

The resurrection of Yeshua is important to commemorate during this festival season



5 and as *the women* were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, *the men* said to them, "Why do you seek the living One among the dead? 6He is not here, but He has risen. Remember how He spoke to you while He was still in Galilee, 7 saying that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again." Luke 23:5-7

Firstfruits & Yeshua's Resurrection

While most of Christianity has already celebrated Yeshua's resurrection, this year is unique in that the Messianic Believers' holy week is a month apart from traditional Christianity's observance (usually they are within the same time-frame). The point of these words is not to belabor the calendar difference this

year but to celebrate the fact that Yeshua indeed did rise from the dead! After all, as Paul stated, if Yeshua did not rise from the dead, our faith is in vain (1 Cor 15:14). As I specifically looked at this topic a couple years ago, here were some summary conclusions that I came to.

THE VERACITY OF THE RESURRECTION

A. Security Precautions which made it more difficult to fabricate a “false resurrection” story (Taken from Josh McDowell’s *The Resurrection Factor* pg. 61)

1. Secured Tomb: Buried in a solid rock tomb
2. Body Securely Wrapped: Jesus’ body was wrapped with more than 100 pounds of spices according to precise Jewish burial customs.
3. Heavy Stone: The stone was rolled down a track in front of the tomb entrance and weighed about two tons.
4. Roman Guards: A Roman security guard of four to sixteen men, one of the most effective fighting units devised, was positioned to guard the tomb.
5. Roman Seal: The tomb was sealed shut with the official authority and signate of Rome.

B. Five Possible Theories (See <https://www.peterkreeft.com/topics-more/resurrection-evidence.htm> for a thorough addressing of each theory)

1. Christianity: Yeshua died; Yeshua rose
2. Hallucination: Yeshua died; Yeshua didn't rise—apostles deceived
3. Myth: Yeshua died; Yeshua didn't rise—apostles myth-makers
4. Conspiracy: Yeshua died; Yeshua didn't rise—apostles deceivers
5. Swoon: Yeshua didn't die

C. Main Points

1. Five Main Reasons: “The credit due to the testimony of witnesses depends upon, firstly, their honesty, secondly, their ability; thirdly, their number and the consistency of their testimony; fourthly, the conformity of their testimony with experience; and fifthly, the coincidence of their testimony with collateral circumstances.” Excerpted from Simon Greenleaf’s *Testimony of the Evangelists*.

2. Substantial Truth with Circumstantial Variety: The character of their

narratives is like that of all other true witnesses, containing substantial truth, under circumstantial variety. There is enough discrepancy to show that there could have been no previous concert among them; and at the same time such substantial agreement as to show that they all were independent narrators of the same great transaction, as the events actually occurred. That they conspired to impose falsehood upon the world is, moreover, utterly inconsistent with the supposition that they were honest men. Simon Greenleaf's Testimony of the Evangelists.

3. No One Recanted: The "cruncher" in this argument is the historical fact that no one, weak or strong, saint or sinner, Christian or heretic, ever confessed, freely or under pressure, bribe or even torture, that the whole story of the resurrection was a fake a lie, a deliberate deception. Even when people broke under torture, denied Christ and worshiped Caesar, they never let that cat out of the bag, never revealed that the resurrection was their conspiracy. For that cat was never in that bag. No Christians believed the resurrection was a conspiracy; if they had, they wouldn't have become Christians. From the Handbook of Christian Apologetics by Peter Kreeft and Fr. Ronald Tacelli, SJ (Intervarsity Press, 1994)

4. Women Witnesses: The first witnesses of the resurrection were women. In first-century Judaism, women had low social status and no legal right to serve as witnesses. If the empty tomb were an invented legend, its inventors surely would not have had it discovered by women, whose testimony was considered worthless. If, on the other hand, the writers were simply reporting what they saw, they would have to tell the truth, however socially and legally inconvenient. From the Handbook of Christian Apologetics by Peter Kreeft and Fr. Ronald Tacelli, SJ (Intervarsity Press, 1994)