

The Resurrection of Jesus

Can we be sure?

Just a moment to confirm the reliability of the Bible itself

Earliest copy of other docs



- Usually scrolls are hundreds or even 1,000 years later

The New Testament

- Earliest copy just 25 years later and some parts very early.

The number of copies:

- Usually between 8 & 49

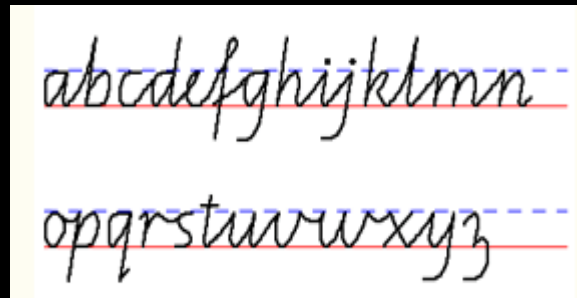
The New Testament

- 24,000 copies in 3 translations

A purer form than any other great book—99.5% is beyond any doubt.

How do we know the date of a scroll?

- Copperplate writing was taught till the 80's
- It was replaced by Queensland Cursive
- The different style gives the clue to the date:



The Greek writing style in John's gospel fragment was not used after 125, so we can date it, very early



Info from writers *outside* the Bible

Apart from the gospels, we know that, Jesus was:

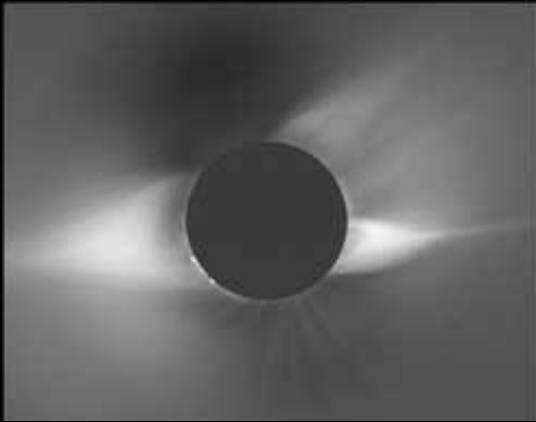
- A Jewish teacher
- Performed healings and exorcisms
- Believed to be the Messiah
- Rejected by Jewish leaders
- Crucified under Pontius Pilate
- His followers believed He came back to life
- News had spread to Rome by 64.
- All classes followed him—men & women, slave & free, rich & poor.
- They worshipped him as God



Thallus 52 CE & Phlegon 137 CE

it became night in the 6th hour of the day (noon)..

Stars appeared and a great earthquake...



Both explain the darkness
at Easter time as an eclipse
of the sun.

(This was impossible at Passover time, but it
does confirm the black darkness & date).

History of Latter Han Dynasty, volume 1, Chronicles of Emperor Gaung Wu, 7th year

In the day of Gui Hai, the last day
of the month, there was a solar eclipse
(**The Emperor**) proclaimed,
Man from heaven died



*“Yin and Yang have mistakenly
switched, and the sun and moon were eclipsed.*

The sins of all people are now on one man.
(The Emperor) proclaims
pardon to all under heaven.”

Faith of our Fathers.
Chan Kei Thong. Pages. 317-8

Shanti compare with El Shaddai



Let's apply the same skills to The death of Jesus



His death by crucifixion is well attested

The final hours of Jesus

- The Master because Mastered.
Gethsemane—often there/pray



We see His:

- (a) **courage** in submitting to the Father's will
- (b) **authority** (garden, trials, cross);
- (c) obedience **fulfilling** Scripture (Phil 2:6-11);
- (d) protective **love** (Judas, the disciples, His mum)
- (e) trust in God's **sovereignty**
- (f) Ok to ask '**why**'
- (g) triumph ***It is finished!***



Being Sure



**The resurrection is the central
fact of the Christian faith**

If it's untrue the rest collapses

History is not tested by a repeat (impossible)...

We establish by the “**legal method**” —
beyond reasonable doubt.

We look for evidence such as:



- **Exhibits**—a weapon, wreckage, the victim’s body, a photo, Finger prints, documents,
- **Testimonies**— “I was there & I saw...”

Then we test these to see if they stack up!

Let's see how it works!

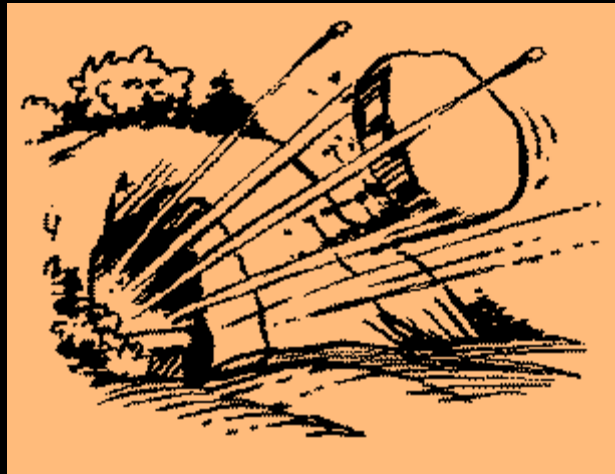
You say you attended a study course

So how would you prove history?

