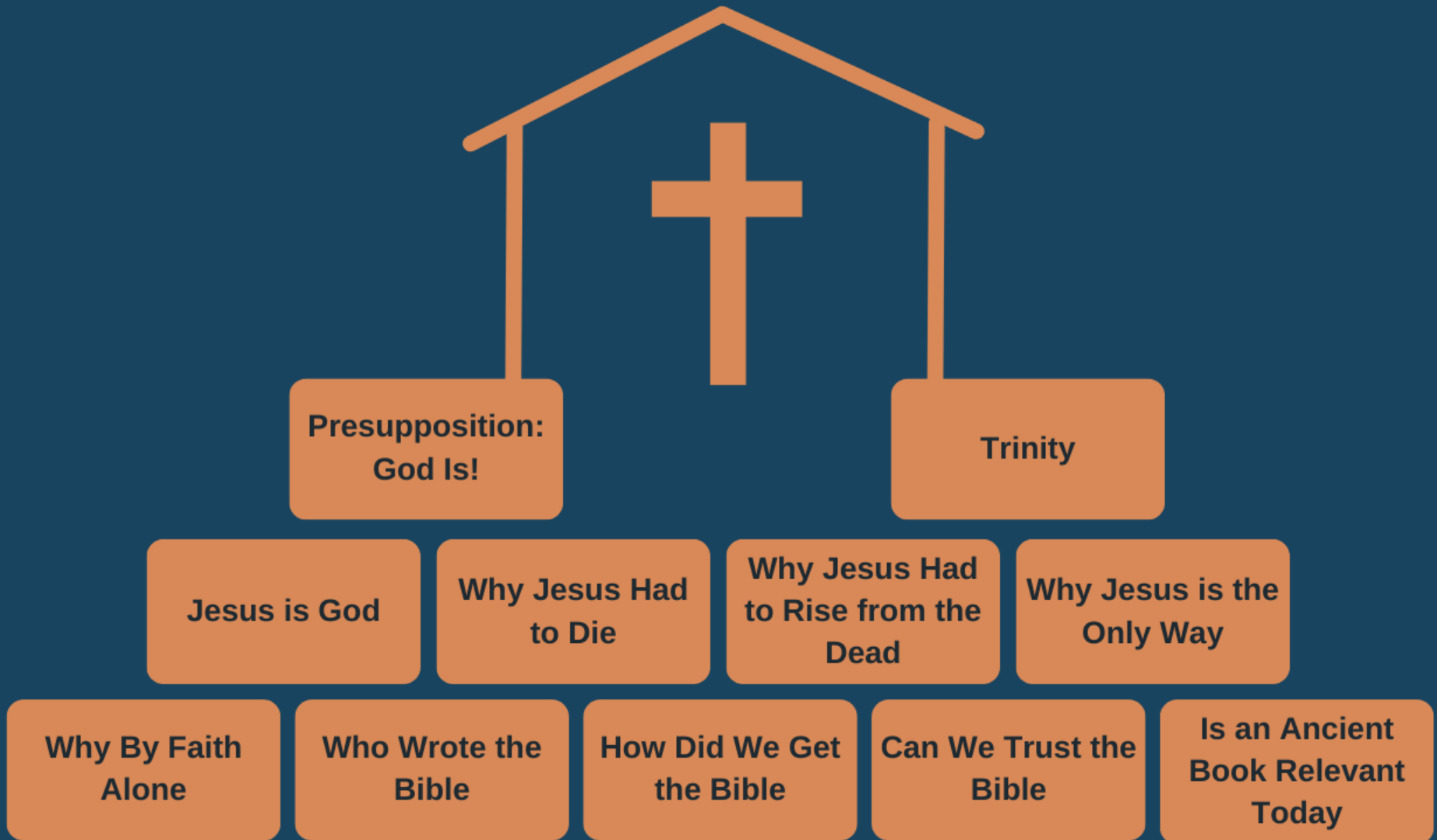


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TWO OPPOSING WORLDVIEWS

Theistic Worldview

God is the
origin of
human beings

Naturalistic Worldview

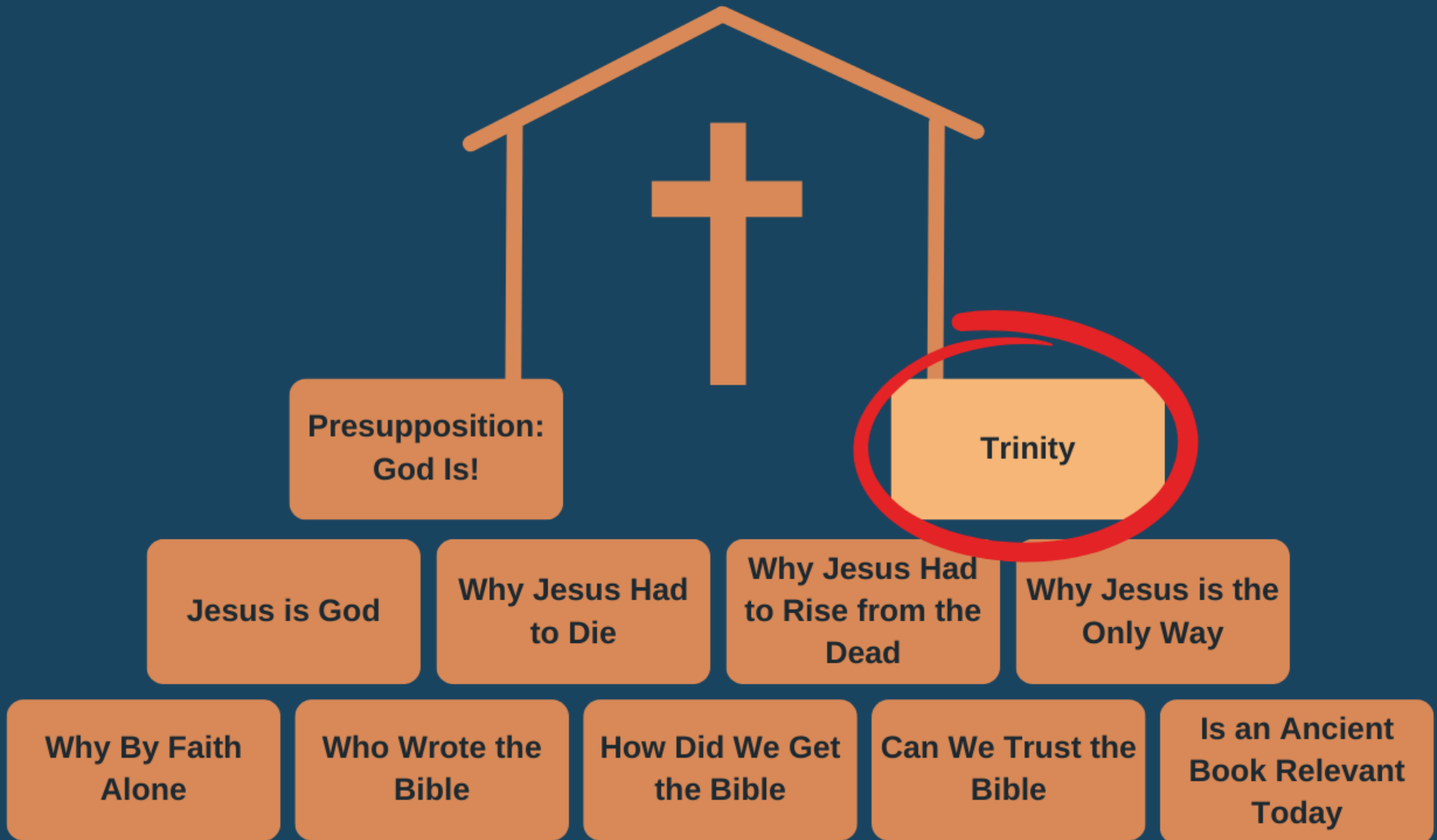
Human
beings are
the origin of
God



KEY CONCEPT

Although those holding a naturalistic worldview may claim irrefutable proof for their position, they do not have it. We do not need to argue with them. We do need to remember that it is reasonable to believe in God!

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“The doctrine of the trinity is not a truth of natural theology, but of revelation. Reason may show us the unity of God, but the doctrine of the trinity comes from direct revelation. Though the term ‘trinity’ does not occur in the Bible, it had very early usage in the church. . . .” (Henry Thiessen, Lectures in Systematic Theology, pp. 89-90).



