

The Jesus Inquiry

thejesusinquiry.com — Complete website and companion book outline

Prepared for Considered Press. Compiled October 19, 2026, Calgary. Outline only: no website has been built, no domain registration is claimed, and no chapter is research-verified or ready for drafting.

This document merges the original book and website outline (October 18), the expansion on how other religions view Jesus (October 19), and a full set of recommendations on what the website should include: architecture, page-by-page contents, editorial system, reference tools, trust and discoverability, growth, and a phased build.

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1. Purpose, audience and positioning

What the site is

An accessible, carefully sourced inquiry into Jesus: the sources about him, the claims made for him, competing explanations, and the limits of what different methods can establish. The site separates three things at every turn: historical judgments, theological interpretations and personal conviction.

Who it is for

- **Believers** who want to understand the evidence beneath what they already hold, and to meet the strongest objections honestly.
- **Sceptics** who want the Christian case presented at its best, not as a caricature, before deciding what to make of it.
- **Undecided and deconstructing readers** reconsidering inherited beliefs and looking for a guide that does not push a verdict.
- **Students, teachers and study groups** who need reliable orientation, timelines, glossaries and discussion questions.
- **Readers from other faiths** who want to know what Christians claim about Jesus and how their own tradition sees him.

The promise to the reader

- Every claim is tied to a named source with its date, authorship and limits stated.
- Competing views are presented in a form their best defenders would recognise.
- The reader is told what is settled, what is live dispute, what is minority opinion and what is speculation.
- No predetermined religious conclusion. The site is a method, not a sermon and not a debunking.
- The author's expertise is stated accurately: a trained questioner and evaluator of evidence, not a specialist in ancient history; specialist reviewers are credited where used.

Positioning relative to existing sites

Most sites on this subject are apologetic (defending a conclusion), polemical (attacking one), or academic (not written for general readers). The gap is a site that reads like a well-run inquiry: fair, sourced, plain-English, and willing to say “we do not know.” That is the niche and the brand.

Relationship to Considered Press and the author's other work

- Keep The Jesus Inquiry under its own identity and domain. Cross-link to Considered Press as publisher on the Book and About pages only.
- Do not blend this site with the divorce, mediation or DivorceNexus brands; the audiences and trust signals differ.
- Author page carries the approved bio wording and a single link to the author's other sites and services.

2. Site architecture (navigation map)

Nine top-level sections. Everything on the site lives under one of them, and every article belongs to exactly one section with cross-links to the others.

Top-level section	Purpose	Key sub-pages
Start Here	Orientation, method, starting paths	Welcome; How we assess evidence; Choose your path; Six foundational questions; FAQ
The World of Jesus	Historical setting	Judaism of the period; Roman rule and Galilee; Daily life, language, economy; Religious groups; Messianic expectations; Maps and chronology
The Historical Jesus	Life, teaching, death	Birth and family; Baptism and John; Teaching themes; Parables; Miracles and healings; Identity claims; Jerusalem week; Arrest, trial, crucifixion
Examine the Evidence	Sources hub	Paul's letters; Mark, Matthew, Luke, John; Q and oral tradition; Other early Christian texts; Manuscripts and variants; Translations; Non-Christian references; Archaeology
The Resurrection Question	The central claim	Earliest evidence; Burial and empty tomb; Appearances; Christian arguments; Alternative explanations; Objections; What remains uncertain
Jesus in Other Religions	Comparative views	Judaism; Islam; Bahá'í Faith; Hindu perspectives; Buddhist perspectives; Other traditions; Compare the perspectives; Secular and humanist eyes (companion)
From Jesus to Christianity	Development of the faith	Paul and the movement; Canon formation; Councils and creeds; Why traditions differ; Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant and other approaches
Belief and Doubt	The personal and moral questions	Strongest arguments and objections; Difficult moral questions; Faith, doubt and experience; Reconsidering inherited belief; What can we reasonably conclude?
Research Library	Reference and tools	Timeline; Glossary; Source-comparison tables; Claim evaluation guide; Reading paths; Annotated bibliography; Guided AI prompts; Discussion questions; Downloads

Utility pages (footer and About menu): The Book; About the Inquiry; Author; Editorial standards; Contributors and reviewers; Corrections log; Contact; Newsletter; Privacy; Terms; Accessibility; Sitemap.

