

Did Jesus Rise from the Dead?

True or False?

There are many false theories that attempt to disprove the resurrection of Jesus.

JESUS' BODY WAS STOLEN BY HIS DISCIPLES *(false)*

Matthew 28:1-15

If the disciples had stolen the body, this would explain the empty tomb and would prove that Jesus did not rise from the dead. But there are problems with this theory.

The disciples didn't know Jesus was about to die, let alone He would rise from the dead.

John 13:36 Simon Peter asked Him, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus replied, "Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later."

The disciple's abandon Jesus out of fear.

Mark 14:50 Then everyone deserted Him and fled.

The disciples didn't understand what had happened to Jesus' body.

John 20:9 They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.

When the disciples saw Jesus alive, they became bold and outspoken with a new inspiration and purpose.

Jesus' resurrection became the centre and theme of the Apostles preaching.

Acts 3:15 You killed the author of life, but God raised Him from the dead. We are witnesses of this.

Romans 10:9 That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

If Jesus' body was stolen, then how did He keep showing up alive?

Acts 1:3 After His suffering, He showed Himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that He was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.

THE WOMEN MISTAKENLY WENT TO THE WRONG TOMB (false)

Because this tomb was empty, it's thought, they jumped to the conclusion that Jesus rose from the dead.

The Jewish and Roman authorities could have easily stopped the rumours by proving Jesus' body was in another tomb.

This would have disproved the claim that Jesus had risen from the dead.

JESUS' RESURRECTION WAS A HALLUCINATION (*false*)

People ***thought*** that Jesus kept showing up alive, but they were actually hallucinating because they ***wanted*** to see Jesus alive.

Thomas was a sceptic, who needed proof and Jesus gave it to him. Thomas put his fingers in Jesus' pierced hands and pierced side.
(*John 20:24-29*)

Why didn't the Jewish or Roman authorities produce Jesus' corpse and parade it publically? This would have stopped all resurrection talk.

JESUS ROSE FROM THE DEAD (*true*)

Jesus predicted He would rise from the dead

*Matthew 16:21 From that time on Jesus began to explain to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that He must be killed and **on the third day be raised to life.***

Matthew 17:22-23 When they came together in Galilee, He said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men. They will kill Him, and **on the third day He will be raised to life.**" And the disciples were filled with grief.

Matthew 20:18-19 "We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn Him to death and will turn Him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. **On the third day He will be raised to life!"**

(See Matt 26:32; 27:62-64)

The Eyewitnesses

The Gospel writers and the Apostle Paul in documented that over a 40-day period Jesus appeared alive on 12 different occasions to at least 515 individuals.

1 Corinthians 15:3-8

Jesus talked and ate with people. People touched Jesus. 515 people witnessed the resurrected Christ.

But history clearly shows that after the resurrection of Jesus, **the disciples boldly proclaimed Jesus came back to life!**

These cowardly men are transformed into people filled with courage, willing to fearlessly proclaim to their death that Jesus had conquered the grave.

People are willing to die for their beliefs.

People will die for their beliefs if they're convinced their beliefs are true. But people will **NOT** die for their beliefs if they **KNOW** their beliefs are **FALSE**.

The disciples were in the unique position to **know first-hand** that Jesus had really risen from the dead.

Nobody knowingly and willingly dies for a lie!

Why does it matter that Jesus rose from the dead?

Jesus' resurrection sets Him apart from all other religious leaders.

All other religious leaders were powerless to death, proving their humanity. Jesus had power over death, proving His divinity.

The resurrection of Jesus is the foundation of the Christian faith.

All of what Jesus said and did fails if the resurrection is false.

If the resurrection is true, you can put your trust in Jesus Christ.

Now What?

Like Thomas, you too may be a sceptic and doubt Jesus is who He says He is and has done what He said He has done.

Who are you going to put your hope in to help you overcome the grave?

The evidence confirms Jesus Christ is telling the truth when He said *"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies."*
John 11:25

Our sin and wrongdoing have separated us from a perfect God.

Out of His love for us Jesus chose to suffer the painful and brutal death on a Roman cross as our substitute. To pay the penalty that we deserved for our sin so that we could be reconciled with God.

When you confess your wrongdoing to Jesus and ask Him to forgive you of your sins, then you can have confidence that you, too, will overcome the grave and spend eternity with Him in heaven.