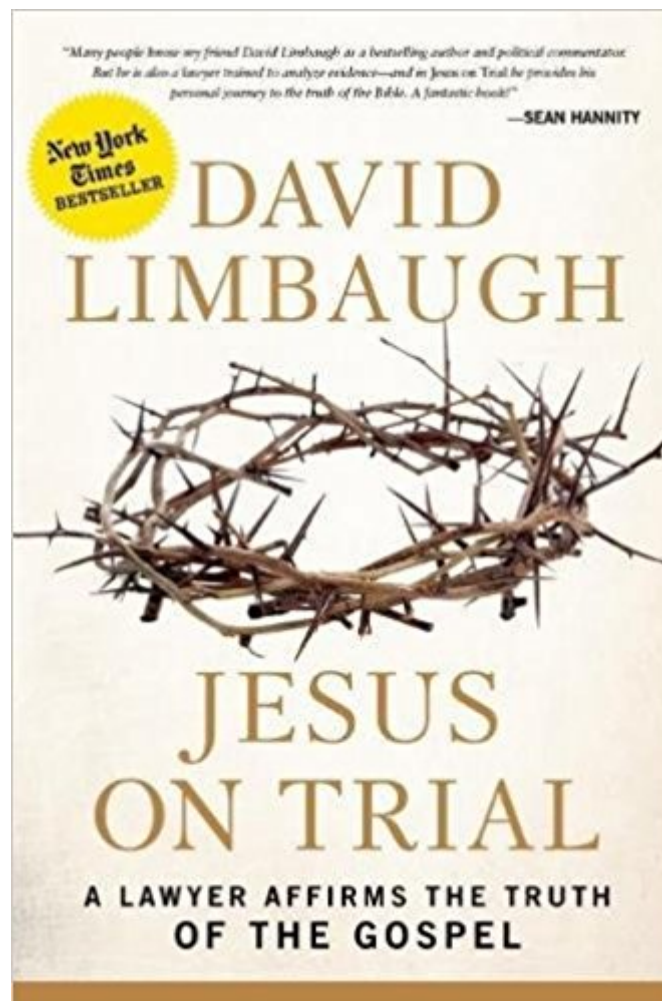




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Jesus On Trial: A Lawyer Affirms The Truth Of The Gospel



Synopsis

New York Times Bestseller! In *Jesus on Trial*, David Limbaugh applies his lifetime of legal experience to a unique new undertaking: making a case for the gospels as hard evidence of the life and work of Jesus Christ. Limbaugh, a practicing attorney and former professor of law, approaches the canonical gospels with the same level of scrutiny he would apply to any legal document and asks all the necessary questions about the story of Jesus told through Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. His analysis of the texts becomes profoundly personal as he reflects on his own spiritual and intellectual odyssey from determined skeptic to devout Christian. Ultimately, Limbaugh concludes that the words Christians have treasured for centuries stand up to his exhaustive inquiry—including his examination of historical and religious evidence beyond the gospels—and thereby affirms Christian faith, spirituality, and tradition.

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Customer Reviews

"Many people know my friend David Limbaugh as a bestselling author and political commentator. But he is also a lawyer trained to analyze evidence—and in *Jesus on Trial* he provides his personal journey to the truth of the Bible. A fantastic book!"—SEAN HANNITY

Jesus is on trial From popular culture to the halls of academia, Christianity is under attack. The Old Testament's accounts of history are often dismissed as myths, while the gospels are frequently

derided as a fairy tale. But the critics' arguments are far weaker than they first appear. In *Jesus on Trial*, #1 New York Times bestselling author David Limbaugh confronts the skeptics head-on. Applying his lawyer's eye to the evidence, he produces powerful arguments demonstrating the Bible's truthfulness. In this book Limbaugh shows:

