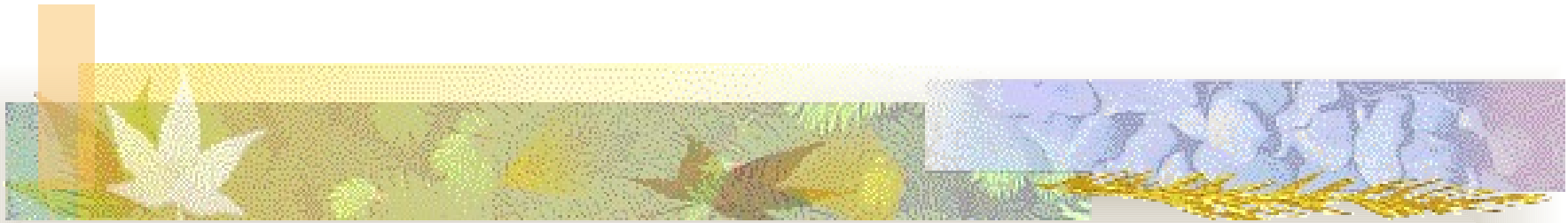


Christ Rose From the Grave What Is the Evidence?



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Evidence For The Resurrection

- Jesus' Resurrection
 - Prophesied in the OT
 - Prophesied by Christ Himself in the NT
- Pertinent data to be considered
- Historical facts to be considered
- Accounting for the empty tomb
- More than a dozen appearances of the risen Lord
 - Includes more than 500 witnesses at once
- Paul teaches the importance of the Resurrection
 - Its significance to the Christian faith



Resurrection

- Same physical body is made incorruptible
- Resurrection sees man as a soul-body
- Resurrection is a perfected state
- Believers
 - It is appointed to men once to die, **Heb. 9:27**
 - Death is to be with Christ, **2 Cor. 5:6; Phil. 1:23; Rev. 6:9**
 - Resurrected at 2nd Coming, **Rev. 20:4-6**
- Unbelievers
 - Resurrected and judged, **Rev. 20:11-15**
 - The Great White Throne Judgment



Jesus' Resurrection

- Foretold in the OT
- Foretold by Jesus Himself
- Jesus arose on the 3rd day after His death to a transformed body
- He appeared to more than 500 disciples over a 40-day period
 - Talked with them
 - Ate with them
 - Let them touch Him
- Christianity and His deity rest on the truth of His resurrection



Foretold in The OT

- Foretold in **Ps. 16:10**, “For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.”
- Referred to in **Acts 2:25-32**, “ ... he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. ... This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses.”
 - See also **Acts 13:30-37; 17:2-3**
 - Both Peter and Paul refer to David in the OT
- He is risen – **Matt. 28:6; Mark 16:6; Luke 24:46**



More on OT & His Resurrection

- The Messiah was to die
 - Ps. 22
 - Is. 53
- The Messiah was to reign from Jerusalem
 - Is. 9:6, “ ...government will be upon His shoulder ...”
 - Dan. 2:44, “ ... and it shall stand forever.”
 - Zech 13:1, refers to the kingdom of the Messiah
- The Messiah must be raised from the dead to reign forever
 - Therefore His Resurrection



Foretold by Christ Himself

- It was prophesied by Christ:
 - **Matt. 12:39-40**, “... and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”
 - **Matt. 16:21; 17:9, 22-23**
 - **Mark 8:31; 9:9-10, 31**
 - **Luke 9:22-27; 11:29-30**
 - **John 2:18-22; 10:18**
- Christ’s credibility rests on the fulfillment of His prophecy – His “Truth test”
 - His Resurrection is the foundation of the Christian faith



Paul's Emphasis

- Paul emphasizes Christ's Resurrection:
- **1 Cor. 15:14**, “If Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.”
 - Paul used these words to answer those who doubted Christ's bodily Resurrection
 - He rested his case on these words
- **Rom. 1:4**, “And declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.”
 - His victory over death demonstrates that He is the God the Son



