WELCOME PROOF OF THE RESURRECTION Russ Pierce



REASONS FOR BELIEF, Inc.





PRESIDENT

REASONS FOR BELIEF



REASONS FOR BELIEF, INC. BOARD



Events

Past Events: Star Of Bethlehem Christmas Movie Event

Feb. 26, 2023: Why Apologetics: Proof of Creation by God

Apr. 2, 2023: Easter Event: Proof of the Resurrection

Aug. 19, 2023: Summer Movie Event; Brazil Pavilion

MISSION STATEMENT: To facilitate the establishment, development, & growth of a strong faith in God for all.

VISION STATEMENT: To facilitate life change through a strong faith in God.

VALUE STATEMENT: To be Jesus to others & bring glory to God in all that we do.

www.reasonsforbelief.org



The official website for the Reasons For Belief Ministry

<u>Home</u> Documents Events About Us Videos Power Of Prayer Donate



Documents



Why Apologetics

WELCOME WHY APOLOGETICS: PROOF OF CREATION BY GOD Russ Pierce

Seven Steps



OUTLINE

Sunday's 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm

6:30 – 6:35 Grab a coffee, snack, get settled.

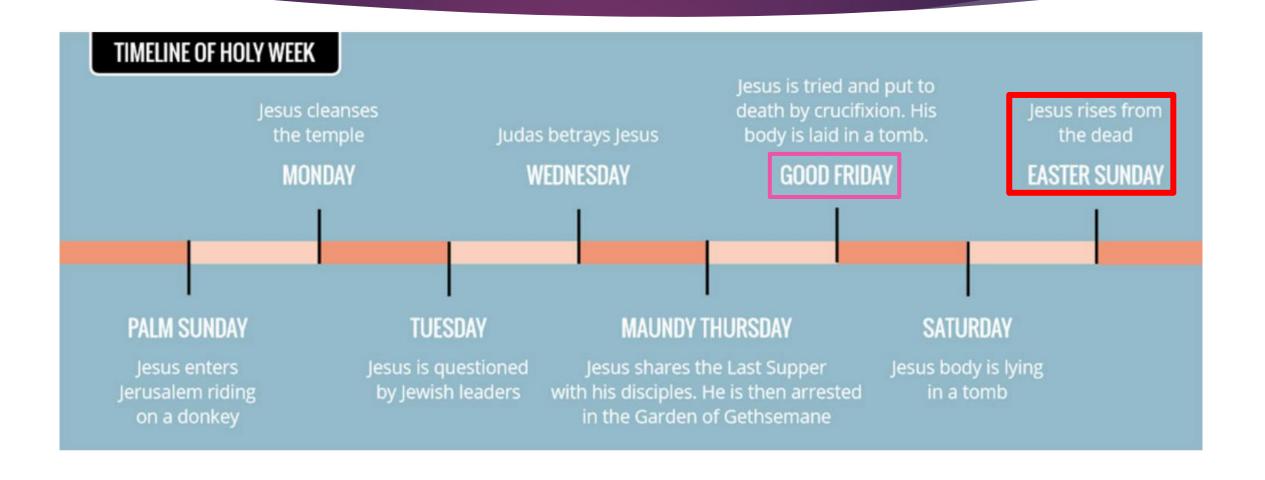
6:35 - 7:10 Presentation

7:10 - 7:15 Break

7:15-8:00 Presentation

GOAL: In this class, we will discuss how science supports the Bible. Our goal is that your faith and belief in God will grow as you see & learn, first hand, the facts that support Christianity & that this growth in your faith will change your belief in God from an abstract concept into something absolute -- which can radically change your life!

EASTER = RESURRECTION DAY



IMPORTANCE OF THE RESURRECTION



FOUNDATION OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH



Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 15:17 NIV

¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.

STILL IN OUR SINS



LOST FOREVER IN HELL



PROOF OF THE RESURRECTION



PROVE AN EVENT THAT HAPPENED OVER 2000 YEARS AGO



USE PROVEN INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES & PROCEDURES





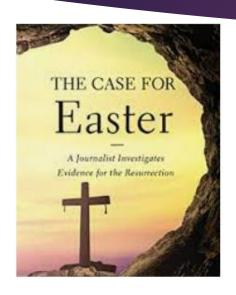
THEORY DEVELOPMENT & VALIDATION

- Look at the evidence, historical, medical
- Recreate the scene
- Expert medical testimonies.
- Eye witnesses testimonies
- Logical investigative reasoning





