

EXPERIENCE easter

Undeniable Proofs Acts 1:3

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*Acts 1:3 “After His (Christ’s) suffering, He showed Himself to these men and gave many **undeniable proofs** that He was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the Kingdom of God.”*

The Case for the Resurrection of Jesus, Gary Habermas

- I. SKEPTICS’ OBJECTION # 1: JESUS OF NAZARETH DIDN’T ACTUALLY EXIST. HE WAS JUST A **MYTHOLOGICAL** FIGURE.
 - A. Today, there are no credible historians or scholars who have **specialized** in the study of the 1st Century, even if they are atheists, who doubts that a real Jesus Christ actually lived, performed what others said were miracles and that His followers without question believed He had risen physically and literally from the dead.
 - B. There are **39** non-Biblical ancient historical documents from Roman authorities and Jewish (non-Christian) historians that reference the existence of Jesus of Nazareth in the first century. They relate information concerning His reported miracles, His death on a cross by Roman authorities and His reported resurrection.

II. SKEPTICS' OBJECTION #2: JESUS DIDN'T REALLY **DIE** ON THE CROSS.

- A. *John 19:32* "The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. ³³ But when they came to Jesus and found that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. ³⁴ Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water."
- B. The water mixed with blood is a medical indication of a ruptured heart. It is evidence that **death** had already occurred.

III. SKEPTICS' OBJECTION # 3: JESUS' FOLLOWERS **MADE UP** THE RESURRECTION STORY.

*"People will die for their religious beliefs if they sincerely believe they're true, but people won't die for what they already know is a **fraud**."* (Lee Strobel)

IV. SKEPTICS' OBJECTION # 5: THE RESURRECTION ISN'T EVEN **IMPORTANT** SO WHO CARES?

- A. *1 Corinthians 15:17-20* "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have died in Christ are lost. ¹⁹ If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men. ²⁰ But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have since died in Christ."
- B. All of Christianity hinges on one truth: The **resurrection** of Jesus Christ.
- C. *"The only thing Christianity cannot be is **moderately** important."* (C.S. Lewis)
- D. The Resurrection tells us that Jesus is **who** He claimed to be.
1. *John 11:25* "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live even though He dies."
 2. *Matthew 28:5-6* "The angel said, 'Don't be frightened. ⁶ I know you're looking for Jesus who was crucified. He's come back to life again just as He said He would.'"
 3. *John 3:16* "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have **eternal life**." (NIV)

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