**Your certificate,
class photo
taken that day,
teacher's testimony,
of other students**



Let's apply the same skills to The Resurrection of Jesus from the tomb



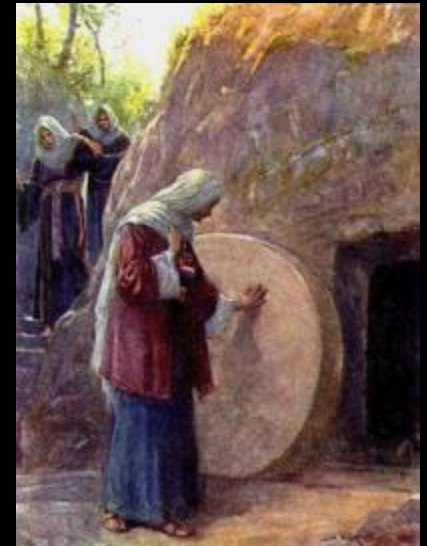
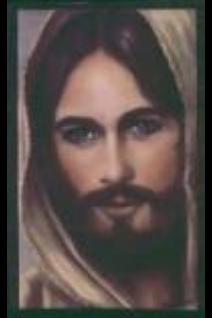
His death by crucifixion is well attested

**The resurrection is the most verifiable
event in all of world history**

The mystery question...

What could have happened to Jesus' body ?

- Jews or Romans might have hidden it
- Grave robbers might have stolen it.
- Did the women go to the wrong tomb?
- Were the appearances hallucinations?
- The disciples might have stolen it while the guards were asleep
- 'Swoon' theory
- He really did return to life...



Maybe Jews or Romans hid it



They were angry
when the disciples
preached the
resurrection

*Producing the
body would
have proven
He was
still dead.*

It doesn't fit the facts

Grave robbers might have stolen it.



- 18 armed guards on duty.
- The emperor's seal on the cement!

Superstition of a miracle worker claiming to be divine would have also been a deterrent to their dozing off.

It doesn't fit the facts

Did the women go to the wrong tomb?

- They saw Jesus' body placed in the garden tomb.
- They went & told the disciples who ran to the tomb to check.
- The Romans **would also have gone to the correct tomb**



It doesn't fit the facts

Were the appearances hallucinations?

More than 500 witnesses is impressive, but...Maybe it was a hallucination.

But,

- A hallucination is **not a group** thing
- His followers *weren't expecting* Him to rise and it can't be imposed.
- It means the body would still have been in the tomb



It doesn't fit the facts

The disciples might have stolen it while the guards were asleep

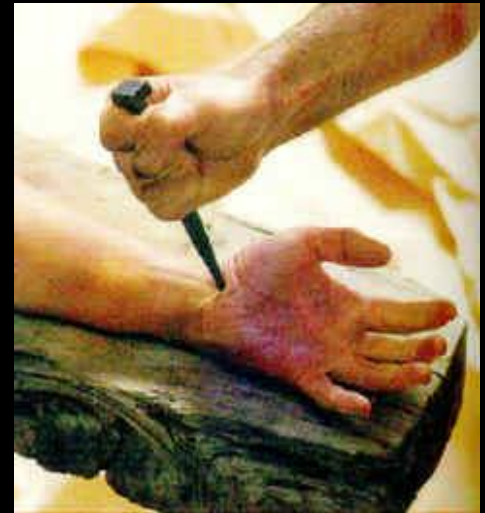
- 'Sleeping guards' doesn't fit their discipline
- If stolen why didn't the Jewish authorities press charges?
- The disciples **sealed their belief in resurrection by dying martyrs deaths**
- Nobody dies for a lie



It doesn't fit the facts

Swoon' theory—He wasn't dead

- Jesus had been **flogged** unmercifully by troops
- The crown of **thorns**—He would have lost blood
- He'd had **nothing to drink**
- **Carrying the cross** was exhausting
- The **huge nails** in hands & feet were **excruciating**
- The **spear** in His side pierced the heart



It doesn't *begin* to fit the facts

There's more...

- The Romans knew when a victim was dead
- The people bandaging the body would have noticed if He was breathing
- yet...

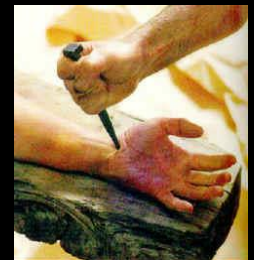


It fits the facts even less!