Scripture Reveals the Trinity Progressively

- Partially revealed in the OT
- More completely revealed in the New Testament
- The word “trinity” is not in the Bible but the idea is!

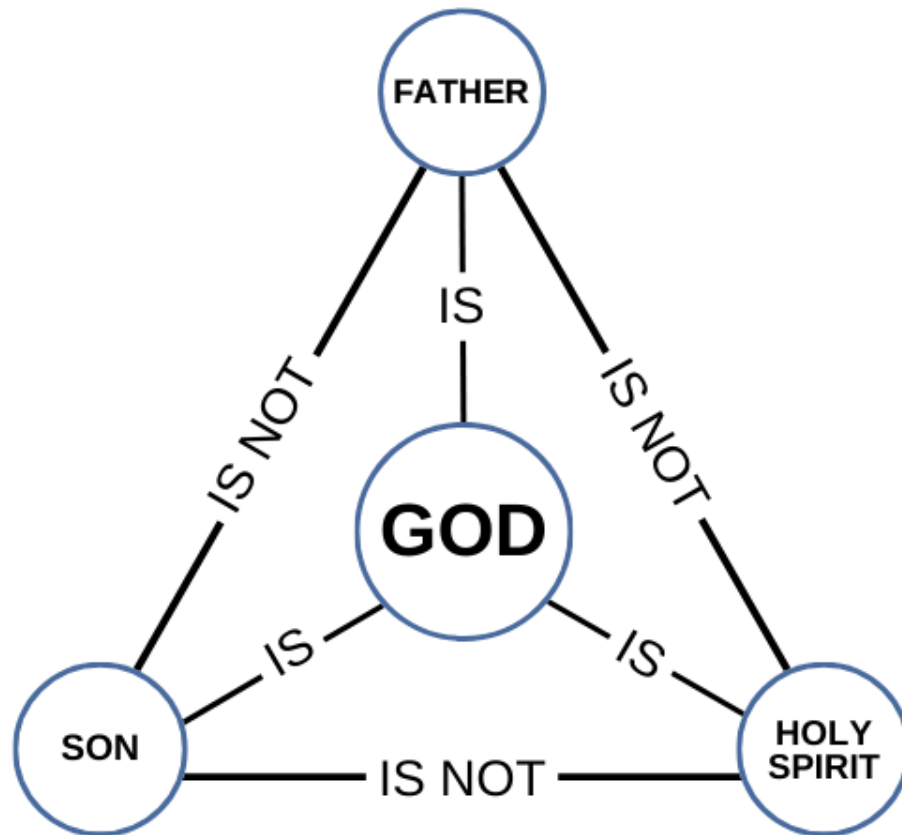


The New Testament:

- Teaches there is only one God
- Recognizes all three Persons of the Trinity to be God
- Includes all three Persons of the Trinity in single statements