The Importance of the Resurrection

- His Resurrection gives us conclusive answers to the most profound questions of our existence:
 - Where have we come from?
 - Why are we here?
 - What is our future destiny?
- If Christ rose, we know God exists, what He is like, that He cares for each of us, that the universe has meaning and purpose, and that we can experience the living God



Not Wishful Thinking

- Without the Resurrection, Christianity has no objective validity or reality
- Martyrs in the early centuries died because of the reality of the resurrection
- Nationals and missionaries on other continents died as martyrs in the past (and today)
- Frank Morison, a British lawyer, sought to expose the Resurrection as a fraud in the 1930's
 - He wrote the book “Who Moved the Stone?”
 - Persuaded against his will that the bodily resurrection was objective fact



Quote by William Lane Craig

Without the belief in the resurrection the Christian faith could not have come into being. The disciples would have remained crushed and defeated men. Even had they continued to remember Jesus as their beloved teacher, His crucifixion would have forever silenced any hope of His being the Messiah. The cross would have remained the sad and shameful end of His career. The origin of Christianity therefore hinges on the belief of the early disciples that God had raised Jesus from the dead.

William Lane Craig, Christian Apologist



Pertinent Data To Be Considered

- The existence and explosive growth of the Christian church is a fact
- The Christian (Sun)Day is a fact
- Christian Scripture – The New Testament – does exist
- Transformed lives of His brothers, His disciples, His followers



The Christian Church

- The church is worldwide
- Church history can be traced back to Palestine in 32 A.D.
- First called Christians in the city of Antioch
- Acts of the Apostles relate how Jesus and His Resurrection stirred whole communities
- Paul's preaching persuaded many, turning the world upside down, **Acts 17:6**
- The Resurrection is the basis for their teaching, preaching, living, and dying



Sunday – Day of Worship

- Sunday (the first day of the week) is the day of worship for Christians
- Shifted from the Jewish Sabbath, the seventh day of the week
- Traced back to 32 A.D.
- **Acts 20:7**, “On the first day of the week we came together,”
- Desire to celebrate the Resurrection (Jews were the first Christians)
- This was a very significant shift



The New Testament

- Independent testimonies to the fact of the Resurrection
- Three eyewitnesses (John, Peter, Matthew) wrote NT books
- Luke's gospel written by a historian who traveled with Paul, **2 Tim. 4:11**
- The Resurrection was well known and accepted without question by the readers of Paul's letters
- The NT books attest to 1) the empty tomb, and 2) the appearances of Jesus Christ following His burial



Transformed Lives

- Transformed lives of the disciples
 - Peter's preaching in **Acts 2**
 - Paul's preaching in **Acts 13**
 - Paul's testimony to Agrippa in **Acts 26**
 - Changed life of James, Jesus' brother
 - Ten disciples died for their faith
- Transformed lives throughout history
 - Early church fathers
 - Numerous converts' lives changed



