

Historical Evidence for the Resurrection

Josephus - Roman Historian

About this time there lived Jesus. A wise man if one ought to call him a man. For he was one who brought surprising feats and was a teacher of such people that accept the truth gladly. He won over many of the Jews and many of the Greeks. He was the Christ. When Pilot, upon hearing of him accused by men with the highest standing among us had condemned him to be crucified, those who had the first place, come to love him, did not give up their affection for him. On the third day he appeared to them restored to life. For the prophets of God that prophesied these and countless other marvelous things about him in the tribe of Christians, so called after him, has still to this day not disappeared. - Antiquities, XVIII, 33

Suetonius - Roman Historian

As the Jews were making constant disturbances at the instigation of Chrestus (common misspelling of Christ), he [Claudius] expelled them from Rome. - Life of Claudius 25.4

Punishment by Nero was inflicted on the Christians, a class of men given to a new and mischievous superstition. - Lives of the Caesars, 26.2

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, John 11:25 (ESV)

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HAVE YOU HEARD THE REAL EASTER STORY?



Faith Church - EFCA

April 8, 2012

Have You Heard The Real Easter Story?

Biblical Evidence for the Resurrection

And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. And he said this plainly... Mark 8:31–32 (ESV)

Did Jesus die or pass out?

What if the disciples had the wrong tomb?

Isn't the resurrection of Jesus a myth, like the Easter Bunny?

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 1 Corinthians 15:3–9 (ESV)

Wasn't the resurrection an idea borrowed from other religions?

Couldn't the resurrection be a hallucination?

Wasn't it just Christians who claimed they met a resurrected Jesus?

Circumstantial Evidence for the Resurrection

What was the disciple's motive?

Didn't the teaching of Jesus spread simply because it was good for families and society?

Wasn't the growth of Christianity just like any other religion?