- Abundant evidence that the Bible is the most historically reliable text among all ancient writings
- Why the gospels' account of Jesus' resurrection is far more convincing than any other explanation of His fate
- The Bible's astonishing feats of prophecy and the skeptics' feeble attempts to dismiss them
- How the critics' arguments against Christianity are infected with ideological bias
- The increasing archaeological evidence affirming the biblical account of history
- How Christianity is not only compatible with scientific methods, but was instrumental in the birth of modern science

Limbaugh knows the skeptics' arguments well because he used to be a skeptic himself. In these pages he describes his own faith journey to Christianity, explaining in moving detail the arguments, evidence, and biblical passages that caused him to embrace Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. Part personal testimony, part Christian apologetic, part informative evaluation of the facts, and part primer on theology, *Jesus on Trial* provides Christians with a remarkable reaffirmation of their faith while offering a challenge to skeptics that cannot be ignored.

When David Limbaugh let his friend Steve know that he had doubts about Christianity, he was surprised by Steve's response. Instead of a blast of arrogant judgmentalism, Steve responded like a Christian should—with grace and evidence. What has happened since that time is told in this excellent new book. Limbaugh artfully tells his journey from skepticism about Christ to skepticism about skepticism and ultimately to trust in Christ. David is a lawyer, but he doesn't write like a lawyer. While he's intellectually precise, he writes as if he's sitting across the table from you, anticipating your questions and objections. This is rare for a book of Christian evidences (often called Christian apologetics). Such books often read like technical manuals, but not *Jesus on Trial*. Limbaugh not only does a masterful job of highlighting the abundant evidence that supports Christianity, his insights into what the scriptures actually say will have you marveling at the tapestry of scripture and the Savior who wove it. From the very beginning, Limbaugh bares his soul, holding nothing back about how his previous doubts were shielded by an embarrassing lack of knowledge. He writes, "I knew, after all, that I hadn't really given the Bible itself a hearing, much less a fair one. To my surprise—and this is embarrassing to admit—Steve showed me how verses of Scripture, both Old and New Testaments, were tied to others in content and theme

with remarkable frequency. Amazingly, I had never looked at a reference Bible before, and I was blown away. My ignorance was on display, but Steve wasn't remotely judgmental. • to help me learn more, he even gave me that Bible. I was genuinely intrigued to discover that the Bible was not simply a mishmash of stories, allegories, alleged historical events, and moral lessons. There was obviously a pattern here, and for the first time in my life the Bible appeared to me to be thematically integrated. The scales on my eyes started peeling away.

His two chapters called "Aha Moments" reveal the numerous tipping points in Limbaugh's journey where scale after scale fell away • tipping points that no honest seeker of truth can ignore. Of course, as Limbaugh admits, many who are not interested in truth, or have their own agenda, ignore or remake Christ in their own image. He writes, "We must not casually remake Jesus in the image in which we prefer to see Him or which conforms to the popular culture's misperceptions about Him. Our politically correct culture may, presumptuously, choose to recast Jesus as indifferent to sin and saccharine sweet, no matter the circumstances, but this Jesus is God, and God cannot look upon sin. What do these revisionists make of the Jesus Who made a whip of cords and drove the moneychangers out of the Temple (John 2: 15)? | What do the revisionists say about the Jesus Whom Paul describes as "revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus " (2 Thess. 1: 7-8)? What of the difficult moral standard Jesus laid down in the Sermon on the Mount? Did He show indifference to sin there?

Limbaugh rightfully concludes: "This idea that Jesus is meek, mild, indifferent, and non-judgmental is the stuff of pure myth. In addition to correcting the culture's emasculated view of Christ, Limbaugh has two fantastic chapters tackling the paradoxes of Christianity. These include: God's plan of salvation, including the relationship between grace and works; the acknowledgement that we are sinful yet commanded to be perfect; the Trinity, that God is one in essence yet three in persons; that Jesus has two natures, human and divine; that you must give up your life to find it; that Christians are strong when they are weak; that God is sovereign yet humans have free will; that God knows all and is unchangeable, yet we are to pray; that the Bible is inspired yet written by men; and many others. The insights Limbaugh brings to these paradoxes are some of his own, and the best nuggets mined from Christian scholarship that I doubt you'll find in one place anywhere else. Limbaugh devotes several chapters to the evidence for the Bible, including its unity and reliability as evidenced through history, archaeology, prophecy and science.