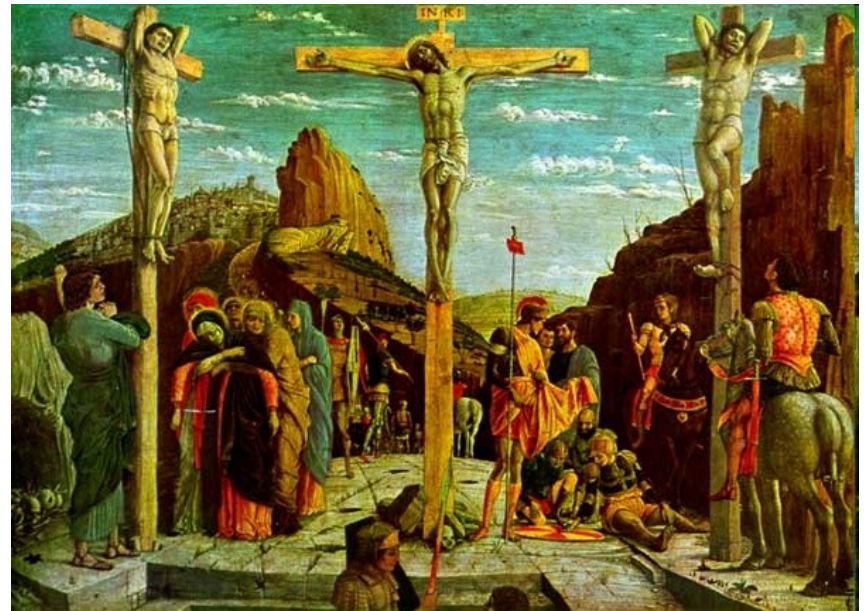
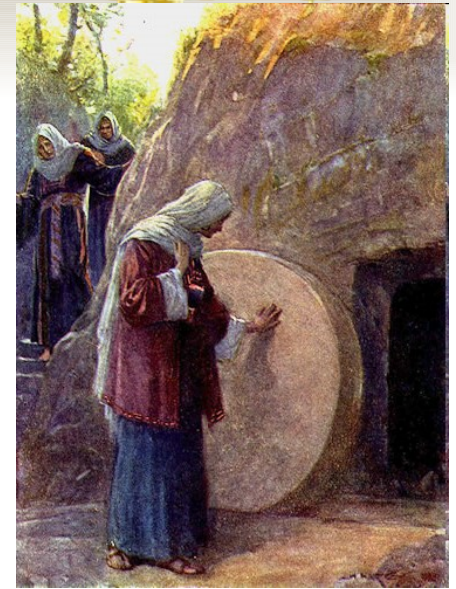
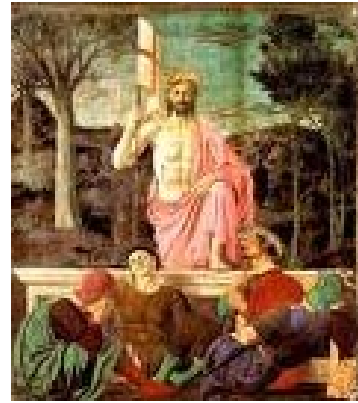
What Do the Skeptics Say?

- Gospels were written 40-70 years after the event
- The Gospels contain biased reporting
- The Resurrection should not be considered a literal event
- Islamic Koran – Jesus did not die on the cross, two theories proposed
 - Jesus swooned on the cross and revived in the coolness of the tomb
 - Someone took the place of Jesus on the cross

Historical Facts To Be Considered *

1. Jesus' death by crucifixion
2. Jesus appearances
 - To friends
 - To foes
3. The empty tomb

* Confirmed by non-biblical sources





Jesus' Death By Crucifixion

- Recorded in all four Gospels
- Documented by non-Christian ancient sources
 - Josephus, 1st century Jewish historian
 - Tacitus, early 2nd century Roman historian
 - Lucian, mid 2nd century Greek historian
 - Mara bar Serapion, 2nd to 3rd century writing to his son from prison
- Death by crucifixion described by Cicero in 1st century B. C.



Evidence For His Death

- Did not use a painkiller, **Mark 15:23**
- Heavy loss of blood, **Mark 15:25,33,37**
- Side pierced, **John 19:34**
- Legs not broken, **John 19:33**
- Bound in 100 lbs. of spices, **John 19:39**
- Pilate asked for assurance before releasing body
- Journal of American Medical Society, Mar. '86
 - “Clearly, the weight of historical and medical evidence indicates that Jesus was dead before the wound to His side was inflicted ... “



Jesus' Appearances

- A number of eyewitnesses attested to seeing the resurrected Jesus shortly after His crucifixion
- Twelve appearances recorded in the NT
- Reports of appearances to friends
 - Clement, a disciple of Peter in Rome, wrote to the church of Corinth in ~ 95 A.D. – The disciples had been “fully assured by the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ” and thus preached the good news
 - Josephus, 1st century historian, wrote that the disciples “reported that he had appeared to them three days after his crucifixion and that he was alive.”



