



August 31, 2023

The Spirituality Committee of the
Catholic Bar Association presents
a Book Review of

THE CASE FOR JESUS
THE BIBLICAL AND HISTORICAL
EVIDENCE FOR CHRIST

By Brant Pitre
Afterword by Bishop Robert Barron

Reviewed by Linda Carroll
Chair, Spirituality Committee of the CBA

One day, Father Robert Barron met a young theologian, Dr. Brant Pitre when they both were speakers at a conference on the Bible. During conversation while traveling from the airport to the conference, Dr. Pitre said how annoyed he was that people compared the transmission of the gospels to the game Telephone. Father Barron responded enthusiastically that "someone needs to write a book ... refuting that stupid comparison." Alas, Dr.

Pitre did and it is called *The Case for Jesus*.

St. Jerome is oft quoted as saying that "ignorance of scripture is ignorance of Christ." We are all called to evangelize, and at this time the Church in the United States is focusing on a Eucharistic revival. Without faith in the divinity of Jesus we cannot evangelize or reflect on the Holy Eucharist. This is where *The Case for Jesus* is a huge help.

In his book, Dr. Pitre discusses how we know who wrote the Gospels, and that they were written by eyewitnesses to the events, or by those in close association with eyewitnesses. He explains that the Gospels fit into the literary category of "ancient biography" not unlike in style to biographies of other well-known historical figures of the time. Dr. Pitre also explains the context in which the Gospels must be placed to be properly understood - in other words, you must know something about the Jewish culture, and the Jewish understanding of the Old Testament, to properly understand the Gospels. Dr. Pitre puts to rest claims by some alleged scholars that Jesus never claimed to be God demonstrating that Jesus did so time and again and that the Jews of the time understood that he was doing so. Jesus was crucified for blasphemy for the claims he made to divinity writes Dr. Pitre. Dr. Pitre, using C.S. Lewis' line, leads one to the conclusion that Jesus, the Christ, was not a liar or a lunatic, but was, as he claimed to be, Lord.

This book makes a great reference tool for those of us that have both faith and knowledge of our Lord Jesus but cannot put the words together when asked to defend our faith.

The Case for Jesus is widely available in paperback, hardcopy and on Kindle.