

























## 1

1 Cor. 15:6- after that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, **most of whom remain until now**, but some have fallen asleep.

## 2

Acts 25:19-but they *simply* had some points of disagreement with him about their own religion and about a dead man, Jesus, **whom Paul asserted to be alive.**

Acts 26:26-For the king knows about these matters, and I speak to him also with confidence, since I am persuaded that none of these things escape his notice; **for this has not been done in a corner.**

Acts 25:6-7- After he had spent not more than eight or ten days among them, he went down to Caesarea, and on the next day he took his seat on the tribunal and ordered Paul to be brought. **7** After Paul arrived, the Jews who had come down from Jerusalem stood around him, **bringing many and serious charges against him which they could not prove.**

McDowell-The church was founded on the resurrection, and disproving it would've destroyed the whole Christian movement. However, instead of any such disproof, throughout the first century, Christians were threatened, beaten, flogged, and killed because of their faith. It would have been much simpler to have silence them by producing Jesus' body, but this was never done... The Romans and Jews could not produce Christ's body and explain where it went...why didn't they recover the corpse, put it on the cart, and wheel it through the center of Jerusalem?

Such an action would have destroyed Christianity – not in the cradle, but in the womb!...The Sanhedrin could've gone to the right tomb and introduce the body (if Jesus did not rise). This would have silenced the disciples forever!

### 3

Stott-Perhaps the transformation of the disciples of Jesus is the greatest evidence for the resurrection.

Anderson-Think of the character of the eyewitnesses, men and women who gave the world the highest ethical teaching it has ever known, and who even on the testimony of their enemies lived it out in their lives. Think of the psychological absurdity of picturing a little band of defeated cowards cowering in an upper room one day and a few days later transformed into a company that no persecution could silence—and then attempting to attribute this dramatic change to nothing more convincing than a miserable fabrication they were trying to foist upon the world. That simply wouldn't make sense.

Acts 17:6-When they did not find them, they *began* dragging Jason and some brethren before the city authorities, shouting, “**These men who have upset the world** have come here also.

John 7:5-For not even His brothers were believing in Him.

1 Cor. 15:7-then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles.

Acts 2:29-32-Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. **30** And so, because he was a prophet

and knew that God had sworn to him with an oath to seat *one* [of his descendants on his throne, **31** he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that He was neither abandoned to Hades, nor did His flesh suffer decay. **32** This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses.

Acts 4:10-let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by this *name* this man stands here before you in good health.

John 20:24-28-**24** But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. **25** So the other disciples were saying to him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.”

**26** After eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus \*came, the doors having been [[f](#)]shut, and stood in their midst and said, “Peace *be* with you.” **27** Then He \*said to Thomas, “Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing.” **28** Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!”

#### 4

Acts 2:40-And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation!”

Acts 2:29-32-Acts 2:29-32-Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. **30** And so, because he was a prophet and knew that God had sworn to him with an oath to seat *one* of his descendants on his throne, **31** he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that He was neither abandoned to Hades, nor did His flesh suffer decay. **32** This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses.

Gen. 2:2-3-**2** By the seventh day God completed His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. **3** Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created [a]and made.

Exod. 20:8-11-**8** “Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. **9** Six days you shall labor and do all your work, **10** but the seventh day is a sabbath of the Lord your God; *in it* you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter, your male or your female servant or your cattle or your sojourner who stays with you. **11** For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and made it holy.

Acts 20:7-On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul *began* talking to them, intending to leave the next day, and he prolonged his [a]message until midnight.

1 Cor. 16:2-On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come.

John 20:1-Now on the **first day** of the week Mary Magdalene \*came early to the tomb, while it \*was still dark, and \*saw the stone *already* taken away from the tomb.

John 20:19-So when it was evening on that day, the **first day** of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and \*said to them, “Peace *be* with you.”

John 20:26-After **eight days** His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus \*came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst and said, “Peace *be* with you.”

