would totally recommend this book for those who are new to the faith. It gives enough information to help you remember why you believed in the first place!

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### **Ericl says**

Well this book talks about Jesus and how people think he dead but this talks about his miracles and the things he has done in people's lifes

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### **Malin Friess says**

Rice Broocks presents a traditional apologetics overview regarding the Christian Faith. 1 Corinthians 15:17- "And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile."

Brooks addresses the historical-- What even the skeptics believe about Jesus (the minimal facts)- primarily that he existed, was crucified, the tomb was empty, many claimed to have seen him after the fact, and that a revolution began after his death. He also looks at the reliability of the Gospels--including dating of the Gospels and why there stories at times seem divergent.

Brooks addresses the philosophical- Why Jesus had to die--how it changed everything and it satisfied notions of atonement and justice.

Brooks goes on the offensive to dispel the critics who claim Jesus was a myth or a copy of previous characters. Lastly he defends the possibility of miracles.

4 stars. Not groundbreaking, but very readable.

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### **Heidi Lindsley says**

This was amazing!!! I didn't know most of this information, and the facts are incredible. Jesus is real! All the evidence shocked me, I had no idea that there was so much proof.

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### **Jamil Khoury says**

This book is a good introduction for Historical Jesus Studies with Basic information about the Minimal facts and the historicity of the resurrection, the good thing about the book that it is connected to the public and has a pastoral side. and how to grow in faith and be real Christian.

it's a good book for new believers and those who have basic doubts about scriptures and Jesus Myths.

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### **Jim says**

Most useful from chapter 8 on. For the earlier part, "Evidence that demands a verdict" and "The resurrection of Jesus" by Licona do a better job. He uses the stories of his father's experiences in WW II as an example of how accurately oral histories can be. I suspect that the author misremembered at least two things: first, submarines are "boats," not "ships." Second, admirals do not command individual ship, bases, etc. Those are commanded by captains. They may or may not hold the rank of captain (O-6). Most submarine captains in WW II held the rank of Commander or Lt Commander. It's a minor quibble' but undermines his points.

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### **Jean Cowden says**

A very inspiring book with historical accounts on the life of Jesus. Foretold in the Bible events that would happen 800-1000 years before history recorded it. A book to help you answer questions for people who are not sure what they believe.

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