

Resurrection Sunday

This Changes Everything

Matthew 28:1-20

THE WEEK THAT CHANGED THE WORLD:

- The world went from celebration... to crucifixion... to confusion...
- From “Hosanna!” to “Crucify!”!?
- Was this the collapse of a kingdom... or the climax of a cosmic story?

- God created a world that was **good**...
- Humanity chose what was **wrong**...
- Sin brought what was **broken**...
- And death made it all feel **final**.
- But God** made a promise.
- Not just to fix behavior... but to restore **everything**.

A King would come.

A sacrifice would be made.

Death would be defeated.

Creation would be renewed.

Everything would change.

The **Bible** is not a random collection of stories. It **is one unified story**:

- God created a good world
- Humanity rebel
- Sin and death entered
- God promised restoration

All throughout Scripture...

How will God deal with evil?

How will He restore His people?

How will He defeat death?

But then...

Backstory...

Almost 2000 years ago...

Backstory...

- Devout Jewish followers witnessed his life and teachings
- Claimed to be the Messiah - God in flesh
- Performed miracles and taught about God's kingdom

- Jesus was publicly arrested, beaten, and crucified
- The public, government, and His followers witnessed His death

- Body discovered missing by Mary Magdalene, Peter and John found an empty tomb
- Burial cloths found intact
- Jesus appeared alive to his followers and over 500 people.

- Once fearful and cowardly followers now seem transformed to bold and courageous, willing to die for their testimony
- Christianity rapidly spread

Why does the Resurrection change everything?

If He didn't:

- Jesus is not God
- We are still in our sins
- We are God's enemies
- Life and faith are meaningless...

Matthew 28:1-10

(1) Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb.

(2) And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it.

Matthew 28:1-10

(3) His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow.

(4) And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men.

(5) But the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified.

Matthew 28:1-10

(6) "He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

(7) "And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you."

Matthew 28:1-10

(8) So they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to bring His disciples word.

(9) And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, "Rejoice!" So they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him.

Matthew 28:1-10

(10) Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell My brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me."

Matthew 28:1-4

Sorrow and spices -> supernatural shaking

Creations Responds

Death and life juxtaposed

Matthew 28:5-6

Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified.

He is not here; for He is risen, just as He said. Come and see!

Not revived. Not remembered.

Risen.

Not symbolic. Not spiritualized.

Not sentimental.

Historical.

Physical.

Final.

- “Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him” (Romans 6:9)

- “The last enemy that will be destroyed is death” (1 Corinthians 15:26)

Come and see...

The **Tomb** is empty and **Life** is full!

The empty tomb means the payment cleared!

Pattern for Purpose:

“Do not be afraid... He is risen... Go quickly and tell.”

Fear is replaced with truth.

Truth leads to new Identity.

Mission brings purpose. (Eph. 2:8-10)

You don't **stay** at the tomb. You are **sent** from it.

Matthew 28:9-10

Jesus met them, saying, "Rejoice!"

So they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him.

Then Jesus said "Do not be afraid. Go and tell My brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me."

The Heart change:

Grief for gladness. Weeping for worship.

Hopeless to holding.

Obedience, urgency, worship..

“Saints running in the way of obedience are likely to be met by Jesus.” - Spurgeon

Worship fuels mission

Matthew 28:11-15

(11) Now while they were going, behold, some of the guard came into the city and reported to the chief priests all the things that had happened.

(12) When they had assembled with the elders and consulted together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers,

(13) saying, "Tell them, 'His disciples came at night and stole Him away while we slept.'

(14) "And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will appease him and make you secure."

(15) So they took the money and did as they were instructed; and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.

v. 11-15 **Queue ominous music...**

While some are worshiping...

Others are whispering... plotting... paying.

The first response to the resurrection is not investigation. **It is suppression.**

Truth is not examined... it is ejected.

v. 11-15 The cover up that can't hold up

Sleeping soldiers...

a silent stone...

a stolen body...

and somehow—clear identification?

The issue is not evidence. It's authority.

They didn't lack information...

They resisted implication.

