

“Resurrection: Myth or Miracle?”
“Easter Sunday”
Luke 24:6

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!"...
Luke 24:1-6

While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."
Luke 24:36-39

Evidence For The Resurrection

And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.
1 Corinthians 15:14

1. Evidence of the Empty Tomb

..."Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'..."
Luke 24:5-8

Objection #1: Christ never really died.

Objection #2: The body of Jesus was stolen.

Objection #3: There was a mass hallucination.

- A. Hallucinations are not group events.
- B. The disciples weren't expecting the resurrection.

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but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel...
Luke 24:21

C. Jesus appeared to believers and unbelievers.

"Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know."
Acts 2:22

I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth. And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory. 1 Timothy 3:15-16 (NKJV)

Objection #4: The wrong tomb

2. Evidence of Fulfilled Prophecies

“You are blaspheming, because I said, ‘I am the Son of God?’ If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me...” John 10:36-37 (NASU)

- He would ride into Jerusalem on a donkey colt (Zechariah 9:9)
- He would be betrayed by a friend (Psalm 41:9)
- He would be sold for thirty pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:12)
- The silver would be used to buy a potter’s field (Zech. 11:13)
- He would be forsaken by His disciples (Zech. 13:7)
- He would be accused by false witnesses (Psalm 35:11)
- He would remain silent before His accusers (Isaiah 53:7)
- He would be mocked (Psalm 22:7-8)
- His hands and feet would be pierced (Psalm 22:16)
- He would be crucified with thieves (Isaiah 53:12)
- His clothes would be divided and cast lots for (Psalm 22:18)
- The exact words of His death cry were predicted (Ps. 22:1)
- None of His bones would be broken (Psalm 34:20)
- His heart would literally burst (Psalm 22:14)
- His side would be pierced (Zechariah 12:10)
- Darkness would fall in broad daylight (Amos 8:9)
- He would be buried in a rich man’s tomb (Isaiah 53:9)
- He would be resurrected from the dead (Psalm 16:10)

3. Evidence of Eyewitness Accounts

After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. Acts 1:3

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born. 1 Corinthians 15:3-8

Objection #5: The writers were biased.

*“You may press the words of Luke in a degree
beyond any other historian and they stand
the keenest scrutiny and the hardest treatment.”
Sir William Ramsay—Professor of Archaeology at Oxford*

4. The Evidence of Changed Lives

*“Taking all the evidence together, it is not too much
to say that there is no historic incident better or more
variously supported than the resurrection of Christ.”
Canon Wescott—Cambridge University*

Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

John 8:32

Question: What was the initial reaction of all the disciples?

- They fled the crucifixion
- They went to the tomb with spices
- They hoped He was the one who would redeem all Israel
- When they heard from the first eyewitnesses, they didn't believe them
- When Jesus appeared to the disciples their reaction was fear
- Thomas didn't believe until he saw the nail prints in His hands and feet

*All that Christianity asks of people is that they would be consistent with themselves, that they would treat the evidences as they would treat the evidence of other things and that they would judge its witnesses as they deal with their fellowmen when testifying to human affairs...The result would be an undoubting conviction of their integrity, ability and truth.
Simon Greenleaf—Harvard School of Law*

Dear God, Thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, to earth. I believe Jesus was who He said He was and proved it by raising from death. I want to begin following your plan and purpose for my life. I want to know you personally. Thank you for dying for me and forgiving all my sins. I receive you as my Savior and Master. Thank you for your free gift of eternal life.
Amen