



easter

EASTER: FACT OR FANTASY? SELECTED SCRIPTURES

INTRODUCTION: One person has said, “Christianity stands or falls on the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Disprove it, and you have disposed of Christianity forever.”

I. The Fact Of His **Death** (John 19)

John 19:1 “Then Pilate therefore took Jesus, and scourged Him.”

John 19:32-33 “³²The soldiers therefore came, and broke the legs of the first man, and of the other man who was crucified with Him; ³³but coming to Jesus, when they saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs.”

John 19:39 “And Nicodemus came also, who had first come to Him by night; bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds weight.”

II. The Evidence For His Resurrection

A. Early **Creeds** (1 Corinthians 15:3-8)

1 Corinthians 15:3-8 “³For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; ⁷then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; ⁸and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also.”

B. Eyewitness **Accounts** (1 Corinthians 15:5-8)

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1 John 1:1 “What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we beheld and our hands handled, concerning the Word of Life—”

C. Extraordinary Changes in **Traditions**

D. Empty **Tomb** (Matthew 28:6)

Matthew 28:5-6 “⁵ And the angel answered and said to the women, ‘Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified. ⁶ He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying.’”

Matthew 27:62-66 “⁶² Now on the next day, which is the one after the preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered together with Pilate ⁶³ and said, ‘Sir, we remember that when He was still alive that deceiver said, “After three days I am to rise again.” ⁶⁴ Therefore, give orders for the grave to be made secure until the third day, lest the disciples come and steal Him away and say to the people, “He has risen from the dead,” and the last deception will be worse than the first.’ ⁶⁵ Pilate said to them, ‘You have a guard; go, make it as secure as you know how.’ ⁶⁶ And they went and made the grave secure, and along with the guard they set a seal on the stone.”

Romans 4:25 “He [Jesus] who was delivered up because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification.”

John 11:25 “...I am the Resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me shall live even if he dies,”