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THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

John 21:1-14
Lesson #72
Dining with Jesus
05/7/2017

A robust, healthy faith is:





Intellectually **convincing**.

Emotionally **satisfying**.

Morally **transforming**.

Socially **connecting**.

Culturally **inspiring**.

1

The Gospel of John

Signs	Sermons	Sacrifice
ch. 1-11 Public ministry	Private ministry	Public sacrifice
Galilee & Judea	1	3
About 3 1/2 years	Only a few days	Only a few days

three manifestations

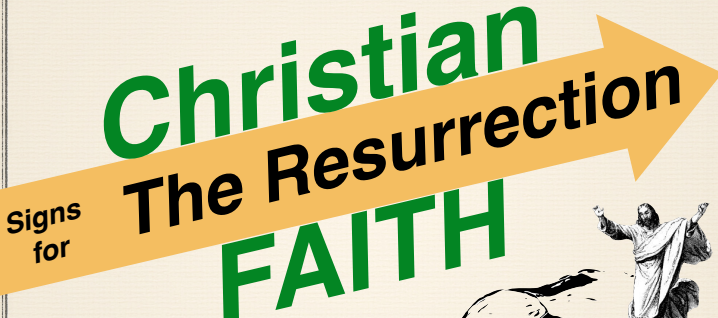
The Seven Signs in John

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2:1-11 Turns water to wine	4:46-54 Healing official's son	5:2-9 Healing a paralytic	6:1-14 Feeding the 5000	6:16-21 Walking on water	9:1-12 Healing the blind son	11:1-44 Raising Lazarus


20-21
The Resurrection

2

Signs that inspire faith



Signs for



3

The physical resurrection of Christ is foundational to our faith, hope & love.

1 Corinthians 15

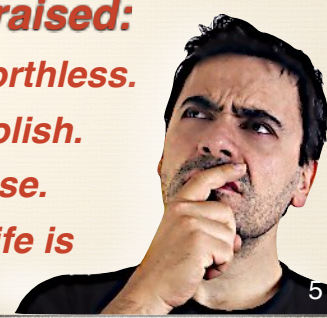
“14 and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain. 15 Moreover we are even found to be false witnesses of God, . . . 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. 19 If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.”

4

Paul puts all his chips in one basket - the historic resurrection of Jesus.

If Christ is not raised:

- Our preaching is worthless.
- Faith in Christ is foolish.
- Our testimony is false.
- The trouble in this life is all there is.



5

Richard Dawkins



"The universe we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is, at bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil and no good, nothing but blind pitiless indifference."

6

Every Christian should be prepared to give an account of their hope in the resurrected Christ.

1 Peter 3:15

"but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, **always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you,** yet with gentleness and reverence,"

7

Three arguments for the Christian Gospel:

1. The "why" of human experience - **death (isolation).**

- **Why do we die?**
- **Why do we not kill ourselves?**
- **Why do we not kill each other?**
- **Why do we not govern ourselves?**

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Three arguments for the Christian Gospel:

1. The "why" of human experience - **death (isolation).**

2. **The weakness of the alternatives - to successfully address these issues.**
3. **The witness to the resurrection of Jesus - evidence to the event and its significance.**

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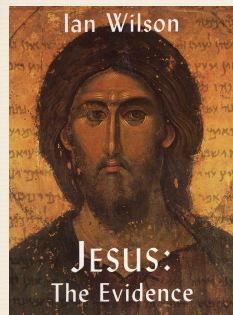
The resurrection of Jesus from the perspective of historical critics.

Bart Ehrman's view

The early church had a strong faith in Jesus as the Messiah that they could not let die.

- ➔ Many of Jesus' followers **believed** he was the Jewish Messiah, who would judge the world and resurrect the righteous at the end of time.
- ➔ When Jesus was crucified their hopes were **temporarily** crushed.
- ➔ But when some of his disciples **claimed** that he had come back to life and that the "end of days" was here, new hope was revived.
- ➔ As the word spread, O.T. support for this view (Jesus as the "Son of Man") was written into the Gospel record and was **quickly and universally accepted** by the church.

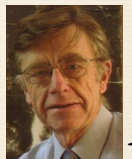
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"The one incontrovertible aspect of this matter is that the belief that Jesus had risen from the grave, whatever its origin, **caught on very soon after the crucifixion and spread like wildfire.**"

Myths of this magnitude take decades to develop and even then with great controversy.

Ian Wilson
(British historian)



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Ian Wilson's view

He summarizes the popular theories.

1. The women went to the wrong tomb.
2. Some unknown person stole the body.
3. The disciples removed the body and invented the story.
4. Jesus was resuscitated and did not die on the cross. (This is the Islamic view and that of "The Passover Plot".)
5. Pagan myths of death and resurrection were common.
6. The resurrection is a metaphor meaning that Jesus' influence abides with his church.
7. The disciples had a hallucination of a resurrected Jesus.
8. Jesus actually rose from the grave as the Gospels say.

Jesus used "post-hypnotic suggestion" to prep his disciples to actually see a resurrected Jesus.

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For the general public



For the more academic readers

John 21

¹ After these things Jesus manifested Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and He manifested Himself in this way. ² There were together Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples.

³ Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will also come with you." They went out, and got into the boat; and that night they caught nothing. ⁴ But when the day was now breaking, Jesus stood on the beach; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵ Jesus therefore said to them, "Children, you do not have any fish, do you?" They answered Him, "No."

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⁶ And He said to them, "Cast the net on the right-hand side of the boat, and you will find a catch." They cast therefore, and then they were not able to haul it in because of the great number of fish. ⁷ That disciple therefore whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord." And so when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put his outer garment on (for he was stripped for work), and threw himself into the sea. ⁸ But the other disciples came in the little boat, for they were not far from the land, but about one hundred yards away, dragging the net full of fish.

⁹ And so when they got out upon the land, they saw a charcoal fire already laid, and fish placed on it, and bread. ¹⁰ Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish which you have now caught."

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¹¹ Simon Peter went up, and drew the net to land, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹² Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples ventured to question Him, "Who are You?" knowing that it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came and took the bread, and gave them, and the fish likewise.

¹⁴ This is now the third time that Jesus was manifested to the disciples, after He was raised from the dead."

These details show that the resurrection appearances were not an hallucination.



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What can an atheist say at the death of a friend?

"You can hope your family will examine the evidence and satisfy themselves that the science is sound and that they'll be comforted to know that their loved one's energy is still around. According to the law of the conservation of energy, not a bit of them is gone; they're just less orderly. Amen."

Aaron Freeman

"They live on through their influence in the lives of others."

Ali A. Rizvi
The Huffington Post



17

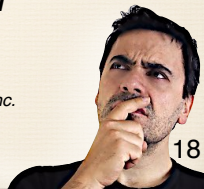
How does an atheist understand death?

"We die because we are only biological organisms. That is all we know."

*Jim Downard
spokanefav.com*

The immaterial "soul" of man is imaginary!

*Keith S Cornish
Atheist Foundation of Australia Inc.*



18

Why are Christmas and Easter the big holidays in Christianity?

The great historic signs of the authenticity of the Christian faith are:

- ***The incarnation***
- ***The empty tomb***



19

Implications

The greatest signs of the authenticity of the Christian faith are the incarnation and resurrection of Jesus.

- ***Our faith links us to this good news.***
- ***Our message to the world is this hope.***
- ***Our posture in this world is the freedom and love that they inspire.***



20

Our resurrection hope is not heaven on earth

but a rational freedom from fear of death (isolation) to selflessly and sacrificially serve Christ in this life.

21

Hebrews 12

"1 Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame,"

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