LEE STROBEL: THE CASE FOR EASTER

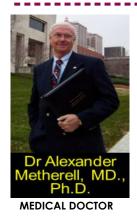


- Journalist for the Chicago Tribune
- Atheist turned Christian
- Pastor & Author

CHAPTERS:

- 1 The Medical Evidence
- 2 The Evidence of the Missing Body
- 3 The Evidence of Appearances

EXPERT INTERVIEWS









THEOLOGIAN



Lee Patrick Strobel is an American Christian author and a former investigative journalist. He has written several books, including four which received ECPA Christian Book Awards and a series which addresses challenges to the veracity of Christianity. Wikipedia

Born: January 25, 1952 (age 70 years), Arlington Heights, IL

Spouse: Leslie Strobel

Alma mater: University of Missouri (BA); Yale

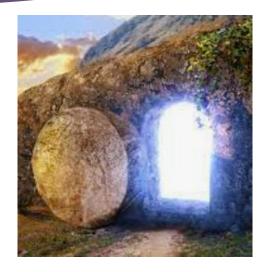
University (MSL)

KEY POINTS TO PROVE





- 1) JESUS'S DEATH
 - Did Jesus really die?
- 2) JESUS'S RESURRECTION
 - Was the tomb really empty
 - Was Jesus seen after his death?





PROOF OF JESUS'S DEATH



TWO MAIN POINTS

1) JESUS'S DEATH

- Did Jesus really die?
 - FLOGGING
 - CRUCIFIXION

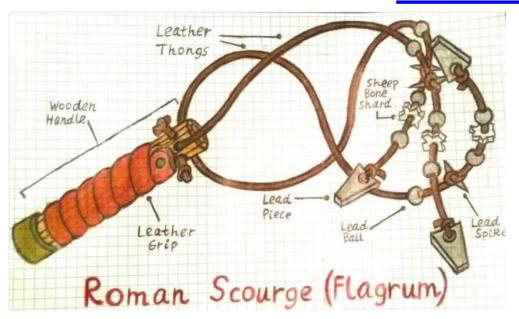


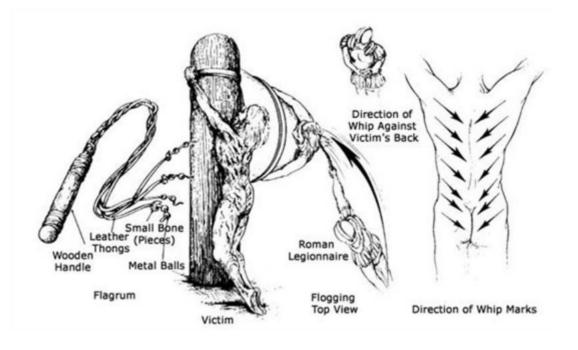
- Was the tomb really empty
- Was Jesus seen after his death?



PROOF OF JESUS'S DEATH

THE FLOGGING





PROOF OF JESUS'S DEATH EXPERT MEDICAL TESTIMONY



BEFORE THE FLOGGING

LUKE 22:44

And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

HEMATIDROSIS

Hematidrosis is a rare clinical condition of sweating blood. It may occur when a person is suffering from <u>extreme stress</u>, for example, facing his or her own death.

Hematidrosis is a condition in which capillary blood vessels that feed the sweat glands rupture, causing them to exude blood, occurring under conditions of extreme physical or emotional stress. Severe mental anxiety activates the sympathetic nervous system to invoke the stress- Fight-or flight response to such a degree as to cause hemorrhage of the vessels supplying the sweat glands. It has been suggested that acute fear and extreme stress can cause hematidrosis.

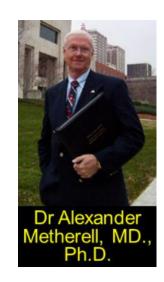
THE FLOGGING EXPERT MEDICAL TESTIMONY



- Skin hyper sensitive from hematohidrosis
- 39+ lashes, deep bruises.
- Skin & blood vessels shredded.
- Skeletal muscles ripped down to bone exposing spine.
- Whipping from shoulders to top of legs.
- Extreme blood loss = <u>hypovolemic shock</u>

Hypovolemic shock is a dangerous condition that happens when you suddenly lose a lot of blood or fluids from your body.

- 1) Heart races to pump blood that isn't there.
- 2) Blood pressure drops causing fainting & collapse.
- 3) Kidneys stop producing urine to save fluid.
- 4) Person becomes very thirsty.