Common Diagram of the Godhead

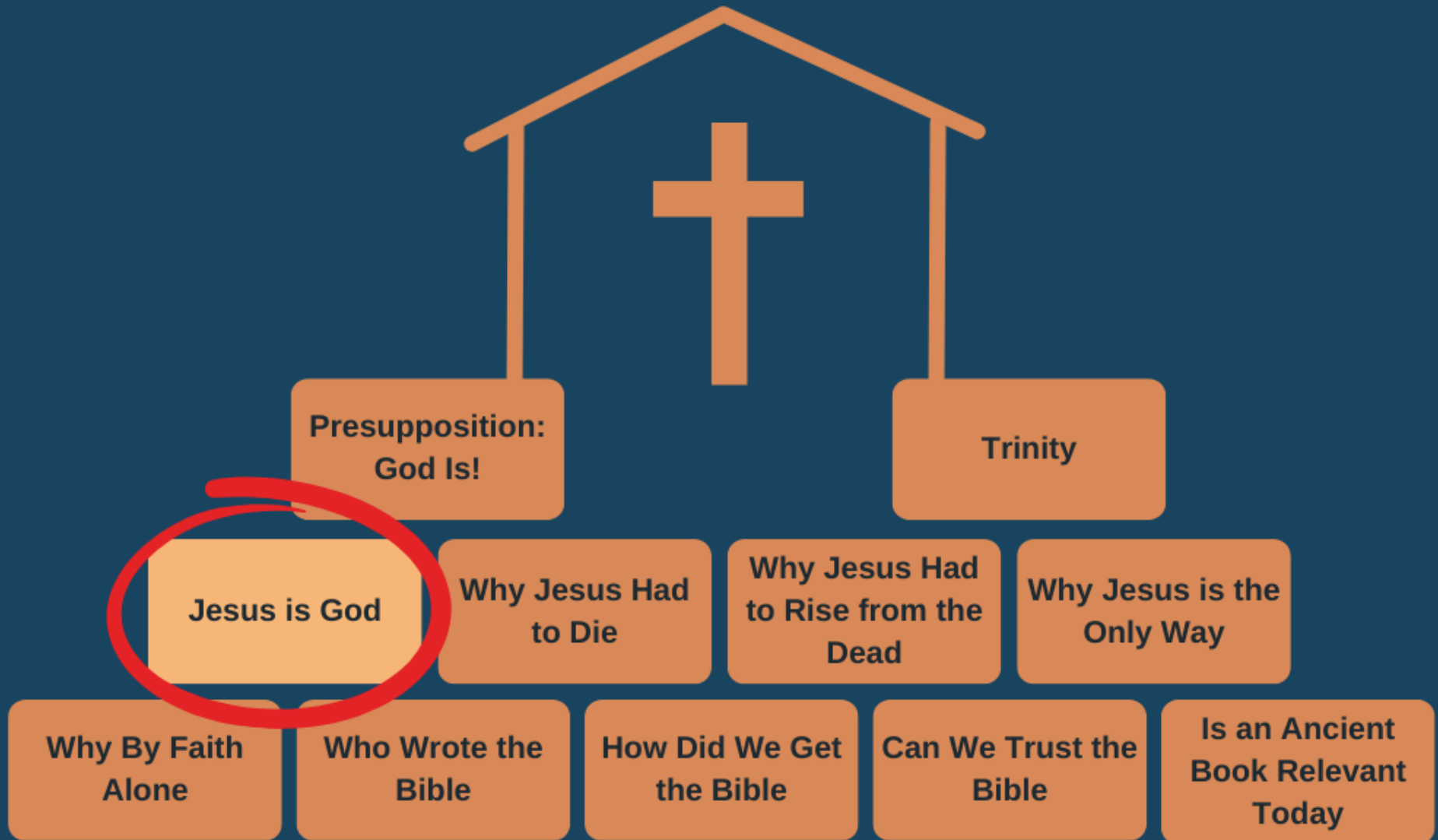


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Jesus Is God



**The Bible is our
major source of
knowledge about
who Jesus is!**



There is evidence for Jesus outside the four Gospel accounts. For example:

- Josephus (1st century Jewish historian) refers to Jesus and Jesus' half brother, James.
- Tacitus (1st century Roman historian) wrote that Christus “suffered the extreme penalty . . . At the hands of . . . Pontius Pilatus” (*Annals* 15.44).



**But the Bible is our
major source of
knowledge about
who Jesus is!**



Let's begin to look
at what the **New**
Testament teaches
about who Jesus is!



Matthew Shows Jesus Christ as Entering the World Via the Virgin Birth

Matthew 1:20b-21, “. . . ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins’” (NASB).



Matthew 1:22-24, “Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ‘BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL,’ which translated means, ‘GOD WITH US’” (NASB).



**Question: How do
we define who
Jesus is as a result
of His virgin birth?**



Jesus Christ: the God-Man

*Fully God and fully
man in one person*



Jesus Christ
is Fully **God**



Seven NT Verses Refer to Jesus Christ as God

- John 1:1, 18
- John 20:28
- Romans 9:5
- Titus 2:13
- Hebrews 1:8 (quotes Ps. 45:6)
- 2 Peter 1:1



Titus 2:13,

**“ . . . Looking for the
blessed hope and the
appearing of the glory of
our great God and Savior,
Christ Jesus”** (NASB).



Jesus Christ Is Involved in Creation

- John 1:3
- Colossians 1:16-17
- Hebrews 1:2



Colossians 1:16-17,

“For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together” (NASB).



Hebrews 1:1-2,

“God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world” (NASB).



