

*I don't have enough* **FAITH**  
*to be an* **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek **PODCAST**

## Proving Jesus Without the Bible

(August 13, 2021)

What if I were to tell you that you could burn every manuscript in existence, that you could destroy every Bible in existence and you could still show, basically, almost everything the New Testament says about Jesus, by other means. Well, you can do that. And in fact, you can do it in an overwhelming fashion, in my opinion, by looking at my friend, J. Warner Wallace's brand new book, about to come out, called Person of Interest. This book took well over a year, maybe up to two years, to actually research and put together. It's about to come out next month and before we actually see the release of this book, we've got to give you some insights into it, so you'll be ready to get it and ready to hit the deck running with it. It is an amazing work that Jim has put together and he's on the program with me today. Jim, how are you?

**Jim:**

I'm doing well. Thanks so much for even talking about this book. Appreciate it.

**Frank:**

Jim, you know, you do great work. Now this book, I think, is your most...well, all your work is unique, but this book nobody else has ever gotten close to doing. What you've essentially done is shown the monumental impact of Jesus that he's had, not just on Western culture, but on the world in general. And you lead up to Jesus, and then you see what happened after Jesus, and it's just a phenomenal work. You've got over 300 drawings in this book, which is perfect for me because I like pictures, as you know. And let's start at the beginning. Why did you decide to write this, and how did you go about researching this Jim, because the research in here is just unbelievable?

**Jim:**

Well, okay, so I mean, part of this, honestly, was just my investigation of Jesus as a non-believer. You know, there's lots of stuff I looked at and I was not always impressed with some of the efforts my friends would make to tell me that Christianity was true. And so, I needed to kind of deep-dive it on my own. And this approach is, kind of, the opposite of Cold Case Christianity, my first book on Jesus, which really just looks at the stuff that I kind of like say, "well, it's in the crime scene". In other words, there were eyewitnesses who wrote about Jesus, made claims about Jesus, and I wanted to test those claims the way I would test other eyewitnesses. But in addition to that, there was a world that anticipated Jesus and then was deeply impacted by

**CROSS  
EXAMINED  
ORG**



*I don't have enough* **FAITH**  
*to be an* **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek **PODCAST**

Jesus. That's the stuff that's outside the crime scene. And this is what this is. This is all the other stuff.

So, the basic premise is that, if you were to destroy every new testament manuscript, just like you said, that you could still, unfortunately you'd be stuck with Jesus. The amount of stuff in history you'd have to destroy to get rid of Jesus of Nazareth is mind blowing. And I wanted to show people kind of the nooks and crannies where the Jesus fingerprints are, that they might not expect. There's some good books that I also use as resource material that describe the impact that Jesus has had. But I wanted to do it in a different way. My whole goal here was to show that, it's not just that he's had impact, it's that the story of Jesus is so deeply ingrained in that impact that you can reconstruct every detail of the gospel narrative from those nooks and crannies of culture. And so, I wanted to be able to show that. So, in other words, if I was just an investigator on planet earth in the year 3000, after they successfully destroyed all the Christian scripture, I'd still be stuck with this nagging person of interest called Jesus of Nazareth.

**Frank:**

Think about a crime scene, a bomb going off, ladies and gentlemen, and that will give you an idea of the approach Jim takes in this book. Jim, you talk about the fuse, then the explosion and the fallout. Can you unpack that for us? What's that all about?

**Jim:**

Yeah, I was just talking to a district attorney here in Los Angeles, named John Lewin, who is a good friend of mine who's doing this case called the Robert Durst case right now. And I'm getting ready to, kind of, jump in and help him a little bit with the closing. And I was discussing with him this approach we took, I couldn't remember what case we first took it with, but of course, John remembers everything, so he told me what case it was. And this is a case we had that was a missing person, that was a wife who was killed by her husband. And we didn't have any crime scene because he had reported her as missing and we bought that story for the first six years. And then, eventually, we started to investigate it as a crime, as a murder. And of course, he had moved, and they had remodeled the house, and there was no evidence, you know. We didn't have a body we didn't have any evidence from a crime scene. How do you make that in front of a jury?

And how I did it back in those days is I would show them that all murders are part of a timeline. And it's not as though these things just happen out of the blue. There's a period of time before the murder in a period of time after the murder. And the day that murder took place something horrific occurred, a bomb went off. And what we're going to show the jury is that there was a

**CROSS  
EXAMINED  
ORG**



*I don't have enough* **FAITH**  
*to be an* **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek **PODCAST**

long fuse that was burning toward that rise in hostility, all the tension between the couple, and eventually that fuse ended up detonating a bomb, and then after that bomb exploded, there was shrapnel everywhere. We're going to demonstrate to a jury what happened on the day the bomb exploded by simply examining the fuse and the fallout, because we don't have a crime scene, we don't have anything in that blast, we just have the radius that occurred afterwards, the ripples that this caused. People act differently and give away their anticipated efforts prior to doing something like this, especially if they've planned for a long time. And afterwards they are impacted. Even the killer is going to act differently, might say things, might get rid of his wife's property too early. You know, there's things you do on the backside that expose your activity on the day of the murder as well. And that's what we have to look at: What did he do before? How has he changed afterwards? And then we can, from that, piece together the details of what happened on the day of the murder.