Metherell holds a Ph.D. in Engineering from the University of Bristol, England and an M.D. from the University of Miami in Florida. Dr Metherell is Board Certified in Diagnosis and has held academic appointments at the University of Minnesota, UCLA and UCI.

THE FLOGGING EXPERT MEDICAL TESTIMONY

HYPOVOLEMIC SHOCK

- 1) Heart races to pump blood that isn't there.
- 2) Blood pressure drops causing fainting & collapse.
- 3) Kidneys stop producing urine to save fluid.
- 4) Person becomes very thirsty.

Jesus was faint near collapse. Simon carried the cross for him. MATTHEW 27:32, As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and they forced him to carry the cross.

Jesus was thirsty & offered a drink.

MATTHEW 27:34, There they offered Jesus wine to drink,

mixed with gall; but after tasting it, he refused to drink it.

- MANY PEOPLE DID NOT SURVIVE THE FLOGGING
- JESUS WAS IN HYPOVOLEMIC SHOCK.
- JESUS SURVIVED THE FLOGGING BUT WAS NEAR DEATH.

THE CRUCIFIXION











SPREAD ARMS 6" DISLOCATING BOTH SHOULDERS. LUNGS IN INHALE POSITION DEATH BY ASPHYXIATION.

THE CRUCIFIXION EXPERT MEDICAL TESTIMONY

Respiratory acidosis is a condition that occurs when the lungs cannot remove all of the carbon dioxide the body produces. This causes body fluids, especially the blood, to become too acidic.

Respiratory acidosis causes erratic & rapid heart beat which can cause pericardial effusion

Pericardial effusion is the buildup of too much fluid in the double-layered, saclike structure around the heart (pericardium

THE CRUCIFIXION LOGICAL INVESTIGATIVE REASONING

MEDICALLY - WHAT KILLED JESUS?

- FROM THE FLOGGING: In hypovolemic shock from lack of blood.
- FROM THE CRUCIFIXION: In respiratory acidosis from shallow breathing, heart is beating quickly, erratically, with no blood to pump.
- As Jesus's heart begins to flutter & pound, he can tell that he is about to die & he talks to God the Father, his last words.

Luke 23:46

New International Version

⁴⁶ Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last.

THEN: Jesus dies from a heart attack.



THE CRUCIFIXION EXPERT MEDICAL TESTIMONY



John 19:33-34

New International Version

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.

Respiratory acidosis causes erratic & rapid heart beat which can cause pericardial effusion

Pericardial effusion is the buildup of too much fluid in the double-layered, saclike structure around the heart (pericardium).



PROOF OF JESUS'S DEATH

BEFORE MEDICAL EXPLANATIONS WERE AVAILABLE, SCRIPTURES PROVE THAT:

- 1) Jesus was in hypovolemic shock. (Matt 27:32, 34)
- 2) Jesus suffered from respiratory acidosis & pericardial effusion. (Luke 23:46)
- 3) Jesus was dead so they did not break his legs. (John 19:36)
- 4) When a spear was thrust into Jesus's side, blood & water came out. (John 19:34)

PROOF OF THE EMPTY TOMB HISTORICAL EVIDENCE

Jesus's death is mentioned by the apostle Paul in 1 Cor. 15: 3-7.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 NIV

³ For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

Widely accepted by historians that this was accurate & true and written within 2 years of Jesus's death.



Born

August 23, 1949 (age 72)
Peoria, Illinois, US

Education

Wheaton College (B.A.)

Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

(M.A.)

University of Birmingham (Ph.D University of Munich (D.Theol.)

PROOF OF JESUS'S DEATH LOGICAL INVESTIGATIVE REASONING



WHAT IF JESUS HAD SURVIVED & NOT DIED

- 1) He couldn't walk
- 2) His shoulders were out of joint.
- 3) He was flogged & dehydrated.
- 3) He had a hole through his heart from the spear.
- 4) He would have looked terrible.



Jesus would have looked pitiful and the disciples would have felt sorry for him and tried to nurse him back to health. BUT INSTEAD, the disciples were inspired to proclaim Jesus as victorious over death and gave their lives starting a worldwide movement spreading the gospel.

PROOF OF JESUS'S DEATH

<u>Thru Expert Medical Testimonies</u> (Dr. Alexander Metherell, MD, Ph.D.)

Modern medical coberation of the condition and symptoms of Jesus trhough his death.

