

“Did Jesus Really Rise from the Dead?”

May 7, 2025

INTRO: Proctor-U

As the smartest generation, let's “think well” as we examine the resurrection.

Recap:

- 95% of the world believes in a higher power
- 77% fall into the major 4 religions
- The Bible has incredible historical reliability and accuracy

Christianity is the only religion to offer assurance in it's future after death, its theology, and its reliability...but it hinges on the single act of Jesus resurrecting from the dead.

Why does the Christian faith NEED the resurrection?

a. God's Character

Deut 32:3-4 *For I will proclaim the name of the Lord; ascribe greatness to our God! 4 “The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he.*

b. Man's Character

Eph 2:1-3 *And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.*

c. Dilemma

If God is a loving God, why can't he just save us all at the snap of a finger?

Lev 16:6-10;30;34 *“Aaron shall offer the bull as a sin offering for himself and shall make atonement for himself and for his house. 7 Then he shall take the two goats and set them before the Lord at the entrance of the tent of meeting. 8 And Aaron shall cast lots over the two goats, one lot for the Lord and the other lot for Azazel. 9 And Aaron shall present the goat on which the lot fell for the Lord and use it as a sin offering, 10 but the goat on which the lot fell for Azazel shall be presented alive before the Lord to make atonement over it, that it may be sent away into the wilderness to Azazel. 30 For on this day shall atonement be made for you to cleanse you. You shall be clean before the Lord from all your sins. 34 And this shall be a statute forever for you, that atonement may be made for the people of Israel once in the year because of all their sins.” And Aaron[c] did as the Lord commanded Moses.*

If the resurrection doesn't happen. If Jesus just died for everyone's sins, He'd be no different than the perfect goat that got slain once a year. It bears the sins, but then another offering will be required. Raising from the dead defeats sin, because sin didn't defeat Christ.

What is claimed to have happened?

- All 4 Gospels have an account
 - Matt 28
 - i. Mary & Mary
 - Mark 16
 - i. Mary, Mary, & Salome
 - Luke
 - i. Mary, Mary, Joanna, & other women
 - John
 - i. Mary
- Facts
 - Jesus was fully dead
 - i. Romans declared him dead (“Lived a lot of life”)
 - ii. If Jesus didn’t die, what would have to be true?

Jesus would have had to survive massive loss of blood through the scourging, the nail wounds, and the spear thrust. In addition, in this impossibly weakened condition...

He would have had to endure 40 hours without food or drink, manage to unwrap Himself from His grave clothes, and roll away the massive stone closing the tomb—and then convince His followers that He had risen from the dead.

He would have had to travel countless miles in that condition to make many appearances to His disciples over a period of 40 days.

He would have had to delude the disciples into thinking that He could simply appear in a room without the use of a door.

- Jesus was dead for 3 days
 - i. All the Gospels are consistent on this fact including secular sources
 - ii. The Jewish religious leaders knew what Jesus had said!
Matt 27:62-66 *The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate 63 and said, “Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise.’ 64 Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, ‘He has risen from the dead,’ and the last fraud will be worse than the first.” 65 Pilate said to them, “You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can.” 66 So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.*

Attempts to disprove the resurrection...

- “He never made it to Joseph’s tomb”
 - The Jews went to great lengths to control the situation
 - i. Their story was also that the body was stolen...which means the body would have to be there to begin with
 - Pilate wouldn’t have sent his guards to the tomb if the body wasn’t there
- “Everyone had 1 big ‘ole hallucination”
 - Over 500 people saw Jesus Post-Resurrection...they all would’ve had to have this hallucination
 - Even the disciples didn’t believe Jesus had risen

Mark 16:9-11 *9 Now when he rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons. 10 She went and told those who had been with him, as they mourned and wept. 11 But when they heard that he was alive and had been seen by her, they would not believe it.*

 - i. Hallucinations tend to occur when people can’t accept reality
- “Body was stolen”
 - The disciples dipped
 - i. So the 4/5 women at the tomb would’ve had to take out the guards, and then roll away a 4,000lb stone
 - When the news was brought to the disciples, they didn’t believe them in the first place
 - i. Then they all died for a truth they would’ve known was a lie...
- “Resurrection story was embellished”
 - Somehow, I feel like this isn’t how someone with creative liberty would’ve written the story...
- “Lack of secular evidence to support the resurrection”
 - This argument is only made when you can’t disprove the facts (Advocacy)
 - There is no secular evidence to the contrary except what the Jews claim in Matt 28