

0 Minutes Hello, I'm Nate Herbst and I'm _____

We're so glad you're listening to the "The God Solution" where we discuss answers to humanity's questions about God and God's answers for humanity's questions.

So why don't we go ahead and get started.

Show

HISTORICITY OF THE RESURRECTION

"And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile..." – 1 Corinthians 15:17
Humanity's only hope rests completely on the validity of Christ's resurrection.

1. Did Jesus really die in the first place?

a. Discuss various theories.

- i. Swoon Theory – supposed that Jesus was only half dead when buried.
Impossible – After being hung on a cross and speared through the side no medical help would work; if by some natural miracle Jesus did survive the crucifixion – how did he roll a 2 ton rock and escape an entire Roman guard?
- ii. Eyewitness accounts were hallucinations, illusions or mistakes.
Impossible – If the accounts were hallucinations Jesus' body could have been presented by authorities.
- iii. The body was stolen – **Impossible** – The Romans and Jews would not have stolen the body (they had a vested interest in stopping Christianity). The disciples could not have overpowered a Roman guard (especially considering their cowardice and unbelief).
- iv. The body was moved – **Impossible** – When accounts of the resurrection started authorities could have produced the body.

b. Some historical evidences.

1. John described pericardial and pleural effusion – clear fluid and blood from the spear wound – a fabrication wouldn't have included this.
2. The Jews had no belief that the Messiah would die in the first place.

- a. Death by crucifixion was believed to be evidence of God's curse – not evidence of God himself.

2. Divergent accounts:

- a. *Non-contradictory divergence always supports eyewitness accounts.*
- b. The criticism is that the four different gospels have contradictory versions of the resurrection story. These four accounts each have unique information and different but not conflicting perspectives so some initial confusion is expected; upon investigation it all makes sense. Mt.28:2-4 - The guards at the tomb see an angel move the stone and they fall over as dead. Mt.28:5-8 - The women then arrive and see the angel BUT think it is a young man (Mk.16:4-7 - this is typical in the Bible, for example see the story of the angels visiting Lot, Gen.19) and hear from him about Jesus' resurrection. This brings some joy but they are still afraid (Mt.28:8) and bewildered (Mk.16:7). If this had just happened to me I would be equally confused. At first they are so scared they tell no one but afterwards Mary tells the disciples the body is gone (the young man told them Jesus was risen but they're all emotional wrecks at this point, as I would be, and have no idea what really has happened - all they know for sure is that the body is missing). Peter (Lk.24:12) and the other disciple (Jn.20:3-9) run to the tomb and find it empty as Mary said; Peter (Lk.24:12) and the other disciple (Jn.20:10) then return home, wondering what was going on (again Lk.24:12). The women, still confused, return to the tomb, as anyone would in this situation, to investigate further and find the tomb is still empty (Lk.24:3). Then, 2 angels appear to them and tell them about the risen Christ (Lk.24:4-8 - Mary was a part of this group). Then, contemplating what they have just heard, they leave searching for the risen Jesus in the garden. Mary is walking ahead of the rest of the group when Jesus reveals Himself to her (Jn.20:11-17). Immediately afterwards, the rest of the group catches up with Mary and they too see Jesus (Mt.28:9-10) and He then tells them to go and tell His disciples. Mary (Jn.20:18) and the other women (Lk.24:10-11) then return and tell the disciples of the risen Christ. Jesus later reveals Himself to His disciples (Mt.28:16-17, Jn.20:19-23), Thomas (Jn.20:26-28), 2 followers on the road to Emmaus (Lk.24:13-49), the Apostle Paul (Acts 9 and 22) and more than 500 others (1 Cor.15:6).

3. There are many different evidences for the resurrection:

- a. Gary Habermas tells us, in "The Risen Jesus and Future Hope" that most all scholars, secular and Christian alike, agree that the following 12 points are historically accurate:
 - i. Died by Roman crucifixion.

- ii. Buried in a private tomb.
- iii. Disciples were initially discouraged.
- iv. Jesus' tomb was found empty shortly after His burial.
- v. The disciples and numerous others were convinced they saw the risen Christ.
- vi. Their lives were completely transformed - even willing to die.
- vii. The story of the resurrection took place very early - at the beginning of church history.
- viii. Their testimony and preaching took place initially in Jerusalem.
- ix. The gospel, from the beginning, centered on the resurrection.
- x. Sunday was the primary day for gathering and worshipping.
- xi. James went from skeptic to believer BC of seeing the risen Christ.
- xii. Saul did too.

b. Evidence surrounding Jesus' burial.

- i. Joseph of Arimathea buried Jesus.
 - 1. A member of the Jewish Sanhedrin (which accused Jesus).
 - 2. A fabrication wouldn't glorify its own nemesis.
 - 3. Everyone would have known the location of Joseph's property and tomb – making it impossible to hide anything.
 - 4. No competing independent burial stories.
 - a. If it were a fabrication there would have been other burial accounts also.
- ii. The Roman seal was placed over the 2 ton rock over the entrance to the tomb.
 - 1. Breaking a Roman seal was punished with upside down crucifixion.
 - 2. A 2 ton rock was placed in front of the tomb.
- iii. A roman guard, part of a Roman legion, was placed in front of the tomb.
 - 1. Roman guards were undefeatable.