- Hematidrosis (sweating of blood, Luke 22:44)
- Hypovolemic shock (weak, fainting & thirsty, Matt 27:32,34)
- Pericardial effusion from respiratory acidosis (Luke 23:46, John 19:33-34)

<u>Thru Historical Evidence</u> (Dr. William Lane Craig, Ph.D., D.T.)

Many Biblical references supporting Jesus's death.

- John 16:1-6 written in AD37 (historically accurate, too early to be legendary)

<u>Thru Logical Investigative Reasoning</u> (Dr. Gary Habermas, Ph.D.)

Sound logical investigative reasoning supporting the death of Jesus. (John 19:33)

- The Roman Soldiers did not break his legs (because Jesus was already dead)

JESUS WAS DEAD

TWO MAIN POINTS

- 1) JESUS'S DEATH



- 2) JESUS'S RESURRECTION
 - Was the tomb really empty
 - Was Jesus seen after his death?

1) Empty tomb is mentioned by the apostle Paul in creed: 1 Cor. 15: 3-7.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 NIV

³ For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

CREED = is widely accepted by historians as accurate & true and written within 2 years of Jesus's death.



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CREED



A *creed* is a brief statement of faith used to list important <u>truths</u>, to clarify doctrinal points and to <u>distinguish truth from error</u>. The word *creed* comes from the Latin word *creedo*, meaning, "I believe."









2) If the tomb wasn't empty, there could not be a resurrection.

The site of Jesus's tomb was known to everyone. If the tomb was not empty, it would have been impossible for a movement founded on the belief in the resurrection to have taken place in the same place where Jesus had been buried. But it did.

3) Mark's account of the empty tomb is too early to be legendary.

There is evidence showing that it was written in AD37, 4 yrs after Jesus's death.

JOHN 16: 1-6

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they could go and anoint Jesus' dead body. ² Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they came to the tomb. ³ They were saying to each other, "Who's going to roll the stone away from the entrance for us?" ⁴ When they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away. ⁵ Going into the tomb, they saw a young man in a white robe seated on the right side; and they were startled. ⁶ But he said to them, "Don't be alarmed! You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. ^[a] He has been raised. He isn't here. Look, here's the place where they laid him.

4) Mark's account of the empty tomb is not flowery but simple.

Fictional apocryphal accounts from the 2nd century contained all kinds of flowery narratives of glory & power. Mark's account of the empty tomb is stark in its simplicity and unadorned by theological reflection making it more likely to be accurate & authentic.

5) The empty tomb was discovered by women

In Jewish society at the time of the apostles, women were considered 2nd class citizens and their testimony was not accepted by authorities. It would have been embarrassing for the disciples to admit that women were the ones who discovered the empty tomb and it would have most certainly been covered up if it were not true.

6) The earliest Jewish polemic presupposes the historicity of the empty tomb.

Even in the earliest Jewish writings from those skeptical of the resurrection of Jesus never disputed the tomb being empty but rather addressed different scenarios of what happened to the body.

PROOF OF THE EMPTY TOMB

Thru Historical Evidence (Dr. William Lane Craig, Ph.D., D.T.)

Biblical & historical facts supporting the empty tomb.

- Apostle's Creed (historically credible & accurate)
- John 16:1-6 written in AD37 (too early to be legendary)
- Jewish Culture on Women (empty tomb discovered by women)

Thru Logical Investigative Reasoning (Dr. Gary Habermas, Ph.D.)

Sound logical investigative reasoning supporting the missing body.

- No Resurrection if Jesus body is present (already proved Jesus is dead)
- Jewish Writings Did Not Refute the Empty Tomb (because they knew it was true)
- Mark's Account of the Empty Tomb is Simple (not flowery because it was true)

PROOF OF THE EMPTY TOMB

- 1) First Hand account (Creed)
- 2) The resurrection presupposes an empty tomb
- 3) Too soon to be legendary
- 4) Historically accurate
- 5) Not refuted (even being found by women)
- 6) No competing accounts

PROVEN

TWO MAIN POINTS

- 1) JESUS'S DEATH

- Did Jesus really die? PROVEN

<u>PROVEN</u>

- 2) JESUS'S RESURRECTION
 - Was the tomb really empty
 - Was Jesus seen after his death?