Ancient Sources of Information

- Seven ancient sources attest to the disciples' willingness to suffer and even die for their belief in what they were claiming
 - Luke, Clement of Rome, Polycarp, Ignatius, Dionysius, Tertullian, Origin
 - The disciples believed they had experienced a post resurrection appearance of Jesus
 - They did not suffer for a “known lie”
- Critical scholars today do not believe that Jesus' disciples were lying



Jesus' Appearance to Paul (Foe)

- Paul, Jewish leader, persecutor of the church
- Recorded in **Acts 9**
- **1 Cor. 15:8-10; Gal. 1:12-16; Phil 3:6-7**
- Oral tradition of Paul, **Gal. 1:22-23**
- Paul' conversion documented by eyewitnesses
- Paul willing to suffer and die for his conviction reported by seven ancient sources – Paul, Luke, Clement of Rome, Polycarp, Dionysius, Tertullian, Origin



Jesus' Appearance to James (Foe)

- James, the unbelieving brother of Jesus
 - **Mark 6:3-4**, “Is this not the carpenter, the Son of Mary, and brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? ... So they were offended at Him. But Jesus said to them, ‘A prophet is not without honor except in his own country, among his own relatives, and in his own house.’”
 - **John 7:5**, “For even His brothers did not believe in Him.”
- Jesus' mother entrusted to another disciple
 - **John 19:26-27**, “When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, ‘Woman, behold your son!’”



The Impact on James

- **1 Cor. 15:7**, “After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles.”
- James became a leader in Jerusalem church
 - **Acts 15:13**, “And after they had become silent, James answered, saying, “Men *and* brethren, listen to me:”
 - **Acts 21:18**, “On the following *day* Paul went in with us to James, and all the elders were present.”
 - **Gal. 2:12**, “for before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles;”
- Josephus reports the martyrdom of James
- James wrote the Epistle of James



The Empty Tomb

- Events could be verified in Jerusalem by Jewish or Roman authorities
- Authorities could not produce His body
 - **Matt. 28:13**, “saying, ‘Tell them, ‘His disciples came at night and stole Him *away* while we slept.’”
 - Justin (150 AD) and Tertullian (200 AD) report that the Jewish leaders were still claiming this later on
- Women were the first and primary witnesses
 - Not regarded as reliable witnesses in 1st century
 - An “inventor” would not make this up

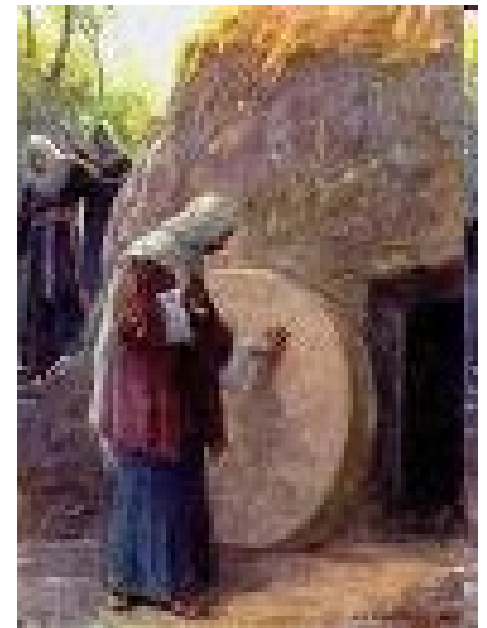


The Empty Tomb – W. L. Craig

When therefore the disciples began to preach the resurrection in Jerusalem and people responded, and when religious authorities stood helplessly by, the tomb must have been empty. The simple fact that the Christian fellowship, founded on belief in Jesus' resurrection, came into existence and flourished in the very city where he was executed and buried is powerful evidence for the historicity of the empty tomb.

