

— Apologetics —

DEFENDING THE FAITH

LESSON #3: HOW WOULD A HISTORIAN LOOK AT THE EVIDENCE?

What you will find: *This lesson takes a look at how a historian might look at the claims of Christianity. It specifically deals with the “resurrection claim.”*

PART 1 OF VIDEO

What is the “resurrection claim?”

- 1 Corinthians 15:17,19

What are the five minimal facts every credible historian agrees with about the resurrection claim?

1. Jesus actually _____.
2. Jesus was _____ by the Romans.
3. His body was buried in a _____ tomb.
4. That tomb was found to be _____.
5. _____ claim to have seen Jesus alive.

What three groups had access to the body of Jesus?

Which of the three groups had a motive to fake a resurrection?

What is circular logic and how do Christians get out of this accusation when dealing with a skeptical friend?



VIDEO BREAK: Put on the hat of a historian. What would you do with the evidence provided by the resurrection claim?

PART 2

The four gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) record the claim of Jesus’ resurrection. What is the first test to see if they are reliable?

The _____ **Text** asks: Did the _____ that's written in the text get to us in an _____ and _____ way?

How were ancient texts transmitted (copied)?

Definitions of:

- *Autograph:*
- *Manuscript:*

How were both used to make copies of the Bible?



VIDEO BREAK: Discuss the reliability of the New Testament and why the ancient autographs and manuscripts in the transmission process are important.

PART 3

How do the New Testament texts fare when compared to other texts of the same era? And why is that important?

Two gaps in the transmission process:

Two reasons for the two gaps:

Gap 1:

Reason 1:

Gap 2:

Reason 2:

Why were the Gospels not written immediately after Jesus' ascension?

What is the "chain of custody" when it comes to the New Testament information?

What is a vetting process that occurred?



VIDEO BREAK: Discuss how we can know with absolute certainty that the New Testament texts are authentic and accurate.



CLOSING THOUGHTS