BREAK



- COFFEE
- SNACKS RESTROOMS – TURN LEFT

BACK IN 5 MINS



THE POWER OF EYEWITNESS TESTIMONY



EYEWITNESS TESIMONY IS A FIRST HAND ACCOUNT

NOTHING IS MORE EVIDENTIAL THEN ACTUALLY BEING THERE

WHEN EYEWITNESS TESTIMONY IS CORRABORATED IT IS IRREFUTABLE











PROOF OF JESUS'S APPEARANCES

Gary Robert Habermas is an American historian and world renowned New Testament scholar who frequently writes and lectures on the resurrection of Jesus.

1) Eyewitness Apostle Paul saw Jesus 2 times. 1 Cor. 9:1, 15:8.

1 Cor. 9:1 Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are you not the result of my work in the Lord?

1 Cor. 15-8 ⁸ and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.



Gary	Habermas
------	----------

Born Gary Robert Habermas

June 28, 1950 (age 71)

Detroit, Michigan, US

Spouse(s) Debbie (<u>m. c.</u> 1972; <u>d.</u> 1995)

Eileen

Academic background

Alma mater William Tyndale College

University of Detroit

Michigan State University

Thesis The resurrection of Jesus: a

rational inquiry mage (1976)

PROOF OF JESUS'S APPEARANCES

2) Eyewitnesses Peter, James, John & the rest of the 12 disciples saw Jesus. 1 Cor. 15:5.

1 Corinthians 15:5
5 and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve.

Historically within 3-7 years of Jesus's death. Easy to validate. Not refuted.

PROOF OF JESUS'S APPEARANCES

3) Supports eyewitness account of many. 1 Cor. 15:11.

1 Corinthians 15:11

¹¹ Whether, then, it is I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.

JESUS'S RESURRECTION

PROOF OF JESUS'S APPEARANCES

4) The creed, <u>1 Cor. 15:3-8.</u>

1 Corinthians 15:1-8

15 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. ² By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

³ For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. ⁶ 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. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, ⁸ and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

- Earliest & best authenticated passage by Paul
- Most reliable historical document (Hans von Campenhausen, German Historian)

FORENSIC PROOF

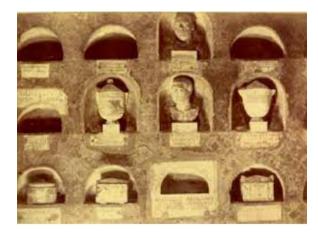
FORENSIC ARCHEOLOGISTS discovered in 1st century Rome that something significant had changed.

ROMAN BURIAL

Cremation & Burial

In the event of cremation, the body was taken to the necropolis ("city of the dead") and put upon a funeral pyre. It was then burned, and the ashes and remaining fragments of bones and teeth were interned in a funerary urn.





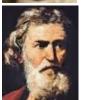
THEN IN 1ST CENTURY ROMAN BURIAL ABRUPTLY CHANGED – CREMATION STOPPED.

THIS CHANGE COINSIDES PRECISELY WITH THE RESSURRECTION OF JESUS

GIVING THEIR LIVES FOR THE GOSPEL











The disciples suffered greatly for their faith and, in most cases, met violent deaths because of their bold witness and faith in Christ.



PETER – was <u>crucified upside down</u> in Rome

MATTHEW – <u>stabbed</u> to death in Ethiopia

ANDREW – <u>crucified</u> in modern day Turkey

THOMAS – pierced through with spears in Syria

PHILLIP – arrested and cruelly put to death in Turkey.

BARTHOLOMEW – dies a martyr for the gospel in Armenia

JAMES – stoned & clubbed to death in Syria

SIMON – killed after refusing to sacrifice to the sun god in modern day Russia

MATHIAS – burned to death in Syria

NO ONE GIVES UP THEIR LIFE FOR A LIE











PROOF OF THE RESURRECTION

<u>Thru Eyewitness Testimony</u> (Dr. Gary Habermas, Ph.D.)

Substantiated & historically accurate sightings of Jesus after his death.

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- Mary Magdalene (John 20:10-18) - Other Women (Matt 28:8-10) - 7 Apostles (John 21:1-14)
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- Cleopas & Disciple (Luke 24:13-32) 11 Disciples & Others (Luke 24:33-49) Disciples (Matt 28:16-20)
- 10 Apostles & Others (John 20:19-23) Thomas & Disciples (John 26:26-30) Over 500 (1 Cor 15:6)

<u>Thru Historical Evidence</u> (Dr. William Lane Craig, Ph.D., D.T.)

Biblical & historical facts supporting the resurrection.

