

# 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 3: Evidence that Jesus Really Rose from the Dead

#### 1. Discussion

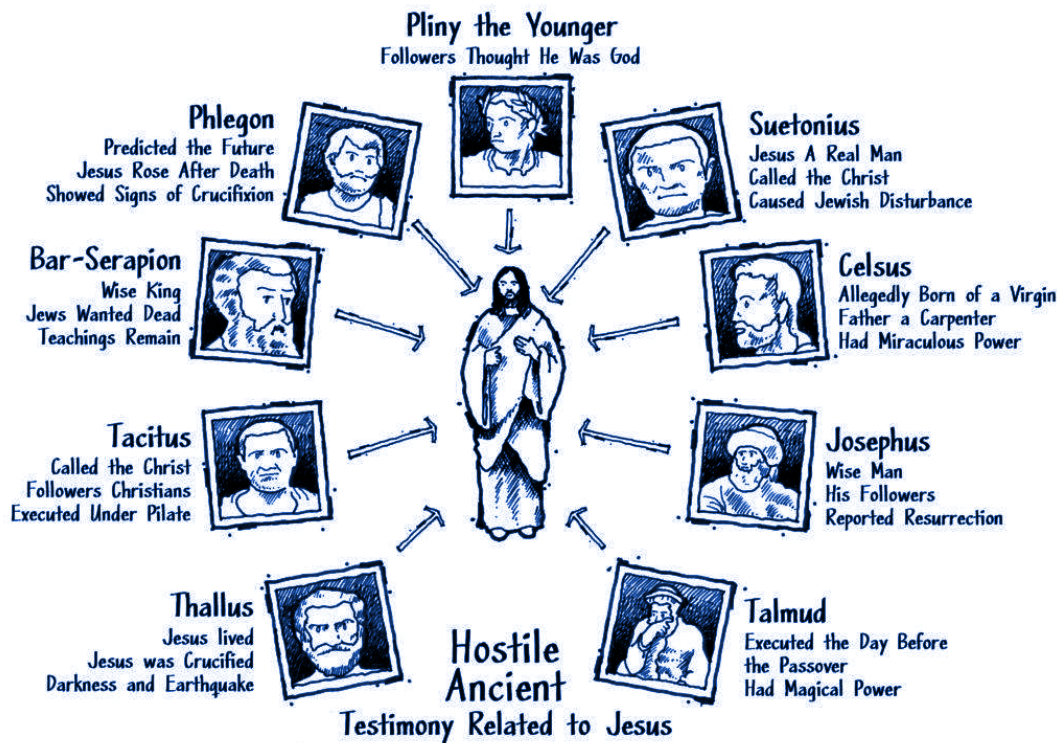
- a. How much evidence do you need to see in order to be convinced that some historical event actually happened?
  
- b. What makes for convincing evidence that a historical event actually happened the way we're told it did?
  
- c. When it comes to significant historical events, especially conflicting or controversial events, who usually records history?

#### 2. Information & Understanding

The evidence (both direct and indirect) of Jesus' death is overwhelming, but the direct evidence that Jesus rose from the dead is far less so. We need to assemble a body of evidence (direct and indirect) and determine if it's sufficient to establish our belief in his resurrection.

- a. We've established that Jesus could not have survived his injuries and crucifixion, so he really died. If he really died, then claims of his resurrection could have been easily refuted by producing his body. The Jews never did this. Instead, they affirm the tomb was empty and claim his body was stolen even though the tomb was guarded by either Roman soldiers or Temple Guards
  
- b. All four gospels record eyewitness claims of encountering a resurrected Jesus.
  
- c. Paul repeatedly claimed to have encountered a resurrected Jesus, even to the end of his life. These can be found in Acts and 1 Corinthians among others
  
- d. Those who didn't believe in Jesus during his life and ministry made radical conversions after his death (Paul and James foremost among them). They also carried their belief throughout their lives, even to the point of death.

- e. Belief in Jesus' resurrection was part of the faith from the beginning, even recorded in a 'creed' that Paul refers to in 1 Corinthians 15:3-8. Historical scholars (favorable and unfavorable) agree this creed was established within months of Jesus' death.
- f. Favorable (Christian) historical sources: the early creed, Paul, Acts (especially Peter's sermon), Gospels (9 appearances), Clement of Rome (ordained by Peter) letter to Philippi referring to the resurrection, Polycarp (appointed by John) letter referring to the resurrection five times.
- g. Unfavorable (non-Christian) historical sources.



<https://coldcasechristianity.com/writings/is-there-any-evidence-for-jesus-outside-the-bible/>

### 3. Application

None of these are irrefutable proofs, and even collectively, they don't rise to the same level of direct evidence we have for Jesus' death, but do they provide enough for you to believe? Which parts are most compelling for you? Which are the least compelling?

Do you think a non-believer could be convinced of Jesus' resurrection by this evidence?

Why wouldn't God give us more irrefutable proof of Jesus' miraculous resurrection?

(Hint: Luke 16:19-31, Mark 6:4-13; Matthew 13:53-58, John 12:37-43)