

**WHY I CAN BELIEVE
EASTER: THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST**

DID JESUS EVEN EXIST?

- (1) Ancient Non-Christian Historians Agree that Jesus Lived
- (2) Ancient Jewish Historians Agree that Jesus Lived

CLASSIC OBJECTIONS TO THE RESURRECTION

- **Did someone steal the body?** (Matthew 27:62-66)
 - 1. The disciples
 - 2. The local leaders
- **Did they go to the wrong tomb?** (1 Corinthians 15:5-8)
- **Did Jesus pass out but not die?** (John 19:34)

COULD JESUS REALLY HAVE RISEN FROM THE DEAD?

1. The disciples eye-witness experiences.
2. The early proclamation of the resurrection.
3. The transformation from fear to martyrdom.
4. The empty tomb.
5. They proclaimed the resurrection in Jerusalem itself.
6. No one was able to produce the body.
7. The first church founded by law-abiding Jews.
8. The change of the day of worship to Sunday.
9. The conversion of James, the brother of Jesus.
10. The conversion of Saul of Tarsus, a fierce opponent.
11. Women were the first eye-witnesses.
12. Why would Jesus proclaim a physical resurrection?

"The early Christians did not invent the empty tomb and the 'meetings' or 'sightings' of the risen Jesus in order to explain a faith they already had. They developed that faith because"of what they saw, because of what they experienced, because what they didn't think was going to happen – or could happen. Dr. N. T. Wright and James Emery White

"If Jesus rose from the dead, then you have to accept all that he said; if he didn't rise from the dead, then why worry about any of what he said? The issue on which everything hangs is not whether or not you like his teaching but whether or not he rose from the dead." The Reason for God, Timothy Keller
Sources material: Dr. James Emery White, Dr. N. T. Wright, Dr. Ravi Zacharias

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