Green-The Christians met for worship on the first day of the Jewish week in acknowledgement of the resurrection of Jesus. These Christians actually succeeded in moving to Sunday this age old and theologically backed day of rest and worship. Yet remember, they were Jews themselves! Keeping in mind what they thought would happen if they were wrong, we must recognize that this was probably one of the biggest decisions any religious body of men ever made! How are we to explain the change from Saturday to Sunday worship without the resurrection?

Rom. 6:3-5-**3** Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? **4** Therefore we have been buried with Him through



baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. **5** For if we have become united with *Him* in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be *in the likeness* of His resurrection.

Luke 22:19-And when He had taken *some* bread *and* given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is My body which is given for you; **do this in remembrance of Me.**”

Acts 2:46-Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart.

1 Cor. 11:26-For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

## **6**

### **A**

George Hanson-The simple faith of the Christian who believes in the resurrection is nothing compared to the credulity of the skeptic who will accept the wildest and most improbable romances rather than admit the plain witness of historical certainties. The difficulties of belief may be great; the absurdities of unbelief are greater.

John 19:39-40-Nicodemus, who had first come to Him by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds *weight*. **40** So they took the body of Jesus

and bound it in linen wrappings with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews.

John 19:34-But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.

John 19:32-33-So the soldiers came, and broke the legs of the first man and of the other who was crucified with Him;**33** but coming to Jesus, when they saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs.

John 19:39-40-Nicodemus, who had first come to Him by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds *weight*. **40** So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen wrappings with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews.

John 19:38- After these things Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but a secret *one* for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus; and Pilate granted permission. So he came and took away His body.

Thornburn-The agony in the garden, the arrest at midnight, the brutal treatment in the hall of the high priests' palace and at the praetorian of Pilate, the exhausting journeys backwards and forwards between Pilate and Herod, the terrible Roman scourging, the journey to Calvary, during which He fell exhausted by the strain upon His powers, the agonizing torture of the crucifixion, and the thirst and feverishness which followed.

Anderson-well... It's very ingenious. But it won't stand up to investigation. To begin with, steps were taken – it seems - to make quite sure that Jesus was dead; that surely is the meaning of the spear thrust in his side. But suppose for arguments sake that he was not quite dead. Do you really believe the lying for hour after hour with no medical attention in a rock hewn tomb in Palestine at Easter, when it's quite cold at night, would so far have revived him, instead of proving the inevitable end to his flickering life, that he would have been able to loose himself from the yards of grave clothes weighted down with pounds of spice, rollaway a stone that three women felt incapable of tackling, and walk miles on wounded feet?

Godet-Jesus, before his crucifixion, had already suffered much, both in body and soul. He had passed through the anticipation of his death in Gethsemane. He had undergone the frightful pain of the Roman scourging, which left deep scars on the back of the sufferer, and which is almost equivalent to capital punishment. They had pierced his hands and feet with nails. The small amount of strength which he might still have had left had been worn away by the six hours of frightful suffering which she had already passed through. Consumed with thirst and completely exhausted, he had at last breathed out his soul in the last cry recorded by the evangelists. Again, a Roman soldier had pierced his heart with a spear. With no food or drink, with no one to address his wounds or alleviate his suffering in anyway, he had passed a whole day and two nights in the caves in which he was laid. And yet, on the morning of the third day behold him reappearing, active and radiant!

Luke 23:53- And he took it down and wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid Him in a tomb cut into the rock, where no one had ever lain.

John 19:39-40-Nicodemus, who had first come to Him by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds *weight*. **40** So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen wrappings with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews.

Matt. 27:60-and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock; and he rolled a **large stone** against the entrance of the tomb and went away

Matt. 27:62-65-**62** Now on the next day, the day after the preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered together with Pilate, **63** and said, “Sir, we remember that when He was still alive that deceiver said, ‘After three days I *am to* rise again.’ **64** Therefore, give orders for the grave to be made secure until the third day, otherwise His disciples may come and steal Him away and say to the people, ‘He has risen from the dead,’ and the last deception will be worse than the first.” **65** Pilate said to them, “You have a guard; go, make it *as* secure as you know how.”

Luke 24:13-And behold, two of them were going that very day to a village named Emmaus, which was about **seven miles** from Jerusalem.

