

The Importance of the Resurrection

Why is the Resurrection Important?

- 1 Corinthians 15:17 - "If Christ has not been raised; your faith is worthless"

The resurrection is important because it:

The 12 Accepted Historical Facts About Jesus' Life, Death, and Resurrection

The 12 minimal historical facts accepted by the majority of even critical scholars:

The Major Proofs for the Validity of the Resurrection

I. The failure of naturalistic theories:

The following naturalistic theories while often still presented have been successfully disproved by even critical scholars.

1. Jesus swooned (did not really die).
2. Witnesses hallucinated.
3. Someone else died in Jesus' place such as Judas or Jesus' twin brother.
4. The disciples stole the body.
5. Witnesses went to the wrong tomb.
6. Jesus died but His body was lost and His resurrection later because a legend.

II. The Historical Evidence:

Non-biblical –

- Non-Christian:

Thallus –

Tacitus –

Pliny –

Lucian (Greek satirist) –

Jewish Talmud -

Josephus -

Writings of the early church fathers -

Historian Michael Grant in his book *Jesus: An Historian's Review of the Gospels*, points out that history can prove that the earliest eyewitnesses believed that Jesus appeared to them.

Biblical –

- 1 Cor. 15:1-8 evidence:
- Ancient history expert A. N. Sherwin-White: “. . . even two generations are too short a time span to allow the mythical tendency to prevail over the hard historical core of the oral tradition.”
- Noted German historian Hans Von Campenhausen asserts this about 1 Cor. 15:3ff. “This account meets all the demands of historical reliability that could possibly be made of such a text.”

How the validity of 1 Cor. helps prove the validity of the Gospels and Acts:

A.N. Sherwin-White: Confirms the historical accuracy of Luke's Acts and also the historical reliability of the census in Luke 2. He also believes that Luke and Acts are more accurate than most other accounts of Roman history.

Key evidence from the Gospels and the Book of Acts:

III. The Disciples' Faith:

Conclusion

Suggested Reading:

1. Gary Habermas, *The Risen Jesus and Future Hope* (Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2003).
2. Gary Habermas, *The Historical Jesus: Ancient Evidence for the Life of Christ* (Joplin: College Press, 1996).
3. Gary Habermas and Michael Licona, *The Case for the Resurrection of Jesus* (Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2004).
4. Paul Copan and Ronald Tacelli, *Jesus' Resurrection Fact or Figment? A Debate between William Lane Craig and Gerd Ludemann* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2000).
5. Steven T. Davis, *Risen Indeed: Making Sense of the Resurrection* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1993).