INTRODUCTION

If the Resurrection of Christ is the cornerstone of our faith why would so few details be provided in the Gospels?

Matthew’s account constitutes less than 5% of his Gospel; Mark gave 6% of his story to the resurrection; Luke 4%; and John 9%.

Can the resurrection be scientifically proved? Only by accepting mathematical probability of prophetic fulfillment in Jesus Christ.

Can the resurrection be historically verified? Yes...Beyond all doubt? No. Beyond reasonable doubt? Yes.

We have more secular historical evidence for Jesus Christ (10 sources) than we do for His contemporary, Augustus Caesar (8).

Credibility of the Resurrection is actually strengthened since the Gospel writers did not emphasize their various claims.

The Burial of Jesus

All we know about the man who buried Jesus:

1. His name was Joseph.
2. He was good and righteous.
3. His home town was Arimathea (unknown location).
4. He looked forward to God’s kingdom.
5. He was rich — and compassionate enough to give away his own personal tomb to bury a poor man.
6. He was a secret disciple (Jn 19:38), yet bold enough to go to Pilate & risk derision from the Sanhedrin.
7. He did not agree to the death of Jesus, but he could not change the course of events.

We may be scared, nervous, & concerned about what people think about us when we witness for our Savior, yet God takes note of our every deed & word & thought.

Resurrection Morning

v2. The stone was rolled away to allow the women to walk in, not for Jesus to walk out.

Mary Magdalene — was healed of 7 demons and supported the Lord’s work financially...........Luke 8:2-3

Joanna, wife of Chuza, Herod’s steward, also supported the Lord’s work financially.............Luke 8:3

Aunt Mary, the wife of Cleophas/Alpheus, the mother of James the less (Junior) and Joses. She was also the sister of Mary, the mother of Jesus.... cp Mt 27:56,61; 28:1; Mk 15:40,47; 16:1; Jn 19:25

Salome, the wife of Zebedee, the mother of James and John.........cp Mt 4:21; 20:20; 27:56; Mk 15:40

“Other women” – possibly Mary, Martha, Susanna

v12. Peter & John then ran to the tomb......John 20:3-10

Preparing a body for burial included washing it, anointing it with oils and spices (such as sandalwood, myrrh, spikenard, frankincense, fir balsam, myrtle, pine, cypress and spruce with extra virgin olive oil), and wrapping the body in a special linen cloth. It was not a one-person job.

The Ascension

Luke was the only Gospel writer to record the ascension of Christ — again, no fanfare – just the facts.

Scripture tells us Jesus appeared to more than 500 of His disciples over 40 days...........Acts 1:3; 1Cor 15:5-8

Why did He only appear to His followers?

Why didn’t Jesus appear to Pilate? To Herod? To the High Priest? To the Sanhedrin? To the Roman soldiers who tortured Him?

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

God gives sufficient and credible evidence for people to reliably and confidently place their faith in Him, but not overwhelming evidence to force people to believe .................Acts 1:3; 17:31

NEXT WEEK: Joshua 1. Joshua picks up where Moses left off – the conquest of the Promised Land. We will deal with tough theological issues such as does God condone genocide – the unmerciful annihilation of entire people groups. We will also come to grips with supernatural wonders such as the Sun standing still for a whole day, and how to defend the truth of Scripture through sound apologetics.