

Did Jesus Rise from the Dead?



1 empty tomb

Three days later, the Tomb was empty: **no-one ever produced a body**, and a faith centred on the resurrection flourished right there in Jerusalem.



2 execution

Jesus was crucified ...which leaves a person dead!

Easter Evidence - Facing the Facts



3 eyewitnesses

Over the next six weeks, **hundreds saw him risen and alive** ...and would die rather than deny it.

After that, the sightings abruptly stopped: Jesus had returned to his Father.

"If Jesus had not risen from the dead, we should probably have never heard of him"
Prof. F. F. Bruce



4 early church

The tiny band of disciples – confused and devastated by Jesus' death – were **filled with such energy and courage** that the radical message spread rapidly, through the entire Roman empire.



extras...

The **gospel accounts** of Jesus' resurrection are **hard to fit together** – they don't read like an 'official party line' but **genuine, independent reports**.

The early Christians disagreed on lots... but they **all agreed on the fact and nature of Jesus' resurrection**.

Christian **Baptism** and **Meeting on Sunday** suddenly appeared – both linked to the resurrection.

5 ever since...

Countless Christians down the ages (including doctors, lawyers, scientists and historians) have not only been **convinced by the evidence**, but testify to knowing Jesus and his life-transforming presence.



"I've made up my mind – don't confuse me with the facts"

It was all made up...

Why invent a story with **women** as key eyewitnesses, when their testimony was not legally acceptable? Why describe Jesus as **physical** and yet also sometimes unrecognised, and able to enter a locked room etc.? It was hardly invented to convince sceptics!

The body was stolen...



Would the disciples steal it and then be ready to die for a lie, whilst founding a religion which emphasised truth?

People just don't rise...

This is hardly a new insight! First Century people were just as able to 'sniff out a hoax' – everyone knew people didn't rise... yet thousands were persuaded that Jesus had. The event changed people's whole way of thinking (and still does!)

It's just a way of saying 'Jesus lives on in his teaching'...



What about hallucinations?

The accounts of Jesus sightings just don't fit the normal patterns – nor do they explain away the empty tomb

"Ah but..." Answering Objections

Jesus swooned and came around...

The reality of crucifixion (and burial practice) makes this absurd. The **soldiers** knew their job – their own lives depended on getting it right! Could a 'half-dead' Jesus launch Christianity?



There was some mistake...

Then why wasn't it dealt with? If the wrong tomb was visited, or if authorities took the body, then why wasn't it produced? Plenty of Jewish and Roman officials would have loved to stop the whole movement!



All suggested 'explanations' are unconvincing!

Only the actual, physical resurrection of Jesus fits the facts.

In fact most people don't interact with the evidence – they just ignore it.

You have to choose one out of a dozen surgeons to save your life...
CLUE: eleven of them are dead!

How to choose... between so many religions and worldviews? Uniquely, Christians follow a leader who conquered death. This sets the Christian Faith apart.

No one would deny that Buddha, Moses, Muhammad, Darwin, Marx etc. are all dead!

Why doesn't God show himself? In the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ **He has**, clearly and decisively. **Why not find out more....**

"So what?" - Easter Implications



What to investigate...

Christianity stands or falls with Jesus' resurrection. If **this** is true then so are his claims, his warnings and his promises – he alone can provide escape from God's judgment and give eternal life to all who depend upon him.