

**Simple Sure Proof**

Then, and now

**of the Resurrection of our Lord**



Our Lord Jesus Christ being raised from the dead, gives him credentials and certification that no other religious leader, or religion, possesses.

When he said that He himself would rise again from the dead, the third day after He was crucified, He said something that only a fool would dare say, if He expected the continued devotion of any disciples—unless He was sure He was going to rise.



# Explanation Choices

1. Jesus didn't really die on the cross.
2. The "resurrection" was a conspiracy.
3. The disciples were hallucinating.
4. The account is legendary.
5. A White Lie
6. It really happened.

# # 1 - He didn't actually Die

With an event so well publicized, don't you think that it's reasonable that one historian, one eye witness, one antagonist would record for all time that he had seen Christ's body?

... The silence of history is deafening not only when it comes to his death, but also when it comes to the testimony against the resurrection.

## # 2 – Conspiracy

### What about the Watch? Mt. 27

<sup>59</sup>And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth,

<sup>60</sup>And laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed.

<sup>61</sup>And there was Mary Magdalene, and the other Mary, sitting over against the sepulchre.

<sup>62</sup>Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate,

<sup>63</sup>Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again.

<sup>64</sup>Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first.

<sup>65</sup>Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way, make it as sure as ye can.

<sup>66</sup>So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch.

# # 2 - Conspiracy

It would have been impossible for anyone to have slipped by the guards and to have moved a two-ton stone.

# # 2 - Conspiracy

The tomb belonged to a member of the Sanhedrin Council, Joseph of Arimathea. In Israel at that time, to be on the council was to be a rock star. Everyone knew who was on the council. Joseph must have been a real person. Otherwise, the Jewish leaders would have exposed the story as a fraud in their attempt to disprove the resurrection. Also, Joseph's tomb would have been at a well-known location and easily identifiable, so any thoughts of Jesus being "lost in the graveyard" would need to be dismissed.

# # 3 - Hallucination...

Out of so desperately wanting to see...

... by 500 together??????????????

- Each eyewitness account reports that Jesus suddenly appeared bodily to his followers, the women first.
- Later, according to the eyewitness accounts, all the disciples saw Jesus on more than ten separate occasions. They wrote that he showed them his hands and feet and told them to touch him. And he reportedly ate with them and later appeared alive to more than 500 followers on one occasion.



## # 4 – Legend

Just a Legend?

Couldn't happen that quick without resurrection power

- 4 Gospels affirming the truth were written within 3 decades
- Within 20 years the resurrection truth shook Judaism
- Within 50 years it shook the Roman Empire

# 56 A.D. - 1 Cor. 15

<sup>3</sup>For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

<sup>4</sup>And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

<sup>5</sup>And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:

<sup>6</sup>After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.

<sup>7</sup>After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles.

<sup>8</sup>And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.

## # 5 – A White Lie

Those who lie for personal gain do not stick together very long, especially when hardship decreases the benefits.

I know the resurrection is a fact, and Watergate proved it to me. How? Because 12 men testified they had seen Jesus raised from the dead, then they proclaimed that truth for 40 years, never once denying it. Every one was beaten, tortured, stoned and put in prison. They would not have endured that if it weren't true. Watergate embroiled 12 of the most powerful men in the world—and they couldn't keep a lie for three weeks. You're telling me 12 apostles could keep a lie for 40 years? Absolutely impossible.

Chuck Colson

Men will die for what they believe to be true, though it may actually be false. They do not, however, die for what they know is a lie.

11 original apostles - 10 martyrs

... a profound conviction came to the little group of people—a change that attests to the fact that Jesus had risen from the grave.

## # 6 - It Really Happened - 1 Peter 1: 2 – 9

<sup>2</sup>Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

<sup>4</sup>To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

<sup>5</sup>Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

<sup>6</sup>Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:

<sup>7</sup>That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

<sup>8</sup>Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

<sup>9</sup>Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.