Accounting For The Empty Tomb

1. The Disciples stole the body
2. The authorities (Jewish or Roman) moved the body
3. The wrong tomb
4. The swoon theory
5. The hallucination theory
6. The tomb was empty



1. The Disciples Stole The Body

- **Matt. 28:11-15**, chief priests and elders tried to bribe the soldiers to say that the disciples had stolen the body while they were asleep
- P.S. How did they know it was the Disciples if the guards were asleep?
- This would make the Disciples perpetrators of a deliberate lie
- How could a few Disciples pull this off without telling the others?





Impact On The Disciples

- What motivation did the Disciples have?
 - Why would they want to do this?
 - Where were the guards?
 - What about the grave clothes?
 - How did they move the stone?
- Every Disciple faced the test of torture, and all but John were martyred for their teachings
- People will die for what they believe to be true, even though it may be false
- People do NOT die for what they know is a lie



2. The Authorities Moved The Body

- The Authorities – either Jewish or Roman
- What would the Romans gain by doing this?
 - They put guards there
- These authorities were silent on this issue in the face of the Apostles' bold preaching in Jerusalem about the Resurrection
- The authorities arrested, beat and threatened Peter and John, **Acts 4**
- If they had the body, they could have paraded it through the streets of Jerusalem

3. The Wrong Tomb

- The distraught women, overcome with grief, missed their way in the dimness of the morning
- They imagined Christ had risen because the tomb was empty
- Why did the high priests and other enemies not go to the right tomb and produce the body?
- Note the bribe to the soldiers, **Matt. 28:11-15**
- Joseph of Arimathea, owner of the tomb, could have solved the problem
- This was a private burial ground, not that many tombs around





4. The Swoon Theory

- Christ did not actually die
- He had passed out from exhaustion, pain, and loss of blood
- He revived when laid in the coolness of the tomb
- He came out of the tomb and appeared to His disciples, who mistakenly thought He had risen from the dead



The Swoon Theory – 2

- First proposed in the late 1700's
- He was pierced in His side
- He was wrapped in graveyard clothes
- He could not have slipped past the guards
- He could not have rolled away the stone
- He could not have walked on pierced feet
- Jesus Himself would have been involved in flagrant lies



5. The Hallucination Theory

- All were only supposed appearances
 - People had hallucinations
- Problems with this theory
 - Christ appeared to large groups of people at once
 - Hallucinations are linked to individuals
 - Occur to people expecting to see something
 - Christ's followers were caused to believe against their will
 - Those who hallucinate do not become moral heroes
 - What about the Ascension?



6. The Tomb Was Empty!

- The only adequate explanation
- **2 Pet. 1:16**, “For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty.”
- With other religions, the tomb becomes a shrine of worship
- With Christ, the empty tomb is a place where Christians rejoice!



The Appearances of Christ

- Ten (twelve counting two related private meetings with Peter and James) distinct recorded appearances of the risen Christ
- His Resurrection was physical, not spiritual
 - Those to whom He appeared, saw, heard, and touched Him, but some also ate with Him
- From the morning of His resurrection to His ascension forty days later, **Acts 1:3**
 - Time, place and people varied



Who He Appeared To

- Lies or legends cannot explain the empty tomb
- We cannot dismiss the appearances of Christ
- Those who saw Christ were not hallucinating, they were credible eyewitnesses
- Christ appeared to:
 - Peter and James as individuals
 - Disciples as a group
 - 500 assembled believers
 - Two disciples on the road to Emmaus



Where He Appeared

- Christ appeared:
 - In the garden near the tomb
 - In the Upper Room
 - On the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus
 - In Galilee



Summary of Appearances

- **1 Cor. 15:5-8**, more than ½ of the 500 still alive
- **John 20:27-28**, “Then He said to Thomas, ‘Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing.’ And Thomas answered and said to Him, ‘My Lord and my God.’”
- Christ stopped appearing abruptly after 40 days
 - **Acts 1:9**, “Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.”