“Men loved darkness rather than light”

-Jesus (John 3:19)

Matthew 28:16-20

(16) Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them.

(17) When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted.

Matthew 28:16-20

(18) And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

(19) "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Matthew 28:16-20

(20) "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

v. 16-20 **Comfort and Commission**

All Authority - “To Him was given
dominion and glory and a kingdom”
(**Daniel 7:14**)

To Rule. To Restore. To Rally.
Everything flows from this...

v. 16-20 Comfort and Commission

“Go therefore...”

Not because you feel ready or qualified.

Because He is Risen.

Because He has authority... you have assignment. (See Gen 1:26-28)

v. 16-20 **Comfort and Commission**

Be/Make disciples (central command)

- Winning people
- Baptizing them
- Teaching them
- Building you/them into christlikeness!

Go – live sent

Baptize – identify with Christ

Teach – form obedient lives

This is not a **program**.

This is **your life and purpose** of the church.

The Scope = All the everything

All nations.

All people.

All places.

All the time.

The Promise = His Presence

“I am with you always...”

Not occasionally. Not conditionally.

Always.

Every day. In every place. Through every season. Always.

Not your strength. His presence.

1. Worship fuels mission
2. You cannot give what you do not have
3. Mission flows from His authority—not your convenience

4. “Go” is not an event—it is your everyday life
5. You are responsible for obedience—not outcomes
6. The presence of Christ and the Holy Spirit is your power

1. Because the tomb is empty...

He has all authority.

2. Because He is alive...

He is with you.

3. Because He reigns...

You are sent.

The Significance of the Resurrection

- 1. Proves Jesus is the Son of God:** Power over death and Life (Jn. 10:17–18; Rom. 1:4).
- 2. Verifies the truth of Scripture:** (Ps. 16:10; 110:1; Luke 24:44–46); without the Resurrection, Scripture fails (1 Cor. 15:17)

3. Assures our future resurrection:

(1 Thes. 4:13–18; 1 Cor. 15:20–23);

without it, there is no hope.

4. Establishes Christ's heavenly

priesthood: by His endless life, He

saves completely and intercedes for us

(Heb. 7:23–28; Rom. 8:34).

5. **Guarantees future judgment:** God confirmed Christ as Judge by raising Him from the dead (Acts 17:31; John 5:22–29).
6. **Empowers Christian living:** we live for God through His resurrection power working in us (Rom. 6:4; Eph. 1:19–20).

- 7. Secures our future inheritance:** a living Christ gives a living hope and a guaranteed future (1 Peter 1:3–5; John 14:19).
- 8. Shapes weekly worship and witness:** gathering declares Jesus is alive (Luke 24:13–35; Acts 20:7; Rev. 1:10).

Takeaway 1

The Resurrection Demands a Response

You will either:

1. Worship
2. Reject
3. Or remake Him into your own image..

Liar,
Lunatic,
or Lord of all?

Takeaway 2

The Resurrection = New Life and Mission

Easter is not just something to celebrate....

It is something to live.

-“We're not to live in the world and go to church, but to live in the church and go to the world.”

Don't just recognize facts. **Follow Jesus.**

Abide in His Presence

You cannot fulfill His mission
without staying close to Him.

Live Sent Every Day

Your life is not random—it's
commissioned.

Core Message:

1. God is real and He loves you, the Bible is true, Jesus died for your sins and rose from the dead. ([Acts 2](#); [1 Cor. 15](#))
2. Humanity is separated from God by sin, facing spiritual and physical death ([Rom 3:23](#))

3. God sent Jesus to die for us sinners
(John 3:17-17; Rom. 5:8)
4. Christ's victory conquered the enemy,
sin, death, and shame (Rom. 6:9; Col.
2:15)

5. Through resurrection, He offers eternal life and hope, and the promise of your resurrection and eternity with Him ([1 Pet. 1:3](#))

6. Receive the free gift of salvation by grace, through faith, not earned through works ([Ephesians 2:8-9](#))

7. Accepting brings us into God's family (John 1:12), makes us a new creation (1 Cor. 5:17), and gives eternal life (John 3:16)
8. Calls us to follow Him, love, forgive, and and live with purpose, on mission! (John 13:34-35, Matt 28:29, Acts 1:8)

