

# NOTES - THE RESURRECTED MESSIAH

Christianity is based on the empty tomb. If someone were to discover that Jesus never rose from the dead, we could all chuck this religion out the window. The thing is, no one has been able to prove that Jesus died and stayed dead. The wonderful thing is, God gave us plenty of proof of the resurrection.

-A Dead Messiah Is No Messiah At All

The disciples didn't believe that Jesus could \_\_\_\_\_. They believed that Jesus was the one that was going to \_\_\_\_\_ the opposition and lead Israel. He did, but not in the way that they imagined.

To appreciate the stance of the disciples, we need to have some understanding of the social and political climate at that time.

With the oppression of the Roman Empire, the Jewish community was buzzing with the hope of the coming \_\_\_\_\_.

From childhood, the Jews were taught that the Messiah would be a strong \_\_\_\_\_ leader, a revolutionary of sorts.

Blinded by tradition and their desires to be relieved of their current situation, the Jews forgot, misread or ignored the prophecies that set the Messiah up to be something entirely different:

He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Isaiah 53:3

When the disciples saw Jesus die, they felt that their \_\_\_\_\_ was crushed. Had Jesus not risen, it would have been. Here are some ways that we know His claims are true:

## **Jesus predicts His own death**

Luke 9:22, Mark 10:32-38, Luke 18:31-34

## **Proof/Evidence of Jesus and the Resurrection**

-Jesus was a real person, a Jewish prophet from Nazareth who claimed to be the Son of God, the Messiah that had been prophesied in the Hebrew Scriptures. He was arrested, tried and convicted as a criminal and sentenced to die via crucifixion. He was publicly tortured by Roman officers and finally hung on a cross at a place called \_\_\_\_\_ which was outside the city gates, supposedly in an area where lots of people could watch Him die.

-Jesus was placed in a tomb. His body was wrapped in linen cloth and around \_\_\_\_\_ pounds of a sticky paste made with aromatic spices covered the wrappings. The tomb was made of solid rock and a rock weighing about \_\_\_\_\_ tons was placed in front of the only entry and exit point using a lever. Roman guards who were very disciplined men, were placed outside the tomb to keep watch 24/7. The Roman seal was placed on the tomb. It was placed there to discourage vandals. Should anyone attempt to move the stone, the seal would break and the vandals would have faced severe punishment under the Roman law.

-No one has ever been able to find Jesus' body.

-Eyewitness Accounts

Luke 24:48

John 15:27 (Jesus tells them they will be witnesses)

Acts 1:1-11

Acts 2:24-32

Acts 3:15

Acts 4:33

Acts 5:32-42 (Gamaliel, Jewish leader and opposer of Christ says to leave apostles alone)

Acts 10:34-48 (Gentile Conversions)

The Empty Tomb: JET Acronym (Taken from CARM.org)

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Factor (J)
  - A. Impossible for Christianity to survive and expand in Jerusalem if the body was still in the tomb.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Attestation (E)
  - A. Early polemics presuppose the empty tomb (Mt. 28:12-13; Justin Martyr, Trypho 108; Tertullian, De Spectaculis 30).
3. \_\_\_\_\_ of Women (T)
  - A. Women are the primary witnesses.
  - B. Women's testimony was not regarded highly (Lk. 24:11).
  - C. "Any evidence which a woman [gives] is not valid (to offer), also they are not valid to offer. This is equivalent to saying that one who is Rabbinically accounted a robber is qualified to give the same evidence as a woman" (Talmud, Rosh Hashannah 1.8).
  - D. "But let not the testimony of women be admitted, on account of the levity and boldness of their sex, nor let servants be admitted to give testimony on account of the ignobility of their soul; since it is probable that they may not speak truth, either out of hope of gain, or fear of punishment" (Josephus, Antiquities, 4.8.15).
  - E. "Sooner let the words of the Law be burnt than delivered to women" (Talmud, Sotah 19a).

-Jesus is mentioned in the writings of the historian Josephus who did not have vested interest in Christ (taken from CARM.org):

18:3:3, "Now there was about this time Jesus, a wise man, if it be lawful to call him a man; for he was a doer of wonderful works, a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He drew over to him both many of the Jews and many of the Gentiles. He was [the] Christ. And when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men amongst us, had condemned him to the cross, those that loved him at the first did not forsake him; for he appeared to them alive again the third day; as the divine prophets had foretold these and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning him. And the tribe of Christians, so named from him, are not extinct at this day."

20:9:1, "Festus was now dead, and Albinus was but upon the road; so he assembled the Sanhedrim of judges, and brought before them the brother of Jesus, who was called Christ, whose name was James, and some others, [or, some of his companions]; and when he had formed an accusation against them as breakers of the law, he delivered them to be stoned: but as for those who seemed the most equitable of the citizens, and such as were the most uneasy at the breach of the laws, they disliked what was done;"

## Saul's Conversion to Paul

### Deaths of the 12 Disciples

We can trust the testimonies of the 12 disciples because of the torture they endured simply for believing in Christ's resurrection and that He was the Son of God. Then 11 of the 12 were finally murdered for their beliefs. Here's how they died:

Disciple	Death
----------	-------

Peter	
-------	--

Andrew	
--------	--

Matthew	
---------	--

John	
------	--

James, son of Alphaeus	
------------------------	--

Philip	
--------	--

Simon	
-------	--

Thaddeus	
----------	--

James, brother of Jesus	
-------------------------	--

Thomas	
--------	--

Bartholomew	
-------------	--

James, son of Zebedee	
-----------------------	--