Jesus Christ Claims to Be God

- John 8:58 (see John 8:52-59)
- John 10:30 (see John 10:24-31, 33)



John 8:52-53,

“The Jews said to Him, ‘Now we know that You have a demon. Abraham died, and the prophets *also*; and You say, “If anyone keeps My word, he will never taste of death.” Sure You are not greater than our father Abraham, who died? The prophets died too; whom do You make Yourself out to be?’” (NASB).



John 8:54-56,

“Jesus answered, ‘If I glorify Myself, My glory is nothing; it is My Father who glorifies Me, of whom you say, “He is our God”; and you have not come to know Him, but I know Him; and if I say that I do not know Him, I will be a liar like you, but I do know Him and keep His word. Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw *it* and was glad’” (NASB).



John 8:57-59,

“So the Jews said to Him, ‘You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?’ Jesus said to them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am.’ Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple” (NASB).



John 10:24-26,

“The Jews then gathered around Him, and were saying to Him, ‘How long will You keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.’ Jesus answered them, ‘I told you, and you do not believe; the works that I do in My Father’s name, these testify of Me. But you do not believe because you are not of My sheep’”

(NASB).



John 10:27-29,

“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of the Father’s hand” (NASB).



John 10:30-31 and 33,

“‘I and the Father are one.’ The Jews picked up stones again to stone Him. . . . The Jews answered Him, ‘For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy; and because You, being a man, make Yourself out to be God’” (NASB).



Jesus Christ is Fully God

Colossians 2:9, “For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form” (NASB).



If Jesus is not God, He would not be able to save us!

- If just a man, He would have a sin nature (Rom. 5:12)
- If He had a sin nature, He would not qualify as our substitute (2 Corinthians 5:21)



2 Corinthians 5:21,

“He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him” (NASB).



Jesus Christ
is Fully **Man**



Jesus has a human body that grew

Luke 2:52, “And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men” (NASB).



Jesus demonstrated human characteristics

- He was hungry (Matthew 4:2)
- He was thirsty (John 19:28)
- He got tired (John 4:6)
- He cried (John 11:35)
- He experienced temptation (Heb 4:15)



If Jesus is not a man, He would not be able . . .

- To die to pay the price for our sin.
- To help us when we face temptation.
- Hebrews 2:14-18



Hebrews 2:14-15,

“Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.”

(NASB).



Hebrews 2:16-17,

“For assuredly He does not give help to angels, but He gives help to the descendant of Abraham. Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people” (NASB).



Hebrews 2:18,

“For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted” (NASB).



Jesus Christ
is Fully God



Jesus Christ
is Fully **Man**



How Do These Two Truths Fit Together?



Jesus Christ: the God-Man

*Fully God and fully
man in one person*



“This concept of the hypostatic or one-person union of the divine and human natures in one Person is probably one of the most difficult concepts to comprehend in theology”

(Charles Ryrie, Basic Theology, p. 250).



“The single Person of the incarnate Christ retained the total complex of divine attributes and possessed all the complex of human attributes essential to a perfect human being” (Charles Ryrie, Basic Theology, p. 250).



Heresy Denounced by the Church (1st century – A.D. 451)

- Docetism (Christ only appeared to be a man)
- Ebionism (Man only until elected to be the Son of God at Jesus' baptism)
- Arianism (Jesus had a beginning. Divine nature not the same as God)
- Apollinarianism (Christ had a human body and soul but a Divine Spirit instead of human that dominated His being)
- Nestorianism (Two persons – Jesus Christ and Jesus of Nazareth)
- Eutychianism (Only one nature in Christ with the divine not being fully divine nor the human being genuinely human – a mixed single nature)



“The Chalcedonian Creed stated that the two ‘natures’ were united without mixture, without change, without division, and without separation. This means that the entire complex of the attributes of Deity and those of perfect humanity were maintained in Jesus Christ at all times since His Incarnation” (Charles Ryrie, Basic Theology, p. 250).



**A Central Importance
of Jesus Christ Being
Fully God and Fully
Man in One Person:**



If Jesus is not **fully man**,
He would not have been
able to die. If Jesus is not
fully God His death
would not have been
able to pay for our sin!



“This concept of the hypostatic or one-person union of the divine and human natures in one Person is probably one of the most difficult concepts to comprehend in theology” (Charles

Ryrie, Basic Theology, p. 250).



