

Critics of the Bible claim that there is no evidence of Jesus Christ's resurrection. Could Jesus' empty tomb possibly be evidence of Jesus' resurrection?

“But God knew what would happen, and his prearranged plan was carried out when Jesus was betrayed. With the help of lawless Gentiles, you nailed him to a cross and killed him. But God released him from the horrors of death and raised him back to life, for death could not keep him in its grip. King David said this about him: ‘I see that the Lord is always with me. I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me. No wonder my heart is glad, and my tongue shouts his praises! My body rests in hope. For you will not leave my soul among the dead or allow your Holy One to rot in the grave. You have shown me the way of life, and you will fill me with the joy of your presence.’ ‘Dear brothers, think about this! You can be sure that the patriarch David wasn’t referring to himself, for he died and was buried, and his tomb is still here among us.’” (Acts 2:23-29 NLT)

David died, was buried in his tomb and his remains were still there, available for anyone's inspection, Peter was saying. His quote of **Psalm 16:8-11** might seem like he is just talking about himself, but his remains still being in his tomb proved this not to be the case. The case for Jesus Christ's resurrection would have to be about someone whose remains are not left in their grave.

“But he was a prophet, and he knew God had promised with an oath that one of David's own descendants would sit on his throne. David was looking into the future and speaking of the Messiah's resurrection. He was saying that God would not leave him among the dead or allow his body to rot in the grave.” (Acts 2:30-31 NLT)

Jesus died, was buried, but his body is missing. Anyone in the audience could have refuted this, if it had been false. The audience Peter spoke to that day included, not just believers, but also some a number of skeptics. (**Acts 2:14,15**)

“Early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. She ran and found Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved. She said, ‘They have taken the Lord’s body out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!’” (John 20:1-2 NLT)

Jesus’ tomb could be easily be inspected and his body paraded throughout Jerusalem and vicinity to show everyone that this message of Jesus’ resurrection was false, had that been the case.

“Then one of them, Cleopas, replied, ‘You must be the only person in Jerusalem who hasn’t heard about all the things that have happened there the last few days.’” (Luke 24:18 NLT)

All Jerusalem and vicinity had heard the news about Jesus’ highly public execution within a just the first couple of days, the news spread so rapidly.

“‘God raised Jesus from the dead, and we are all witnesses of this. Now he is exalted to the place of highest honor in heaven, at God’s right hand. And the Father, as he had promised, gave him the Holy Spirit to pour out upon us, just as you see and hear today. For David himself never ascended into heaven, yet he said, ‘The Lord said to my Lord, ‘Sit in the place of honor at my right hand until I humble your enemies, making them a footstool under your feet.’” ‘So let everyone in Israel know for certain that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, to be both Lord and Messiah!’” (Acts 2:32-36 NLT)

The account about Jesus’ trial, public execution, burial, and missing body could have easily been falsified, or verified. Peter, speaking under direction of the holy Spirit ties these events into Old Testament prophecy being fulfilled, giving powerful evidence that Jesus’ empty tomb was evidence of his resurrection.

“At that time there were devout Jews from every nation living in Jerusalem. When they heard the loud noise, everyone came running, and they were bewildered to hear their own languages being spoken by the believers. They were completely amazed. ‘How can this be?’ they exclaimed. ‘These people are all from Galilee, and yet we hear them speaking in our own native languages! Here we are—Parthians, Medes, Elamites, people from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, the province of Asia, Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, and the areas of Libya around Cyrene, visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism), Cretans, and Arabs. And we all hear these people speaking in our own languages about the wonderful things God has done!’” (Acts 2:5-11 NLT)

Jews from all over the Roman Empire, seven weeks afterward, by now had heard the news, and many had crowded back into Jerusalem for the Jewish festival of Pentecost.

“Peter’s words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, ‘Brothers, what should we do?’ ... Then Peter continued preaching for a long time, strongly urging all his listeners, ‘Save yourselves from this crooked generation!’ Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all.” (Acts 2:37,40,41 NLT)

The truthfulness of Peter’s words about Jesus’ resurrection is so undeniable that about 3,000 did something drastic they had not planned for that day—they got baptized as Christians!

We today have all this and much, much more evidence that Jesus’ empty tomb is evidence of his resurrection!