That's what we're doing here. We're simply saying, hey, there was a fuse that was burning toward the inauguration of the Common Era. Something happened that broke our calendar and set the new, before the Common Era to what is now the common error. Or if you want to call it the way we used to, you know, B.C. and A.D. And now the question is: What happened? And what was the fuse that was burning? And then afterwards: What does the fallout look like that might tell us about that explosive event that broke our calendars? And that's what we are looking at in person of interest.

**Frank:**

So, when you had this case, you didn't have a body, right. There was no crime scene.

**Jim:**

Right

**Frank:**

You couldn't find the body of the wife that, ultimately, you discovered was murdered. And yet, you still proved she was murdered without the body, just by looking at the fuse and the fallout.

**Jim:**

Right. And the only thing I can say is that nobody believed...the jury convicted him relatively quickly. But you know, the some of the family members didn't believe it, even the victim's family members didn't want to believe it. They would much rather believe that their sister, their daughter, their niece had just, kind of, run off and will eventually, maybe, come back someday. So, they didn't want to believe that she was dead. But you know, once we convicted him, at the

**CROSS  
EXAMINED  
ORG**



*I don't have enough* **FAITH**  
*to be an* **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek **PODCAST**

sentencing...and this is common, sometimes at parole hearings, at sentencing hearings, or just once he realizes the game is up...they'll tell us where the body is. And so, then we can actually conclude the case that we got the right verdict, even though we didn't have a body at the time. And that's kind of what we do.

Now, something similar happens here. You can look at nothing but the views and fall out of history and draw a reasonable inference about what happened in the first century. But we do actually have somebody who confesses to this in the eyewitness accounts in the Gospels. So, when you put the two together, it's really hard to deny what's true here. But even without the Gospels, you could still make a reasonable inference.

**Frank:**

So again, the point here, ladies and gentlemen, is that, even if we didn't have the Gospels, even if we didn't have what we call the New Testament, we could reconstruct what happened in the New Testament and many of the teachings of the New Testament, even without those documents. And that's what Jim does in the book, Person of Interest. Now, Jim, in the book you go through six areas where Jesus has impacted our culture. What are those six areas? And maybe we'll get into some of them after the break.

**Jim:**

Yeah, I look at literature, art, music, education, science and other world religions. Now, clearly Frank, I could have added, you know, medicine, right. But I was trying to look at those areas, not just that Jesus had a huge impact on, I'm looking at those areas from which we could also reconstruct the story of Jesus. So, I'm looking for: What are the areas of culture where there's fingerprints of Jesus that I could actually reconstruct the story? And that was the trick for this book, and I think that's what makes it unique.

**Frank:**

We're going to see, when we get back from the break, one amazing point was, Jim discovered paintings that could reconstruct the entire Gospel of Mark, for example. We'll talk about it after the break. You're listening to I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist with me, Frank Turek on the American Family Radio Network. Our website is [CrossExamined.org](http://CrossExamined.org). My guest is cold case homicide detective J. Warner Wallace. His new book, Person of Interest, is about to be released. We'll tell you how you can pre-order it here in just a minute. Don't go away.

Proving Jesus without the Bible. How can that be done, ladies and gentlemen? Well, my friend J. Warner Wallace has done it. I mean, people have done it before, but not the way Jim does it.

**CROSS  
EXAMINED  
ORG**



*I don't have enough* **FAITH**  
*to be an* **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek **PODCAST**

You'll see in the brand new book about to come out next month called, Person of Interest, how he looks at the sweep of history, not only after Jesus, but even before Jesus, and shows how all of this falls into place in a very dramatic way. And Jim, I just gave them a little teaser before we went into the break about, the entire Gospel of Mark can be reconstructed by paintings. Now you have a degree in architecture, so you know quite a bit about the arts and all this. Unpack that for us. How can we get the Gospel of Mark in paintings? How does that happen?

**Jim:**

Yeah. And it's so hard because...yeah, you're I came up through the arts. And I thought, you know, when I took my first life drawing class it changed the way I saw academia. I was in university, and was really, kind of like, floundering around. What should I do? But I took an art class, just because I had to, you know, as part of the requirements. And from that point on I was an A student, I mean, in every course, because I suddenly had purpose. So, I got my bachelor's in design and my Master's in architecture. And a lot of it was painting. I did a lot of painting, both oils and acrylics, and really enjoyed it. And I'll tell you that I'm interested in that kind of stuff, but I never thought about the connection, or the impact, that Jesus and his followers had on the progress of the arts. But if you look at every critical category of arts, every genre of arts, every epic period of art history and you just removed from those epic periods the Masters, the people who define the genre, the fathers and mothers of these genres, you will look and find that all of them, even into modern times, have at someplace in their catalogue of art, a painting a sketch, a sculpture, something about Jesus of Nazareth. He has had the singular most impact on the visual arts of any other person in history.

