

Celebrating Easter
Part 2: Fact or Fake News?
1 Corinthians 15:1-8

Is the resurrection of Jesus fact or fake news?

Evidence #1: The Tomb Is Empty

1. The early church had an early **creed** consistently stating the facts (vv. 3-8);
2. The details differ (as they do in most eye-witness accounts), but the **core facts** are the same;
3. Many details **weaken** the case, so why include them unless true (Joseph of Arimathea claiming body v. disciples, women first at the tomb, etc.);
4. Nobody claimed the **tomb** still had Jesus' body. The question was always, "What happened to His body?"
5. No credible scholar exists today who says the disciples **stole** the body. If they did, why did all go to death for a lie? They had absolutely nothing to gain and everything to lose by living a lie.

Evidence #2: The Resurrected Jesus was Seen Alive

1. Paul mentioned specific people whose testimony could corroborate the fact of the resurrection including over 500 followers of Jesus who saw Him at the same time. Why mention so many eye-witnesses unless it was **100% true**?
2. The resurrection was the central theme in the early preaching of the church (Acts 2:32; 3:15; 10:41; 13:31; etc.). This was no "legend" that developed later. It was the life-transforming, motivating truth that propelled the good news to spread across the world.

Evidence #3: The Resurrected Jesus Changed My Life. Has He Yours?

⁵⁸ *Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.* 1 Cor. 15:58