
Summer Speaker Series - Episode II

How do we know the Resurrection happened?

Passage: **1 Corinthians 15:12-19, 3-11**

But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. **1 Corinthians 15:12-19**

“I have friends who do not believe God exists, but I want to prove to them that God exists.

How can we prove to nonChristians that God exists?”

How can we prove Christianity is true?

How do we know the resurrection happened?

Did Jesus really die?

Did the Disciples lie?

Were the disciples mistaken?

Have the disciples’ accounts been changed over time?

Did the disciples tell the truth?

Death

Did Jesus really die?

Sweat blood: Hematidrosis (Luke 22:44)

Struck on the head (Mark 15:19)

Beaten with fists (Matthew 26:67)

Flogged (John 19:1)

Crown of thorns (Matthew 27:29; John 19:2-5)

Carried his cross (John 19:17)

Crucified

Water and blood: Pericardial/Pleural Effusion (John 19:34)

Sources from outside the Bible

Tacitus

Thallus

Mara Bar-Serapion

Phlegon

Josephus

Babylonian Talmud

The is no doubt among mainstream historians that Jesus was executed.

Did the disciples lie?

Empty Tomb (Luke 24:2-3)

Women were the first witnesses (Luke 24:10, John 20:15-18)

Doubters (Matthew 28:17, Luke 24:11, John 20:24-25)

Messianic expectations (Mark 8:31-33)

Motives to lie:

Money?

Relationships?

Power?

The Apostles we hunted down, put in prison, tortured, and executed



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Were they mistaken?

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also. **1 Corinthians 15:3-11** (NASB)

Have the disciples accounts been changed over time?

The first books of the NT were written within 20 years of the resurrection.

The Gospels were written between 25 and 40 years after the resurrection.

There are over 6500 Ancient Greek manuscripts of the NT over 25,000 copies if you include the Coptic and Latin versions.

The most well preserved and attested to ancient document

Belief that = knowing facts

Belief in = placing trust

The resurrection caused the disciples to move from **belief that** Jesus was the Saviour to **belief in** Jesus.

“Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

Acts 2:37

“Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” **Acts 2:38**

All scripture is from the New International Version unless otherwise noted.