And many of these artists were, in fact, Christ followers who lead historically. And even if they're not today, they still got a catalogue that involves, somehow, Jesus' crucifixion, something of the story of the gospel. So, I thought, okay, well, how much impact and how early does it start? Now, this is one of the things, Frank, that's hard, right. When you do a book, where we have over 400 illustrations, there isn't a single page...and I wanted it to be this way...that doesn't have some graphic element. And that was my biggest desire, is to make sure we've got a sidebar, we've got some header, we've got an illustration on every page. A lot of that, Frank, came from me out of my experience writing kid's books. So, this is like a kid's book for adults, it's part graphic novel, and part personal journey and part detective story. And in this, also, I traced a real case at the beginning of each chapter and we just make the parallels between the real case, the missing person case, and the missing person, you know, if we got rid of all the manuscripts for Jesus.

**CROSS  
EXAMINED  
ORG**



*I don't have enough* **FAITH**  
*to be an* **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek **PODCAST**

But back to your question: How much impact has he had on the arts? Well, so, I'm looking at not just did he have huge impact, which he did, but can you reconstruct the Jesus story from this kind of impact? And it turns out, if you just looked at the paintings and wall murals of the first 300, 400 or 500 years...so, I went through, like, for example, the gospel of Mark and I only used Mark because it's the shortest gospel. It's hard enough to research as it is, right. But I know you can do this for every other gospel as well.

**Frank:**  
Right.

**Jim:**  
But I went through the gospel I said, okay, so you know when you have those header breakings in your gospel, or some, you know, editor has put in, this is the next episode in the gospel? Well, I went through those and I just made a list of the 50 some odd episodes, that are in the Gospel of Mark. And I started to search to see, it turns out that every single one of those episodes has been depicted in ancient art forms. So, in other words, if you wanted to get rid of the Gospel of Mark, you'd have to do more than get rid of just the text of Mark, you'd have to destroy the 50 locations where there are still ancient depictions of these episodes in the Gospel of Mark. And that is a very unusual impact. For example, you will not find that same impact, let's say, for the episodes of the Buddha, or Krishna. You won't. This is the kind of impact that Jesus of Nazareth has singularly had on visual arts. And so, it's just an amazing, you know, device.

And by the way, I remember as an architecture student, Susie and I visited Europe in, I think, 1985. I hate to show my age by saying that. So, we visited, and her German family would tease me. It seemed like every day all they wanted to do, you know, was one church, one castle, next city. One church, one castle, next city. I was just trying to visit the most staggering art I could find. And all of this was constructed by Jesus followers, even though I never paid attention to that part. I just wanted to see these amazing churches, this Baroque architecture. And some of this is really old stuff. And, and I was fascinated by the engineering aspect of it, and the artistic art of it as well. And all of that stuff, really, for many, many centuries, the leading architects and the leading artists, were not just Christ followers, but were driven to do things that were Christ centered. So, it's amazing, the reconstruction.

You could argue this, Frank. Oh, yeah, well, of course that's the impact he had on the west. Untrue. You will see that the Jesus story is adaptable in a way that is unlike other religious systems. So, for example, if you go across the globe to every place where Buddhism is active,

**CROSS  
EXAMINED  
ORG**



*I don't have enough* **FAITH**  
*to be an* **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek **PODCAST**

you will find depictions of the Buddha that pretty much look the same. But when you look at Christian art, globally, it's always contextualized. Jesus will be black, or Asian, depending on which country he is being depicted, he is completely conformed to the people group that is depicting him. He's an adaptable savior in that way, because of the context. You know, you don't have to step into, you know, sixth or seventh century Islam. Sometimes you do see this in countries that are Islamic, they have to step into the mores and customs and culture that is really sixth or seventh century. Whereas not true for Christianity. Christianity adapts to its context and artists adapt the Jesus image to their context as well. So, this is why he has not just had a Western impact, he's had a global impact on the arts, because the Jesus story is so adaptable.

**Frank:**

Now Jim, why has Jesus, in your view, had such an impact when there have been other religious figures that predated Jesus? You've got Buddha, you've got Krishna, you've got some other people that have big world religions, but they don't have the kind of global impact that Jesus has had. Why is that?

**Jim:**

Well, of course, that's the big question, right. And I think that part of it is, until you are able to visually see it...and that's why we started to illustrate this right. And Zondervan was great about allowing me about a year and a half to create the presentations that, typically, you and I would use in front of an audience. I created those presentations first, before I wrote the book, because I knew that people needed to see this impact. And that's why the book is so heavily illustrated. And that's why it's hard for me sometimes, Frank, even to talk about this on the radio, because I know that hey, unless you can see this... But yeah, that impact is so deep and so entrenched in so many different weird, quirky areas, that you would be unexpected to see someone have this kind of impact, that you can help ask yourself the question: Why would this person in history have this kind of impact?

