

Jesus and His Teachings

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Self-Published
Edmond, Oklahoma

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Unless otherwise stated, Scripture quotations are taken from the New King James' Version of the Bible.

About the Author

Doug Baker holds a Master of Arts degree in History and a Doctor of Ministry degree in Biblical Studies. He was an educator for 39 years, including a full professor of History, Philosophy, and World Religions for Oklahoma State University-Oklahoma City, where he taught fulltime for more than 26 of those years. He also served as the president and director of Builders of Faith, a radio-turned Internet Christian ministry for nearly 30 years, and as the pastor of a local congregation in Oklahoma for 8 years. His hobbies include research and writing. He is the author of several other books as listed below:

The American Journey: Pre-Columbus to 1877 (with Susan Hutchins)

The American Journey: Reconstruction to the Present (with Susan Hutchins)

Bible Answers

The Case for Christianity

A Commentary on the Epistle to the Romans

Countdown to Armageddon: How to Survive the Prophetic End Game

Ellen White and Her Prophetic Gift

A Quest for Ultimate Reality: Does God Exist?

A Search for Ultimate Truths: A Philosophical and Historical Journey

Unlocking Revelation's Secrets: A Commentary on the Book of Revelation

Dedicated to Pastor Scott Baker,
Brother and Bible Scholar with whom I have spent many years studying the Bible
together.

“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts,
and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the
hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.”
I Peter 3:15 (NKJV)

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PREFACE

Through the years I have always admired Martin Luther, the great sixteenth-century Protestant Reformer for how he defended the faith of the Scriptures. As I progressed in my formal education and then sharpened my research and writing skills as a university professor, a desire to write a thorough book on the major teachings of the Bible grew inside of me. This desire was strengthened by several years of deep Bible study with my good “brother,” Pastor Scott Baker. For this reason, I have dedicated this book to him.

Jesus and His Teachings begins, I think appropriately, with the concept of God’s existence and then moves to the Jesus of history and His view of the Scriptures. In fact, the first 14 chapters provide the reader with a rational and historical defense of Christianity and the Bible before proceeding to deal with other specific doctrinal topics. In this sense, the first 14 chapters are an apologetic work defending Christianity—something Christians should do more of in an increasingly secular world.

I trust that the chapter titles in the Table of Contents are sufficiently clear to allow the reader to know what historical or Bible topic is addressed in each chapter. There are also several appendices to the book dealing with topics that I did not think would particularly flow well in the main portion of the book itself.

I want to thank my dear wife Linda for her invaluable editing work on this book in preparing it to be read and for her patient endurance while I was working on this project.

May the Lord richly bless you as you study His precious revelation to us in His Word! And may your understanding of its wonderful truths be enhanced by the reading of this book so that you can “be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear” (I Peter 3:15, NKJV).

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April 2021