

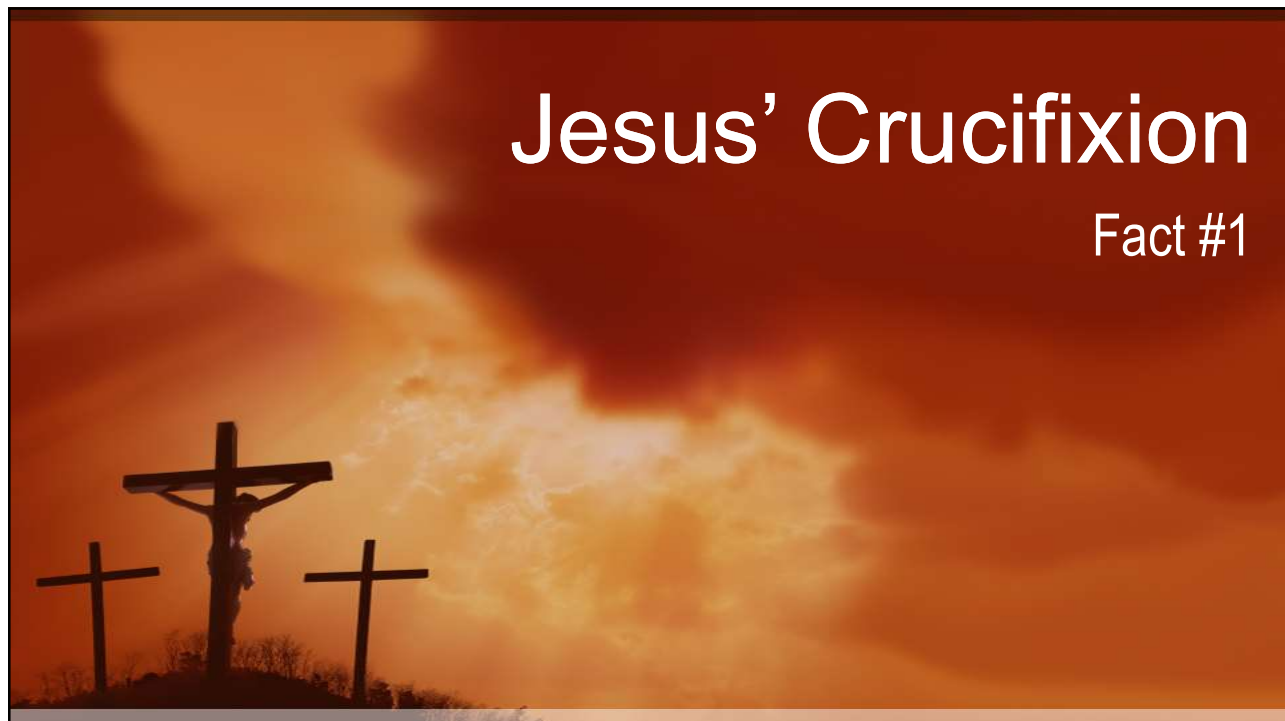
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Evidence for Jesus' Crucifixion

• The Gospels

- Matthew 27:27–31
- Mark 15:15
- Luke 23:20–24
- John 19:14–16

• Ancient Non-Christian Sources

- Josephus
- Tacitus
- Lucian
- Mara bar Serapion

6

Josephus, *Antiquities of the Jews*, Book 18:3:3

Now there was about this time Jesus, a wise man ... And when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men amongst us, **had condemned him to the cross**, those that loved him at the first did not forsake him ...

7

Tacitus, *Annals* 15:44

...Nero fastened the guilt and inflicted the most exquisite tortures on a class hated for their abominations, called Christians by the populace. **Christus**, from whom the name had its origin, **suffered the extreme penalty** during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus ...

8

Lucian, *The Death of Peregrine*

The Christians, you know, worship a man to this day—the distinguished personage who introduced their novel rites, and **was crucified on that account**. ... [It] was impressed on them by their original lawgiver that they are all brothers, from the moment that they are converted, and deny the gods of Greece, and worship the **crucified sage**, and live after his laws.

9

Mara bar Serapion

[What] benefit did the Athenians obtain by putting Socrates to death, seeing that they received [as] retribution for it famine and pestilence? Or the people of Samos by the burning of Pythagoras, seeing that in one hour the whole of their country was covered with sand? Or the Jews [by the murder] of their Wise King, seeing that from that very time their kingdom was driven away [from them]?