Now, ultimately, I would say that look, yeah, there's no way you can rationalize the kind of impact that Jesus of Nazareth had, especially when the Buddha, and Krishna and Hinduism, all these systems had a huge head start on Christianity, yet they have not accounted for as much art, for as much impact in education, universities, for example. You can add up all of these...Zoroaster, Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish higher education institutions...they will not collectively come close to the number of universities started by Christ followers. You're just not going to have that kind of impact. It turns out that this kind of global impact is hard to explain, if Jesus is just a guy. On the other hand, if Jesus is something more...for example, if God really

**CROSS  
EXAMINED  
ORG**



*I don't have enough* **FAITH**  
*to be an* **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek **PODCAST**

exists, and he somehow was to step into his creation, I would expect him to have a huge ripple effect on the very creation that he's responsible for. There's a sense to me, it seems, that part of this impact is only explainable, it only makes sense, given the deity of Christ. That his identity is part of why he has this kind of impact. And there is a connection between identity and impact and you're seeing it here in the person of Jesus.

**Frank:**

Well, the impact is, as Jim would say in the book, the fallout from the explosion. Again, we're looking at this from the premise that we don't even have any of the data from the explosion itself. I mean, we do but we're pretending we don't, right. We're pretending the New Testament doesn't exist. And so, how do we then explain this character that emerges out of the New Testament and has this impact globally, not just in the West, but globally, in the six areas that Jim mentioned earlier? So, you mentioned art, Jim. You have an entire presentation on science, and maybe when we do a program when the book comes out in about a month, maybe we'll cover the science thing. But just give us two minutes on the science issue because there's so many people going, oh, you know, Christians have retarded science. The exact opposite is true. Go ahead.

**Jim:**

Yeah, I know. This is a very common understanding, right. Now look, I actually want to use that whole chapter on science. And again, it's visually robust, because I wanted you to see how many people have been in the game historically. But I will tell you that my concern is that, you know, Islam was also active in the sciences up until about the early Middle Ages, and they were active in the sciences until...now, there's a book out there called, *The Closing of the Muslim Mind*...and so, people have speculated as to why their leadership in areas like cosmology, like mathematics, medicine, they were very active with those three areas, for example, and yet it seems to have come to a close at some point in history. And a lot of that has, what people surmise by studying this, was really related to the impact of Islamic theologians, and a view of the Quran that inhibited then any future examination of the natural world that might, in some way, contradict what's in there. What's the point in looking for that if, in fact, we already know the truth from the Quran? If you discover something that was not affirmed by the Quran, who would say that is not true because the Quran would trump it? So therefore, what's the point?

**Frank:**

Right.

**CROSS  
EXAMINED  
ORG**



*I don't have enough* **FAITH**  
*to be an* **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek **PODCAST**

**Jim:**

...and therefore, we should not shrink from our role of leadership we have been leading right up until this generation. Do not shrink from our role of leadership. Yes, Jesus has had that kind of impact on the sciences. And we want to continue to do that.

**Frank:**

In fact, Jim, in the book, which is called Person of Interest listed...I counted. He didn't count them, but I counted. Jim, you listed 288 disciplines or sub-disciplines of science that have been started by Christians. And we'll pick that up on the other side of the break. You're listening to Don't Have Enough Faith to be an Atheist with me, Frank Turek on the American Family Radio Network. The website is CrossExamined.org. The website for Jim is ColdCaseChristianity.com. And when we come out of the break, we're going to give you a way to, not only pre-order the book, but get some goodies that come with the pre-ordered books. Don't go anywhere.

This week, I'm out at Chino Hills, California for the CrossExamined Instructor Academy with my friend Jim Wallace and many others. That's a closed event so you can't be a part of it. But the following week, I'll be out in Southern California, as well, in Aliso Viejo, and that is the Compass Bible Church, doing a women's ministry event on the 20th and 21st, and then the morning events on August 22nd. The two services in the morning I'll be talking about: If God, Why Evil? So, if you're anywhere down there in Southern California, would love to see you there. And then the following week, South Valley Community Church up in Gilroy, California. And I'm also doing an event the previous night in San Jose. That'll be on our website. We haven't posted that yet on the 28th but I'll talk about 10 Questions to Ask Your Woke Boss. That's in San Jose. That's a good place to do that presentation. I actually may be martyred there, now that I think about it, but anyway. J. Warner Wallace is on the road quite a bit as well. Jim, what do you have coming up where people can see you live?

**Jim:**

Well, I'll be with you in Chino. And then the next week, I'm spending another week with Samaritan's Purse, counseling and chaplaining law enforcement officers who have been injured. We take 10 couples up to Alaska and we give them an amazing week. This is all through Samaritan's Purse. Now they call this LEAP. It's the law enforcement appreciation program and I've just been lucky enough...we started with Operation Heal Our Patriots, and so, I'm just lucky enough with Susie to be able to go up. And I tell you, Frank, when I go I feel like we are kind of like the 11th couple. It's almost cathartic for me to go to be in the presence of other cops and their wives who have experienced similar things. So, it's a neat week to do that. And then, my

**CROSS  
EXAMINED  
ORG**



*I don't have enough* **FAITH**  
*to be an* **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek **PODCAST**

public calendar, thank you so much, is on your website at [CrossExamined.org](http://CrossExamined.org). And you can check out where we'll be after that.

**Frank:**

Yeah, so Jim's out there and this new book, *Person of Interest*, comes out, I think September 21st. Am I right about that, Jim? When is it coming out?