2. Had they been defeated this would have been used as evidence against the resurrection.
3. Roman guard members were burned to death if they fell asleep at guard (12 would sleep in front of four guarding – they would rotate shifts).
 - a. Not a single one would have fallen asleep, much less the whole guard.
4. When they found Jesus' tomb empty the guard fled – also punishable by death.

15 Minutes - If you're just tuning in, God Solution on KDUR (91.9, 93.9 FM, Durango)

Show

4. Evidence surrounding the story: Tomb found empty by women.

- a. In the first century AD a woman's testimony was not even accepted in court.
 - i. A fabrication wouldn't claim women found the empty tomb.
- b. Supposed discrepancies – all just different parts of the same story – no contradictions.

5. Evidence outside scripture: The earliest Jewish and Roman response (described in Biblical and extra-biblical accounts) admitted an empty tomb.

- a. The earliest Jewish response recorded in the Bible assumed an empty tomb.
 - i. Jewish and Roman extra-biblical sources admit an empty tomb.
 - ii. Josephus and the Jewish "Toledoth Jeshu." ("positive evidence from a hostile source" – Dr. Paul Maier).
- b. If the body had been in the tomb there would be no argument today.
- c. The Jewish leaders claimed the body had been stolen.
- d. This would be impossible considering the security guarding the tomb.

6. Evidences in Judaism.

- a. The Jews didn't even believe confidently believe in life after death for anyone.
 - i. The resurrection would not have been fabricated.

7. Evidence from eyewitnesses: There were hundreds of eye witnesses (1Cor 15).

- a. These included hostile witnesses – like Saul of Tarsus – who became a believer due to seeing Jesus.
- b. No denials – if Jesus was known to have died – people would have said so.
- c. The Christians exhibited a complete lack of faith at the first news of the resurrection.
- d. They all went on to face torture and persecution, most died as martyrs (for a lie?).
 - 1. People often die for what they believe in, never for a known lie.
 - 2. All (not only some) were willing to give everything for Jesus.

8. Other evidences.

- a. Jesus' resurrection was prophesied both in the OT and by Jesus Himself.
- b. The darkened sky historically confirmed - Thallus' third book histories, quoted by Julius Africanus and Phlegon records the date and time of the darkness and earthquake mentioned in Mt.27:51.
- c. The Christian's creed – earliest documentation of the Christians' beliefs and observations.
- d. The Apostles used Christ's resurrection as proof for the gospel – if Jesus' body were available people would never have allowed such statements.
- e. Criterion of embarrassment (how tomb was found, disciples' unbelief, Joseph of Arimathea, etc.), these embarrassing details would have been omitted from a fabrication.
- f. Jesus predicted His own death and resurrection (Jn.2:18-22).
- g. Disciples adamantly claimed that Jesus rose physically.

- i. If they were creating a lie they would probably have chosen to make it unfalsifiable by claiming He rose spiritually.

9. What is the reason for this talk (not to build a Christian ego)?

- a. The resurrection confirms Jesus' trustworthiness and authority in making His claims.
- b. The evidence convincingly confirms that the resurrection occurred.
 1. Jesus' claims must be personally considered.
 2. Have you accepted His invitation and salvation (a free gift)?
- c. The resurrection radically changed the disciples' lives – from unbelieving cowards to fearless martyrs – *The resurrection will change your life also.*
- d. If you are a believer: Easter is not a celebration of bunnies, chocolate and spring but instead a remembrance of all we have in Christ - the greatest joy and only true hope in this depraved world. Why we are so ashamed to share the good news is a tragic peculiarity. Imagine having one global solution for every moral, social and political problem and refraining from sharing it and even being apologetic about believing it. We do even worse as Christ's solution solves even more, and in a complete and eternal sense. Do you really believe what we are celebrating today? If so, nothing will stop you from sharing this good news.
- e. If you are searching: There is hope!!!
- f. **GOSPEL!** No matter where you're at or coming from, Jesus stands with his arms wide open to you and desires a relationship with you.

28 Minutes We hope that was encouraging.

If you'd like to explore more, we'd like to invite you to an Easter service at **Grace Church**, a local fellowship that will accept you where you're at and encourage you in your walk with God. They meet **Sunday at 1440 Florida Rd at 10:45 AM.**

Well, I hope you enjoyed this episode of the God Solution. Please tune in next Sunday at 8:30 am, right here at on KDUR to listen to the show and please visit eternityimpact.blogspot.com or [look us up on facebook](#) and let us know what you think of this program.

30 Minutes I'm Nate Herbst and I'm _____. Have a great evening!