Resources

Quotes from: McDowell, Josh, and Sean McDowell. Evidence for the Resurrection: What It Means for Your Relationship with God. Ventura, CA: Regal, 2009.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nyw8ZSuxqjw>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fwXx_EQuQdQ

<https://www.cru.org/us/en/train-and-grow/spiritual-growth/core-christian-beliefs/resurrection-evidence.html>

<https://www.reasonablefaith.org/media/debates/is-there-historical-evidence-for-the-resurrection-of-jesus-the-craig-ehrman>

<https://www.gotquestions.org/was-Jesus-resurrected.html>

<https://www.crossway.org/articles/4-points-of-evidence-for-the-resurrection/>

<https://ca.thegospelcoalition.org/article/10-concise-pieces-of-evidence-for-the-resurrection/>

<https://www.cru.org/us/en/train-and-grow/spiritual-growth/core-christian-beliefs/what-makes-christianity-different.html>

<https://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/>

Federal Rules of Evidence - <https://www.rulesofevidence.org/>

Old Testament Prophecies: <https://www.bethinking.org/jesus/old-testament-prophecies-of-jesus>

Source for historical documentation: <https://www.history.com/news/was-jesus-real-historical-evidence>

Because of the Resurrection

1. We have **victory** over sin and death -1

Cor. 15:54–55

2. Proof He was fully God and fully

man -Psalm 16:10; Acts 13:32–39

Because of the Resurrection

3. Assurance He is who He said He is, and will do what He said He will do - Mark 8:31; 9:31; 10:34; John 11:25; Acts 2; 17:2–3; 1 Cor. 15; 1 Thess. 4; Heb. 10:12

Archaeological Evidence

The Court of Antonius - discovered in Jerusalem, matches New Testament description of Jesus' trial More details: <https://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/biblical-sites-places/jerusalem/the-fortress-of-antonia>

The Pool of Bethesda - discovered in 1888 in Jerusalem's Muslim Quarter, confirms John 5:2-9 Reference: <https://www.israel21c.org/the-8-most-significant-bible-archaeological-discoveries-in-israel>

The House of Caiaphas - discovered in Jerusalem, matches biblical account of Jesus' trial Source: <https://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/biblical-sites-places/jerusalem/caiaphas-house>

The Pilate Stone - found in 1961, confirms Pontius Pilate's role as prefect of Judea Source: <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/the-pilate-stone>

What is the Gospel?

The gospel means the good news...

of Jesus...

Who He is....

What He has done...

What that means for us...

Our response... (see Acts 2)

Revelation:Who He is....

1. Son of God, Lord, Messiah
2. Died/Crucified
3. Raised / Resurrected
4. Exalted / Glorified
5. Poured out the Spirit

Response: What that means for us...

1. Convicted
2. Confession
3. Repent
4. Baptized
5. Believe
6. Devoted to a church

Results

1. Forgiven
2. New Life / Holy Spirit
3. Family of Faith
4. New Mission

“If Christ did not rise in the same physical body that was placed in the tomb, then the resurrection loses its value as an evidential proof of His claims to be God (John 8:58; 10:30). The resurrection cannot verify Jesus' claims to be God unless He was resurrected in the body in which He was crucified. -

That body was a literal, physical body.
Unless Jesus rose in a material body, there is
no way to verify His resurrection. It loses its
historically persuasive value. The truth of
Christianity is based on the bodily
resurrection of Christ.” - **Norman Geisler**

"Of all the world's religions Christianity alone purports to be based on the resurrection of its divine founder. No other religion or worldview makes such an audacious and consequential claim..."

... The resurrection of Jesus is at the center of the Christian worldview and Christian devotion. The Gospels do not end with the death of Jesus but speak of an empty tomb, of His appearances, and of a commission by the risen Jesus.”

