

Dissecting the Resurrection

9 AM Bible Study, Apr – May 2024

Class Purpose Statement:

This class will examine and help us understand the Gospel accounts, the physical evidence, the spiritual significance, and the eternal promise of Jesus' resurrection!

Week 2: Evidence that Jesus Really Died on the Cross

1. Information

- a. All four gospels record the physical abuse and crucifixion of Jesus.
- b. All four gospels record the *actual* death of Jesus.
- c. Use the table on the back page to record the details of what Jesus **physically** went through immediately prior to and during his crucifixion.

2. Understanding

We have to understand that the gospels are not biographical or historical texts, so we need to broaden our view of his death by looking at other sources.

a. Non-Christian Historical Data

- i. Josephus (c. AD 37-100): Roman-Jewish Historian
- ii. Tacitus (c. AD 56-120): Roman Historian
- iii. Lucian of Samosata (c. AD 120-180): Greek Satirist
- iv. Mara Bar-Serapion (c. AD 50): Roman Stoic
- v. Talmud (c. AD 400): Central Text of Rabbinic Judaism

b. Medical Data

- i. Pierre Barbet (1884-1961): French Physician and Surgeon

- ii. J. Warner Wallace (1961-present): Cold-Case Homicide Detective

It is also important for us to understand that the opposition to the death of Jesus is weak and shaky at best.

a. “Swoon Theory”

b. “Substitution Theory”

3. Application

The Gospel accounts of Jesus’ death are important for us as believers because they are an essential part of our faith testimony based on Scripture. But for us to have a firm foundation in our belief in the most important moment in our faith, we have to be wise enough to use logic and reason as more evidence for the death of Jesus.


Based on Biblical, historical, and medical data, it is logically consistent to conclude that Jesus of Nazareth was crucified and died. Denial of this conclusion is a rejection of data, evidence, and logic. To assume that Jesus of Nazareth did not actually die is a much larger leap of faith than anything Christians believe.

The significance of the death of Jesus for our faith is that it is a necessary component of the resurrection. Without the physical death of Jesus of Nazareth, there can be no resurrection. If there is no resurrection, there is no basis for our faith.

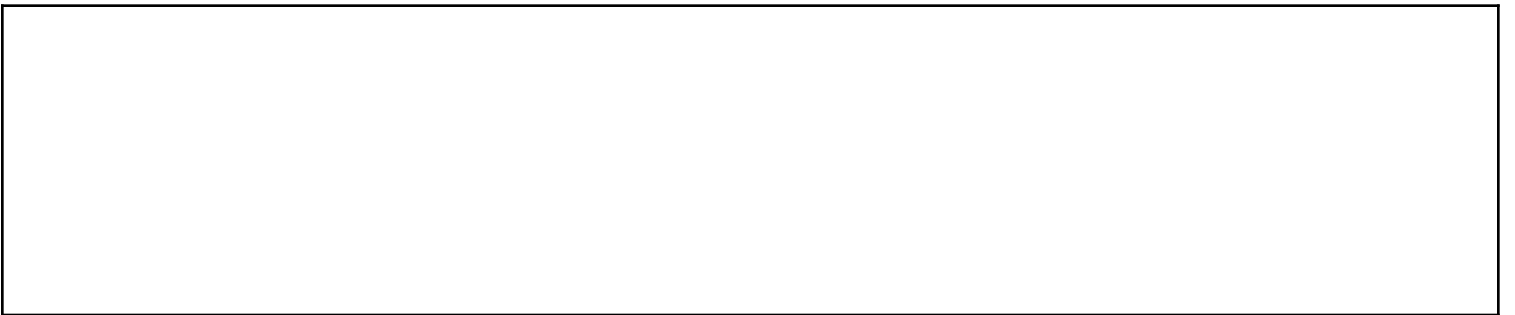
However, when we take a logical and data-driven approach to the event of Jesus’ death, our faith can be bolstered by the truth of Scripture, and we can be confident in the foundation of our beliefs.

Gospel Accounts of the Death of Jesus

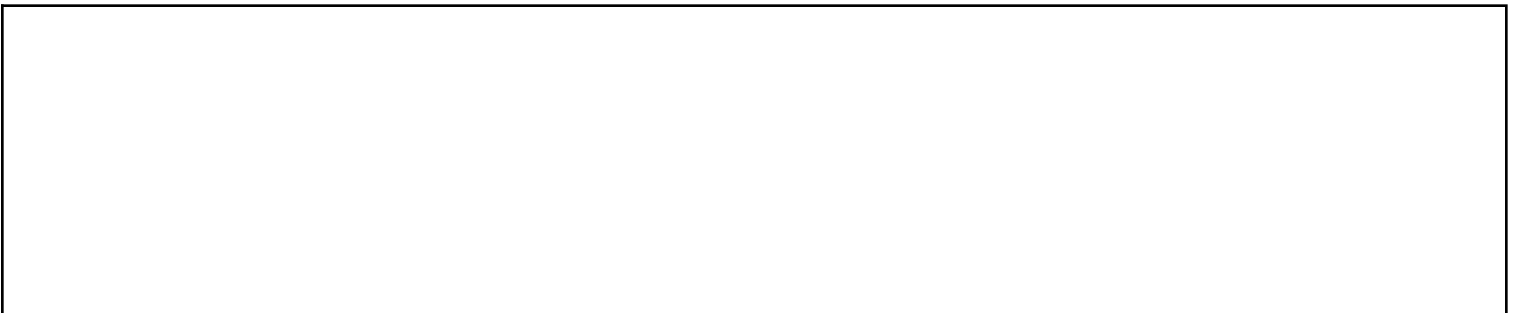
Matthew 26:67-68; 27:26-34, 45-50



Mark 14:65; 15:15-20, 33-37



Luke 22:63-65; 23:33, 46



John 19:1-3, 17-18, 28-34