Navigation principles

- Primary navigation shows the nine sections; a persistent search box; and a “Start Here” button for first-time visitors.
- A second, question-based index (“Browse by question”) runs alongside the topical one, because most visitors arrive with a question, not a topic.
- Breadcrumbs on every page: Section > Topic > Article.
- Each article ends with “Continue the inquiry”: the next logical article, the opposing view, and the relevant Library entry.
- Mobile-first layout; long articles get an in-page table of contents and a reading-time estimate.

3. Section-by-section page outlines

3.1 Start Here

Homepage sequence

- Working headline: *Who was Jesus, and what does the evidence support?* Sub-line stating the three audiences and the no-verdict promise.
- Three starting routes as large cards: Understand the history; Examine the central claims; Explore belief and doubt.
- Six foundational questions, each with a two-sentence introduction and link: Did Jesus exist? What do the earliest sources say? What did he teach? What did he claim about himself? What happened at the end? Did he rise?
- A featured evidence comparison (rotating): for example, the four accounts of the empty tomb side by side.
- “How we assess sources” in five lines, linking to the full method page.
- Latest additions and recently updated articles, with review dates.
- The Book: outline, status and sign-up for publication news.
- Newsletter and “Submit a question” call to action.

How we conduct the inquiry (method page)

- The difference between historical inquiry, theological interpretation and personal conviction, with examples of each.
- The historian's tools: dating, authorship, genre, multiple attestation, embarrassment, coherence, context, and their known weaknesses.
- Why courtroom standards (beyond reasonable doubt, balance of probabilities) do not transfer cleanly to ancient history, and what the author's questioning background does and does not add.
- Our confidence labels: Established; Widely held; Live dispute; Minority view; Speculative. Definitions and how each is earned.
- How we handle bias: the author's position, reviewer diversity, right-of-reply, and corrections.

Choose your path

- Guided paths of 6 to 10 articles each: The Sceptic's Path; The Believer's Path; The Newcomer's Path; The Deconstructing Reader's Path; The Study Group Path; The 30-Minute Overview.
- Each path shows progress and ends in the Library with further reading.

FAQ

Short answers with links: Is this a Christian site? Is this an atheist site? Who writes it? How are articles checked? Can I contribute or object? Is the author a historian? How is this related to the book?

3.2 The World of Jesus

- Second Temple Judaism: temple, synagogue, Torah, purity, festivals, the diversity within Judaism.
- Roman rule: Herod and his successors, prefects and Pilate, taxation, crucifixion as a Roman penalty, client kingdoms.
- Galilee and Judea: geography, villages, Sepphoris and Tiberias, trade and poverty, honour and shame.
- Religious groups: Pharisees, Sadducees, Essenes, Zealots, Samaritans, Herodians; what we know and from whom.
- Languages: Aramaic, Hebrew, Greek, Latin; what Jesus likely spoke and why it matters for the texts.

- Messianic and apocalyptic expectation: the range of hopes, the Dead Sea Scrolls, other messianic claimants.
- John the Baptist as a figure in his own right.
- Interactive map and era timeline (links to Library tools).

3.3 The Historical Jesus

- Did Jesus exist? The evidence, the mythicist position stated fairly, and why the great majority of scholars across religious lines reject it.
- Birth, family and early life: Nazareth and Bethlehem, the infancy narratives, what is historically recoverable.
- Baptism and the beginning of ministry.
- Teaching: the kingdom of God; ethics and the Sermon on the Mount; forgiveness; wealth and poverty; authority and Torah; love of enemies.
- Parables: how they work, major interpretations, examples compared across Gospels.
- Miracles and healings: the reported events; source questions; philosophical assumptions about miracles; medical, psychological, legendary and theistic readings.
- Who did Jesus claim to be? Son of Man, Messiah, Son of God, Lord; the gap between the texts and later creeds; the “did Jesus think he was God?” debate.
- Conflict with authorities and the final week in Jerusalem: temple incident, last supper.
- Arrest, trial and crucifixion: the sources, Jewish and Roman responsibility examined carefully, the history of anti-Jewish misuse of these texts and why the site rejects collective blame.
- Burial: the traditions and their disputes (lead-in to the Resurrection section).

