

Evidence

for the Resurrection

Hundreds of Eyewitnesses

The New Testament states, "Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again, just as the Scriptures said. He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve. After that, He was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died." (Paul, 1 Cor. 15:4-6) These eyewitnesses were around for many decades to testify to the facts.

Enemy Eyewitnesses Unable to Refute Facts

Jesus was *not* popular with the Jewish authorities of His day! They were jealous. After finally finding a way to have Him executed, His resurrection must have been their worst nightmare! Obviously, they would have tried everything in their power to disprove the event and stop the news from spreading. But the tomb was empty for all to see and the authorities could not produce the body.

Jesus' followers wouldn't die for a known lie!

Let's imagine for a moment that Jesus' followers really had conspired together to steal the body of Jesus (if that were possible) and produce a brilliant hoax to fool the world. History tells us that ten out of the twelve were tortured and martyred because they would not deny the truth of their claim! Would these men suffer and die for something they knew to be a lie? Men may be sincerely deceived and die for what they *believe to be the truth*. But people just do not die for something they know is a lie. If anyone knew the true facts, His closest followers would. Yet these men went from being fearful cowards to suddenly having the boldness to preach Christ everywhere in spite of persecution.

Rapid Spread of Christianity

History records thousands immediately converting to Christianity — as many as 3,000 in one day in Jerusalem! Keep in mind that many of these people had previously been opposed to Jesus, even shouting, "crucify Him" at His trial! What caused this dramatic mass-conversion? A made-up story would not have convinced them. After all, the disciples were preaching in Jerusalem

where people would know better! Yet thousands believed, and within 50 years Christianity had spread across the whole Mediterranean world.

Reliability of the New Testament

Skeptics try to describe the Bible as a book that has been exaggerated or changed over the years. However, no one doubts the existence of Julius Caesar or the historical information in his book, *Gallic Wars*, even though only 10 manuscripts remain. By contrast, over **20,000** ancient handwritten manuscripts of the New Testament exist today! Historians who have collected and compared these documents have been able to confirm with a great deal of certainty that the text has not been altered. Archaeological studies also provide convincing evidence to support the authenticity of the Bible. If we conclude that the Bible is a reliable and trustworthy book from God, shouldn't we seriously consider what God says about life after death?

The Only Man in History who
Conquered Death

JESUS CHRIST

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If Jesus was still dead, the Christian faith would be meaningless. But if Jesus *did* rise from the dead, He **demonstrated** that He is indeed Almighty God and has power over death to give **eternal life**. According to the Bible, our sin is so serious in God's eyes that our **default destination** is hell if we do not trust in Christ to save us. Sin is disobeying God: lying, stealing, lust, hating, swearing, dishonoring parents, etc. Are you guilty of any of these things? Then know this: Out of incredible love for you, Jesus **took the punishment you deserved** by dying on the cross. God can now **justly** grant you forgiveness and eternal life. But you must repent (turn from sin) and **trust in Jesus** to save you. Read the Bible for yourself!

What's the Significance?

Did His Followers Steal the Body?
Because the Jewish leaders feared Pilate to have His tomb marked with a Roman seal and protected by Roman guards, who were obligated to protect it with penalty of death. To imagine a few of Jesus' followers could roll away a stone that likely weighed 2 tons (and required a lever system to put in place) in order to steal His body while Roman soldiers slept on duty is absurd. Maybe Jesus Wasn't Really Dead?
The Roman army was one of the fiercest, most powerful armies in world history. If anyone knew how to be sure their criminal was dead, they did. Jesus was brutally flogged with Roman flagrum, had spikes driven through hands and feet, hung on a cross bleeding for 6 hours, and was thrust through with a spear. After the Roman army proclaimed Him dead, He was embalmed with over 100 lbs. of spices, wrapped in linen, and laid in a tomb for three days. Critics who say Jesus merely fainted and then revived have to explain how He regained strength to move the stone and get passed the Roman guards.