

THE RESURRECTION

When Tested By Historical Standards

Earliest Account - 53-55 A.D:

Five accounts in the first 20 to 60 years & 11 accounts within the first Century. Very rare in history that you have that many sources for a single event.

Ancient Judaism - Josephus (90 years later)
Alexander the Great - Arrian (400 years later)
Ancient Persian Wars - Herodotus (70 years later)
Middle Ages - St Bede (200 years later)

By Historical Standards the Resurrection is very exceptional.

Hallucination?

1. Too Many People
2. No Expectation
3. Would have called it a Vision
4. Only could conceive of a physical bodily resurrection
5. An Empty Tomb

Jesus existed - Pliny, Tacitus, Josephus
James and Ananus - Josephus
Wonder worker - Josephus, Celsus
Wise man, Teacher - Josephus
Followers regarded as Divine - Pliny
Crucified - Tacitus, Lucian, Josephus
Pontius Pilate/Tiberius - Tacitus, Josephus
Darkness - Thallus
Catalyst for Growth - Tacitus
Claudius in 49 A.D. - Suetonius
Nero in 60's A.D. - Tacitus
Governor of Bithynia in 100 A.D. - Pliny

Standard Rule of Historical Methodology:
"When you're dealing with an ancient document that claims to write history and reads like history, treat it like history. If a historian thinks that an ancient document that claims to write history and reads like history is not reporting history, then the burden of proof lies with the historian to prove it wrong, it is not on the document to prove itself right."

If ever you have reason to believe anything in history actually happened you have every reason to believe this account is true.

1Corinthians 15.1-8

Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance : that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born. [It is arguable that Paul received this within 3-4 years of the event, at most 5 or 6. See Galatians 1,2.]

John 20.1-8

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!" So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed.

Four Qualities Scholars Look For:

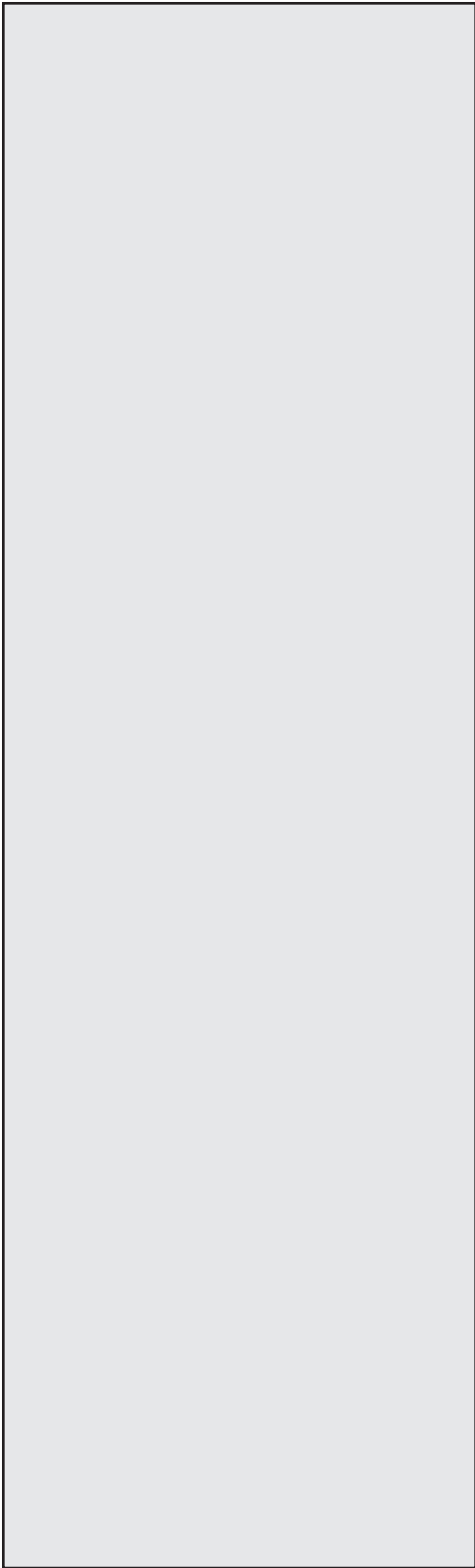
1. Different Accounts
2. Irrelevant Detail (see Mark 10:23)
3. Counterproductive Detail
4. Historically Significant Detail

Archeology:

Census in Luke
Nazareth

"God Is Love" — 1 John 4:8

*All texts quoted from the New American Standard Bible unless otherwise noted.



Herb Montgomery
Renewed Heart Ministries
PO Box 1211 | Lewisburg, WV 24901 | 304.520.0030
herb@renewedheartministries.com
www.renewedheartministries.com