3.4 Examine the Evidence

Each source gets its own page in a fixed format: what it is; who wrote it and when (range of views); audience and purpose; what it can establish; what it cannot; where scholars disagree; key passages; further reading.

- Paul's letters: the earliest sources; which are undisputed; the creed in 1 Corinthians 15; what Paul knew of Jesus' life.
- Mark, Matthew, Luke-Acts, John: one page each, plus a page on how they relate (the Synoptic problem, Q, Markan priority, alternatives).
- Oral tradition and memory: how traditions were transmitted; what memory studies can and cannot tell us.
- Other early Christian texts: Thomas, Peter, infancy gospels, the Apostolic Fathers; dating and use.
- Manuscripts and textual variants: how we have the text, the major variants (e.g. the ending of Mark, the woman caught in adultery), and why most variants do not affect historical questions.
- Translation questions versus historical questions: worked examples (“virgin”, “Son of Man”, “very God”).
- Non-Christian references: Josephus (and the interpolation debate), Tacitus, Pliny, Suetonius, the Talmud; what each does and does not corroborate.
- Archaeology: Nazareth, Capernaum, the Pilate inscription, the Caiaphas ossuary, crucifixion remains, the tomb traditions; limits of the discipline.
- A standing “Evidence grid” page summarising every source by date, independence and relevance to each major claim.

3.5 The Resurrection Question

- What is actually being claimed, and what would count as evidence for or against it.

- The earliest evidence: Paul and the pre-Pauline creed; dating arguments.
- Burial and empty tomb: the traditions, the women as witnesses, the disputes about the tomb's historicity.
- Appearances: the lists, the nature of the experiences, Paul's own experience, group appearances.
- The rise of the belief and the transformation of the disciples; what this does and does not show.
- Christian arguments presented at their strongest (minimal-facts approach, cumulative case, theological framing).
- Alternative explanations compared systematically: visionary and bereavement experiences; legendary development; mistaken tomb; theft or relocation; swoon; cognitive dissonance; mythic parallels. Each gets its best statement, its main objections and the author's provisional assessment. Fringe theories are included for completeness but not weighted equally.
- The role of prior probability and worldview: why thoughtful people weigh the same evidence differently.
- What remains uncertain, stated plainly.

3.6 Jesus in Other Religions

A full top-level section (see Appendix B for the expanded page list). Core rule: let each tradition speak on its own terms; distinguish sacred texts, established teaching and individual thinkers; never present Hinduism or Buddhism as having a single position.

- Judaism; Islam; Bahá'í Faith; Hindu perspectives; Buddhist perspectives; other religious and spiritual perspectives (e.g. Sikh, Gnostic and esoteric readings, new religious movements), included only where reliable sources support meaningful coverage.
- Compare the Perspectives: a matrix of views on Jesus' existence, identity, teaching, death, resurrection and significance.
- Companion section, kept separate because they are not religions: Jesus through secular and humanist eyes, including historians who are not believers, moral-teacher readings, and critiques.
- Each page invites review by an adherent-scholar of the tradition and carries a right-of-reply link.

3.7 From Jesus to Christianity

- Paul and the early movement: continuity and change; Jewish and Gentile Christianity; competing interpretations of Paul's influence.
- The spread of the movement in its first century: Acts as a source, persecution, early worship.
- Canon formation: how books came to be included or excluded, by whom and when; what councils actually decided.
- Creeds and councils: Nicaea, Constantinople, Chalcedon; the development of Christology and the Trinity; what was continuous with the earliest texts and what was later articulation.
- Why Christian traditions differ: authority (scripture, tradition, magisterium), salvation, sacraments, interpretation; internal diversity within each family.
- A reader's guide to Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant (and sub-families), Restorationist and other movements, written descriptively.

3.8 Belief and Doubt

- The strongest arguments and objections: Christian, sceptical and agnostic cases, each with its best responses, and a map of where the disagreement really sits.
- The difficult moral questions: suffering and theodicy; judgment and hell; exclusivism and the fate of others; women in the texts and in the churches; violence done in Jesus' name. Each distinguishes Jesus'

teachings, later interpretations and institutional conduct.