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Evidence for Jesus' Crucifixion

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“
Jesus’ execution is as
historically certain as any
ancient event can ever be ...”

John Dominic Crossan,
Jesus Seminar Co-founder


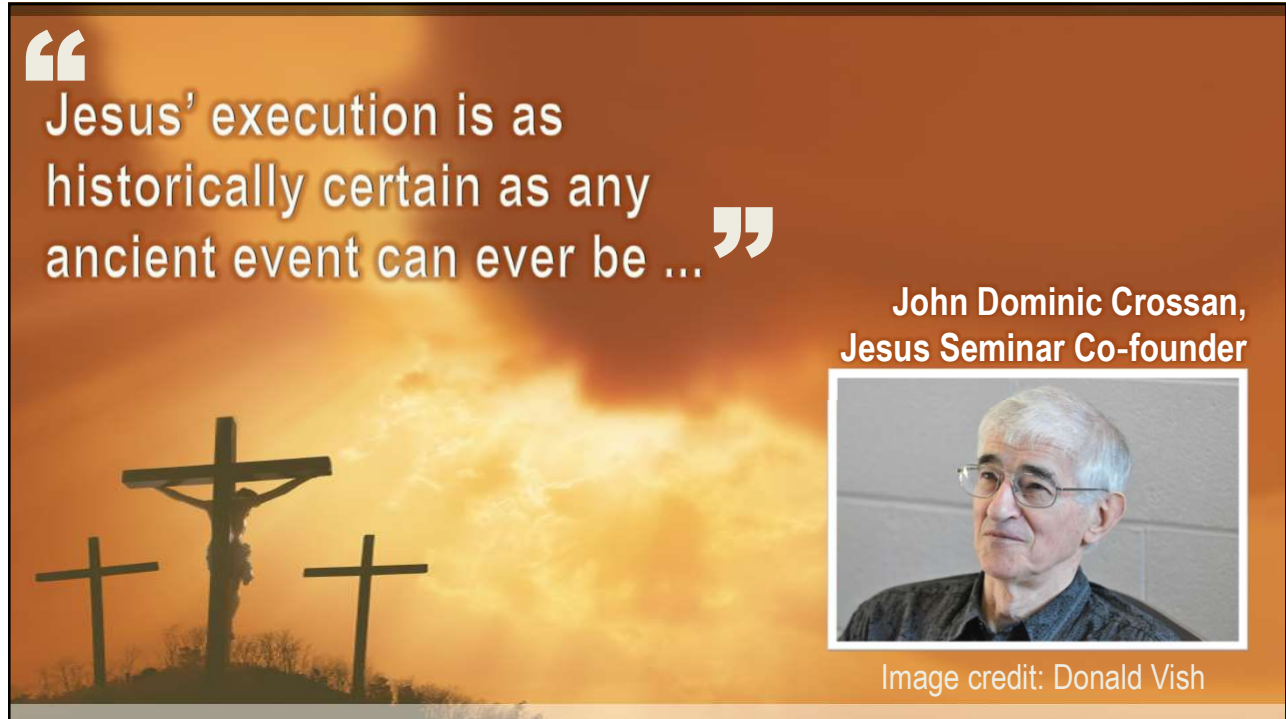
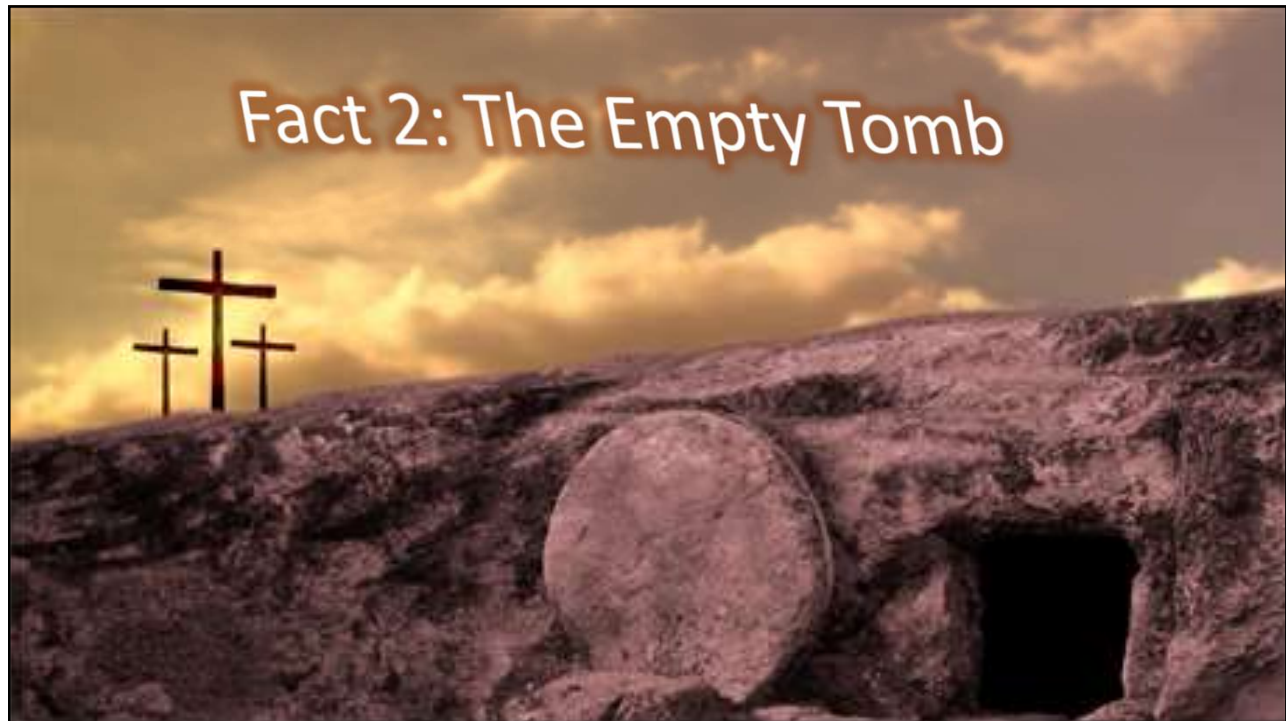