- **Douglas Groothuis**

Subject: Old Testament prophecy; New Testament fulfillment

1. Jesus as the Son of God: Ps 2:7; Luke 1:32,35
2. Jesus as the Seed of the woman: Gen 3:15; Gal 4:4
3. Jesus as the Seed of Abraham: Gen 17:7, Gen 22:18; Gal 3:16
4. Jesus as the Seed of Isaiah: Gen 21:12; Heb 11:17-19
5. Jesus as the Seed of David: Ps 132:11, Jer 23:5; Acts 13:23, Rom 1:3
6. Jesus Coming was at a Set Time: Gen 49:10; Dan 9:24-25; Luke 2:1
7. Jesus Being Born of a Virgin: Isa 7:14; Matt 1:22-23, Luke 2:7
8. Jesus Being called Immanuel: Isa 7:14; Matt 1:22-23
9. Jesus Being Born in Bethlehem of Judea: Mic 5:2; Matt 2:1, Luke 2:4-6
10. Great Persons Coming to Adore Jesus: Ps 72:10; Matt 2:1-11
11. The Slaying of the Children of Bethlehem: Jer 31:15; Matt 2:16-18
12. Jesus Being called out of Egypt: Hos 11:1; Matt 2:15
13. Jesus Being Preceded by John the Baptist: Isa 40:3, Mal 3:1; Matt 3:1,3 Luke 1:17
14. Jesus Being Anointed with the Spirit: Ps 45:7, Isa 11:2, Isa 61:1; Matt 3:16, John 3:34, Acts 10:38
15. Jesus Being a Prophet like to Moses: Deut 18:15-18; Acts 3:20-22
16. Jesus a Priest after order of Melchizedek: Ps 110:4; Heb 5:5-6
17. Jesus Entering His Public Ministry: Isa 61:1-2; Luke 4:16-21,43
18. Jesus' Ministry Commencing in Galilee: Isa 9:1-2; Matt 4:12-16,23

Subject: Old Testament prophecy; New Testament fulfillment

19. Jesus Entering Publicly into Jerusalem: Zec 9:9; Matt 1:1-5
20. Jesus Coming into the Temple: Hag 2:7,9, Mal 3:1; Mt 21:12, Lk 2:27-32 Jn 2:13-16
21. Jesus' Poverty: Isa 53:2; Mark 6:3, Luke 9:58
22. Jesus Was Meek: Isa 42:2; Matt 12:15-16,19
23. Jesus Tenderness & Compassion: Isa 40:11, Isa 42:3; Matt 12:15,20; Heb 4:15
24. Jesus Being without Deceit: Isa 53:9; 1Pet 2:22
25. Jesus Zeal & Passion for God's House: Ps 69:9; John 2:17
26. Jesus Preaching by Parables: Ps 78:2; Matt 13:34,35
27. Jesus Working Miracles: Isa 35:5-6; Matt 11:4-6, John 11:47
28. Jesus Bearing Reproach: Ps 22:6, 69:7,9,20; Rom 15:3
29. Jesus Being Rejected by His Brethren: Ps 69:8, Isa 63:3; John 1:11, John 7:3
30. Jesus Being a Stone of Stumbling to the Jews: Isa 8:14; Rom 9:32; 1 Pet 2:8
31. Jesus Being Hated by the Jews: Ps 69:4, Isa 49:7; John 15:24-25
32. Jesus Being Rejected by the Jewish Rulers: Ps 118:22; Matt 21:42; John 7:48
33. Jews & Gentiles Come Against Jesus: Ps 2:1-2; Luke 23:12; Acts 4:27
34. Jesus Being Betrayed by a Friend: Ps 41:9,Ps 55:12-14; John 13:18,21
35. Jesus' Disciples Forsaking Him: Zec 13:7; Matt 26:31,56
36. Jesus Being Sold for Thirty Pieces of Silver: Zec 11:12; Matt 26:15

