

## The Resurrection

The resurrection of Jesus is the most important Christian doctrine there is. There is not a single event that has been under such scrutiny and has come under such attack as the event of the resurrection. Satan wants to discount and discredit the resurrection causing people to believe it is all a myth. Let's look at the evidence that points to the resurrection being a true historical event...

### Evidence for Jesus' existence

- We have the biblical accounts of Jesus such as in:  
The gospels / The book of Acts / The writings of Paul, Peter and John - 1 John 1:1-4 (NLT)
- We have the early church fathers from the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> century that acknowledged that Jesus actually lived.
- We have the extra biblical writing (resources not from the Bible): Flavius Josephus; Tacitus **Evidence of the**

### resurrection of Jesus

#### 1. Jesus' death by crucifixion

This is a widely accepted historical fact, even by skeptics. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> century historians wrote about this.

#### **Objection - Swoon Theory**

Jesus didn't actually die but that he just passed out.

Roman Crucifixion was a guaranteed death - *Isaiah 52:14 (NLT)*

#### 2. The Empty Tomb

The reality is that there WAS an empty tomb. If the Romans and the Jewish leaders wanted to squash this whole idea that Jesus rose from the dead, they could have just presented the body of Jesus and the whole thing would have ended.

#### **Objection: Stolen body theory - Matthew 28:11-15 (NLT)**

**Justin Martyr:** "You have sent chosen and ordained men throughout all the world to proclaim that a godless and lawless heresy had sprung from one Jesus, a Galilean deceiver, whom we crucified, but his disciples stole him by night from the tomb, where he was laid when unfastened from the cross, and now deceive men by asserting that he has risen from the dead and ascended to heaven." — *Dialogue with Trypho 108*

#### 3. Post-mortem appearances to his followers

The disciples and others reported experiencing what they believed to be the risen Jesus.

#### **Appearances to Individuals**

- Mary Magdalene John 20:11-18

- **Simon Peter** *Luke 24:34; 1 Corinthians 15:5*
- **James (Jesus' half-brother)** *1 Corinthians 15:7*
- **Paul (Saul of Tarsus)** *Acts 9:3-6; 1 Corinthians 15:8*
- **Stephen (at his martyrdom)** *Acts 7:55-56*

#### **Appearances to Groups of Believers**

- **The Women (other than Mary Magdalene)** *Matthew 28:8-10*
- **The Followers on the Road to Emmaus** *Luke 24:13-35*
- **The Disciples in the Upper Room (without Thomas)** *Luke 24:36-43; John 20:19-23*
- **The Disciples in the Upper Room (with Thomas)** *John 20:24-29*
- **Seven Disciples at the Sea of Galilee** *John 21:1-14*
- **The Eleven Disciples on a Mountain in Galilee** *Matthew 28:16-20*
- **Over 500 Followers at Once** *1 Corinthians 15:6*

#### **Objection: Hallucination theory**

The most popular theory offered by skeptics to explain away the post-resurrection appearances is that the disciples experienced hallucinations.

#### **4. Transformation of His Disciples, James and Paul**

The disciples' lives were significantly altered after their experiences with the resurrected Jesus, leading them to proclaim his message. *Acts 2:14-16; 22-24 (NLT)*

James, Jesus' brother, who initially did not believe in him, became a Christian, as did Paul, who was a persecutor of Christians.

##### **James:**

*Mark 3*

*Mark 6*

*John 7* - All say the brothers of Jesus were not believers

*Acts 1* - We see James in the upper room with the other believers. James also ended up writing the book of James

##### **Paul:**

*Acts 8* - Paul is seen consenting to the death of Stephen

*Acts 9* - Paul is converted on the road to Damascus

#### **Objection: They died defending a lie**

All of the disciples gave up their life defending the resurrected Jesus. They did not earn fame or fortune, money or sex. They were persecuted constantly and gave up everything...why? People do not die for a lie.

#### **5. Explosion of the Christian Faith**

The belief in Jesus' resurrection was actively proclaimed by the early Christian community shortly after his death. (We are actually going to talk more about this next week)

**Objection: Christianity borrowed from pagan religions (The Copycat Theory)** Many if not all of the false religions that claim they too have a messiah that died and rose from the dead are written after the events of Jesus' death, burial and resurrection.



Podcast



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