**Jim:**

Yes, it does. September 21st. Hopefully it'll be out a little before that. I know, I'm in Ohio, I think, on September 15, at Pettisville, for a couple of events, and I think that'll be available by then. So, that's our hope anyway. But yeah, middle of September it should be ready.

**Frank:**

What's the value of pre-ordering it? Why should people get *Person of Interest* now?

**Jim:**

Well, we try to offer a bunch of goodies, right, and so, you have to put some limit on that. So, we decided to make them a pre-order offer. So, what we're doing is we wrote an E-book, that will be helpful, I think, a free E-book that goes along with this book. We've got a nice long, high def video which actually includes this discussion of science we've been having right now. That's also available for free with the pre-order. And then we've got a Bible insert. So, we're trying to figure out how do we take these visual concepts and turn them into an insert you can put in your Bible? So, we've got a set of those as well. And then finally, we've got a private community at our website at [ColdCaseChristianity.com](http://ColdCaseChristianity.com), and we've offered a discount to that. I mean, this thing is so ridiculously inexpensive to begin with that it's kind of silly to offer a discount, but we do have a discount for that private community as well. We've been trying to create something behind a wall that is uncancelable and we think we've done that. It's like a social media platform behind the wall.

**Frank:**

So, where do people go to get the book now, to preorder it?

**Jim:**

So, I would just go to [PersonOfInterestBook.com](http://PersonOfInterestBook.com). You know that *Person of Interest* title has been used by movies, screenplays, and series and all of that. title. We use the term we use a lot in law enforcement, but it's just that [PersonOfInterestBook.com](http://PersonOfInterestBook.com).

**CROSS  
EXAMINED  
ORG**



*I don't have enough* **FAITH**  
*to be an* **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek **PODCAST**

**Frank:** Well, that's another thing you mentioned, movies. My son and I are coming out with a book in March called, Hollywood Heroes: How Your Favorite Movies Reveal God. And in reading your book, I noticed that Jesus is the subject of more movies, or more screenplays, or the combination thereof, than any person in history. And ladies and gentlemen, if you think more people saw Avatar, or The Titanic, or any Star Wars film, or anything like that, if you think those are the top films of all time...or what's the other one, Gone with the Wind? No, they're not the top films. What's the top film of all time in terms of people seeing it?

**Jim:**

The Jesus Movie. More countries, more translations, more languages, and more eyeballs on screen than any other movie in the history of movies. Just the truth.

**Frank:**

And you point all that out in Person of Interest. Now, Jim, we've been talking a little bit about the fallout. Let's just spend a little bit of time...previous to Jesus coming. You have chapters in the book called, The Fuse in the Fallout. And Jesus, Was He the Copycat Savior? Was He the Mistaken Messiah? All this. There's a lot of things leading up to the explosion. And again, we're pretending we don't know what happened at the explosion. We're just looking at The Fuse in the Fallout. What are some of the things that you cover in the book about the fuse, things that were leading up to Jesus coming?

**Jim:**

Yeah, that's the most fascinating to me. And this is one of the things that I've been looking at with advising other criminal cases, because I still get to consult on a bunch of these. And I've really started to try to help them to see that you can actually develop what I call a red zone, an area where you know something bad is about to happen. All you need to know is something about your suspect and something about your victim. And when you put the data about your suspect and your victim together, you'll see that certain things were starting to build, certain things were starting to fall into place that allowed him or her to commit the crime. In other words, some of the times there's like precursor stuff you need. I'm going to use a 22 rifle to do this murder. Well, if you don't have a 22 rifle, you're going to go out and buy one. So, it turns out that you're going to make some steps toward the commission of the murder. And there's also certain deadlines that you might be trying to make, right. If you think, well hey, she's only gonna be in town for a week and I want to kill her in that week she's in town, well, now you got some deadlines. And it turns out, you can look at all of the anticipated deadlines, and all of the precursors that are necessary, and you can figure out what is that little zone of time, of

**CROSS  
EXAMINED  
ORG**



*I don't have enough* **FAITH**  
*to be an* **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek      **PODCAST**

opportunity in which a crime could occur. And that little red zone ends up being dependent upon the nature of your suspect and the nature of your victim.

Here's what I mean to say. That red zone will sometimes tell us who the suspect is, because every person under consideration has a different set of circumstances that would cause the shape of that red zone, the starting point and the ending point. Now, it turns out there's lots of conditions of history that lead up to the appearance of Jesus that actually create a red zone of opportunity in which Jesus could appear and have the maximum impact he could possibly have, and even have the maximum opportunity to communicate that impact globally. And so, I trace three things in the fuse that lead up to the appearance of Jesus, that I didn't even realize as I was doing this. And I had some research assistants to help me on some of this because I just knew that, you know, there's going to be a huge body of information we're going to have to collect.

For example, on the science fallout, there's a good example of somebody, I think we have 950 scientists that we've identified in their impact as Christ followers, and all of those awards they've won, and all those titles you mentioned before the break. I mean, that was something I knew I was gonna need some help on. But what I've examined in the fuse is, first of all, the culture. What was happening in the history of governments and cultures leading up to the inauguration of the Common Era? Like, what is happening that is going to point to that little zone, or that little area, in which we have, you know, 123 CE or AD, right? Like, why is this happening there?