1. Mary Magdalene

- Mary Magdalene at the tomb, **Mark 16:9**
- **John 20:1-2, 14**, “Now on the first *day* of the week Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw *that* the stone had been taken away from the tomb. Then she ran and came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and said to them, ‘They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him.’”
- She had gone to anoint His body with the other women



2. The Other Women at The Tomb

- The other women at the tomb (Mary the mother of James, Salome)
 - **Matt. 28:1-10**, “ ... Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. ...”
 - **Mark 16:1-8**, “Mary Magdalene, Mary *the mother* of James, and Salome brought spices, that they might come and anoint Him.”
 - **Luke 24:1-11**, “ ... they, and certain *other women* with them, came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared.”



3. Peter At The Tomb

- Peter at the tomb in private
 - **1 Cor. 15:5**, “and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve.”
 - **Mark 16:7**, “”But go, tell His disciples--and Peter--that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you.””
 - **Luke 24:34**, “saying, ‘The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!’”



4. On The Road To Emmaus

- Two disciples on the way to Emmaus
 - **Luke 24:13-35**, “Now behold, two of them were traveling that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was seven miles from Jerusalem.”
 - **Mark 16:12-13**, “After that, He appeared in another form to two of them as they walked and went into the country. And they went and told *it* to the rest, *but* they did not believe them either.”



5. Ten Disciples in Jerusalem

- Jesus walked through the walls, showed them the scars, and ate with them
 - **Luke 24:36-49**, “Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, ‘Peace to you.’”
 - **John 20:19-23**, “Then, the same day at evening, being the first *day* of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, ‘Peace *be* with you.’”



6. Eleven Disciples With Thomas

- Eleven disciples (with Thomas) on the following Sunday
 - **John 20:26-31**, ‘And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!" Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand *here*, and put *it* into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing." And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed *are* those who have not seen and *yet* have believed.“’



7. Fishing at Sea

- The seven at the Sea of Tiberias fishing
 - **John 21:1-14**, ‘After these things Jesus showed Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and in this way He showed *Himself*: Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the *sons* of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together. ... This *is* now the third time Jesus showed Himself to His disciples after He was raised from the dead.’
- Jesus instructs the disciples to throw their nets on the right side of the boat to catch fish



8. A Second Appearance to Peter

- A second appearance to Peter
 - **John 21:15-22**, ‘So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, *son* of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Feed My lambs.“’
- Jesus asks Peter 3 times “Do you love Me?”
- Jesus instructs Peter to “Follow Me”
- Jesus addresses Peter’s concern about John, “If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you?”



9. At The Great Commission

- Great Commission appearance
 - **Matt. 28:16-20**, “Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted.”
 - **Mark 16:14-18**, ‘Later He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen. And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.”’



10. 500 Disciples

- 500 Disciples (and James)
 - **1 Cor. 15:3-8**, “For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time.”



11. To James

- Special appearance to James, who became leader in the Jerusalem church
 - **1 Cor. 15:7**, “After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles.”
 - **Acts 15:13**, ‘And after they had become silent, James answered, saying, “Men *and* brethren, listen to me:”’
 - **Acts 15:19-20**, “Therefore I judge that we should not trouble those from among the Gentiles who are turning to God, but that we write to them to abstain from things polluted by idols, ...”



12. At The Ascension

- **Acts 1:1-5**, ‘The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God. And being assembled together with *them*, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," *He said*, "you have heard from Me; "for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.“’



[13. To Paul]

- Jesus' appearance to Paul
 - **1 Cor. 15:8**, "Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time."
 - **Acts 9:1-9**, "Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" Then the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads.""



