

This message is based on Frank Turek and Norman L. Geisler's book, *"I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist"*

12 Historical Facts That Are Accepted by Virtually All Scholars:

1. Jesus died by Roman crucifixion.
2. He was buried, most likely in a private tomb.
3. Soon afterwards, His disciples were discouraged, bereaved, and despondent, having lost hope.
4. Jesus' tomb was found empty very soon after his interment.
5. The disciples had experiences that they believed were actual appearances of the risen Jesus.
6. Due to these experiences, the disciples' lives were thoroughly transformed. They were even willing to die for their belief.
7. The Resurrection was preached and proclaimed very early, from the beginning of Church history.
8. The disciples' public testimony and preaching of the Resurrection took place in the city of Jerusalem, where Jesus had been crucified and buried shortly before.
9. The Gospel message centered on the preaching of the death and resurrection of Jesus.
10. Sunday was the primary day for gathering and worshiping.
11. James, the brother of Jesus and a skeptic before this time, was converted when he claimed to have seen the risen Jesus.

12. Just a few years later, Saul of Tarsus (Paul) became a Christian believer, due to an experience that he also believed was an appearance of the risen Jesus.

The 7 Most Popular Alternate Resurrection Theories:

1. Hallucinations
2. The witnesses went to the wrong tomb
3. The "Swoon Theory"
4. The disciples stole the body
5. A substitute took Jesus' place on the cross
6. The disciples' faith led their belief in the resurrection
7. It's a copy of pagan resurrection myths

"Bonus" Theory/Objection:

"History cannot be known because we don't have access to all the facts."

The Context of the Resurrection Evidence:

- I. Our universe proves the existence of God; therefore, miracles are _____
- II. Ancient documents _____ miracles
- III. Historically-confirmed eyewitness documents claim miracles are _____

The New Testament documents pass the 7 Tests of Historicity:

1. They are early (*most written 15-40 years later, well within 2 generations of the events*)
2. They contain eyewitness testimony
3. They contain independent eyewitness testimony from multiple sources
4. They are written by trustworthy people who taught and lived by the highest standard of ethics, and who died for their testimony
5. They describe events, locations, and individuals that are corroborated by archaeology and other ancient writers
6. They describe some events that enemies tacitly admit are true (*enemy attestation*)
7. They describe events and details that are embarrassing to the authors and even to Jesus himself

The New Testament eyewitness accounts lay out the following historically-verified narrative:

1. At the time and place, and in the manner predicted by the Old Testament prophecies, Jesus arrives in Jerusalem and claims to be the Messiah. He teaches profound truths and, according to numerous independent eyewitnesses, performs at least 35 miracles (some on groups of people) and rises from the dead.
2. Once-cowardly and unbelieving eyewitnesses (the disciples) suddenly begin to boldly proclaim Jesus' resurrection in the face of persecution and death.

3. In the very city of Jesus' death and tomb, a new movement (the Church) is born and quickly spreads by peaceful means on the belief that Jesus has risen from the dead.
4. Thousands of Jerusalem Jews, including Pharisee priests, abandon 5 of their most treasured beliefs and practices and adopt strange new ones after converting to Christianity.
5. Saul, the most ardent enemy of the new Church, is suddenly converted and becomes its most prolific proponent. He travels the ancient world to proclaim the Resurrection, suffering persecution and martyrdom.
6. James, the skeptical brother of Jesus, suddenly becomes convinced that his brother is the Son of God, and then becomes the leader of the church in Jerusalem. He later suffers martyrdom at the hands of the high priest.
7. The Jewish enemies of Christianity don't deny the evidence but offer faulty naturalistic explanations to account for it.

IV. The eyewitness documents are _____ by non-Christian and even anti-Christian ancient sources, as well as archeology.

The Resurrection is the _____, most _____, and most _____ explanation that accounts for all of the _____.

As science and the legal system affirm, we don't need _____ evidence to believe something is true – only *good* evidence that points to a most reasonable explanation.

If there was no resurrection, how do you explain the most _____ life of all-time?