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Fact 2: The Empty Tomb



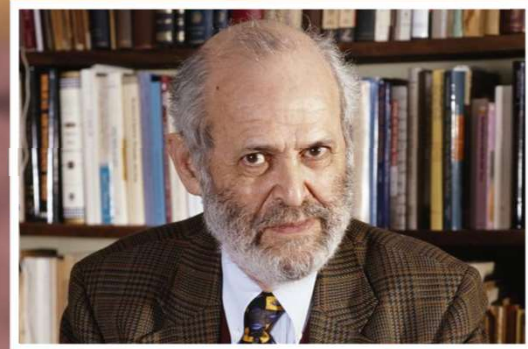
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Fact 2: The Empty Tomb

“

[The] only conclusion acceptable to the historian must be that ... the women ... found to their consternation, not a body, but an empty tomb.

”



Géza Vermès

14

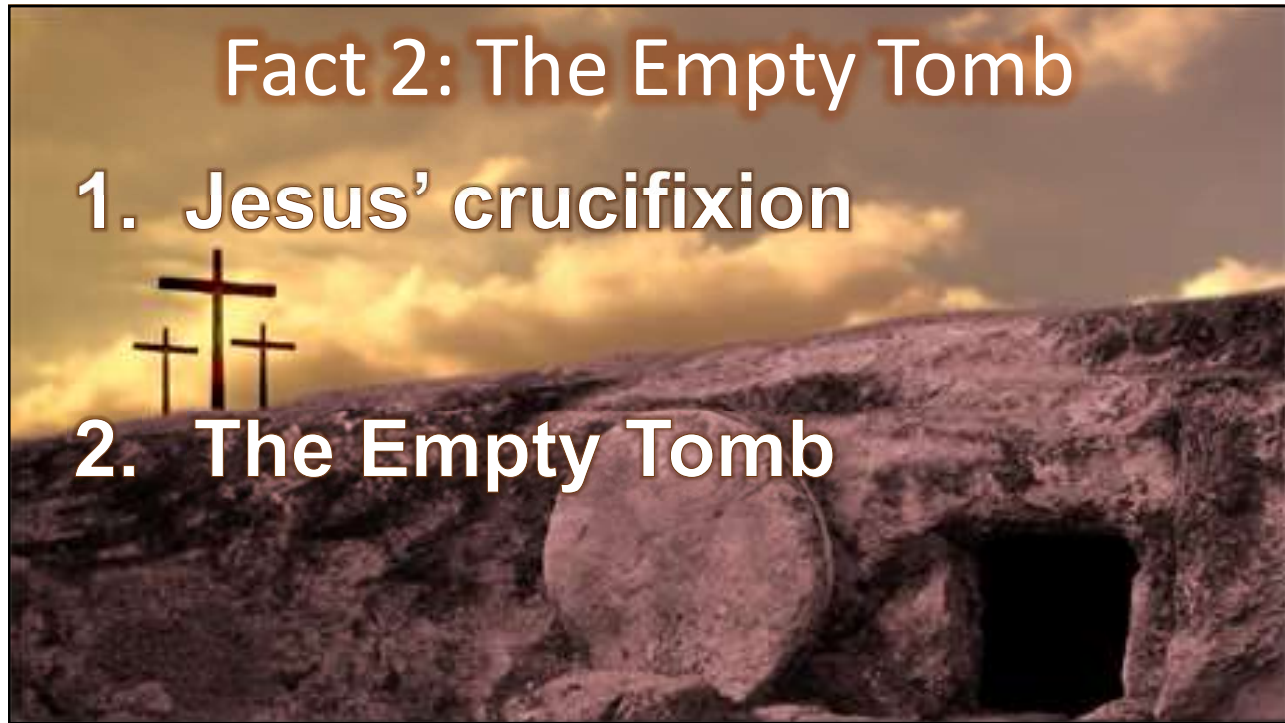
Fact 2: The Empty Tomb

1. Jerusalem factor

2. Enemy Attestation