And then I looked at also the spiritual history of all the people groups who worshipped God and that they've created one mythology or another. How similar are they really to Jesus? Why would they be similar to Jesus? And what's happening on this fuse that's burning that's based on spirituality? You know, views of God.

And the third one is that the Jews were making predictions. And Frank, I'm just not a big prophecy guy. I know that that's gonna make a lot of people crazy if I say that. But I when I was an atheist, I would hear people say that, you know, the Old Testament predicted the arrival of Jesus. But as I looked at that data, I was never all that compelled by it. But I'm going to tell you, I've written a chapter in this book where I can show you that, even if you were to be skeptical about some of the prophecies of Jesus, there is so much that builds into this fuse that, I think, creates a red zone that is so tiny...it runs from about 29 BC to about 70 AD...that something is going to happen in that red zone. And sure enough, that just happens to be when the Common Era begins. And so, I think we could have anticipated that something bad was going to happen,

**CROSS  
EXAMINED  
ORG**



*I don't have enough* **FAITH**  
*to be an* **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek **PODCAST**

just from the way that cultural history, spiritual history, and prophetic history was aligning. So, that's what I tried to demonstrate in the book. And I didn't even really realize that red zone was that tight until I overlaid all of these and said, whoa, this is actually really pretty powerful. We do the same kind of read zoning in criminal trials, where we're trying to figure out how to show the jury here, here's why it happened when it did. And by the way, you can sometimes tell who did something by when it occurs. And that's what we tried to do here. You know, something occurs here in the first century and that kind of tells us who's responsible.

**Frank:**

You know, Jim, the one thing that I think a skeptic might try and rebut regarding this, or at least say, this could undermine your entire argument. Yeah, okay, I could see how Jesus could have this impact on the culture in the fallout and all this fuse stuff leading up to it...what would you say to somebody who said, look, it's all based on a hoax, right. Look, either he rose from the dead or he didn't. The question is, how could this all happen if he didn't rise from the dead? Is it possible that a group of early followers of Jesus invented this and that just led to the explosion that we see? It wasn't a real explosion was an artificial explosion and that led to the fallout? I mean, how do you how do you rebut somebody you said, yeah, but it's all based on a lie to begin with.

**Jim:**

Right. Well, I bet that if there's people out there who think that God does not exist, that theism in general is false, and Christianity specifically is also false, well, then they're going to argue, I'm sure, that not just the Jesus story is an invention of humans, but every other story about God is also an invention of humans.

**Frank:**

Right.

**Jim:**

Well, why didn't this happen under Buddha? Why didn't it happen under Krishna? Why didn't it happen under Zoroaster? Why didn't it happen under all the other, I think that most atheists would say, are also equally suspicious and fictitious stories about God? But it turns out, really, so you're saying we just got lucky? Or is there something about this narrative of God that CS Lewis describes it as, the one true myth, that distinguishes it from the myths of men that come from their own common experience. And they describe the anticipation, the imagination of humans. Whereas this is the one true story about God that describes what CS Lewis says we call, real things, things that actually occurred. And that is the difference, right. And that's why I

**CROSS  
EXAMINED  
ORG**



*I don't have enough* **FAITH**  
*to be an* **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek **PODCAST**

say that, if this was just the case that hey, any invention of humans could have resulted in this, well, why is it not only was it only the Jesus story that results in this, but that he even eclipses and eliminates probably a huge section of prior mythologies that exist, right, in the minds of other cultures. They end up stop worshipping those things. Jesus is the one embodiment of every expectation that humans had for 1000s of years...I try to describe this in one chapter of the book. There are like 15 things that the ancients have imagined about the nature of God, which I think are reasonable. Not every group imagines all 15 things, but the clearest personification...it's as if you're right standing there with Paul...is Jesus. He's the one true God.

**Frank:**

I'm talking to J. Warner Wallace. His upcoming book, just out next month, which you can get early, or at least pre-order it, is called Person of Interest. We'll tell you how to do that in just a minute. You're listening to I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist with Frank Turek on American Family Radio Network. Our website is [CrossExamined.org](http://CrossExamined.org). Also check out [PersonOfInterestBook.com](http://PersonOfInterestBook.com). Back in two minutes.

Person of Interest. There's a lot of interest in this book, and there should be, because it is an amazing work that is unprecedented, in my view, about Jesus, the person of interest. Before we get back to Jim Wallace, however, I want to tell you that Dr. Clay Jones, from Biola University, is about to teach an online course called, Why Does God Allow Evil?. And I don't think there's anybody better on the planet right now to talk about this topic. He has, actually, a book by that name and he is going to be teaching Why Does God Allow Evil on [OnlineChristianCourses.com](http://OnlineChristianCourses.com). In fact, you can just go to [CrossExamined.org](http://CrossExamined.org) and click on online courses and see it starts September 1st. If you want to be part of the premium version of this class, where you're going to interact with Clay on zoom sessions, then you need to sign up soon because it fills up quickly. Again, the book, or the course is, Why Does God Allow Evil?.

