



## What if it is True? (Grades 6-8)

The death and resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ is the foundation of the Christian faith. Because of this, skeptics have tried many times (unsuccessfully) to disprove it. Some of them claim the resurrection never happened—it was just a story created by Jesus’s disciples.

If someone asked you, “How do you know the resurrection really happened?” or “How do you know Jesus is God?” what would you tell them? It is our hope that this lesson will strengthen your faith and help you be ready to provide an answer to these questions.

After watching the video, please complete the following exercises.

### How do we know it’s true?

There is overwhelming evidence that the resurrection of Jesus Christ really happened! Since many people find it helpful to use acronyms to remember important information, we will be using the acronym P.E.T. Let’s get started!

### **P**rophecies

Prophecies are predictions about the future and the Bible contains hundreds of them! Although many prophecies have already come true, there are many that will not be fulfilled until Jesus Christ returns.

One of the ways we know Jesus is God is because He has already fulfilled hundreds of prophecies. Many of these prophecies were about the night Jesus was arrested and the events leading up to His crucifixion. Several prophecies predicted that Jesus would rise from the dead.

The table on the next page includes 34 specific prophecies that were fulfilled by Jesus. This is remarkable since these prophecies were all written at least 400 years before Jesus was born! What is the probability of just **eight** prophecies coming true in one person?

**The probability of just  
8 prophecies coming  
true in one person...**

**1 chance in  $10^{28}$  or 1 chance in  
10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000!**

Source: Source: Science Speaks, Peter W. Stoner and Robert C. Newman

**Exercise:** choose 10 of the prophecies shown below. Look up and read the verses that include the predictions and then the verses that show how the prophecies were fulfilled.

What is your favorite prophecy? \_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

	<b>Prophecy</b>	<b>Date prophesied</b>	<b>Fulfillment</b>
1	Born of a virgin (Isa. 7:14)	792-722 B.C	Matt. 1:18-25
2	To be the Son of God (Ps. 2:7)	1,000 B.C.	Matt. 3:17
3	Descendent of Abraham (Gen. 22:12)	1, 872 B.C.	Matt. 1:1
4	Descendent of Isaac (Gen. 21:12)	1,892 B.C.	Matt. 1:2, Luke 3:34
5	Descendent of Jacob (Num. 24:17)	1,452 B.C.	Matt. 1:2, Luke 3:34
6	From Tribe of Judah (Gen. 49:10)	1,689 B.C.	Matt. 1:2, Luke 3:33
7	From Family of Jesse (Isa. 11:1)	740 B.C.	Matt. 1:6, Luke 3:32
8	From House of David (Jer. 23:5)	589 B.C.	Matt. 1:1, Luke 3:31
9	Born in Bethlehem (Mic. 5:2)	722 B.C.	Matt. 2:1
10	Herod kills children (Jer. 31:15)	627-585 B.C.	Matt. 2:16-18
11	To be called Immanuel (Isa. 7:14)	792-722 B.C.	Matt. 1:23
12	Spirit of the Lord upon Him (Isa 61:1)	792-722 B.C.	Luke 4:16-21
13	Preceded by a messenger (Mal. 3:1)	450-400 B.C.	Matt. 11:10
14	Called out of Egypt (Hosea 11:1)	710 B.C.	Matt. 2:15
15	Would do miracles (Isa. 35.5-6)	792-722 B.C.	Matt. 11:2-5
16	Rides in Jerusalem on donkey (Zech. 9:9)	520 B.C.	Matt. 21:5-9
17	Betrayed by a friend (Ps. 41:9)	1,000 B.C.	Matt. 10:4
18	Money thrown in God's house (Zech. 11:13)	520 B.C.	Matt. 27:5
19	Price given for Potter's field (Zech. 11:13)	520 B.C.	Matt. 27:7
20	Forsaken by disciples (Zech. 13:7)	520 B.C.	Matt. 26:31
21	Wounded, bruised, scourged (Isa. 53:5)	792-722 B.C.	Matt. 27:26, Luke 22:63
22	Hands and feet pierced (Ps. 22:16)	1,000 B.C.	John 20:25
23	Garments divided (Ps. 22:18)	1,000 B.C.	John 19:23-24
24	Lots cast for clothing (Ps. 22:18)	1,000 B.C.	John 19:24
25	Given vinegar to drink (Ps. 69:21)	1,000 B.C.	Matt. 27:34
26	"Why hast Thou forsaken me?" (Ps. 22:1)	1,000 B.C.	Matt. 27:46
27	"Into Thy hand I commit my spirit" (Ps. 31:5)	1,000 B.C.	Luke 23:46
28	Messiah's side pierced (Zech. 12:10)	520 B.C.	John 19:34, 37
29	Messiah's bones not broken (Ps. 34:20)	1,000 B.C.	John 19:32-36
30	Buried in rich man's tomb (Isa. 53:9)	740 B.C.	Matt. 27:57-60
31	Three days and three nights (Jonah 1:17)	760 B.C.	Matt. 12:40
32	Resurrected from dead (Ps. 16:10, 30:3)	1,000 B.C.	Acts 2:31, 13:33-35
33	Ascends into heaven (Ps. 68:18)	1,000 B.C.	Acts 1:9, Eph. 4:7-10
34	Messiah is light to the Gentiles (Isa. 49:6, 42:6)	740 B.C.	Luke 2:32, Acts 13:47, 26:23

