# Did Jesus Really Rise From The Dead?

**Adam Willingham** · John 19:31–42

## INTRODUCTION

- The entire New Testament is very willing to put its entire validity on the one claim that Jesus raised from the dead.
- God gave assurance of that to everyone on earth by the resurrection from the dead.

## 1 Eyewitness Testimony of the Death and Burial

**John 19:31–35; John 19:38–42**

- John, the apostle was an eyewitness. And he affirms that Jesus was crucified with nails.
- But coming to Jesus, when they saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.
- And he who has seen has testified. And his testimony is true. And he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you also may believe.
- Joseph of Arimathea, being a prominent man, he was a member of the Sanhedrin. He came and asked for the body of Jesus. And Pilate agreed.

## 2 A Rich Man's Burial in a Rock-Cut Tomb

- Now, this type of burial in a tomb would have been very unusual for Jews, and certainly for crucified victims.
- If Jesus were buried in a trench grave or not buried at all, then certainly it would have been harder to prove that he raised from the dead.
- But the Bible tells us that Jesus was buried in a tomb that was cut out of solid rock.

## 3 The Burial Fulfilled Prophecy and Made the Tomb Known

**Isaiah 53:9; Matthew 27**

- But the fact that Jesus was buried in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea accomplishes two things. First of all, it fulfilled prophecy.
- His grave was assigned with wicked men. Yet he was with a rich man in his death. Because he had done no violence, nor was there any deceit in his mouth.
- It made his burial place known to anyone who wanted to know.
- The enemies, as Matthew 27 tells us, set a Roman guard over that tomb. So did they know where it was? Absolutely.

## 4 Skeptics Also Deny the Death and the Burial

**1 Corinthians 15**

- If Christ hasn't risen from the dead, then nothing does matter. It is the very center of everything that our faith rests upon.
- They say Romans did not use nails in the early part of the first century to crucify victims.
- He was crucified and buried in the early part of the first century, around the same time as Jesus. And he was crucified with nails.
- This man was a crucified victim, and where are his remains? Where were they found? In a rock-cut tomb.

## 5 If He Did Not Rise, What Happened to His Body?

**Matthew 28; Psalm 16**

- Did Jesus really rise from the dead? If he did not, then what happened to his body?
- The empty tomb is something that you can't just ignore, and it was something that could never be denied.
- The only reasonable explanation is the resurrection from the dead.
- Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David, that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.

## 6 Three Reasons the Disciples Did Not Steal the Body

**Acts 23:6**

- And tiptoed around the soldiers and moved this rock that was a ton and a half heavy. And did it so quietly that they didn't even wake up one of the soldiers?
- What did the disciples have to gain by doing this?
- Brethren, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees. I am on trial for the hope and resurrection of the dead.
- As a rule, people just do not die for what they know to be a lie.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **If it's true that Jesus was resurrected, what are you waiting for?**

MY NOTES