

Discussing Jesus' Resurrection: A 5-Part Video Series

Discussion Questions

Part 1: Let's Get Started! (Video: 11:20)

1. Christians believe that Jesus of Nazareth rose from the dead nearly 2,000 years ago. Have you ever questioned whether this event actually took place? What sort of issues place doubt on whether Jesus' resurrection actually occurred?
2. Read John 2:13-22 and 1 Corinthians 15:17.
 - a. If Jesus did not actually rise from the dead, would this have any implications pertaining to the truth of Christianity? What are they?
 - b. If you knew for certain that Jesus was not really resurrected, how would this change your life? If you're a Christian, would you jettison your Christian faith or keep it? Why?
 - c. If the historical evidence points very strongly toward the resurrection of Jesus, how might this impact your beliefs and or your Christian life?
3. The majority of modern scholars maintain that shortly after Jesus' crucifixion a number of people, both friend and foe of Jesus, had experiences that occurred in individual and in group settings that they were convinced were of the risen Jesus who was now appearing to them. The resurrection of Jesus is one explanation for how these experiences should be interpreted. What are some possible alternatives?

Part 2: How to Conduct Historical Investigation (Video: 11:19)

1. As analogies for the practice of history, Dr. Licona used the practice of medicine and putting together a jigsaw puzzle. How does the work of a detective resemble the practice of history?
2. What are some of the problems with the proposal that Jesus didn't really die on the cross but was nursed back to life and was able to convince others he had been resurrected?

Part 3: Just the Facts, Ma'am! (Video: 8:43)

1. What do historians mean when they refer to “historical bedrock”? Why is historical bedrock important in historical investigations involving Jesus?
2. Does one have to believe that the Bible is God’s Word in order to discover history in it? Explain.
3. What are some of the facts that are part of the historical bedrock pertaining to Jesus’ resurrection?
4. What is the difference between having a consensus of skeptical scholars and having a consensus of scholars from a large variety of backgrounds and persuasions? Which is preferable and why?

Part 4: Objections from Internet Skeptics (Video: 14:41)

1. Do you personally know anyone who thinks that Jesus of Nazareth never existed? How do they argue toward that conclusion? What do you think of their case?
2. There is an abundance of resources on the internet. Some are more credible than others. How do you determine the reliability of a resource on the internet?
3. Before any evidence for Jesus’ resurrection is considered, would you say that the resurrection of Jesus is “probable,” “improbable,” or that the probability of that event is “incalculable”? Explain.
4. Some claim that dying and rising gods were a dime a dozen in the Greco-Roman period and that the Christians merely copied from them in reference to Jesus. What problems do you see with this position?

Part 5: Objections from Scholars (Video: 13:25)

1. Almost all of us now own cell phones. At some time, most of us have set our phones to vibrate when we received a text message. Most of us have also had the perception that our phone had vibrated as a text alert only to discover that it was a false alarm. That is a sort of kinesthetic hallucination. Have you ever experienced a different type of hallucination that was visual,

auditory, or involved another one of the senses? What type was it and how did you know it was a hallucination?

2. What do you think may be the reason behind our hallucinating that our phone has vibrated? Could this have been a similar reason for one or more of the disciples experiencing a hallucination of Jesus?
3. What are some of the problems with the hypothesis that the appearances of Jesus were hallucinations?
4. There is very little if any professional literature written on group hallucinations. Why are group hallucinations extremely rare if not impossible?

To view a debate on Jesus' resurrection between Mike Licona and Bart Ehrman, visit www.4truth.net/debate.

To view a 4-part video series that answers Bart Ehrman's objections to the Gospels, visit www.4truth.net/Ehrman.

For additional apologetics resources from NAMB, visit www.4truth.net.