## Eyewitnesses

In a court of law, people who saw something happen are called eyewitnesses. Testimonies by eyewitnesses are considered powerful evidence—especially when they agree on important details. The more eyewitnesses, the stronger the case.

Here is what the Apostle Paul said happened after Jesus rose from the dead:

...and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.” 1 Corinthians 15:4-6

Did you catch that? Paul said Jesus appeared to more than **500 people at the same time!** This was a bold claim that could have easily been verified. If you went to trial and could produce 500 witnesses who said they saw the same thing, I guarantee you would win your case!!

Exercise: Draw a line to connect the statement with the person that said it.

John

“For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.”

Peter

“After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time...”

Paul

“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched”

“You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this.”

## Transformation of the Disciples

One of the most overlooked lines of evidence for the resurrection is the transformation of the disciples.

When Jesus was arrested, His disciples ran away in terror. Afterwards, Peter followed Jesus from a distance and tried not to be noticed. When he was asked by a servant girl if he was a follower of Jesus, Peter denied that he **even knew Jesus** and he did this three times (just as Jesus had said he would)!

After Jesus was crucified, his disciples were scared. They hid themselves in a locked room—no doubt wondering if they were going to be killed as well. But something happened that transformed them from being frozen with fear to people who would not stop telling people about Jesus. What did they see? Jesus Christ rose from the grave and appeared to them!

For example, in the book of Acts, Peter and John were arrested by the religious leaders and told to stop talking about Jesus. Look at what they said in response:

“Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John replied, "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God. For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.” Acts 4:18-20.

Wow, talk about a change! Most of the disciples (except John who was exiled) gave up their lives for Jesus! Check this out:

- Peter – crucified
- Andrew – crucified
- James (son of Zebedee) – killed with a sword
- John (son of Zebedee) – exiled
- Philip – crucified
- Bartholomew – crucified
- Thomas – killed by a spear thrust
- Mathew - killed with a sword
- James (son of Alphaeus) – crucified
- Thaddaeus – killed by arrows
- Simon, the zealot -crucified

Source: Josh & Sean McDowell, More Than a Carpenter, page 90

These men died horrible deaths for telling people about Jesus. They went from super chickens to super heroes. Why? What happened to them? The answer is simple: they saw our risen Savior Jesus Christ!

Exercise: please answer the following questions:

1. The video lesson highlighted the transformation of Peter, James. and Paul. Which of these stories was the most impactful to you? Why?

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2. Some people claim that the Disciples hid Jesus's body and then made up the story about the resurrection. Does this explanation make sense to you? Why not?

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## What Legal Experts Have Said

The evidence for the resurrection of Jesus Christ is overwhelming! Here is what some legal experts have said:

“I say unequivocally that the evidence for the Resurrection of Jesus Christ is so powerful that it compels acceptance by proof which leaves no room for doubt.”

Sir Lionel Luckhoo (World’s most successful attorney)

Source: Josh & Sean McDowell, *More Than a Carpenter*, pages 138-139

“There exists such overwhelming evidence, positive and negative, factual and circumstantial, that no intelligent jury in the world could fail to bring in a verdict that the resurrection story is true.”

Charles John (Lord) Darling

(former Chief Justice of England)

Source: Josh & Sean McDowell, *More Than a Carpenter*, page 140

The verdict is in: the resurrection of Jesus Christ is a historical fact!

### Since it is true:

- ✓ We can experience God’s power to change your life. (Romans 6:14, Ephesians 3:19)
- ✓ We can develop a confident faith. (John 30:21, Ephesians 3:12)
- ✓ We can receive forgiveness and a brand-new start (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- ✓ We have hope and can receive eternal life (John 3:16-17)

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. God did not send His Son into the world to condemn it, but to save it.” John 3:16-17

Please remember: we should always do our best to love the Lord with all our hearts, and be kind to one another as we wait for the day King Jesus returns. Until then, we should be prepared to witness to other people who ask us about our faith (1 Peter 3:15).



*For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day.” Exodus 20:11*