

JESUS ROSE FROM THE DEAD.

IMPOSSIBLE? (EASTER 2014)

>>>>This “Not a Sermon” played all over the DC area these past 2 weeks

>>>>& it went along with posters on buses & in metro stations **SLIDE**

>>All asking the same Q:NAMELY—“**DID I REALLY RISE FROM THE DEAD?**”

I- & so—let’s answer that Q right now

A. While J was here on earth--He was constantly telling pple—tht He was going to rise from the dead

B.He said this **TO HIS ENMIES**(Mt 12:40)

“Fr as Jonah was in the belly of the fish fr 3 days & 3 nights, so the Son of Man (ic, self) will be in the heart of the earth for 3 days & 3 nights”

C. He said it **TO HIS FRIENDS**(Mt 16:21)

"Frm tht time on, J began to show--his disciples tht He must go to Jeru...& be killed, & **BE RAISED TO LIFE AGAIN** on the 3rd day"

D. He said it **TO THE CROWDS**(Jn 2:18)

1. “J said, ‘Destroy this temple, & in 3 days, I will raise it back up.’”

2. V. 20-Then the crowd said, “It has taken 46 yrs to build this temple, & U will raise it up in 3 days?””
3. V. 21-“But J was speaking of the temple of His body.”
- E. In fct, as J hung on the cross, his enemies *taunted* him by saying (Mt 27:40)-“U who are going to destroy the temple & rebuild it in 3 days, come down frm the cross & we will believe in U”
- F. When R’s went to Pilate to ask fr Rmn soldiers to guard J’s tomb (Mt 27:63)-“Sir, we remember tht when he was still alive, this deceiver said, ‘After 3 days, I will rise again’”
- G. PT: *Everybody* in Is knew full well ab J’s claim to rise from the dead
- H. But real Q is: “*DID J DO IT?*”
- J. Well--I believe He DID !
- K. & I’ve got 4 *pieces of compelling evidence* I’d like to offer U
- L. #1-COMPELLING EVIDENCE OF THE ROMAN SOLDIERS
- 1.Mt 27:63(Jwh ldrs to Pilate)-“Sir,

we rem tht when he was still alive, tht deceiver said, ‘After three days I will rise again.’”

2. V. 64-“So please command tht his tomb be made secure until the 3rd day, lest his disciples come by night & steal his body, & say to the pple, ‘He has risen from the dead.’ & then, this last deception will be worse than the 1st.”
3. V. 65-“Pilate said to thm, ‘Take a squad of Rmn sldrs & make the tomb as secure as U know how.’”
4. V. 66-“So they went & made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone & posting the guard.”
5. NOW--a Rmn security team like this consisted of 15 enlisted mn + 1 officer
6. & these sldrs had a deeply vested interest in making sure tht nobdy stole J’s body
7. **BEC**--if a Rn sldr lost his prisoner
***EVEN HIS DEAD PRISONER...**
***He lost his life!**

ILLUST: ACTS 16--AP in jail in Philippi—
angel came & blew open prison doors

*Acts 16:27—"The jailer (Roman soldier)
awoke, & seeing the prison doors
open, he drew his sword & was
about to kill himself, supposing for
sure the prisoners had escaped"

*WHY was this Roman soldier gonna kill self?

*Well bec he knew--tht if the prisoners
had escaped--his superiors were
going to kill him...

*So he figured he'd save thm trouble!

*This=why P cried out (V. 28)-"Don't
hurt yourself, for we're all here!"

AP:NOW--in light of this--do we really think

*Tht a bunch of unarmed women &
fishermen

*Cld've gotten past these battle-
hardened soldiers ...

*Who knew their lives – on the line

*& stolen the body of J?

***PREPOSTEROUS--IMPOSSIBLE!**

M. #2-**COMPELLING EVIDENCE OF J'S
ENEMIES**

1. When the msg tht J had risen from

- the dead began spreading thru Jer
2. R's were detrmnd to stop it at all costs
3. It startd on the vry day of J's resur
- *Mt 28:12-"Then the R's gave the sldrs a great sum of mney & said, 'Tell ple tht His disciples came at night & stole his body away while U were sleeping.'"
4. It continued after J's ascension
- *Acts 4:1-"As Ptr & Jhn were speaking to the crowd, the R's were greatly disturbed bec they were preaching J & His resurrection from the dead"
- *So they arrested them twice...
- *& beat them
- *& commanded thm nvr to preach ab J's resur'n again
5. SO I ASK MYSELF: "Why did these Rabbis spend ALL this money...
 *& go to ALL this political trouble
 *To try & discredit J's resurr?"
6. Thnk abt it—all they had to DO...
 *Was to produce J's dead body...
 *To put it on a cart & roll it thru

Jeru for everybody to see

*& finito/it's settled/end of story!

7. SO WHY didn't they do this?"

8. A(of crse)=thre WAS no dead bdy

9. & we've alrly agreed... RIGHT??

*Tht bec of the Roman sldrs...

*No hn bng cld've taken J's body...

10. So whre did it go--if NOT fr resr?

N. #3-COMPELING EVIDENCE OF THE EYEWITNESSES

1.1 Cor 15:3(AP)-"Fr I delivered to U the msg tht I also received: tht Chrst died for our sins acc to the Scriptures, & tht He was buried, & tht He rose again on the 3rd day acc to the Scriptures."

