

THIRTY THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT JESUS

#28 | THE PHYSICAL RESURRECTION | MARK 16:1-7

The Physical resurrection of Jesus Christ is a ‘non-negotiable’ for the Christian faith. Without the resurrection, there simply is no Christian doctrine which can withstand scrutiny. Despite this, millions claim to be Christians yet deny this foundational doctrine.

The ecumenical *Common Catechism* says, “the raising of Jesus from the dead is a concept formulated ‘in the language of the Jewish apocalyptic’ which has hardly any relevancy in our modern sociocultural context.”

Bishop Desmond Tutu is speaking of the resurrection when he says that the accounts are, “language that is being used figuratively.”

Noted atheist Richard Carrier, PhD from Columbia, gives 11 ideas on why the resurrection was false. This sermon refutes those ideas.

“The empty tomb for Mark was likely meant to be a symbol, not a historical reality.”—Richard Carrier

1. The Gospels were written too late to be believable.
 - a. The message of the Gospels was already widely known. They were not for information but for instruction.
 - Only Luke writes for information (still with a deeper purpose) and he says many others have already written an account-of things which he says “there is full conviction”
 - b. Less than 20 years—Matthew was written approx. 50AD
 - c. Epistles less than 15 years-- James 45, Galatians 48
2. The information in the gospels is from biased sources.
 - a. It was—and is—the most widely accepted message of the ancient day and of this day.
 - The movement had grown so strong by Nero’s day that Nero began a great persecution of its followers to try to get it in check.
 - If all its sources were biased, why such a huge following?
 - b. Why no refutations?
 - Surely some ancient member of the academic elite could have written a refutation to this new brainless creed...why didn’t they?
3. The people of Jesus’ day were from a period of wild fables, legends, and wonders.
 - a. Judaism was 1500 years old in written form.
 - b. The Septuagint was 250 years old
 - c. Anthony & Cleopatra were 60+ years dead

- d. Socrates & Plato were approaching 500 years old
 - e. Pythagorean theorem approaching 600 years old
 - f. The 365 ¼ day calendar year was over 100 years old officially and over 500 years old unofficially.
4. The Apostle’s didn’t die for the resurrection.
 - a. Why did Stephen die?
 - Acts 6:11 “We have heard him speak blasphemous words” What were the words? Acts 6:14 “we have heard him say that this Nazarene, Jesus, will destroy this place and alter the customs which Moses handed down to us.”
 - b. James died in 44 AD because he “belonged to the church” (Acts 12:1-2)
 5. Early Christians didn’t believe in a physical resurrection.
 - a. Acts 1:3, 6, 11, 22, 2:23-24, 2:26-27, 29, 36
 6. Many pagan religions have a “savior” who rises from the dead
 - a. The record of such accounts is non-existent.
 - b. But, should it be true, one must consider the Gospel in the stars, the resurrection beliefs in the Torah, the prophecies of resurrection. The Gospel story was so prevalent in the ancient world that some were bound to distort it.
 7. I can’t be expected to believe that which I cannot see.
 - a. John 20:29-31
 8. God would be cruel to expect me to believe without proof.
 - a. Ps 19:1 and 3
 - b. Rom 1:19-20.
 - c. Is God obligated to your expectations?
 9. God wouldn’t leave us so poorly informed about something so important.
 - a. No event in history has more notoriety
 - b. Within days the news was spreading around the world
 - c. The world’s best-selling book
 - d. The world’s most famous man. (John Lennon said “we’re more popular than Jesus” gets 14 million hits on google. Jesus gets 45 million)
 10. God wouldn’t appear in one tiny backwater place in a backwater time.
 - a. You expected He would show up at Harvard?
 - b. What if God had revealed for 400 years that He had the time and place picked out?
 - c. Perhaps God designed the arrival to be “foolishness” to some and “a stumbling block” to others.
 11. Paul only demands a spiritual resurrection.
 - a. 1 Cor 15:3-4, 12, 15-17, 18