

Proofs of the Resurrection

1) No body of Jesus has ever been found

- A rotting, putrefying corpse is hard to hide.
- Founding the church on the back of this claim is so impossibly risky; it strains credulity to imagine is fictitious.

2) No bones

- A body is hard to destroy
- Cremation occurs between 1400 and 1800 degrees Fahrenheit. It takes between 2 and 2 ½ hours.
- Bones are very hard to destroy. If Jesus had not risen from the dead, someone would have had to take the bones. If someone would have taken the bones it would have taken a large number of people to subdue the guards and take the body.

3) Centrality of the resurrection message to the Christian cause

- 1 Cor. 15
- The weight of importance that the NT places on the resurrection underscores its authenticity. A fraud or something fictitious would not have received such prominence.
- Scriptures would have been immediately discredited if the body of Jesus was discovered.
- The entire credibility of the NT hangs on the historicity of the resurrection. If the resurrection was a fraud, the apostles would not have thrust it into the light and made it the lynchpin of the faith.
- Scripture defends and teaches the resurrection.
- The resurrection is supported by the fact that the gospel writers put everything behind its authenticity since a fabricated miracle would never have received such foundational status.

4) The prominence of the resurrection in the early apostolic preaching

- Acts 2:23, 24
- 13x in preaching in Acts

5) The birth of Christianity so soon and on site of the resurrection

- Also, Christianity started in Jerusalem. This would have been impossible if the body or bones still existed.

6) Cowards to Preachers

- *What can explain the immediate transformation of the apostles from a scattered spread of cowards to an organized driven, fired up, Rome-challenging, Pharisee-defying except an event as radical as the resurrection?*
- Matt. 26:56 Then all the disciples left him and fled
- 50 days from cowards who would not even attend his crucifixion to zealous preachers

7) The Transformation of Peter

- Coward to captain of the faith
 - Denial of Peter Luke 22:54-62
 - Ferocity of Peter Acts 2:23, 24 (!)

8) Martyrs

- The willingness of the ALL the fainthearted apostles to die for their belief
Martyrdom apologetic is huge
- *Would eleven of twelve have died for a fraud? Would none have cracked?*
- Liars make lousy martyrs

9) The salvation and change of Paul

- Killer to captivated
- Paul Acts 9:1-22, 1 Cor. 15:8

10) Jesus had predicted his death and burial

- Jesus' predictions of his death and resurrection miracle underscore its reality
 - Matt. 16:21
 - Matt. 17:22, 23
 - Matt. 20:17-19
 - Matt. 26:2

11) How could it have happened?

- *What possible explanation could be given for the removal of 1-ton stone under Roman guard and Imperial seal?*
- Jesus was not in the tomb

12) Cover-up would have involved too many people

- The implausibility of a fraud and a cover up. *How many people would have been needed to subdue to Roman guard?*
 - to roll the stone up and away from the mouth of the tomb
 - to perpetuate a hoax with the grave clothes

- to lie about the angels and Jesus appearances
- and to keep it silent?

13) The Grave Clothes

- The grave clothes are a testimony that the body simply vanished. The wording of John indicated that the grave clothes would have hardened and were left as a 'cocoon' shape after Jesus' body went away.

14) The Care Taken by the Adversaries

- Matt. 27:62-66

15) The Roman guards go AWOL

- And the Pharisees lie and cover-up
- Matt. 28:11-15
- Tombs are almost never guarded by the Romans

16) The Risk of breaking the Imperial Seal

- Matt. 27:66

17) Eyewitness accounts of resurrection day

- Mary and Mary
- Peter and John
- The two disciples
- The apostles, except Thomas

18) The Number of total people who experienced the resurrection

- The massive number and wide spread of people that were said to be eyewitnesses of His resurrection life
- 1 Cor. 15:5-8

19) The number and diversity of appearances in location

- 1 Cor 15:5-8

20) The change in James, the half-brother of Jesus

- Doubter to submitted disciple and leader of the church in Jerusalem

21) The Character and Consistent Testimony of the Apostles

- The apostles were not frauds but men of character. They were simple men, fishermen who were powerfully transformed by a supernatural event.

22) The Women

- The predominance of women as eye-witnesses. If the account were fabricated the authors would not have used the testimony of women to prop up a lie. It is just stated including the involvement of women that would not have been allowed to testify in court.

23) Plain and Straight forward accounts

- No defense of the resurrection and nothing done to protect the credibility of the account. Very simply stated.

24) Jesus disappeared after 40 days

- Acts 1:6-9
- His immediate disappearance after 40 days, and despite many appearances in many places, can be explained by His miraculous resurrection. His ascension explains and culminates His final days.

25) Immediate Universality of the Resurrection

- The fact of the resurrection was spread immediately throughout the known world

26) Sunday worship from Sabbath worship

27) Transformation of pagan baptism to Christian symbol Rom. 6

28) The early creedal testimony

- 1 Cor. 15:3-7 that dates to within 5 to 10 years of the resurrection

29) The impossibility of the "later story" explanation

- If Jesus were buried and the apostles made up the story years later, Jesus' tomb would have already been known by many and established as a shrine.

30) The number and power of enemies of the cross

- The Romans and Jewish leaders that conspired to killed Him would have done anything within their power to discredit this amazing tale.