Now, Jim, you're kind of a co-professor with Clay at Biola there. What do you know about Clay and his work on evil? Is it pretty good?

**Jim:**

Yeah, I'm just an adjunct professor. I can say that Clay is the real deal, okay. So, what's great about Clay is that I think he's done probably, like you said, just some of the best work on the problem of evil. Not even just that, though. Also, on the problem of what we would say of like God being evil, right.

**CROSS  
EXAMINED  
ORG**



*I don't have enough* **FAITH**  
*to be an* **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek      **PODCAST**

**Frank:**

Right. Yeah.

**Jim:**

A lot of his work also includes: Well, is God responsible for the destruction of the Canaanites? Is he responsible for the destruction of the Amalekites? You know, all this, kind of...Paul Copan also does some good work on this too. And they take very different approaches. So, what I love about Clay is that he's going to give you...and also, Clay is really rooted theologically too. A lot of his descriptions of this are going to be grounded. Sometimes, like, you have people ask us this question and I'm more inclined to give you a philosophical explanation. Well, Clay is really good about combining both the philosophical and the theological explanation. So, if you really want to deep dive and be prepared, I think Clay, yeah you're right, he's probably the best.

**Frank:**

And the best time to deal with the problem of evil is before you are going through it.

**Jim:**

Absolutely! We say that all the time, right. Afterwards, it's really hard. You need to be held when you've experienced evil. But if you can inoculate yourself by thinking well about evil before you encounter it, in other words, if it's not in your rearview mirror, but it's through your windshield, you're going to do a lot better at surviving episodes like that. So, that's why I think you might think, well, why would I take course? Yeah, you need to take that course now, because all of us are going to experience evil at some point.

**Frank:**

And Jim, going back to what we talked about just before the break ended, I asked you the question: Could this be all an elaborate hoax? And you said, well, yeah, if it was, why hasn't this happened before? And you mentioned, you know, Buddhism, Hinduism and some other worldviews? What about Islam? Because Islam is a pretty big competitor to Christianity. How does the influence of Jesus compare to, say, the influence of Muhammad?

**Jim:**

Well, okay, so a couple of things about that, and I think they're really important. Number one is, you'll also see the level of impact of a worldview based on the derivative nature of other worldviews that depend on it, that draw from it. And so, we have one chapter here in the very end of the book in which we talk about the impact that Jesus has had on other world religions. And you will see that he, not only has an impact on every religion that follows him...Islam

**CROSS  
EXAMINED  
ORG**



*I don't have enough* **FAITH**  
*to be an* **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek **PODCAST**

makes room for Jesus of Nazareth. They have to account for him. They cannot ignore him. They actually embrace him in many ways and call him a prophet of greater stature than Muhammad, right. He also will be with God at the final judgment, judging the living in the dead.

**Frank:**

This is according to Islam.

**Jim:**

Yes, according to Islam. Jesus has an important role to play in Islam. He also has an important role to play in Ahmadiyya Islam, he has an important role to play in the Bahá' faith, he has an important role to play...and not only that, the worldviews that preceded Jesus, watch as they extend through the calendar, and now here we are in 2021. Well, it turns out that Hinduism, and Buddhism, and other forms of religious expression have now accommodated the person of Jesus in one way or another. Their leaders will venerate Jesus. It will call out Bodhisattva, a Buddha like figure, and enlightened man on his way to Buddhahood. These things are said of Jesus, even though those systems preceded Jesus. It turns out that Jesus has had a huge impact on these other world religions in a way that Islam has not had on world religion. Jesus had that impact.

By the way, then Jesus says, you know, I'm the only way. So, in other words, everyone kind of points to Jesus, but Jesus never points to anyone else. Jesus says, no, no, I'm the only way. And that's interesting to me, right. So, it turns out that Jesus, not only has an impact on World History, but he has an impact on spiritual thinkers, those who preceded him, and those who follow him, in a way that's unique to Jesus of Nazareth. That's why I always say, if you are somebody who's thinking about, well, is there a God, and what form of religion, what form of religious expression globally should I even start to look at to see what is true about God? Well, start with Jesus, because it turns out that everyone hat tips Jesus and Jesus does not hat tip anybody else. And I would start with Jesus. By the way, if you eliminated the New Testament, you would know something about Jesus of Nazareth just from the scriptures and statements of the world religious leaders of all of the other systems. And I show in the book what you would know about Jesus from the scripture of non-Christians and from the teachings of the leaders of non-Christian religious systems. It's actually a very robust description of Jesus of Nazareth. You are not going to cobble that view of Muhammad, or Islam, from other world religions, the way you can cobble together a picture of Jesus from other world religions.

**CROSS  
EXAMINED  
ORG**



*I don't have enough* **FAITH**  
*to be an* **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek **PODCAST**

**Frank:**

What is the difference on how Islam spread in its early years versus how Christianity spread in its early years?

**Jim:**

Well, okay, so part of the argument is that all these religions spread the same way, by the sword. That's how they're spread. But it turns out that's not true for Christianity. As a matter of fact, there's a history of, kind of, ebb and flow. Some emperors were more tolerant. There was a sense of religious tolerance, for example, in the first century that actually helped Christianity get off the ground. But they've always experienced, until the Edicts of Milan and Thessalonica, they experienced a number of kind of cyclical prosecutions, restrictions, property restrictions, all kinds of things like that. So, it turns out, they weren't in a position to expand their view by the sword.