Subject: Old Testament prophecy; New Testament fulfillment

37. Jesus Price Being Given for a Potter's Field: Zec 11:13; Matt 27:7
38. Jesus' Intensity of His Sufferings: Ps 22:14,15; Luke 22:42,44
39. Jesus' Sufferings being for others: Isa 53:4-6,12, Dan 9:26; Matt 20:28
40. Jesus Patience & Silence Under Suffering: Isa 53:7; Matt 26:63; Mt 27:12-14
41. Jesus Being Smitten on the Cheek: Mic 5:1; Matt 27:30
42. Jesus Body being Horribly Marred: Isa 52:14; 53:3; John 19:5
43. Jesus Being Spit on and Scourged: Isa 50:6; Mark 14:65, John 19:1
44. Jesus Hands & Feet Nailed to the Cross: Ps 22:16; John 19:18; John 20:25
45. Jesus Being Forsaken by God: Ps 22:1; Matt 27:46
46. Jesus Being Mocked: Ps 22:7,8; Matt 27:39-44
47. Gall & Vinegar given to Jesus to Drink: Ps 69:21; Matt 27:34
48. Jesus Garments Were Gambled For: Ps 22:18; Matt 27:35
49. Jesus Being Numbered with the Criminals: Isa 53:12; Mark 15:28
50. Jesus' Intercession for His Murderers: Isa 53:12; Luke 23:34
51. Jesus Death: Isa 53:12; Matt 27:50
52. That a Bone of Jesus should not be Broken: Ex 12:46 Ps 34:20; John 19:33,36
53. Jesus Being Pierced: Zec 12:10; John 19:34,37
54. Jesus Being Buried In a Rich Man's Tomb: Isa 53:9; Matt 27:57-60

Subject: Old Testament prophecy; New Testament fulfillment

55. Jesus Flesh not seeing Corruption: Ps 16:10; Acts 2:31
56. Jesus' Resurrection: Ps 16:10 Isa 26:19; Luke 24:6,31,34
57. Jesus' Ascension: Ps 68:18; Luke 24:51, Acts 1:9
58. Jesus' Sitting on the Right Hand of God: Ps 110:1; Heb 1:3
59. Jesus Exercising the Priestly Office in Heaven: Zec 6:13; Rom 8:34
60. Jesus the Chief Corner-stone of Church: Isa 28:16; 1 Pet 2:6,7
61. Jesus Being King in Zion: Ps 2:6; Luke 1:32 John 18:33-37
62. The Conversion of the Gentiles to Jesus: Isa 11:10, Isa 42:1; Matt 1:17,21, John 10:16, Acts 10:45,47
63. Jesus' Righteous Government: Ps 45:6-7; John 5:30, Rev 19:11
64. Jesus' Universal Dominion: Ps 72:8 Dan 7:14; Phil 2:9,11
65. Jesus' Never Ending Kingdom: Isa 9:7 Dan 7:14; Luke 1:32-33

1 Corinthians 15:12-14

(12) But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?

(13) If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised.

(14) And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.

1 Corinthians 15:16-19

(16) For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. (17) And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! (18) Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. (19) **If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.**

Did Jesus rise from the dead?

YES!

Historical Evidence

- Christianity stands alone providing verifiable historical and archaeological evidence to back up its claims.
- The same historical criteria will be applied for examining all ancient events and figures.

Historical Evidence

- The Gospels and the book of Acts are written as eyewitnesses and historical accounts.

Luke 1: 1–4

1 Now many have undertaken to compile an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us,

2 like the accounts passed on to us by those who were eyewitnesses and servants of the word from the beginning.

Luke 1: 1–4

3 So it seemed good to me as well, because I have followed all things carefully from the beginning, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus,

4 so that you may know for certain the things you were taught.

Verifiable and Falsifiable:

"The hypothesis of the resurrection is both verifiable and falsifiable: verifiable through proving the historicity of the empty tomb, the appearances, and the origin of the Christian way;

falsifiable by either disapproving the above or providing naturalistic explanation of them. In fact, I should go so far as to say that there is not a single event in the resurrection narrative that is not in principle, historically verifiable or falsifiable.” - William Wayne Craig

Historical Evidence

- Scripture provides **verifiable or falsifiable** historical evidence
- Based on **eyewitness** accounts and verifiable events

Historical Evidence

- Verifiable through:
 - Empty tomb evidence
 - Recorded appearances
 - Origin of Christian movement

Historical Evidence

- Uses **same criteria** as other ancient historical events
- **Multiple accounts** strengthen probability of truth
- Must consider ancient Near Eastern and Roman **context**

Is the Bible a reliable and accurate source?