- Faith, doubt and personal experience: what experience can mean to a person and what it can establish for others; testimony as evidence.
- Reconsidering inherited belief: a non-prescriptive guide for readers leaving, returning to or re-examining faith; pointers to pastoral and secular support.
- What can we reasonably conclude? Three columns: supported by historical inquiry; dependent on theological commitments; genuinely open. The final verdict is not pre-written.

3.9 Questions and Perspectives (cross-cutting)

- The question-led index: every article tagged by the question it answers; a searchable list of 100+ questions at launch, growing from reader submissions.
- Short question articles (300 to 800 words) following the standard template.
- Perspective pieces: invited contributions from identified writers representing substantial competing views, clearly labelled as perspective, with editorial notes and a reply from an opposing contributor where possible.
- Submit a question form with moderation; published answers credit the question anonymously.

3.10 Research Library

- Interactive timeline: 200 BCE to 450 CE with filters for events, sources, rulers, councils.
- Glossary: historical, theological and methodological terms; each term links to the articles that use it.
- Source-comparison tables: parallel passages (e.g. the empty tomb, the feeding of the five thousand, the Lord's Prayer) with notes on agreements and differences.
- Guide to evaluating claims: a printable checklist for any claim about Jesus (source, date, independence, genre, motive, corroboration, plausibility).
- Reading paths and annotated bibliography, organised by level (introductory, intermediate, scholarly) and by stance (Christian, sceptical, Jewish, Muslim, secular) so readers can see the range.
- Primary-source links: public-domain translations, manuscript images, archaeological reports.
- Guided AI prompts ("Put This Into Practice"): prompts for comparing interpretations, identifying assumptions and checking references, with the standing disclaimer that AI output is not evidence and must be verified against cited sources.
- Discussion questions and the personal inquiry journal (downloadable PDF).
- Downloads: timeline poster, evidence grid, checklist, glossary.

3.11 The Book, About and utility pages

- The Book: working title and subtitle, outline (Appendix A), status, intended formats, mailing-list sign-up, publisher link to Considered Press.
- About the Inquiry: origin, purpose, independence, funding disclosure.
- Author: approved bio wording; relevant expertise and its limits stated accurately; link to the author's other work and to mediation and arbitration services through the Considered Press connection.
- Editorial standards and review process (see Section 6).
- Contributors and reviewers: names, credentials, traditions and declared positions.
- Corrections log: dated, public, with what changed and why.
- Contact, newsletter, privacy, terms, accessibility statement, sitemap.

4. The standard article template

Every substantive article follows the same sequence so readers learn to trust the shape of the page.

Block	Contents
1. The question	One sentence. Why it matters. Who tends to ask it.
2. Short answer	Three to five sentences with the confidence label (Established / Widely held / Live dispute / Minority view / Speculative).
3. The sources	Each relevant source with date range, authorship view, context and limitations. Link to the source's own page.
4. Main interpretations	Two to four positions, each stated as its defenders would state it, with named representatives.
5. Strongest objections	The best objection to each position, not the easiest.
6. Provisional assessment	Where the author lands and why, labelled as provisional and separable from the evidence section.
7. What remains open	Explicit list of unresolved points.
8. Continue the inquiry	Next article; the opposing view; related Library tools; further reading at three levels.
Footer	Author and reviewer names; first published and last reviewed dates; corrections; how to object or contribute; citation suggestion.

Article types

- Foundational articles (1,500 to 3,000 words) for the six core questions and the major sources.
- Question articles (300 to 800 words) for the index.
- Source pages (fixed format, Section 3.4).
- Comparison pages (tables with commentary).
- Perspective pieces (invited, labelled, with reply).
- Explainers for terms and methods (Library).

5. Reference tools and interactive features

- **Evidence grid:** sortable table of every source against every major claim, with independence and date columns.
- **Parallel-passage viewer:** choose an episode and see the Gospel accounts side by side with differences highlighted and annotated.
- **Interactive timeline and map:** events, sources, rulers; clickable to the relevant articles.
- **Claim evaluation checklist:** an on-page tool that walks a reader through assessing any claim, printable.
- **Perspective comparison matrix:** religions and worldviews across the rows, questions across the columns.
- **Reading-path tracker:** per-visitor progress through a guided path (browser storage, no account required).

