

When we open the pages of the New Testament, we are reading first-hand, eyewitness accounts of what happened in history and more importantly, WHO entered history for us.

- ~Mary Magdalene - John 20:1-18
- ~Other Women (James' Mother Mary, Joanna & Salome) - Luke 24:1-10
 - ~Simon Peter - John 21
- ~Two Disciples - Mark 15:12-13, Luke 4:13-32
 - ~Ten of the Twelve Disciples - Luke 24:36-43, John 20:19-24
- ~Thomas with the Eleven Disciples - John 20:26-31, Mark 16:14
 - ~The Apostle Paul - Acts 9:1-22
 - ~Many Others - 1 Corinthians 15



All eyewitness accounts
reach the same conclusion:
Jesus rose from the dead.

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance.

John 20:1-18 (NIV)

So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

John 20:1-18 (NIV)

So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first.

John 20:1-18 (NIV)

He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb.

John 20:1-18 (NIV)

He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen.

John 20:1-18 (NIV)

Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

John 20:1-18 (NIV)

Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

John 20:1-18 (NIV)

They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

John 20:1-18 (NIV)

He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." Jesus said to her, "Mary."

John 20:1-18 (NIV)

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher"). Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father.

John 20:1-18 (NIV)

Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

John 20:1-18 (NIV)

Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have SEEN the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

John 20:1-18 (NIV)

Why is it important
to make a distinction
about these witnesses
and the book that
contains their testimony?

"I do not know, nor have I heard of, any trained historian or archaeologist who has doubts about his existence,"

~Dr. Byron McCane~

~Florida Atlantic University~

The consensus among scholars is that two of the most well attested facts of the ancient world are:

- 1) That Jesus of Nazareth lived
- and 2) He was crucified.

There were contemporary
eyewitnesses to the life,
death and resurrection of
Jesus and they shared their
accounts quickly.

Romans, 1&2 Corinthians,
Galatians, Philippians, 1
Thessalonians & Philemon

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve.

1 Corinthians 15:3-8 (NIV)

After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.

1 Corinthians 15:3-8 (NIV)

Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

1 Corinthians 15:3-8 (NIV)

Paul: 55 AD (+25 yrs.)

Mark: 70 AD (+40 yrs.)

Matthew: 80 AD (+50 yrs.)

Luke: 85 AD (+55 yrs.)

John: 95 AD (+65 yrs.)

How many of you
have heard of
Alexander the Great?

Diodorus

Diodorus: 30 BCE (+300 yrs.)

Best sources: Plutarch &

Arrian (+425-450 yrs.)

What about a
contemporary of Jesus,
Tiberius Caesar?

Velleius: Contemporary (+1 yrs.)

Best sources:

Tacitus: 116 AD (+79 yrs.)

Suetonius: 121 AD (+84 yrs.)

Cassius: 228 AD (+191 yrs.)

What if I could get us back
to a critically accepted
eyewitness account within
one year of the death and
resurrection of Jesus?

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve.

1 Corinthians 15:3-5 (NIV)

Then after three years, I went up to Jerusalem to get acquainted with Cephas and stayed with him fifteen days. I saw none of the other apostles—only James, the Lord's brother. I assure you before God that what I am writing you is no lie.

Galatians 1:18-23 (NIV)

Then I went to Syria and Cilicia.
I was personally unknown to the
churches of Judea that are in Christ.
They only heard the report: "The
man who formerly persecuted us is
now preaching the faith he once
tried to destroy."

Galatians 1:18-23 (NIV)

Then after fourteen years, I went up again to Jerusalem, this time with Barnabas. I took Titus along also. I went in response to a revelation and, meeting privately with those esteemed as leaders, I presented to them the gospel that I preach among the Gentiles.

Galatians 2:1-2 (NIV)

I wanted to be sure I was not running and had not been running my race in vain.

Galatians 2:1-2 (NIV)

As for those who were held in high esteem - whatever they were makes no difference to me; God does not show favoritism - they added nothing to my message.

Galatians 2:6-7,9-10 (NIV)

On the contrary, they recognized that I had been entrusted with the task of preaching the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been to the circumcised...

Galatians 2:6-7,9-10 (NIV)

James, Cephas and John, those esteemed as pillars, gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship when they recognized the grace given to me. They agreed that we should go to the Gentiles, and they to the circumcised.

Galatians 2:6-7,9-10 (NIV)

All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I had been eager to do all along.

Galatians 2:6-7,9-10 (NIV)

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve.

1 Corinthians 15:3-5 (NIV)

Every Gospel Testimony:
The Deity, Death and
Resurrection of Jesus

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

1 Corinthians 15:12-22 (NIV)

And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead.

1 Corinthians 15:12-22 (NIV)

But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.

1 Corinthians 15:12-22 (NIV)

Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

1 Corinthians 15:12-22 (NIV)

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.

1 Corinthians 15:12-22 (NIV)

We do not say:
"Christ is Risen,
Christ is Risen, Maybe?"

We do say:
Christ is Risen,
Christ is Risen Indeed!

Christianity is a Jesus Focused,
Crucifixion Dependent,
Resurrection Centric and
Eyewitness Reliant faith.

..these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

John 20:31 (NIV)

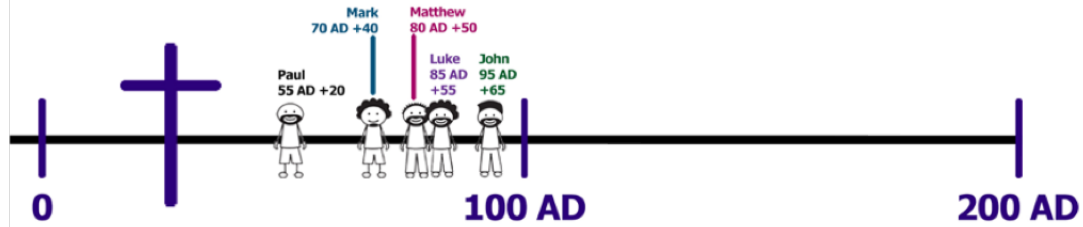
Alexander the Great
Death 330 BC



Diodorus
30 BCE
+300



Plutarch
Arian +425-450



Emperor Tiberius
Death 37 BC



Velleius Paterculus
Contemporary

Tacitus
116 AD
+ 79



Suetonius
121 AD
+ 84



Cassius
228 AD
+ 191