2. V. 5-"& tht He was seen by Ptr, thn by the Twelve (apostles)."

3. V. 6-"Aftr tht, He was seen by over 500 brethren at once, most of whom are still alive to this day."

ILL: P="If U don't blve me, go ask thm"

APP: Why wld P dare issue this kinda

Challenge--if he cldn't back it up?

[BUT P'S STILL NOT FINISHED—LOOK]

4. V. 7—"After tht, He was seen by James, then by all the apostles.

5.V8—"& last of all, He was seen by me

IL: This wk--I ready thru a # of bks on "Evidence" currently used by Law S's

*I found thre's a growing trend to minimize eyewitness testimony

*Bec it can often be contradictory

*& bec DNA testing has overturned it in a number of cases

AP: **BUT**—in these books—the discussion was always abt only a few eyw'tnses ...whose testimonies disagreed!

*Nevr ab more than 500 eyewitneses

*Whose testimonies all **AGREED!!**

ILLUST: **BAYES' THEOREM**—math'cal formula tht calculates how "likely" it is that an event really happened

*Herc's the formula: **SLIDE**

*T = "number of eyewtness acc't's tht agree with one another"

*[AS U CAN CLEARLY SEE] the higher "T" is—the greater the probability tht the event in qustion rly hpnd

IL: Dr. John DePoe (Western Mich Univ)

“A Bayesian Analysis of the Cumulative
Effects of Independent Eyewitness
Testimony for the Resurrection of JC”
**[BE SURE TO PICK UP YUR COPY AFTR
THE SERVICE AT WELCME DESK!]**

*Dr. Depoe:”From NT, one can count
as mny as 520 cywitnesses to resur

*”Givn such a # of indpdnt witnesses
testifying tht an event ocured, the
prbability tht this event did indeed
happen goes up exponentially...&
becomes [SAY]CLOSE TO CERTAIN”

SAY: “But, Lon—isn’t it poss tht all these
“eywtenses” were lying/runing a scam

A: “NO—bec of compelling evidence#4

**O. #4-COMPELLING EVIDENCE OF
EYEWITNESSES’ MARTYRDOM**

1.I trust U knw—tht virtually evry
eyewitness of J’s resurr B mentions

*Died as a martyr...

*Rather thn recant their testimony

*Tht J had risen frm the dead

ILLUST: Ap James killed by Herod(A12)

*Stephen was martyred in Jeru (A 7)

*Thomas was martyred in India

*Jhn Mark was martyred in Egypt

*Philip was martyred in Turkey

*Matthew was martyred in Ethiopia

*AP was beheaded in Rome by Nero(66)

*& Nero crucified Ptr upsde dwn sameyr

ILLUST: **BUT NOT JUST THE APOSTLES**

*Tacitus..writing ab Rme under Nero:

“Chr’s were crucified or set on
fire so tht, whn darkness came,
thy burned like torches in the nite

APP: Now—pple don’t do this fr a scam

*Somebody breaks/cracks/TURNS

[WE’VE ALL SEEN “LAW & ORDER”!!]

2. But Ptr/Jmes/Matt/ P & 100’s of
other early Chr’s *didn’t turn*

3. **BEC**—they weren’t running a “con”

4. They’d really seen the Risen Christ

5.& were wllng to die rthr thn deny it

P. **SUMARIZE—COMPELING EVIDENCE**

#1-Evidnce of Rn sldrs—whch mkes
hn tampering w/J’s body imposs

#2-Evidnce of J’s enemies—who clda
stopped Chr’ty “dead in its tracks”
by just producing J’s dead body
—but they didn’t ...bc they cldn’t

#3-Evidence of the eyewitnesses—100's
of whom agreed thy'd seen Risn Chst

#4-Evidence of eyewitnesses' mrttyrdm
their willingness to die rather thn
recant their testimny abt resurr

Q. Can I prove to U in a "test-tube" tht
the resurr of JC is true? NO, I CAN'T!

R. BUT--can I give U such a strong
preponderance of EVIDENCE...that
even Judge Judy wld be convinced?

S. WELL-----I JUST DID!!!!

CONCLUSION

>In closing—rem the awesome promise J
made us ab the aftrlife(Jn 11:25)-“He
who belvs in Me shall live(in aftrlfe)
even if he dies(here on erth)”

>But U knw--Budism/Islam/Mormonism
/Hindism/Scientology... they all
make great promises abt afterlife too

>>SO--how do we know who's right?

>>>>Well, it's very simple, my frnds:

“WHO ROSE FROM THE DEAD?”

*Budda didn't rise from the dead

*Mohammed ...rise from the dead

*Jo. Smith didn't rise from the dead

*L. Ron Hubbard didn't rise frm dead

*No Hindu holy man evcr rosc...

>>BUT B says(Acts 17:31)--“Gd has givn
us **PROOF** [J is right/one to flw/can
bck up his promises abt the afterlife]
Gd has givn us PROOF by raising
Him (J) frm the dead”

>>So here's J's promise: “The prsn who
believes in me shall live evn if they die

>>>The Q: “Are U prepared to take him
up on it—if U've never done so?”

>>>>SALVATION PRAYER

>>>>CHR 101 SIGN UP...GOT QUESTIONS