But I'll tell you what I think is happening today. And you will see that there's a reason why Islam, it ranks as, you know, it's number two in terms of globally the number of people who are in Islam, and it's predicted to surpass Christianity in the next 15 years. And it is not based on a truth nature or falsity nature. It's not based on proselytization. It's not based on evangelism. It's based on biological reproduction. It's that, we as Christians, have adopted a secular view of family in child raising, that sees children as, kind of, a debit rather than a credit. As a liability rather than a blessing. And we want to limit that liability because we can't enjoy our best life now if we've got all these debts called children. So, you'll see that Christians often have adopted the birth rates of the cultures in which they're living, which is not true for Islam, largely. Largely, Islam still has had more kids. And we are always more likely, still today globally, that the best predictor of your worldview is, what did your parents hold as their worldview? And so, that if you have more kids, you are likely to spread a worldview at a higher rate than if you don't have more kids. And that's what's happening globally. today. That's another one of those things that we could, actually, reverse if we adopted a biblical view of children.

**Frank:**

The book is called Person of interest. And Jim, it does come out on September 21. There is so much rich in this book. You personally drew 400 illustrations. I don't know how long that took you.

**Jim:**

It took about three months. And I'll tell you, someone said to me recently: Why doesn't it say, written and illustrated by J. Warner? Well, it's just the way that they do these books, right. I

**CROSS  
EXAMINED  
ORG**



*I don't have enough* **FAITH**  
*to be an* **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek **PODCAST**

mean, if you open the cover inside, it says in very small writing, the illustrations are by J. Warner Wallace. But a lot of that was just out of an effort to say: How do I say this if I can't show you? And sometimes it's easier than others. Like some of these charts on science, for example, when you see the explosive growth of science, I want you to see the charts. Because once you see them you go, well yeah, that is kind of curious that Jesus happens to stand at the beginning of a tidal wave of scientific exploration. And where, if you think about it historically, Jesus could have appeared anywhere, related to that explosion. And by the way, Frank, you know this because you started to look at all those fathers and mothers of scientific disciplines.

**Frank:**

288 disciplines.

**Jim:**

Okay, well, I'll tell you, that's a short number. It's more than that, because for the most part, I am just using the same publicly accessible resources that everybody else has access to. And I will tell you that they are starting to scrub Christian identity from the histories of all of these scientists. So, there are a bunch more important scientists who have historically done important work that we don't know they are Christians, because for the most part, though, the gatekeepers of information on the internet have started to scrub their religious identities. But, but trust me, if you are interested in God, you can still be interested in the sciences. As a matter of fact, these are symbiotic kind of explorations. They actually benefit each other. So, I always want to encourage young people, stay in the sciences, get in the sciences, lead in the sciences.

**Frank:**

In fact, I think you pointed this out too, Jim. I don't have the quote in front of me but talking about the universities. Is it Christianity that started universities at a 10:1 rate of any other worldview? Is that true?

**Jim:**

Oh yeah, it's ridiculous. As a matter of fact, if you look at the top 15 universities in the world today, all 15 were initiated and started by Christians. You can get any marker system you want, any evaluating website you want to look at, the top 15 global universities today are all started by Christ followers. And the top 50, the vast majority are Christian universities. Now, they may not have a Christian identity anymore.

**CROSS  
EXAMINED  
ORG**



*I don't have enough* **FAITH**  
*to be an* **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek      **PODCAST**

**Frank:**

No, they have gone woke now. But you say, if you look at their founding documents, you could basically get the essentials of the faith from them, couldn't you.

**Jim:**

Absolutely. Their founders were all Christ followers who wrote about Jesus. You could reconstruct Jesus just from the campuses where these scriptures and the images of Jesus still exist. So yeah, there's no way, unless you're willing to tear down all those buildings, destroy all those charters, another area of culture, the fingerprints of Jesus are so robust, you will not erase him unless you're willing to destroy the history of education.

**Frank:**

In the name of inclusion, tolerance and diversity. I think they may just tear all those down, Jim, now that you mention it. Alright, Jim, we're about out of time. Tell people where they can pre-order the book and what do they get if they pre-order it now? Person of Interest. Where do they go?

**Jim:**

Yeah. [PersonOfInterestBook.com](http://PersonOfInterestBook.com). We'll give you a free video, free E-book, Bible inserts and a discount coupon to our community. I would invite you to join us so we can kind of hang out together.

**Frank:**

[PersonOfInterestBook.com](http://PersonOfInterestBook.com). Check it out. J. Warner Wallace, unbelievable book. We're gonna have Jim on in about a month and a half when the book actually does release, but you want to get it now. Order it now from [PersonOfInterestBook.com](http://PersonOfInterestBook.com). And that'll help also move it up the charts at some of these other places. So, check that out. And we will see you back here next week, Lord willing. See you then. I'm Frank Turek.

**CROSS  
EXAMINED  
ORG**