Can you believe?... **there's still more!**

He would need to

- revive, unaided in the tomb
- Remove the bandages
- Find the door in the darkness
- Push over the 2 tonne rock
- Rush out & convince the guards & disciples that He was risen when...
- His serious injuries made Him need intensive care at the hospital



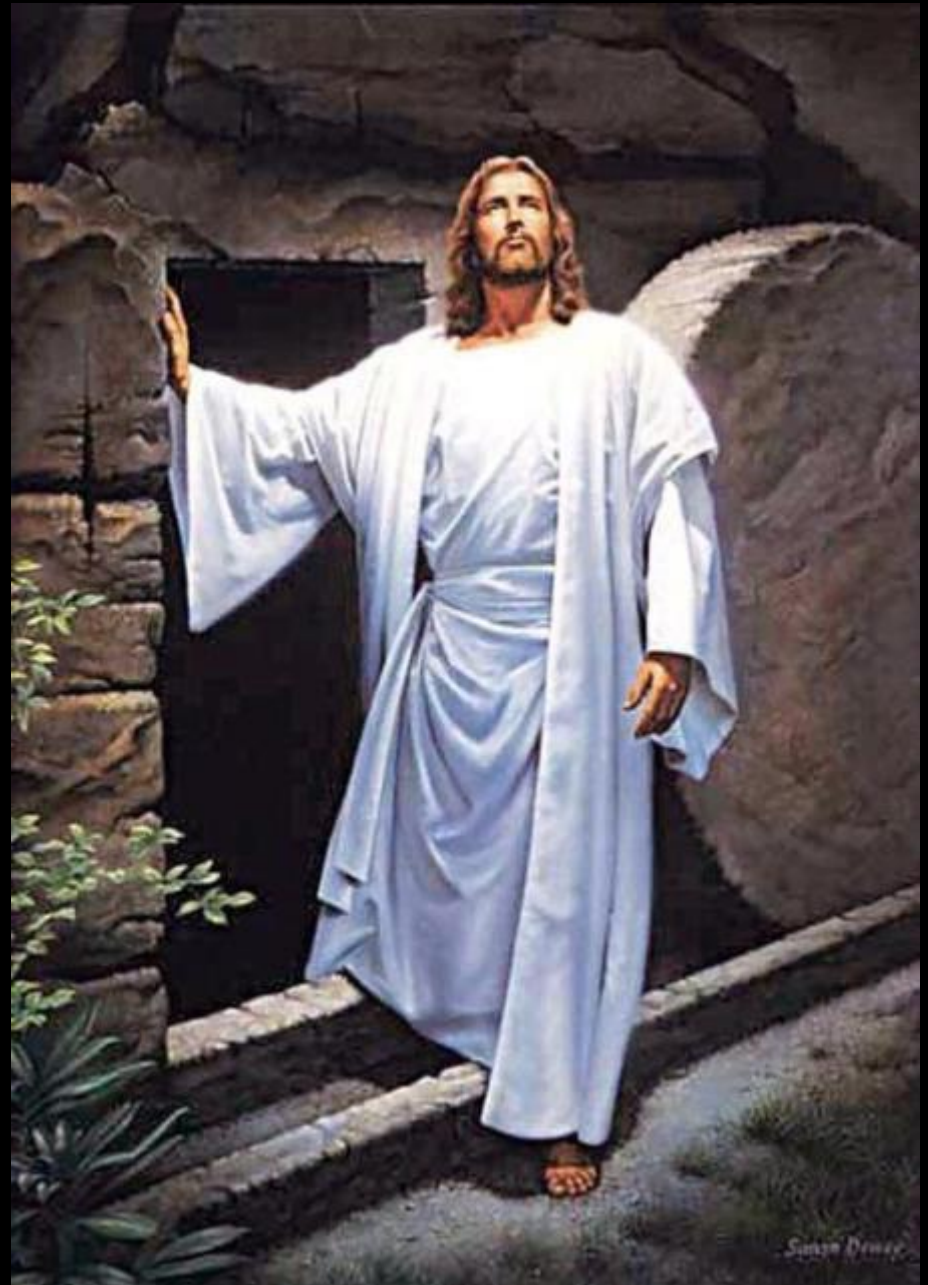
It really doesn't fit the facts

**He really did
return to life...**

**This is the only
explanation that
does fit the facts**

**Over 1900 years since
believers have confirmed
that He's alive**

**Jesus enemies did us a
favour by setting a guard.
We can be sure.**



To Remember

- Jesus understands betrayal.
- “Vengeance is Mine. I will repay” says the Lord.
- There is a place where evil will be punished.
- That includes those who have hurt you.
- Your hard times have refined you.
- God will re-cycle them to be equipment for ministry to others **as long as you forgive.**
- Jesus’ death makes **forgiveness** possible



Does it really matter?

We need to be sure it's true when—

- we're struggling or feeling betrayed
- we're trying to plan the future
- we're sharing our faith—

The resurrection is the most well attested event in all of world history



it's truth based

Yes ! He's alive, & with us—to help

God has a plan for every life

Jeremiah & Paul both spoke about it.



We are to celebrate it because the plan includes:

Our parents & other **family members**

Our **teachers** **school mates**

Our **temperament** **frame**

The time in history **where** we live



Give your self to God & ask Him to show you the plan



Take the opportunity to seek forgiveness

**Thank God for Easter, & your friends,
pray blessing on them,
ask for help to be a true friend**