

# Deconstructing Doubt: The Truth About the Resurrection

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*Weekend → Milo*

Our key verse for the morning

Comes out of Paul's first letter to the Church in Corinth

Chapter 15:

**1 Corinthians 15:14-19 (NIV) - And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that He raised Christ from the dead. But He did not raise Him if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.**

So, based on this passage

**If Jesus didn't rise from the dead:**

**WellSpring is stupid**

Our preaching and faith are useless

**I'm a liar**

Because I've taught Jesus rose from the dead

## **We're all wasting our time**

So many of us spend so much of life

Time

Energy

Money

Prayers

And it's all a waste

If Jesus is still dead in the ground

## **We're all going to hell**

We're still in our sins

We'll still stand before a Holy God

Who will still expect perfection from us

That we cannot provide

All of us have sinned

Far too much to satisfy His Holy standard

And we'll be found guilty

And sent from His presence

Because a risen Savior is not there

To vouch for us

To save us from our sins

## **Our loved ones are gone**

There is no hope at funerals

They're gone

**And we are the most pitiful people on the planet**

**That's quite a list!**

It's kind of stunning

Isn't it?

That something of such consequence

Doesn't receive a moment of our attention

Most weeks

Most weeks

We worry about our bills

Or keeping our house clean

Or watching our favorite TV shows

Or tracking our favorite sports team

Taking the kids here or there

Or picking up after our terrible, little, possessed, disobedient puppy

You know, hypothetically

But we don't think about the resurrection of Jesus

At all

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So today

I want us to think about it

I've titled this message

The Truth About the Resurrection

If you're a believer

I hope this message

Gives you added confidence

In what you already believe

If you're not a believer

I hope this message

Acts like a rock in your shoe

That you just can't ignore

And you have to stop

And deal with it

Because I care...

So, let's examine the evidence

Here's what we know

And I say "know"

Because a vast majority of scholars

Christian, atheist, followers of other religions

A vast majority of scholars

Agree with what I am saying

They agree with these things

This list is *not* controversial

### **1. Jesus died by crucifixion**

Very few people object that a man named Jesus

Lived

Very few people object that a man named Jesus

Was crucified by the Romans

There are 15 independent sources

Citing the Crucifixion of Jesus

Within 100 years

How many independent sources for Alexander the Great? 0

How many for Buddha? 0

Earliest for Alexander is about 300 years after his death

Earliest for Buddha is about 600 years after Siddhartha died

Jesus has 15 independent sources within 100 years

There's no one else like Him

### **2. Very soon afterwards, His followers had real experiences that they thought were actual appearances of the risen Jesus**

As a Christian

I believe that they saw the risen Jesus  
Atheists have different explanations of what they saw  
But they all agree that they saw something  
That they *believed* was the risen Jesus

**3. Their lives were transformed as a result, even to the point of being willing to die specifically for their faith in the resurrection message**

They were all willing  
To die for their faith  
Almost all of the early followers were killed  
By the Jewish leaders  
Or Roman officials  
Because of their belief that Jesus rose from the dead

Now at first glance  
You may say  
Lots of people die for their beliefs  
The 9-11 hijackers died for theirs  
But this is different

If I'm a charismatic leader  
And I convince you that Allah will reward you in the afterlife  
And you believe me  
That if you fly a plane in a building

You might do that  
But how different it is  
For you to die for something you know is a lie

Think about it

If you stole the dead corpse of Jesus  
And then said He was alive  
Would you die for that?

Would you let your family & friends be killed for their belief  
That they got from you

That's wholly different

Also consider

The significant shift in Judaism:

<b>Saturday – Sunday</b>
<b>Kosher diet</b>
<b>No more animal sacrifices</b>
<b>Communion</b>
<b>Acceptance of Gentiles</b>
<b>Jewish feasts &amp; Circumcision</b>

#### 4. These things were taught very early, soon after the crucifixion

You may have heard that

The early church created these ideas

Over decades

But recent evidence shows

That is was within months...

More than that

2,000 years later

Most of the world

Still believe amazing things about Jesus

Even among those who aren't Christians

Hindu's believe He was prophet

Buddhists revere Him as a wise sage

Muslims believe He was sinless

Even atheists honor Him today

Let's just consider 2 of those

Both Christians and Muslims

Almost 4 billion people in the world today

2000 years after Jesus

Both Christians and Muslims

Believe that Jesus was sinless



I can't get 5 people in my house

To believe that I'm sinless

And Jesus has almost 4billion

**5. James, Jesus' unbelieving brother, became a Christian due to his own experience that he thought was the resurrected Christ**

We read about James in the Bible

But we also read about James in ancient historical writings:

Ancient historians like:

Eusebius, Clement, Hegesippus, Josephus, Jerome

**6. The Christian persecutor Paul also became a believer after a similar experience.**

Like James

We also read about Paul outside of just the Bible

Clement, Ignatius, Polycarp

Here are two guys

James & Paul

Who were not wanting a resurrection

None of them were expecting it

But these two were glad He was dead

And yet SOMETHING

Changed their perspective

Forever

How do you explain this list?

**Everyone agrees**

On the big historical buckets

Leading up to the cross

**Everyone agrees**

On the big historical buckets

After the resurrection

The debate

**Is inside this 3-day window**

How do *you* explain this list?

I explain it by saying

That our Creator

Came to visit

His creation

**John 1:10-13 (NLT) - He came into the very world He created, but the world didn't recognize Him. He came to His own people, and even they rejected Him. But to all who *believed Him and accepted Him*, He gave the right to become children of God. They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.**

If you believe Him

That He is God

That He was raised from the dead

And if you accept Him

That He is now the leader of your life

He gives you the right

To be reborn

To become a child of God

Romans 6 says that in baptism

We identify with the death of Jesus

We're lowered under the water

Just as He was lowered into the grave

And we identify with the resurrection of Jesus

We're raised up again

Just as He came out of that grave alive

*Nerves... hold breath... big breath*

I wonder if that was like that for Jesus

*When life returned to His dead, lifeless body*

We have baptisms each service

That we know about

But you may decide today

To be added to that list

You may not have been planning to do this today

But we've been planning for you

The early church

A group smaller than those in the room today

This group

Believed Him

That He was God

And that God had raised Him from the dead

And they accepted

They believed that "All authority in Heaven and on earth"

Belonged to Him

This group applied that authority

To their very lives

They heard Him say:

**Matthew 28:18b-20 (NIV)** - All authority in Heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, **go and make disciples of all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and

teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

And they went

And He was with them always

Thru every trial

Thru every setback

Thru every disappointment

And He's still with us

As we go.

**What's inside the 3-Day window?**

The answer to this question

Is of utmost importance to us

Whether we realize it or not

And the way we answer this question

Is of utmost importance to Him

Whether we realize it or not

We started this message

Saying this message

Which has such consequence in our lives

Doesn't get enough attention

But what happened inside this window

And what we do about it

Changes everything

And once we accept that message

It frames and purposes

The rest of our lives

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*Kara & Arica getting off the bus...*