

The God Questions (5 of 5)
“Did Jesus Really Rise From The Dead?”
Cornerstone Church of Poway
Pastor Ed Turley
May 7, 2023

Sermon Teaching

Big Idea: Faith is a reasonable step in the same direction that the evidence is pointing.
- Lee Strobel

“And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins.” **1 Corinthians 15:17 (NLT2)**

Did Jesus Really Rise From The Dead?

1. Was Jesus Really Dead After The Ordeal On The Cross?

- Flogged / Crucifixion/ Spear in the side
- Jesus was buried by **Joseph Arimathea** a member of the Sanhedrin
- His body prepared for burial embalmed by 75lbs of gummy spices
- Placed in a tomb, Stone rolled in place (1,500lb)
- Roman seal, and Roman watch (possibly 4 guards) Matthew 27:62

“Thomas, one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, ‘We have seen the Lord!’ But he said to them, ‘UNLESS I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not BELIEVE it.’” **John 20:24-25 (NIV)**

Notes: _____

2. Was His Tomb Actually Empty On The First Easter Morning?

- The tomb was **discovered** empty **by women** – 1st century – unreliable witnesses
- If a **thief had stolen the body**, he wouldn't have left the grave clothes –
- The **Jews & Romans** did not deny the empty tomb - Matthew 28:11-15
- **Caiaphas** – High Priest. 18-37AD - **Pontius Pilate** – Roman Procreator of Judea

“For what I received I passed on to you as of **first importance**: that **Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures**, ⁴ that he was **buried**, that he was **raised** on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to **Peter**, and then to the **Twelve**. ⁶ After that, he appeared to more than **five hundred** of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to **James**, then to all the apostles, ⁸ and last of all he appeared to **me** also, as to one abnormally born. ⁹ For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.” **1 Corinthians 15:3-9 (NIV)**

Notes: _____

3. Did Credible People See Jesus Alive After His Death?

“After His suffering, He showed himself to these men and gave many **convincing proofs** that He was alive. He appeared to them over a period of **forty days** and spoke about the kingdom of God.” **Acts 1:3 (NIV) Remember Verse**

“People of Israel, listen! God publicly endorsed Jesus the Nazarene by doing powerful miracles, wonders, and signs through him, as you well know. ²³ But God knew what would happen, and his prearranged plan was carried out when Jesus was betrayed. With the help of lawless Gentiles, you nailed him to a cross and killed him. ²⁴ But God released him from the horrors of death and raised him back to life, for death could not keep him in its grip. ²⁵ King David said this about him: ‘I see that the LORD is always with me. I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me. ²⁶ No wonder my heart is glad, and my tongue shouts his praises! My body rests in hope. ²⁷ For you will not leave my soul among the dead or allow your Holy One to rot in the grave. ²⁸ You have shown me the way of life, and you will fill me with the joy of your presence.’ ²⁹ “Dear brothers, think about this! You can be sure that the patriarch David wasn’t referring to himself, for he died and was buried, and his tomb is still here among us. ³⁰ But he was a prophet, and he knew God had promised with an oath that one of David’s own descendants would sit on his throne. ³¹ David was looking into the future and speaking of the Messiah’s resurrection. He was saying that God would not leave him among the dead or allow his body to rot in the grave. ³² **“God raised Jesus from the dead, and we are all witnesses of this.”**
Acts 2:22-32 (NLT2)

Peter’s words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” ³⁸ Peter replied, “Each of you must repent of your sins, turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ to show that you have received forgiveness for your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ This promise is to you, and to your children, and even to the Gentiles—all who have been called by the Lord our God.” ⁴⁰ Then Peter continued preaching for a long time, strongly urging all his listeners, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation!” ⁴¹ Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all. **Acts 2:37-41 (NLT2)**

- Jesus claimed to be the Savior of the world and validated it by rising from the dead. What will you do about it?

“That if you **confess** with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord’, and **believe** in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be **saved.**” **Romans 10:9 (NIV)**

Notes: _____

My next right step, I will:

- [] Accept Jesus Christ as my Savior for the first time.
- [] Sign up to be baptized.

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Open in Prayer.

Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.
 Describe how you celebrated Easter growing up.

Start thinking. Ask questions to get your group thinking.

Start sharing. Choose questions that create openness.
 How does your view of the resurrection of Jesus affect your belief of forgiveness and eternal life?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:17

Why is the resurrection of Jesus so important?

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What do you think about Lee Strobel’s approach to reasonable faith?

“After His suffering, He showed himself to these men and gave many **convincing proofs** that He was alive. He appeared to them over a period of **forty days** and spoke about the kingdom of God.” **Acts 1:3 (NIV) Remember Verse**

Discussion Questions:

1. Was Jesus Really Dead After The Ordeal On The Cross?

Read John 19:31-42.

Describe what Jesus went through. Could anyone survive this?

Notes: _____

Read John 20:24-25.

Why do you think Thomas had such a difficult time accepting the testimony of the disciples that Jesus was alive?

Notes: _____

2. Was His Tomb Actually Empty On The First Easter Morning?

Read John 20:1-18.

Who discovered the empty tomb first? Why is this important?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-9.

Why is it important that the tomb was empty on the first Easter morning?

Why is Paul an important witness of the risen Lord?

Notes: _____

3. Did Credible People See Jesus Alive After His Death?

Read Acts 1:1-3.

How many days did Jesus show himself alive before he ascended into heaven?

Why is this significant?

Notes: _____

Read Acts 2:22-24, 37-38.

Why is it important that the first sermon was preached in Jerusalem?

Notes: _____

Why was it important that the church started within only a few weeks after the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ?

Notes: _____

- Jesus claimed to be the Savior of the world and validated it by rising from the dead. What will you do about it?

Read Romans 10:9.

How can someone put their faith in Jesus?

Close in Prayer: Start praying. Be bold and pray specifically.