- **Glossary hover-cards:** definitions appear on hover or tap for marked terms.
- **Question search:** natural-language search over the question index.
- **Guided AI prompt library:** copyable prompts with the verification instructions attached to each.
- **Study-group kit:** downloadable discussion guides per section.

Build the simplest versions first (static tables and a timeline); add interactivity only where it changes understanding.

6. Editorial standards, sensitivity and moderation

Editorial rules (published on the site)

- State the question; give a concise answer with appropriate uncertainty.
- Identify every source's date, authorship, context and limits.
- Present substantial interpretations and objections fairly, in a form their defenders would accept.
- Label confidence; never claim scholarly consensus without evidence.
- Distinguish established findings, live disputes, minority positions and speculation.
- Separate historical judgment, theological interpretation and personal conviction visibly on the page.
- Use original summaries; quote only within fair-dealing limits and with attribution; use only licensed or public-domain images with credits.
- Date every page; log every correction; invite objection.
- Do not promise a predetermined religious conclusion and do not mock any position.

Review process

- Author draft, then a fact and source check, then specialist review (New Testament studies, ancient history, and the tradition concerned for comparative pages), then publication with reviewer credit.
- Annual re-review of foundational articles; immediate review when a reader challenge is upheld.
- Right of reply for any person or tradition the site characterises.

Religious and cultural sensitivity

- Jewish perspectives: present them on their own terms; address the history of Christian anti-Judaism directly; avoid supersessionist framing in the site's own voice.
- Islamic perspectives: use Qur'anic and recognised scholarly sources; handle images and names with care; note the diversity within Islam.
- Hindu, Buddhist and other traditions: attribute views to named texts, schools or thinkers rather than to the religion as a whole.
- Christian traditions: describe each as its own members describe it; no tradition is treated as the default.
- Use neutral dating (BCE/CE) with an explanation.

Moderation policy

- Comments are off by default on evidence pages; reader input comes through question submission and a moderated "Perspectives" process.
- Published rules: on-topic, sourced, no abuse, no proselytising or anti-religious contempt, no doxxing; a clear appeals route.
- Contributors are identified by name and declared position.

7. Trust, legal and accessibility pages

- About, Author and Contributors pages with real names, credentials, declared positions and funding sources.
- Editorial standards and corrections log as above.
- Privacy policy (Canadian PIPEDA and, if relevant, GDPR); cookie notice limited to what is actually used; newsletter consent under CASL.
- Terms of use, copyright notice, licensing of the site's own summaries (consider a Creative Commons attribution licence for tables and the checklist to encourage sharing with credit).
- Image and quotation credits page.
- Accessibility statement and WCAG 2.2 AA target: readable fonts, contrast, alt text, keyboard navigation, transcripts for any audio or video.
- Disclaimer that the site offers historical and comparative information, not pastoral, legal or psychological advice, with pointers to support for readers in distress about faith questions.

8. Discoverability: search, structured data and author authority

Goal: when people, search engines and AI assistants look for a fair, sourced treatment of Jesus-related questions, they find this site and its author.

Content strategy for search

- Build the question index around the questions people actually type (did Jesus exist, what language did Jesus speak, when was Jesus born, did Jesus claim to be God, what does the Quran say about Jesus, is there evidence for the resurrection, and so on). Each gets a dedicated, well-sourced page.
- Pillar pages for each top-level section, with clusters of question articles linking back to them.
- Unique, descriptive titles and meta descriptions; clean URLs (e.g. /evidence/josephus, /other-religions/islam).
- Freshness signals: visible last-reviewed dates and a genuine update cadence.

Structured data

- Organization, WebSite and Person (author) schema; Article schema with author, reviewer, datePublished and dateModified; FAQPage schema on FAQ and question pages; Book schema on the Book page; BreadcrumbList site-wide.
- Consistent author entity across this site, Considered Press and other author sites, so search engines and AI tools connect the author to the subject.

Author authority (recognition as an expert in this area)

- A single canonical author page with the approved bio, a photo, credentials, the stated scope of expertise, and links to the book, articles, interviews and talks.
- Author byline and schema on every article; reviewer credits reinforce credibility rather than dilute it.
- Earn citations: publish the evidence grid, timeline and checklist as freely linkable resources; invite academics, clergy and secular writers to review and link.
- Interviews, podcasts and guest articles on religion, history and sceptic platforms; each links back to the author page.
- Wikipedia-style neutrality in tone makes the site citable by AI tools and reference writers; avoid promotional language in article bodies.
- Register the site and author with Google Search Console and Bing Webmaster Tools; submit the sitemap; monitor which questions bring traffic and expand accordingly.