Two things matter most:

- **Time:** How soon after the events were they written
- **Amount:** The amount of copies and how well they match each other

U. S. Federal Rules of Evidence

1. No suspicion or evidence contrary to their authenticity
2. Are found in expected locations
3. Have existed for more than 20 years

Dr. John Warwick Montgomery, professor of Law and Humanities at the University of Luton, England, affirms that "applied to the gospel records and reinforced by responsible, textual criticism, this rule would establish competency in any court of law."

Pamela Binnings Ewen, of Baker and Botts law firm concurs:

"the gospels are documents of the requisite age, coming from the proper custody, and free of suspicious appearances. They made all of the requirements for authentication under the rules of evidence."

"no solid basis for dating any book of the New Testament after **A.D. 80.**"

- **Archaeologist William Albright**

Dr. Robinson's research places the Gospels' composition between **A.D. 40 and 64** - as early as **seven years** after Christ's death

Key findings about New Testament dating:

- No books written after 80 AD
- Gospels written between 40-64 AD
- Written while eyewitnesses were still alive
- Both historical records and archaeology confirm these dates

Manuscript Evidence

- **Time:** Most ancient works like those of Plato and Aristotle have gaps of **700-1400** years between their originals and earliest preserved copies
- **Amount:** Homer's Iliad has **643** copies

Manuscript Evidence of the Bible

- **Time:** Nearly complete copy: **100-150 years** after writing
- John's Gospel fragments: **40-50 years** after writing

Manuscript Evidence of the Bible

- **Amount:** Total copies: ~ **25,000**
(compared to Iliad's 643)

"The evidence for our New Testament writings is ever so much greater than the evidence for many writings of classical authors, the authenticity of which no one dreams of questioning..."

“- And if the New Testament were a collection of secular writings their authenticity would be generally regarded as beyond all doubt.”

- F.F. Bruce notes

Eyewitness Accounts

- 2 Peter 1:16 - "we were eyewitnesses"
- 1 John 1:1 - "we have heard and seen"
- Acts 1:3 - appeared for 40 days with "many convincing proofs"

Eyewitness Accounts

- Acts 2:32 - "we are all witnesses"
- John 19:35 - testimony of direct observation
- Luke 1:1-4 - careful investigation from eyewitnesses

- Jewish law required truthful testimony (Exodus 20:16; 23:1; Deuteronomy 16:6; 19:15; Proverbs 19:5,9)
- Witnesses faced death rather than deny their accounts
- Even opponents couldn't dispute events and witness testimony (Acts 26:25)

Archaeological Evidence

- The Book of Acts accurately names:
 - 32 countries
 - 54 cities
 - 9 islands

Archaeological Evidence Recent Discoveries:

- Court of Antonio where Jesus faced Pilate (found 1960)
- Pool of Bethesda (John 5:2, found 1888)
- Caiaphas's house and burial ground (found 1990)
- The Pilate Stone confirms Pontius Pilate's role as prefect of Judea (found 1961)

"on the whole such evidence as archaeology has afforded thus far... strengthens our confidence in the accuracy with which the text has been transmitted through the centuries." - **Archaeologist Miller Burrows**

Non-Christian sources confirm Jesus:

- **Josephus** (Jewish historian, 93-94 AD) in "Antiquities of the Jews"
- **Tacitus** (Roman historian, 116 AD) in "Annals"

- **Pliny the Younger** (Roman governor, 112 AD) in letters to Emperor Trajan Source: <https://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Plin.+Ep.+10.96>
- **Suetonius** (Roman historian, 120 AD) in "Lives of the Twelve Caesars" Source: <https://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Suetonius/12Caesars/home.html>

Historical Corroboration:

Extra-biblical sources confirm:

- Jesus as Jewish teacher
- His healings and exorcisms
- Crucifixion under Pontius Pilate
- Christianity spread to Rome by 64 AD

Historical Biblical Corroboration:

- **Empty tomb** near Jerusalem's center
- Broken Roman **seal**
- Over **500 witnesses** (1 Corinthians 15:3-8)

- **No shrine** at burial site (unlike other religious leaders)
- **Rapid spread** of Christianity throughout Roman Empire

Prophetic Evidence

The Old Testament contains **over 300 prophecies** about the Messiah that Jesus fulfilled, written hundreds of years before His birth.

