



FIVE PIECES OF EVIDENCE THAT JESUS HAS RISEN

People have come and gone throughout history, trying to dismiss and explain away the empty tomb. The reason being is because people understand that the resurrection validates the Man and His message. If Jesus rose, He is who He claimed to be—the very Son of God.

We, as Christians, have full confidence and assurance that our faith is in a resurrected Christ. This can be demonstrated by putting forth the acronym—RISEN—that will help you see the amazing facts that bear true that we worship a resurrected Savior who defeated sin and death for us!

RECORD OF JESUS' DEATH

The record of Jesus' death is important, because if we take the great drops of blood He suffered in the garden of Gethsemane (where His capillaries were bursting), the thorns crushed on His head, to the brutal beatings and floggings from His shoulders to His lower thighs (ripping away muscle tissue and exposing organs), to the excruciating pain of being nailed to the cross for six hours (from nine in the morning to three in the afternoon), and then the final spear to His side, there's no possible way Jesus could have survived (see Luke 23:46, Mark 15:44–45).

INTERMENT OF JESUS

The burial of Jesus is one of the most established facts about what happened to Jesus after He was taken down from the cross. First, the burial story has well-attested, early, and independent sources. The accounts of Mark's gospel (the first of the four Gospels written in the early fifties) contains eyewitness testimony within a few short years after the resurrection narrative. Additionally, according to 1 Corinthians 15:3–5, one of the earliest creeds, Paul writes, "For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the

third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.”

SIGNIFICANT APPEARANCES

The fact that there were multiple eyewitnesses who claimed to see, converse with, and interact with the postmortem Jesus infers an empty tomb. When evaluating the multiple attestations of the post-resurrection appearances of Jesus Christ—the women’s eyewitness accounts, to Peter and John, to the other disciples, to Thomas (who doubted but then believed), to over five hundred people all at once—is proof positive that Jesus rose from the dead.

EXTRAORDINARY CONVERSIONS

The biblical account is filled with extraordinary conversions—people like Saul of Tarsus and James, the half-brother of Jesus, becoming believers, and some of the Jewish leaders who came to Christ. And then on the day of Pentecost we see over three thousand souls come to Christ (see Acts 2). These are just some of the extraordinary conversions that took place after the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. No doubt, the disciples’ transformations are hard proof that their faith was placed in a resurrected Savior. They went from denial and abandonment to an undeniable change of faith that gave them the courage to publically proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

NEW LIFE AND MESSAGE

This is important because from the heart of Judaism we see Christianity spring forth. The disciples went from observing the Sabbath (Saturday) to worshipping together on Sunday. The early church implemented two ordinances that were fulfilled in Christ: baptism and communion. The early Christians were meeting in homes and leaving the synagogue, all the while preaching and teaching that Jesus Christ is Lord. Again, the only reasonable explanation for the disciples to radically alter their social structures was because of the risen Jesus.

Therefore, as you celebrate Easter this year, rest assured that your faith isn’t in a made-up religion. Christ has indeed risen from the grave, and offers eternal life to all those who call upon Him.