AI-assistant readiness

- Clear question-answer structure, confidence labels and citations make pages easy for AI tools to quote accurately and attribute.
- Publish a plain-text summary page of the site's method and the author's identity.
- Decide an explicit policy on AI crawling (robots.txt and meta tags) consistent with wanting attribution.

9. Audience growth and engagement

- Newsletter: "One question, once a week"; each issue is a question article with its sources. Doubles as the book-launch list.
- Free email course: "The Jesus Inquiry in Ten Questions", drawn from the Newcomer's Path.

- Study-group programme: downloadable guides; a page for churches, campus groups, humanist groups and interfaith groups.
- Reader questions feature with monthly round-ups.
- Invited perspective series: pair a Christian scholar, a Jewish scholar, a Muslim scholar and a secular historian on the same question.
- Short-form derivatives: one-image evidence comparisons and timeline cards for social sharing, always linking to the sourced page.
- Annual “State of the Inquiry” article summarising what changed in scholarship and on the site.

10. Sustainability and monetization options

Keep any revenue model transparent and secondary to trust.

- Book sales (primary): the site is the long-form companion and the launch platform.
- Reader support: optional membership or donations funding specialist review and expanded comparative sections; disclose amounts and uses.
- Study-group materials: free basic guides; a paid expanded kit.
- Affiliate links to recommended books, clearly marked, with the annotated bibliography selected on merit first.
- Speaking and workshops on how to evaluate evidence and competing claims, linked from the author page.
- Avoid display advertising and any sponsorship from religious or anti-religious organisations, which would compromise independence.

11. Technical and build considerations

- Platform: a content system that handles structured articles, reviewer fields, dates and tables cleanly (e.g. a headless CMS with a static front end, or a mature CMS with custom fields). Prioritise speed, longevity and ease of editing over features.
- Content model: Article, Source, Question, Perspective, Person (author/reviewer), Term, TimelineEvent, Comparison, ReadingPath. Relationships between these drive the cross-links and tools.
- Citation handling: numbered notes with a sources block; a bibliography database shared across pages.
- Performance and hosting: static generation or caching, CDN, HTTPS, image optimisation.
- Search: site search over titles, questions and glossary terms.
- Analytics: privacy-respecting analytics; track questions searched and paths completed.
- Backups, versioning of every article (supports the corrections log), and an export path so the content is never locked in.
- Domain: confirm availability and registration of thejesusinquiry.com and consider holding close variants; set up branded email.

12. Phased launch plan and content priorities

Phase	Scope	Contents
0. Foundations	Before any content	Domain, hosting, design system, content model, editorial standards page, author page, privacy and terms, newsletter set up.
1. Minimum credible site	Launch	Homepage; method page; six foundational question articles; source pages for Paul, the four Gospels, Josephus and Tacitus; a basic timeline; glossary of 60 terms; the Book page; corrections log.
2. The central claim	Months 2 to 4	Full Resurrection section; Historical Jesus section; evidence grid; parallel-passage tables for 10 episodes; first 40 question articles.
3. Breadth	Months 4 to 8	Jesus in Other Religions (all pages, each reviewed by an adherent-scholar); secular and humanist companion; From Jesus to Christianity; comparison matrix; reading paths.
4. Depth and community	Months 8 to 12	Belief and Doubt section; invited perspective series; study-group kit; AI prompt library; email course; annual review cycle.
5. Book alignment	Pre-publication	Reconcile site and manuscript; chapter-to-section map; launch materials.

Content priority rule

Write the pages readers argue about most first (existence, resurrection, identity claims, Josephus), because those earn the links and the trust; fill in context and breadth afterwards.

