

## Is the Resurrection Historically Reliable? Easter 2017

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Definition of **RELIABLE**: That which may be relied on or trusted; dependable, accurate, honest, etc.

1 Corinthians 15:1-8 – <sup>1</sup>Now I want to make clear for you, brothers and sisters, the gospel I preached to you, which you received, on which you have taken your stand <sup>2</sup>and by which you are being saved, if you hold to the message I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. <sup>3</sup>For I passed on to you as most important what I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup>that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup>and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve. <sup>6</sup>Then he appeared to over five hundred brothers and sisters at one time; most of them are still alive, but some have fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup>Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. <sup>8</sup>Last of all, as to one born at the wrong time, he also appeared to me. (CSB)

Luke 1:1-4 – <sup>1</sup>Many people have set out to write accounts about the events that have been fulfilled among us. <sup>2</sup>They used the eyewitness reports circulating among us from the early disciples. <sup>3</sup>Having carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I also have decided to write a careful account for you, most honorable Theophilus, <sup>4</sup>so you can be certain of the truth of everything you were taught. (NLT)

1 Corinthians 16:17 – And if Christ has not been raised, then all our preaching is useless, and your faith is useless. (NLT)

I. The Resurrection is reliable due to the **early accounts**.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 – 3 I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. 4 He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said.  
(NLT)

II. The Resurrection is reliable due to the **empty tomb**.

Luke 24:3 – They went in but did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. (CSB)

III. The Resurrection is reliable due to the **eyewitness testimony**.

1 Corinthians 15:5-8 – <sup>5</sup>and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve. <sup>6</sup>Then he appeared to over five hundred brothers and sisters at one time; most of them are still alive, but some have fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup>Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. <sup>8</sup>Last of all, as to one born at the wrong time, he also appeared to me. (CSB)

IV. The Resurrection is reliable due to the **emergence of the church**.

Acts 2:14, 32 – <sup>14</sup>Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice, and proclaimed to them: “Fellow Jews and all you residents of Jerusalem, let me explain this to you and pay attention to my words. <sup>32</sup>“God has raised this Jesus; we are all witnesses of this.  
(CSB)

## Thought for the Week:

The greatest evidence of all is your **transformed life**.

Todd Hitchcock - Bethel Baptist Church April 16, 2017

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