



Piecing it together

“Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” (John 20:29)

Jesus Christ

Consider:

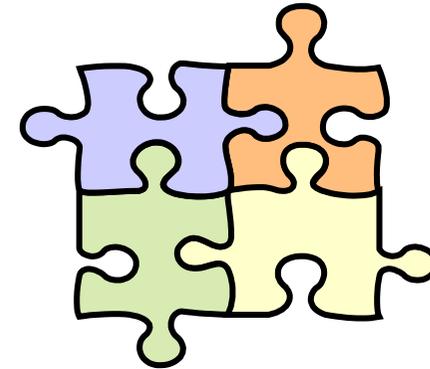
There are only four possible explanations for the empty Tomb of Jesus:

- The body was removed by the authorities so that the disciples couldn't deceive people that he resurrection had taken place.
 - Why didn't they produce the body and stop the disciples from preaching the resurrection as fact?
- The body was stolen by the disciples
 - If guards were asleep, how did they know it was the disciples?
 - Why didn't they hear the heavy stone being moved?
 - No disciples ever admitted to stealing the body
- Jesus was not really dead, but fainted and revived in the coolness of the tomb, and escaped.
 - Confirmed dead by Roman guards
 - If he fainted how did he remove the grave clothes?
 - How did he remove the stone from inside the tomb?
 - How did he avoid the guards?
- The Bible account, in Luke 24 and elsewhere, that Jesus died and was raised to life on the third day, is true.



Discovering Christianity

A course designed to help people discover the basics of the Christian faith and put the pieces of their spiritual understanding together



Study 5: Did Christ rise from the dead? **Jesus – Alive Forevermore**

Based on Luke 24:1-53

Introduction

The disciples were distraught when Jesus died on the cross and met behind closed doors for fear of the Jewish Leaders. But they became convinced that Jesus was alive and they were transformed. Peter who denied Jesus the night before the crucifixion, became one of the key witnesses that Jesus had come back to life. It is central to the Christian message that we serve a Saviour who died and rose again. But does it matter? Did it really happen? Is there any historical evidence? This study will help you make up your own mind.

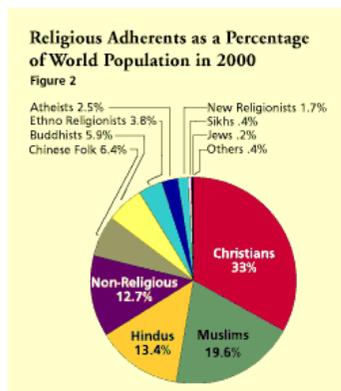
Consider:

- Christianity spread from a small group of a few hundred believers around 33 AD to being a large number throughout the whole Roman Empire in 30 years.
- The calendar was changed to reflect the impact of Christ's

coming into the world. Our calendar was re-set to start at the point of His birth (BC & AD)

- Many of the early disciples (including 11 of the original 12) were killed as Martyrs because of the truth they proclaimed about Jesus – truth they were willing to die for!

- Today there are around 2 billion people who call themselves Christians.



Discuss:

- What do you believe? Is Jesus alive or dead today?
- What do other people say about Christ being raised from the dead and back to life?
- Have you ever before considered the evidence for this event?

““I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.” (Jesus Christ – John 11:25, 26)

Look at Luke

It is the third day since Jesus was crucified, and the two disciples who saw Jesus on the Emmaeus Road return to Jerusalem and find the disciples debating whether Jesus was alive. He had already appeared to the women who went to embalm His body, and to Simon Peter.

Read Luke 24:36-49

Why were the disciples terrified and thought he was a ghost?

If you had been among the disciples on that first Easter Sunday, how do you think you might have reacted and why?

Frank Morrison, an agnostic journalist, attempted to write a book to dismiss the resurrection of Jesus. His opinions changed as he wrote “Who moved the Stone”: “... it is essentially a confession, the inner story of a man who originally set out to write one kind of book and found himself compelled ... to write another. It is not that the facts altered the interpretation to be put on the facts underwent a change.”

What evidence did Jesus give them that it was really Him ?

Why do you think Jesus constantly appealed to their physical senses rather than to their emotions?



For the disciples, it was incomprehensible that the Messiah should die such a humiliating and shameful death. What does Jesus do in verses 44 – 49 to change their understanding?

Written 700 years before Jesus was born:

“But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. (Isaiah 53:5,6)