13. Decisions the author needs to make

- Author name on the site and book, and how the author's full identity and other work are disclosed.
- The author's own position: declared up front, declared only in the provisional assessments, or withheld. The site works under any of these, but it must be consistent.
- The balance between historical investigation, comparative religion and personal reflection.
- Which specialist reviewers to recruit and whether to pay them; how to credit them.
- Comments and community: closed, moderated perspectives only, or a fuller forum.
- Funding model and disclosure.
- Scope of "Other religious and spiritual perspectives" (which traditions meet the reliable-sources test).
- Final subtitle, intended book length, formats and citation style; whether the site and the book share a single bibliography.
- Licence for the site's own tables and tools.
- Whether and how to cross-promote Considered Press and the author's mediation and arbitration services (recommended: author page only).

Appendix A: Companion book outline (full)

Title: The Jesus Inquiry. **Working subtitle:** History, Evidence, Faith, and the Questions That Remain.

Publisher connection: Considered Press. Final branding and the author's

theological position remain open for review. Original outline last revised October 18, 2026.

Brief: An accessible, careful inquiry for believers, sceptics and undecided readers. Examine Jesus, the sources about him, the claims made for him, competing explanations and the limits of what different methods can establish. Separate historical judgments, theological interpretations and personal convictions. Clear prose, numbered chapters, competing positions weighted by evidence and scholarly support. Historical methods appropriate to ancient sources; no courtroom burdens of proof; no implication that legal experience establishes specialist historical expertise.

Chapter sequence (every chapter): question, source material, main interpretations, strongest objections, provisional assessment, further inquiry.

Part I: How to conduct the inquiry

- **1. Asking Fair Questions.** The central questions, assumptions, evidence, uncertainty and the difference between historical inquiry and faith.
- **2. The World of Jesus.** The Jewish, Roman, political and social setting needed to understand the texts and claims.
- **3. The Earliest Christian Sources.** Chronology, letters, oral traditions, authorship and what each source can and cannot establish.
- **4. Reading the Four Gospels.** Proposed dates, purposes, audiences, relationships, agreements and differences.
- **5. Manuscripts, Translations and Changing Texts.** Textual transmission, variants, and translation questions versus historical questions.
- **6. Evidence Beyond the New Testament.** Non-Christian references, archaeology and the limits of independent corroboration.

Part II: Jesus and the central claims

- **7. What Did Jesus Teach?** The kingdom of God, ethics, forgiveness, wealth, authority and the parables.
- **8. Miracles and Healing.** Reported events, source questions, philosophical assumptions and competing interpretations.
- **9. Who Did Jesus Claim to Be?** Titles, identity claims and the relationship between the texts and later doctrine.
- **10. Arrest, Trial and Crucifixion.** Sources, political context and responsibility, without collective blame against Jewish people.
- **11. The Resurrection Claims.** Earliest evidence, reported appearances, burial and empty-tomb traditions, and disagreements about interpretation.
- **12. Testing Competing Explanations.** Resurrection belief, visionary experiences, memory, tradition and other accounts against the evidence and objections; fringe theories not given equal weight for balance.

Part III: From Jesus to Christianity

- **13. Paul and the Early Christian Movement.** Continuity, change, missionary activity and competing interpretations of Paul's influence.

- **14. Scriptures, Councils and Creeds.** Canon formation and doctrinal development, including what councils did and did not decide.
- **15. Why Christian Traditions Differ.** Authority, salvation, sacraments and biblical interpretation; internal diversity.
- **16. Jesus in Jewish and Muslim Perspectives.** Relevant traditions on their own terms; historical and theological claims distinguished. (Recommended expansion: broaden to Jesus in Other Religions, mirroring the website section, with Judaism and Islam treated at greatest length.)

Part IV: Belief, doubt and conclusions

- **17. The Strongest Arguments and Objections.** Substantial Christian, sceptical and agnostic cases, strongest responses and unresolved disagreements.
- **18. The Difficult Moral Questions.** Suffering, judgment, hell, exclusion, women and religious violence; Jesus' teachings, interpretations and institutional conduct distinguished.
- **19. Faith, Doubt and Personal Experience.** What experience can mean to a person and establish for others; readers reconsidering inherited beliefs.
- **20. What Can We Reasonably Conclude?** Conclusions supported by historical inquiry, theological commitments and open questions; the final verdict is not prewritten.

Back matter and recurring features

- Chronology and geographical orientation; glossary; source-comparison tables and a guide to evaluating claims.
- Annotated reading list, notes, bibliography and index.
- Discussion questions and a personal inquiry journal.
- Put This Into Practice: Guided AI Prompts, with the standing prompt disclaimer and verification instructions. AI responses are not evidence.
- Author biography using the current approved wording, with expertise and limitations stated accurately, and the author's contact information for mediation and arbitration services included as a resource.