He debunks several myths and misunderstandings along the way, and then saves his final chapter for what many think is the atheist's trump card against God: Evil. Many years ago David provided me an "Aha Moment" during one of our very many theological discussions. He said, "Evil really bothers me, but only Christianity has a sensible answer to it. There's no question he's correct. We wouldn't even know what evil was unless good existed, and real objective good could only exist if God exists. As David explains, evil turns out to be a backhanded argument for God. In fact, evil is the very reason God entered human history in the person of Christ. Only his sacrifice can solve the evil in my heart and yours. David puts it this way:

"Don't be offended by the notion that you must have saving faith in Christ. Don't assume that God is making you jump through unnecessary hoops. He is the One Who suffered for you. He did this so that you could live. He doesn't ask you to believe because He is on a divine ego trip, but because He loves you and wants you to latch on to Him in order to be saved from your sins. I just can't recommend Jesus on Trial highly enough. Every thinking person should investigate the claims of Christ, who is unarguably the most influential human being to ever walk the earth. If his claims are true (and Limbaugh shows they are), then we won't be putting him on trial • he will be putting each of us on trial. Only Christ can secure you a favorable verdict.

Over the past few years, I have become very interested in the field of apologetics. I've read quite a few books on the subject by a number of gifted Christian authors/thinkers from the past and present. The thing that struck me most profoundly about the book was the strong first person account of a skeptic overcoming his objections by letting his mind be used to help change his heart instead of the other way around. The author frequently uses quotes from a huge variety of sources to illustrate the reasoning (and the Reason) behind his conversion and the logic upon which his faith has been built. Funny, personal, and informative. Definitely worth a read.

Jesus on Trial wasn't exactly what I was expecting but is still an excellent read. The chapters analysing the historicity of the bible, the prophecies and also the chapter on evil are all excellent. Though these come later. Before all that the introduction leads into the first few chapters which are more about the author's views of Christianity, using the Bible as authority, rather than the evidentiary analysis I was after. There were two aspects to this. Firstly, rather than structure the

book so that these views were expressed before validating their source (ie, the Bible), it might have served to swap that order around. Secondly, some of what was said was either well known/accepted (Fulton Sheen is no revelation) or diverging from the Catholic view (only slightly - and mostly by omission). No major problem there - but still a distraction given what I was after were the excellent chapters on the historicity of the Bible and the prophecies. What this meant was that I started to flip through, skim reading, until I got to those chapters. And while those chapters themselves were excellent, some passages/subjects were prefaced with 'I don't have time to go into all the detail - so will hit the high notes' (or along those lines) - and which was exactly the kind of detail I was after. I would have happily read more detail on those topics, than the preceding chapters. The chapter on science was very interesting, having useful snippets of information as well as providing an overview of the relationship between Christian thought and science. Though there are entire books on that one subject and I am not sure one chapter could ever do it justice. Also, and while evolution is not the only thing discussed, Behe's views have been around for a while and so to advance things beyond that, perhaps also addressing Meyer's 'Darwins Doubt', might have made discussion on this topic more the author's own. The chapter on evil was my favourite: it surprised me. While I learned most from the chapters analysing the Bible - the chapter on evil was lucid, succinct and in the end quite moving. It unified concepts in a very helpful way. Jesus on Trial is not quite the scientific or historiographic analysis of the Bible I had hoped for, rather more of a polemic on all things Christian covering a broad spectrum of approaches (history, the bible, science, problem of evil) in a convincing and easy to read way. For me this book was a reaffirmation - and for which I am always grateful. While the first few chapters were somewhat of a distraction I still think this book is an excellent resource which covers a lot of bases. Mostly, it's motivated me to read the Bible more - and so in that sense, it's a raging success.

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