Persuaded Against Their Wills

- Witnesses persuaded against their wills
- Mary came to the tomb to anoint the Lord's dead body
- She mistook Him for the gardener, did not expect to find Him risen from the dead
- When the other disciples heard, they did not believe – story seemed an idle tale
- Jesus' appearance to the disciples frightened them – thought He was a ghost
- **Luke 24:39**, “Touch Me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.”



Persuaded Unexpectedly

- Jesus was hungry and they gave Him a piece of fish, ghosts don't eat
- Jesus invited the doubting Thomas to examine the evidence of His hands and His side
- **John 20:28**, “My Lord and my God.”
- Peter was a changed man, public denial 3 times
-> sermon at Pentecost in which he preached the resurrection
- The two disciples on the road to Emmaus were not expecting to see the risen Lord



Contemporary Truth

- If Christ rose from the dead, He is alive today
- Millions bear testimony to the fact that Jesus has revolutionized their lives
- **Ps. 34:8**, “Taste and see that the Lord is good!”
- Without the resurrection of Christ, there is no Gospel, **1 Cor. 15:14**, “If Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.”
- The evidence for Christ’ resurrection is overwhelming
- In a court of law, the evidence passes the test of “beyond any reasonable doubt”



Immediate Results

- Disciples, the faithful women, Jesus' brothers were competent witnesses
- We see an utter change in their demeanor immediately following the Resurrection
- They became bold in their proclamation of the Gospel
- Thrown into prison for preaching Christ crucified and risen again
- Most of the converts after the Ascension were Jews



More Immediate Results

- Change in the day of worship followed the resurrection
- Gentile brothers and sisters also worshipped on Sunday
- Paul and others took communion on Sunday
 - **Acts 20:7**, “Now on the first *day* of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ... “



More Immediate Results

- Pouring out of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost followed
- Founding of the Christian church followed
- Peter's sermon after the Ascension
 - **Acts 2:32-33**, "This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear."



Significance of the Resurrection

- Proof of Christ's person
- Essential to our salvation, **Rom. 4:25**
- Essential to Christ's present work of:
 - Intercession (**Heb. 7:25**),
 - Advocacy (**1 John 2:1**), and
 - Preparing a place for us (**John 14:2-3**)



Significance of the Resurrection

- Essential to His future work of the resurrection of humanity, His judgments, and His reign on David's throne
 - **1 Cor. 15:20**
- Evidence of the inspiration of Scripture (fulfillment of prophecy)
- Start of the Great Commission
 - **Matt. 28:19**



Today's Significance

- Jesus Christ's life, death, and resurrection assure us:
 - His purpose is to “rescue us” from sin
 - His power will give us “eternal life”
 - His suffering demonstrates the extent of His love for us
 - His resurrection clinches the evidence of who He is – the Son of God



Jesus Did Arise From The Dead

- All other theories fail to explain the facts
- Key historical facts
 - Changed day of worship to Sunday
 - Jewish religious leaders did not refute the fact of His resurrection
 - New church grew rapidly, starting in Jerusalem, where the resurrection occurred
 - Conversion of James and Paul
- The empty tomb is a monument to Christ's victory over death



Implications of His Resurrection

- Jesus spoke the truth about Himself
 - **John 11:25**, ‘Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.”’
- Eternal life is through Christ alone
 - **John 14:6**, ‘Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”’
- Jesus’ tomb is empty
 - Tombs of other religious leaders are occupied
- We have victory over death
 - **1 Cor. 15:54**, “Death is swallowed up in victory.”

Summary Observations *

- Testimony of history
 - Historical (Arnold, Maier), literary (C.S. Lewis), legal (Greenleaf, Morrison)
- Resurrection foretold
 - By Christ Himself, **Matt. 16:21; Mark 8:31**
- Basis of Christianity
 - Paul in **1 Cor. 15:13-17**
- Intelligent faith
 - **John 8:82**, “You shall know the truth ...”
- Historical criteria
 - **Acts 1:3**, “many convincing proofs”

* Josh McDowell