**Because the Bible is
our major source of
knowledge about
who Jesus is . . .**



It is Reasonable to
believe that Jesus is:
the God-Man

*Fully God and fully
man in one person*





KEY CONCEPT

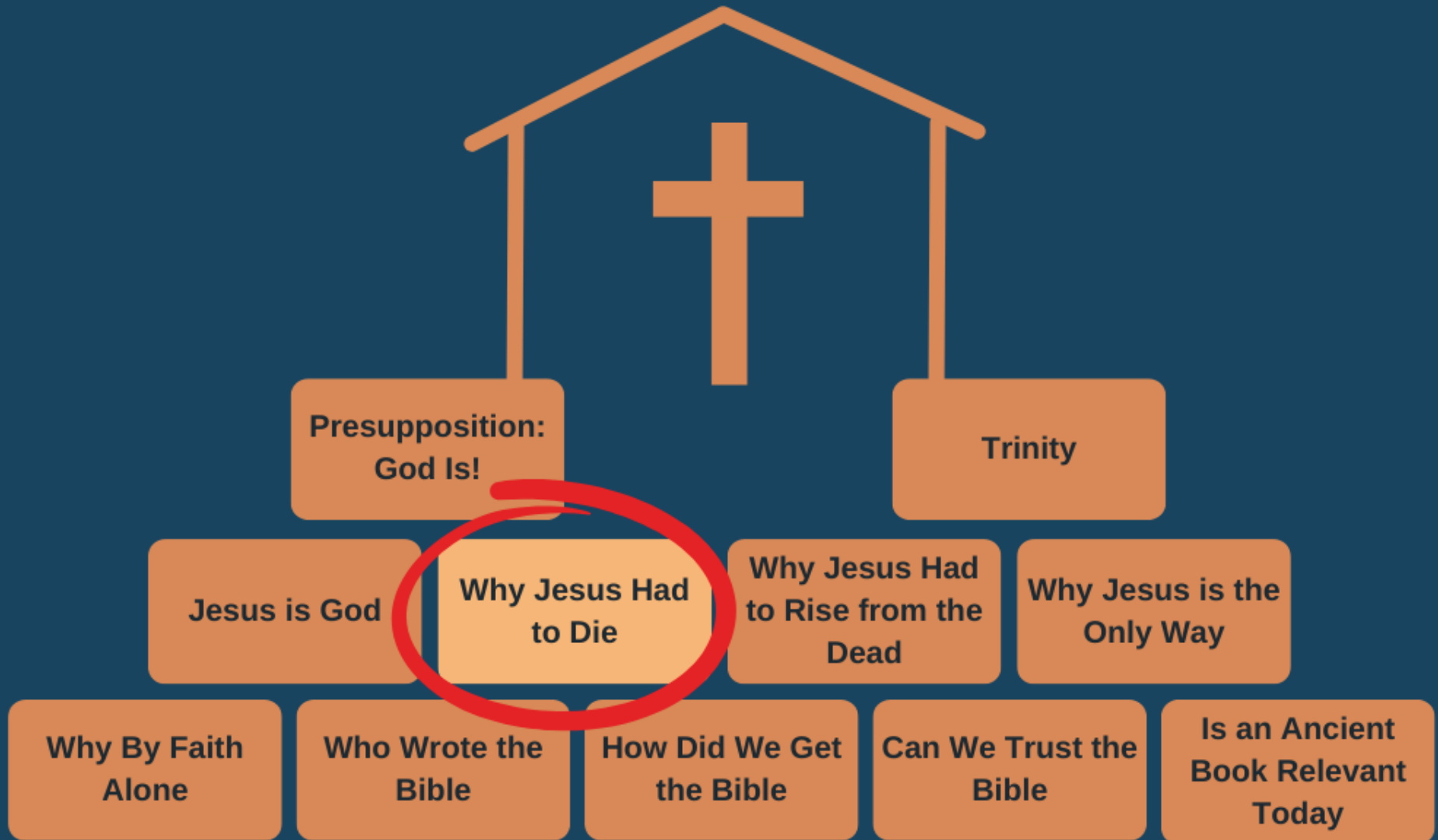
**If Jesus is not fully man,
He would not have been
able to die. If Jesus is not
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REASONABLE

FAITH



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