Apostle's Creed (historically credible & accurate)

<u>Thru Logical Investigative Reasoning</u> (David Strauss)

Sound logical investigative reasoning supporting the resurrection.

- Roman citizens changed their burial (because they wanted to be resurrected like Jesus)
- The disciples would not have given their lives for something that wasn't true.

THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS IS TRUE

PROOF OF JESUS'S APPEARANCES

- 1) Eyewitness accounts
- 2) Historically accurate
- 3) Too soon to be legendary creed
- 4) Disciples suffered & were martyred for this truth
- 5) Forensic evidence

PROVEN

PROOF OF THE RESURRECTION

TWO MAIN POINTS

- 1) JESUS'S DEATH

- Did Jesus really die? PROVEN

- 2) JESUS'S RESURRECTION
 - Was the tomb really empty
 - Was Jesus seen after his death?

PROVEN

WHAT IS THE VERDICT



Sir Edward Clarke – British High Court Judge

Conducted a thorough legal analysis of the first Easter.

"To me, the <u>evidence is conclusive</u>, and over and over again in the High Court, I have secured the verdict on evidence not nearly so compelling, As a lawyer, I accept the gospel evidence unreservedly as the testimony of truthful men to facts that they were able to substantiate."

SUMMARY

The resurrection of Jesus is historically accurate, logical, plausible, irrefutable through corroborated eyewitness testimony and accepted by scholars.

JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS & ROSE FROM THE DEAD.

IT REALLY HAPPENED!

WHY DID HE DO IT?

John 3:16 NIV

¹⁶ For God so <u>LOVED</u> the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.



- He didn't just die for us. He suffered terribly.
- His flogging was extra painful because of his sweating blood.
- The flogging likely went beyond 39 lashes.
- The nails in his hands hit main nerves.
- Each breathe scraped his shredded back against the wood.
- Even as the Son of God, he was on earth as a man & felt pain like us.

excruciate (v.)

"to torture, torment, inflict very severe pain on," as if by crucifying,



APPLICATION & RELEVANCE RENEWING YOUR MIND

Romans 12:2 NIV

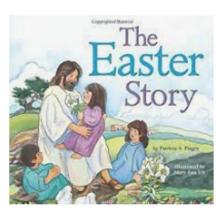
² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

CHANGE YOUR THINKING

- SEEK GOD
- BE INTENTIONAL
- MAKE IT A PRIORITY

APPLICATION & RELEVANCE RENEWING YOUR MIND

1) NOT A STORY BUT A BIOGRAPHY



Definitions

Definitions from Oxford Languages

1. an account of imaginary people and events told for entertainment.



sto·ry¹



https://www.merriam-webster.com > dictionary > b

Biography Definition & Meaning

an account of someone's life written by someone else.

1: a usually written history of a person's life

APPLICATION & RELEVANCE RENEWING YOUR MIND

2) MAKE IT REAL

THINK ABOUT IT / HEAR IT / SEE IT / FEEL IT

Daily Time with God – Christian Radio – Screen Saver / Photos / Plaques – Movies / Stories

APPRECIATE IT

Recognize my Sins – Repent – Realize my Need for a Savior – Accept Jesus – Thank Jesus

<u>Often / Everyday</u>

APPLICATION & RELEVANCE RENEWING YOUR MIND

3) LIVE DIFFERENT - BE DIFFERENT

BE A PERSON OF:

John 13:35 NIV

LOVE (not hate)

³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you <u>love one another</u>."

HOPE (not despair)

¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to

Jeremiah 29:11 NIV

harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

JOY (not sorrow)

Romans 12:12 NIV

¹² Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

John 16:33 NIV

PEACE (not anxiety)

³³ "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

SUMMARY

IT HAS BEEN PROVEN: Jesus died for you & I & paid our penalty for rebellion against God.

IT HAS BEEN PROVEN: Jesus was resurrected & conquered death & the grave.

THEREFORE: Only through Jesus, do we have forgiveness of our sins & eternal life.

TO LIVE IN THAT TRUTH:

- WE MUST SEEK GOD IN EVERYTHING WE DO.
- WE MUST DO GOD'S WILL IN OUR LIVES.
- WE MUST REACH OTHERS WHO ARE LOST.
- WE MUST BE MORE LIKE JESUS.





THE ONLY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN



A VICTIM & A VICTOR

IS <u>KNOWING GOD</u>





MAKE A DIFFERENCE

HELP US REACH OTHERS IN THE WABASH VALLEY

