

The Resurrection, Did it Happen?

Easter 2024

Objective vs Subjective

Evidence For the New Testament

Evidence from Scripture

The Cup

Jesus Predicted His Resurrection

Three Days

Jesus is alive.

Text: [1Co 15:3-8 KJV] 3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: 5 And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: 6 After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. 7 After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. 8 And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.

Objective vs Subjective

Objective Truth – Truth doesn't depend on me. Its always true.

Subjective Truth – True for me but may not be true for others.

[1Co 15:16-17, 22 NLT] 16 And if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised. 17 And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins. ... 22 Just as everyone dies because we all belong to Adam, everyone who belongs to Christ will be given new life.

[Gen 1:1 KJV] 1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

Evidence For the New Testament

Early Testimony

Some Books were written within 25 to 30 years after the Resurrection of Christ, key books from the New Testament.

Little Doubt Paul wrote 1 Corinthians, sometime between 55 and 56. Some say earlier. This book contains the earliest and most authenticated testimony of the Resurrection itself in chapter 15.

Luke around 60 AD

Mark earlier than 60 AD

Some New Testament books were penned in the 40s and 50s A.D. with Sources from the 30s.

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The Date of the oral sources used in the writings goes back to the Resurrection itself with many documents written by eyewitnesses or their contemporaries with 15 to 40 years of Jesus.

Historical Reliability of the New Testament

At least 10 non Christian sources mentioning Jesus with at least three of them being anti Christian in their writings.

What do we learn from these sources outside the New Testament?

Jesus lived during the time of Tiberius Caesar

He lived a virtuous life

He was a wonder-worker

He had a brother named James

He claimed to be the Messiah

He was crucified under Pontius Pilate

He was crucified on the eve of the Jewish Passover

Many Historians accept the Bible as historically accurate because the book meets Historical criteria.

Eyewitness Testimony

Uninvented (authentic) Testimony

Eyewitnesses were not deceived

The New Testament Writers included things obviously not made up.

Joseph of Arimathea, a member of the Sanhedrin buried Jesus

Women were the first witnesses

Some of the Disciples doubted even after the resurrection of Jesus

[Jhn 20:9 KJV] 9 For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead.

[Mat 28:16-17 KJV] 16 Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. 17 And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted.

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Some Critics ask, Why didn't the Pharisees Believe.

[Act 6:7 KJV] 7 And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.

The Holy Ghost Tells Us Paul's Writings are Scripture through Peter.

[2Pe 3:16 KJV] 16 As also in all [his] epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as [they do] also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

One Historian (Daniel Bonevac, professor of Philosophy) said, the only way to explain how Christianity took off as it did and in the direction it went was early Christians actually believed Jesus rose from the dead.

Educated Atheists

Dr. Simon Greenleaf, Testimony of the Evangelists

Greenleaf, one of the principle founders of the Harvard Law School, originally set out to disprove the biblical testimony concerning the resurrection of Jesus Christ. He was certain that a careful examination of the internal witness of the Gospels would dispel all the myths at the heart of Christianity. But this legal scholar came to the conclusion that the witnesses were reliable, and that the resurrection did in fact happen.

I said all this to move on to Evidence presented in Scripture

Evidence From Scripture

Jesus' claim to be God was miraculously confirmed by

His fulfillment of many prophecies about himself, over 300

His sinless life and miraculous deeds

[Isa 35:5-6 KJV] 5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. 6 Then shall the lame [man] leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.

[1Pe 1:19 NLT] 19 It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God.

Jesus Predicted His Death and Resurrection

Synoptic Gospels – A general view of a whole. these gospels contain many of the same stories, and that those stories are sometimes even presented in the same sequence within each of the three different synoptic gospels.

Three Times in Mark, Mark 8:31-33, 9:30-32 and 10:32-34

Three Times in Matthew, Matthew 16:21, 17:22, 20:17-19

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Three Times in Luke, Luke 9:22, 18:33, 24:7

[Mat 20:17-19 KJV] 17 And Jesus going up to Jerusalem took the twelve disciples apart in the way, and said unto them, 18 Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and unto the scribes, and they shall condemn him to death, 19 And shall deliver him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify [him]: and the third day he shall rise again.

Prophecy of the Resurrection

[Psa 16:8-10 KJV] 8 I have set the LORD always before me: because [he is] at my right hand, I shall not be moved. 9 Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope. 10 For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

If Jesus is God, If the Bible is historically accurate and reliable

Then Jesus is God

Whatever Jesus teaches is true

Jesus taught the Scriptures as the Word of God

[Jhn 5:39 KJV] 39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

The Cup

[Psa 11:6 KJV] 6 Upon the wicked he shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, and an horrible tempest: [this shall be] the portion of their cup.

[Isa 51:17 KJV] 17 Awake, awake, stand up, O Jerusalem, which hast drunk at the hand of the LORD the cup of his fury; thou hast drunken the dregs of the cup of trembling, [and] wrung [them] out.

[Mat 26:39, 42 KJV] 39 And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou [wilt]. ... 42 He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.

[Mar 14:36 KJV] 36 And he said, Abba, Father, all things [are] possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt.

[Luk 22:42 KJV] 42 Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.

What was in the Cup? God's Judgment

[Mat 27:45-46 KJV] 45 Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour. 46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

Jesus was willing to drink from the cup

[Jhn 18:11 KJV] 11 Then said Jesus unto Peter, Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?

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Three Days

Perhaps the most clear examples of third-day resurrection in the Hebrew Scriptures are found in Jonah 1:17 and Hosea 6:2

Jonah 1:17 And the Lord appointed a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the stomach of the fish three days and three nights.

[Hos 6:1-2 KJV] 1 Come, and let us return unto the LORD: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up. 2 After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight.

Jesus referenced Jonah's three days in the belly of the great fish as a metaphor for his resurrection. Hosea spoke of God's resurrecting work for Israel as occurring on the third day.

[1Pe 3:18 KJV] 18 For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:

Jesus is Alive

[Act 1:2-3 KJV] 2 Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen: 3 To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:

[Rev 1:13-18 KJV] 13 And in the midst of the seven candlesticks [one] like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. 14 His head and [his] hairs [were] white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes [were] as a flame of fire; 15 And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. 16 And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance [was] as the sun shineth in his strength. 17 And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: 18 I [am] he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.