



Evidence Regarding the Resurrection of Christ

The following are a few of the facts that must be explained by those who wish to deny the resurrection of Christ.

Fact	Comments
The Roman seal on the tomb was broken	Consequence of doing this was being crucified upside down. The disciples were hiding in fear. Peter had denied Christ 3 times out of fear.
His Body was gone	The disciples would not have taken it and then died for a lie. Enemies of Christianity would have stopped the movement by producing the dead body.
The stone (weighing 1 1/2 to 2 tons) was moved	Did the apostles sneak quietly around the sleeping guards to accomplish this?
The guards fled	Guards were executed for leaving their posts. Sometimes burned alive with a fire started with their own clothing. Roman guards <i>never</i> left their watch!
Jesus graveclothes were undisturbed	Like a cocoon left behind by a butterfly. In the case of body theft, it is inconceivable that the thieves would have taken time to unwrap the body from the graveclothes. The myrrh was a sticky, gummy, resinous substance that caused the graveclothes to stick closely to the body. Graveclothes could not be quickly and easily unwound.
Large numbers of eyewitnesses of the Risen Lord	In 1 Corinthians 15 Paul reports over 500, most of whom were still alive to tell about it!
Appearance to a "hostile" witness	Paul did not become a believer until he saw the risen Lord.
Existence of early church	Nothing can account for the church's existence other than an absolute certainty that Christ had risen from the dead. They were in a hostile environment. Before they knew He had risen, they were hiding and making plans to go back to old jobs. Their entire message was "Jesus has conquered death." They died rather than renounce that confidence.
Martyrdom of early followers of Christ	There was nothing to gain from a human perspective for their willingness to die. There was no advantage to claiming His Resurrection if it were not true.
Women were the first witnesses to His Resurrection	A fabricated story of His Resurrection would not have had women seeing Him first, since women were generally considered to be unreliable witnesses.