

SCRIPTURE TRACK

Week 11 Notes

Why is the resurrection so important?

- We have a living savior
- Separates Christianity from every other world religion
- Proves incompatibility with other world religions

The fact that the tomb was empty is undisputed.

- Any early skeptic of the resurrection could have proven the resurrection false by producing the body.
- The authorities (Jewish and Roman) had interest in disproving the resurrection
- Nobody could produce the body.

Problems with this theory that the apostles stole the body and made up the story

- Apostles died for this belief
- Nobody dies for something they know is a lie.
 - People die for things that are false, but not for things they KNOW are false
- Doesn't account for all the post resurrection encounters.
- Jews and Romans were never able to refute the claim.
- Both Jews and Romans had immense resources.
- All they had to do, was produce the body....

The story doesn't fit with something someone would "make up"

- Women were first to the tomb – not considered reliable witnesses in 30 AD
- The Biblical accounts of the apostles are not flattering/favorable to the apostles
- The apostles were changed men after they encountered the resurrected Jesus

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Could the body have been stolen by someone else?

- No, because there was no body AND a story.

Historical Facts about the resurrection:

1. Jesus died by crucifixion.
2. The empty tomb is an established historical fact.
3. His disciples had experiences they believed were with the risen Jesus.
 - The apostles were willing to (and did) die for the resurrection.
4. The resurrection is the most significant event in religious history.
5. The preaching of the resurrection can be dated to within one year of the cross (pre-dating conversion of Paul).
6. Radically Changed Lives – James, Paul, plus the rest of the apostles.

The Dead Sea Scrolls

- Discovered in 1947 on the Northwest shore of the dead sea.
- Contains copies of most Old Testament books written between 250 BC and 150 BC.
- 21 copies of the book of Isaiah

Conclusion

- Thousands of people within 90 days of the crucifixion of Jesus were converted
- Skeptics from his family and Jewish leaders completely changed their beliefs after the resurrection.
- Prophecy clearly predicts details of the death/resurrection
- The only explanation that fits the facts....
 - **JESUS ROSE FROM THE DEAD!**

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References for future use:

Resurrection appearances in the Bible

- The women at the tomb ([Matthew 28:1-10](#); [Luke 24:1-10](#))
- Mary Magdalene ([Mark 16:9-11](#); [John 20:10-18](#))
- Peter ([Luke 24:34](#); [1 Corinthians 15:5](#))
- Two men on the road to Emmaus (Cleopas and one unnamed man; [Luke 24:13-35](#))
- 10 apostles (excluding Thomas, [John 20:19-23](#))
- 11 apostles ([Mark 6:14-18](#); [Luke 24:36-49](#); [John 20:26-28](#))
- Separate appearance to 7 apostles ([John 21:1-14](#))
- Disciples in Galilee ([Matthew 28:16-20](#); [Mark 16:14-18](#))
- James, half-brother of Jesus ([1 Corinthians 15:7](#))
- Disciples at Mount of Olives ([Mark 16:19](#); [Luke 24:50-52](#); [Acts 1:4-9](#))
- 500 people at one time ([1 Corinthians 15:6](#))
- Saul/Paul (not during the 40 days following the resurrection), [Acts 9:1-6](#)

Jesus Predicts his own resurrection:

- Matthew 12:38-42, 16:21, 17:9, 20:18-19, 26:32, Mark 9:10, Luke 9:22-27, John 2:18-22

Old Testament prophecy the predicts details about the death/resurrection

- Isaiah 53:12 - "He was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many..."
- Isaiah 50:6 – God Speaking – "I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting"
- Numbers 9:12 - The Passover sacrifice – "They shall leave none of it until the morning, nor break any of its bones"
- Isaiah 53:7 - "He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth."
- Isaiah 53:9 – "He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth."
- Psalms 16:10 – "You will not let your Holy One see decay"
- Isaiah 53 – How the Messiah will be killed and that he will see His offspring