

# The Resurrection

Evidence, History, and Power  
(Apologetics, Week 5)

## Richard Carrier “*Why I don’t buy the resurrection*”

“No amount of argument can convince me to trust a 2,000-year-old second-hand report, over what I see, myself, directly, here and now, with my own eyes... I see no one returning to life after their brain has completely died from lack of oxygen. I have had no conversations with spirits of the dead. What I see is quite the opposite of everything this tall tale claims.”

# The Claim of Christianity

- The early creed - 1 Corinthians 15:3-8
  - Dated within 2-5 years of the crucifixion
- Paul verified his message
  - Galatians 1:18-19

Not a legend, but testimony

# Five Key Evidences

## 1. Jesus Died by Crucifixion

- Professional Roman soldiers
  - Accustomed to death and killing
- Yehohanan heel bone
  - Forensic confirmation of crucifixion
- Confirmation from hostile sources
  - Tacitus
  - Josephus
  - Lucian
  - Talmud

# Five Key Evidences

## 2. The Tomb Was Empty

- Recorded early
- Tomb was a known location
  - Easily checked
- Women as witnesses
- Resurrection proclaimed in Jerusalem
  - Easily refuted

# Five Key Evidences

## 3. Disciples Believed They Saw Jesus

- Multiple appearances
  - Both individual and group
  - Include physical interactions
- Many witnesses still alive at time of writing

# Five Key Evidences

## 4. Cowards Became Courageous Witnesses

- Proclamations despite persecution
- Dying for a lie?
- Boldness because they lived it

# Five Key Evidences

## 5. Sudden Conversion of Skeptics

- Paul
  - Compare Saul in Acts 8 to the Paul of the epistles
- James
  - The same James that said “Jesus is out of his mind” (Mark 3:21)
  - Compare to James 1:1

# Alternative Theories

Theory	Explains Empty Tomb?	Explains Appearances?	Explains Martyrdom?
Hallucinations	✗	Partial	✗
Stolen Body	✗	✗	✗
Swoon	✗	✗	✗
Resurrection	✓	✓	✓

# Rock Cut Tombs



# Power of the Resurrection

- Establishes authority as the Son of God
  - Romans 1:4
- Hope of our resurrection
  - 1 Corinthians 15:20-22
- Motivation for Holy living
  - Romans 6:4
- Courage in witness
  - Acts 4:33
- Validates Jesus' claims and the final judgment

# Application and Encouragement

- Christianity invites honest investigation and examination
- Our faith rests on historical reality, not feelings or legend.
- The resurrection is our anchor in grief, doubt, and fear
- If this were a courtroom, what would the verdict be?”

Assignment: Read Acts 2:22-36

Next week...

Why trust the NT Canon?

# Class Discussion

1. Which evidence do you find most convincing?
2. How would you respond to “People don’t rise from the dead”?
3. If the resurrection is true, what does Jesus deserve from us?