

ANSWERS TO SKEPTICS' QUESTIONS

EVIDENCE FOR THE RESURRECTION



- **Was Jesus a Real Person?**
- **Is There Any Evidence That He Rose from the Dead?**
- **Can We Trust the Witnesses?**
- **Could There be Another Explanation?**

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Skeptics' Objections

WHAT IS THE RESURRECTION?

The Bible teaches that Jesus is the Son of God, and that he was crucified and died for the forgiveness of sin, was resurrected from the dead, and lives today.

Around AD 30, Jesus of Nazareth was crucified during the reign of Roman Emperor Tiberius (AD 14-37), in the province of Judea. After dying on the cross, he was buried in the tomb of a prominent Jewish leader named Joseph of Arimathea.

Early on Sunday after his crucifixion, several women who had followed Jesus, including Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, went to Jesus' tomb intending to anoint the body with spices and ointments. The women wondered who would roll away the stone for them. Suddenly, there was an earthquake and an angel appeared. The women found the tomb empty. They feared something had happened to the body of Jesus. An angel of the Lord assured the women that Jesus was alive and had risen from the dead.

Leaving the tomb, the women went to tell Jesus' disciples what had happened. Before they reached the disciples, Jesus himself appeared to the women. Over the next few weeks Jesus appeared to more than five hundred others proving that he had risen from the dead, and verifying all that he had claimed.

Over the centuries, skeptics have developed several objections to the resurrection of Jesus and have proposed several alternative theories about what actually happened to the body of Jesus Christ. Many believe that Jesus' resurrection is too difficult to prove beyond a reasonable doubt. Here is evidence to answer those doubts.



Skeptics' Objections

OBJECTION 4: THE WITNESSES WERE UNRELIABLE

There were no impartial witnesses who could verify the physical resurrection of Jesus Christ.

ANSWER: The reliability for the resurrection is supported by many witnesses, and by the lack of evidence from the opposition.

Anyone wishing to make up a story in the first century would not use women as their primary witnesses. All four gospels agree that the first eyewitnesses to the proof of Jesus' resurrection were women. On the surface, this does not seem like a major proof for the resurrection. Some may argue that these women, who were very close to Jesus, are not objective witnesses.

The significance of these eyewitnesses lies in understanding the role of women in first century Judea. During the time of Jesus, a woman's testimony was considered worthless. In fact, a woman was not allowed to serve as a witness in court. If early believers wanted to fabricate the resurrection, they would have come up with witnesses who were men who had political and religious influence in their community. Instead, the writers reported the actual witnesses who were women and also close friends of Jesus. Those who recorded these events wanted to be accurate.

No one ever produced the body of Jesus. John Warwick Montgomery says, "In 56 AD Paul wrote that over 500 people had seen the risen Jesus and that most of them were still alive (1 Corinthians 15:6). It passes the bounds of credibility that the early Christians could have manufactured such a tale and then preached it among those who might easily have refuted it simply by

producing the body of Jesus."⁶ The greatest weapon against these early eyewitnesses would have been to produce the body of Jesus. That weapon was never used, because it didn't exist. The silence of those who opposed Christianity while Jesus' followers preached about the empty tomb only confirmed the fact that the tomb really was empty and its vacancy could not be explained otherwise.



Closing Statements

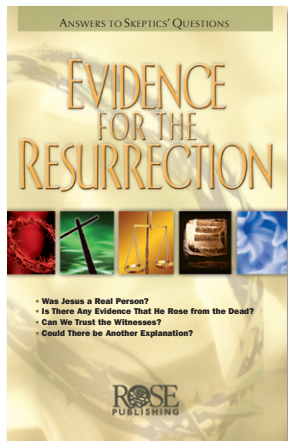
ON PENTECOST, 50 DAYS AFTER THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS, PETER ADDRESSED THE CROWD AND SPECIFICALLY POINTED OUT:

- **Everyone there knew that Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God by miracles, wonders, and signs. (Acts 2:22)**
- **Everyone there knew that Jesus was crucified, and that his death was by God's set purpose and foreknowledge. (Acts 2:23)**
- **Everyone there knew that David spoke about the resurrection of Jesus in the Psalms nearly 1000 years before. (Acts 2:24-31)**
- **Everyone there was a witness to the fact that Jesus was raised to life. (Acts 2:32)**

**Upon weighing the evidence,
it overwhelmingly supports that
Jesus Christ is Risen.
He is Risen Indeed!**

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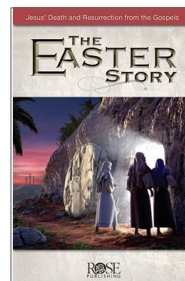


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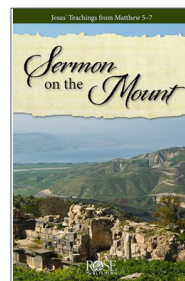


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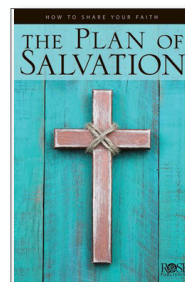


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