

Ten Reasons to Believe Jesus' Resurrection

1. Jesus' resurrection fulfilled prophecies from the following passages in the Old Testament—Psalm 16:9-11; Psalm 49:15; Psalm 86:13; Isaiah 25:8; Isaiah 53:9
2. Jesus' resurrection is reported in a creed that most historians date 8 to 20 years following his crucifixion. (1 Corinthians 15:3-8) These sources were so early; they could not have been corrupted by mythological development.
3. Archaeological discoveries have shown that Luke, the author of the Gospel of Luke and the book of Acts, was a very accurate historian. His references to 32 countries, 54 cities, and 9 islands contained no mistakes. Luke would not likely sacrifice his attention to detail in reporting the most important part of the story, which is the resurrection of Jesus.
4. The eyewitnesses to the resurrection were women. In the first century, women were not considered reliable witnesses. If the followers of Jesus were fabricating a myth, they would have used men as witnesses rather than women.
5. The stone sealing the tomb probably weighed over 2000 pounds and could only be moved from outside. If the soldiers were asleep when the body disappeared, how could they know the disciples stole the body?
6. The disciples were cowards who had abandoned Jesus during his greatest need. They did not have the courage to pass by the guard at the tomb, silently move the extremely large stone, robe the grave, and leave undetected.
7. If Jesus didn't die, he would have had to roll the stone away (which normally would take several men to accomplish) and sneak past four or more guards as he continued to endure the suffering from the wounds in his back, the wound in his side, and the wounds in his feet and hands.
8. If everyone went to the wrong tomb, Joseph of Arimathea, the owner of the tomb, as well as the Jewish authorities would have corrected them.
9. Jesus' enemies would have produced his body for evidence. There was no report of Jesus dying at a later time.
10. More than 500 people saw Jesus after he rose from the dead. These people ate with him and spoke with him.

The Official List of Witnesses of Jesus' Resurrection

Mary Magdalene

(Mark 16:9-11; John 20:11-18)

The Group of Women

Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Salome, and Mary the mother of James (Matthew 28:9, 10; Mark 16:1, 2; Luke 24:10)

Simon Peter

(Luke 24:34; 1 Corinthians 15:5)

Two Disciples on the Road to Emmaus

Cleopas and an unnamed disciple
Mark 16:12; Luke 24:13-35

Ten of the Original Disciples

Thomas absent (Luke 24:36-43; John 20:19-25)

Eleven of the Original Disciples

Thomas present (John 20:26-29; 1 Corinthians 15:5)

Seven Disciples by the Sea of Galilee

Peter, Thomas, Nathanael, James, John, and two unnamed disciples (John 21)

500 Brethren

(1 Corinthians 15:6)

James

(1 Corinthians 15:7)

All the Apostles

(1 Corinthians 15:7)

The Eleven Apostles

The Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20)

Followers at the Ascension to Heaven

(Mark 16:15-20; Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:3-11)

Paul, On the Road to Damascus

(Acts 9:1-8; 22:6-11; 26:12-18; 1 Corinthians 15:8)