1. **Birth** in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2) - written around **700 BC**
2. **Born of a virgin** (Isaiah 7:14) - written around **700 BC**
3. **Betrayal** for 30 pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:12-13) - written around **500 BC**

4. **Entry** into Jerusalem on a donkey
(Zechariah 9:9) - written around **500 BC**
5. **Crucified** with criminals (Isaiah 53:12) -
written around **700 BC**
6. **Pierced** hands and feet (Psalm 22:16) -
written around **1000 BC**

Jesus' Own Words as Prophetic Evidence

Location: Jerusalem

Who: Religious leaders hand him to the Romans

What: Would be betrayed, mocked, insulted, spat upon, flogged, and crucified

Jesus' Own Words as Prophetic Evidence

When: Passover and would rise after three days

(Matt. 16:21-22; 17:22-23; 20:17-19; 26:2; Mark 8:31; 9:31; 10:33-34; Luke 9:22-27; 18:31-33; John 2:19-21; 3:14; 12:32-33)

<https://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/biblical-topics/bible-interpretation/the-resurrection-of-jesus/>

10 Evidences:

1. **Verifiable Physical evidence:** Including the empty tomb, grave clothes, broken seal, and moved stone. No contemporary counter-claims emerged (1 Cor 15:16-19).

2. **Historical Validation:** Archaeological findings support the accounts. Many Non-Christian sources confirm what the Bible says about Jesus and have only supported the biblical text.

3. **Many Early Documents:** Multiple early sources document the empty tomb, including Mark's account (**within 7 years**) and Paul's (**within 5 years**). Joseph of Arimathea's involvement adds credibility (**Mt 28:5-7**).

4. **Manuscript Evidence:** 25,000 manuscript copies exist, with both hostile and independent sources confirming early Christian beliefs.

5. **Multiple Witnesses:** Multiple groups witnessed the risen Jesus (**Mt 28:5-17; Mk 16:9; Lk 24:13-35; Jn 20:19-21:14; Acts 1:6-8; 1 Cor 15:5-7**), including **500 people at once (1 Cor 15:6)**. Many were raised to life! (**Matt. 27:50-53**)

6. **Initial Skepticism:** The disciples' initial doubt strengthens their later accounts (Mt 28:1-20, Mk 16:1-20, Lk 24:1-53, Jn 20:1-21:25).

7. Contemporary Accounts:

Four biographies (40-64 AD) were written while eyewitnesses lived.

Women as first witnesses strengthens authenticity since their testimony wasn't valued in Jewish society.

8. **Rapid Growth:** Christianity grew rapidly in Jerusalem weeks after the crucifixion, despite opposition and persecution ([Acts 2:29, 13:36; 1 Cor 15:4, 50-58](#)).

9. **Prophecy:** Jesus predicted His death and resurrection (**Mt 16:21-22**). Christ's resurrection fulfills prophecies and promises eternal life (**1 Cor 15:20-23**).

10. **Changed Lives and Hearts:** The disciples changed from fearful to bold witnesses, with most dying as martyrs (**1 Cor 15:12-19**), Paul transformed from persecutor to apostle after seeing the risen Christ (**Acts 9:1-6**).

Without the Resurrection:

1. Sin remains unaddressed

- only through Jesus's death and resurrection was sin conquered.

"your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins" (1 Cor. 15:17)

Without the Resurrection:

2. Our relationship with God stays broken.

Jesus's death and resurrection showed God's love and removed sin's barrier, opening the way to eternal life.