Is it True?  
Pastor Chris Dodge  
Awake US Now

Is there a true and reasonable body of evidence substantiating the resurrection of Jesus Christ?

Key Texts: Matthew 28:5-6

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. (0:00-5:55) Is the resurrection of Jesus Christ true? Do you believe it, doubt it, or dismiss it?

Five Sentences about the Resurrection

2. (5:55-11:12) 1. You wouldn't invent this story. Why would no one fabricate a tale including the crucifixion of the Messiah as well as the eye-witness testimony of women?

3. (11:12-13:40) 2. The "heroes" don't look good. What were the embarrassing details? Why did the disciples allow the demeaning story to be circulated?

   a. Though they wrote a best seller, they received no royalties.
   b. Though eye-witnesses (Greek martyr), they were willing to die, so others might live.
   c. Are people willing to die for what they know to be a lie?

5. Listen to the reading from the Roman historian Tacitus, who was hostile to the Christian faith. What do you learn from his account of severe persecution of Christians under Emperor Nero?

   b. The women went to the wrong tomb. (Matthew 27:57-61 and 28:1)

7. (23:47-29:00) 5. The Scriptures predicted it. Were the sacred Hebrew texts altered to lend authenticity to the Jesus story? Listen to Isaiah 53 from the Dead Sea Scrolls, centuries prior to Jesus. What person and events does it describe? No other religion has such prophesies.

8. (29:00-31:15) Read Acts 26:24-25. In light of the five sentences above, is there a “true and reasonable” body of evidence to substantiate the resurrection of Jesus Christ?

9. (31:15-34:15) Many sense the world is coming undone and only a supernatural intervention of God can change our fate. Do you agree? How has God already intervened (Acts 10:36-43)?

10. Once more God will supernaturally intervene in human history, as 2 Thessalonians 1:4-10 and Philippians 2:9-11 foretell. How can one be prepared for this? (Hint: Look at your knees.)

11. (34:15-36:48) Now where do you stand regarding the resurrection of Jesus Christ?
   a. Do you believe it with all your heart? If so, use the 5 sentences to witness to the truth.
   b. Do you still wish it were true, but doubt? If so, please weigh the substantial evidence.
   c. Will you still dismiss it out of hand? If so, please heed the warning spoken at 4:08-5:55.

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