**B**

McDowell-it would have been to the governor's advantage to keep the body in the grave. Pilate's main interest was to keep things peaceful. Moving the body would've caused unwanted agitation to arise from the Jews and the Christians.

Matt. 27:62-65-**62** Now on the next day, the day after the preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered together with Pilate, **63** and said, “Sir, we remember that when He was still alive that deceiver said, ‘After three days I *am to* rise again.’ **64** Therefore, give orders for the grave to be made secure until the third day, otherwise His disciples may come and steal Him away and say to the people, ‘He has risen from the dead,’ and the last deception will be worse than the first.” **65** Pilate said to them, “You have a guard; go, make it *as* secure as you know how.”

Luke 24:25-And He said to them, “O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!

Matt. 27:66-And they went and made the grave secure, and along with the guard they set a seal on the stone.

Matt. 27:60-and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the entrance of the tomb and went away

John 20:6-7-**6** And so Simon Peter also \*came, following him, and entered the tomb; and he \*saw the linen wrappings lying *there*, **7** and the face-cloth which had been on His head, not lying with the linen wrappings, but rolled up in a place by itself.

Exod. 20:16-“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

## C

Luke 24:25-And He said to them, “O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!

John 20:15-Jesus \*said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?” Supposing Him to be the gardener, she \*said to Him, “Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away.”

John 21:4-when the day was now breaking, Jesus stood on the beach; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus.

McDowell-Consider the wide variety of times and places: Matthew 28:9, 10: the early-morning appearance to the women at the tomb. Luke 24:13–33: the appearance on the road to Emmaeus one afternoon. Luke 24:34; First Corinthians 15:7: A couple of private interviews in broad daylight. John 21:1–23: by the lake, early one morning. First Corinthians 15:6: on a Galilean mountain by 500 plus believers. Indeed, there is almost a studied variety in the times and places of Christ's appearances – a variance that defies the hypothesis that these were mere visions.

John 20:27-Then He \*said to Thomas, “Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing.”

## **D**

John 20:15-Jesus \*said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?” Supposing Him to be the gardener, she \*said to Him, “Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away.”

Mark 15:47-7 Mary Magdalene and Mary the *mother* of Joses were **looking on to see where He was laid.**

Luke 23:55-Now the women who had come with Him out of Galilee followed, and **saw the tomb and how His body was laid.**

Mark 16:1- When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the *mother* of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might come and anoint Him.

John 20:2-8- So she \*ran and \*came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and \*said to them, “They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him.” **3** So Peter and the other disciple went forth, and they were going to the tomb. **4** The two were running together; and the other disciple ran ahead faster than Peter and came to the tomb first; **5** and stooping and looking in, he \*saw the linen wrappings lying *there*; but he did not go in. **6** And so Simon Peter also \*came, following him, and entered the tomb; and he \*saw the linen wrappings lying *there*, **7** and the face-cloth which had been on His head, not lying with the linen wrappings, but rolled up in a place by itself. **8** So the other

disciple who had first come to the tomb then also entered, and he saw and believed.

Matt 27:59-60-**59**-And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, **60** and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the entrance of the tomb and went away

Matt. 28:5-6-The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified. **6** He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying.

## 7

Simon Greenleaf (1783–1853) was the royal professor of law at Harvard University and succeeded justice Joseph Story as the Dane professor of law in the same university upon Story's death in 1846... Greenleaf produced a famous work entitled "a treatise on the law of evidence" that is still considered the greatest single authority on the evidence in the entire literature of legal procedure. In 1846, while still professor of law at Harvard, Greenleaf wrote a volume entitled "an examination of the testimony of the four evangelists by the rules of evidence administered in the courts of justice." In this classic work the author examines the value of the testimony of the apostles to the resurrection of Christ.

## Conclusion

Acts 17:30-31-Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all *people* everywhere should repent, **31** because He has fixed a



day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.”

John 11:25-Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies

Num. 6:24-26-The Lord bless you, and keep you;  
The Lord make His face shine on you, And be gracious to you;  
The Lord lift up His countenance on you, And give you peace.’