Chapter-to-website map

Book chapters	Website section
1	Start Here (method page)
2	The World of Jesus
3 to 6	Examine the Evidence
7 to 10	The Historical Jesus
11 to 12	The Resurrection Question
13 to 15	From Jesus to Christianity
16	Jesus in Other Religions
17 to 20	Belief and Doubt
Back matter	Research Library

Appendix B: Jesus in other religions (expanded section)

Origin: the author's October 19 suggestion, "How about the view of Jesus by other religions?", and the response recommending a prominent top-level section. Expanded here into page-level outlines.

Section rules

- Each tradition speaks on its own terms; the site's voice describes, it does not adjudicate.
- Three layers on every page, kept visibly separate: sacred or authoritative texts; established teaching of major bodies or schools; individual thinkers.
- Historical claims and theological claims distinguished.
- Each page reviewed by a scholar from within the tradition and carrying a right-of-reply link.
- No tradition presented as monolithic.

Pages

Jesus in Judaism

- Messianic expectation in the Second Temple period and why the Christian claim was not accepted.
- Jesus as a Jew: Jewish scholarship reclaiming the historical Jesus within Judaism.
- Rabbinic and medieval references and polemics; their historical value and context.
- Modern Jewish views: scholarly, Reform, Orthodox and secular perspectives; Jewish-Christian dialogue.
- The history of Christian anti-Judaism and the deicide charge; why the site rejects collective blame.

Jesus in Islam

- 'Isa in the Qur'an: prophet and messenger, virgin birth, miracles, the Word and Spirit from God.
- Mary (Maryam) in the Qur'an.
- Denial of divinity and of the Trinity; the crucifixion verses and their interpretations (substitution, appearance, death-and-raising views); Jesus' return.
- Hadith and classical commentary; Sunni, Shia and Sufi emphases; the Ahmadiyya position noted as distinct.
- Points of agreement and disagreement with Christian claims, tabulated.

Jesus in the Bahá'í Faith

- Progressive revelation and Jesus as a Manifestation of God.
- Bahá'í readings of the resurrection, miracles and the Gospels as largely symbolic; relevant Bahá'í writings.

Jesus and Hindu perspectives

- Why there is no single Hindu view; the range from inclusivist to critical.
- Named thinkers: Ram Mohan Roy, Vivekananda, Gandhi, Radhakrishnan, and others; Jesus as yogi, avatar or moral teacher.
- Contemporary Hindu responses to Christian mission, stated fairly.

Jesus and Buddhist perspectives

- Buddhist frameworks (compassion, suffering, non-self) applied to Jesus by named teachers, e.g. the Dalai Lama and Thich Nhat Hanh.
- Claims of Buddhist influence on Jesus or of Jesus in India: presented and assessed as speculative where the evidence is weak.

Other religious and spiritual perspectives

- Sikh references to Jesus; Gnostic and early alternative Christianities; Manichaeism; esoteric and theosophical readings; new religious movements (included where reliable sources exist and with clear labelling).
- Indigenous and syncretic traditions where Jesus has been incorporated, treated with particular care and sourcing.

Compare the perspectives

A matrix with traditions (and, in the companion, secular views) across the rows and these columns: Did Jesus exist? Who was he? What did he teach? Was he crucified? Did he rise? What is his significance today? Key texts. Cells link to the full pages.

Companion: Jesus through secular and humanist eyes

- Kept separate because these are worldviews, not religions.
- Non-religious historians on Jesus; the moral-teacher reading; Enlightenment and modern critiques; mythicism as a minority position; humanist appreciation and objections.

Appendix C: Research still needed before drafting

- A verified primary-source and scholarly bibliography for each section and chapter.
- Checks of disputed dates, attributions, manuscript claims and historical assertions.
- Specialist review appropriate to ancient history, New Testament studies and each religious perspective represented.
- Author decisions on the balance between historical investigation, comparative religion and personal reflection.
- Final subtitle, intended length, publication formats and citation style.
- Confirmation of domain availability; nothing in this document establishes registration or ownership of thejesusinquiry.com.

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