3. Testimony of Women

15

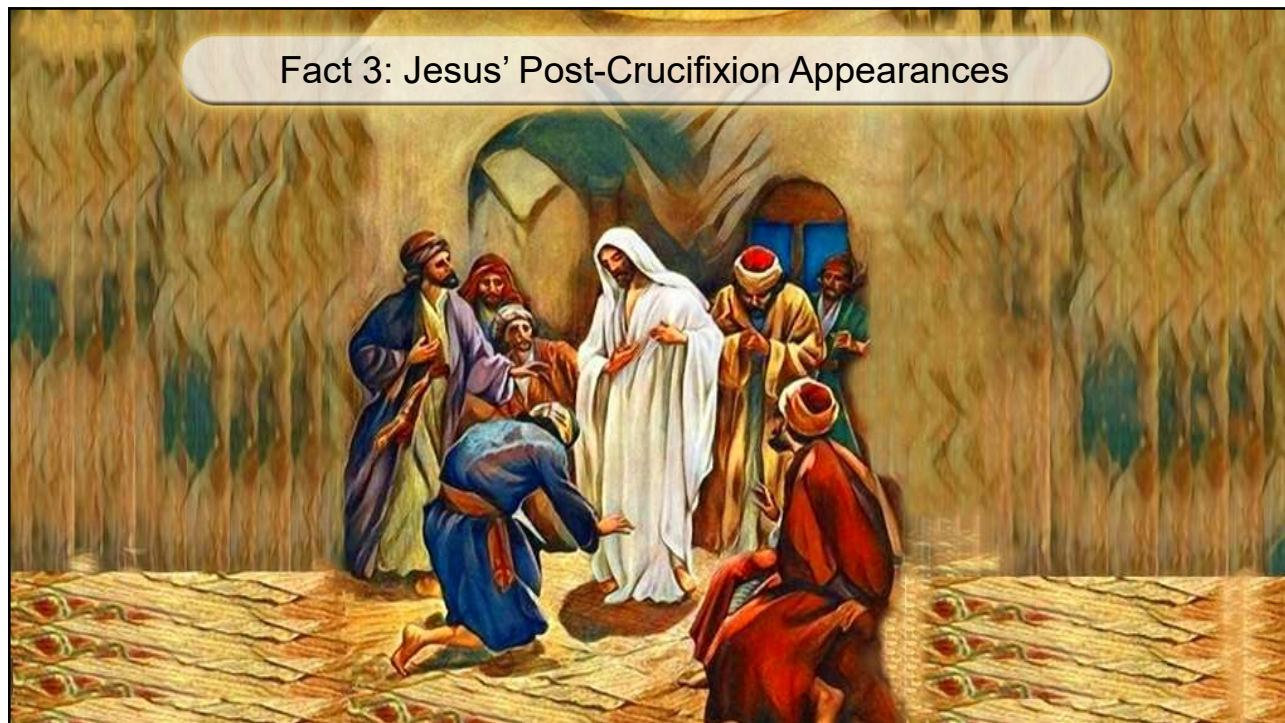


Fact 2: The Empty Tomb

1. Jesus' crucifixion

2. The Empty Tomb

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Fact 3: Jesus' Post-Crucifixion Appearances

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Fact 3: Jesus' Post-Crucifixion Appearances



It may be taken as historically certain that Peter and the disciples had experiences ... in which Jesus appeared to them as the risen Christ.



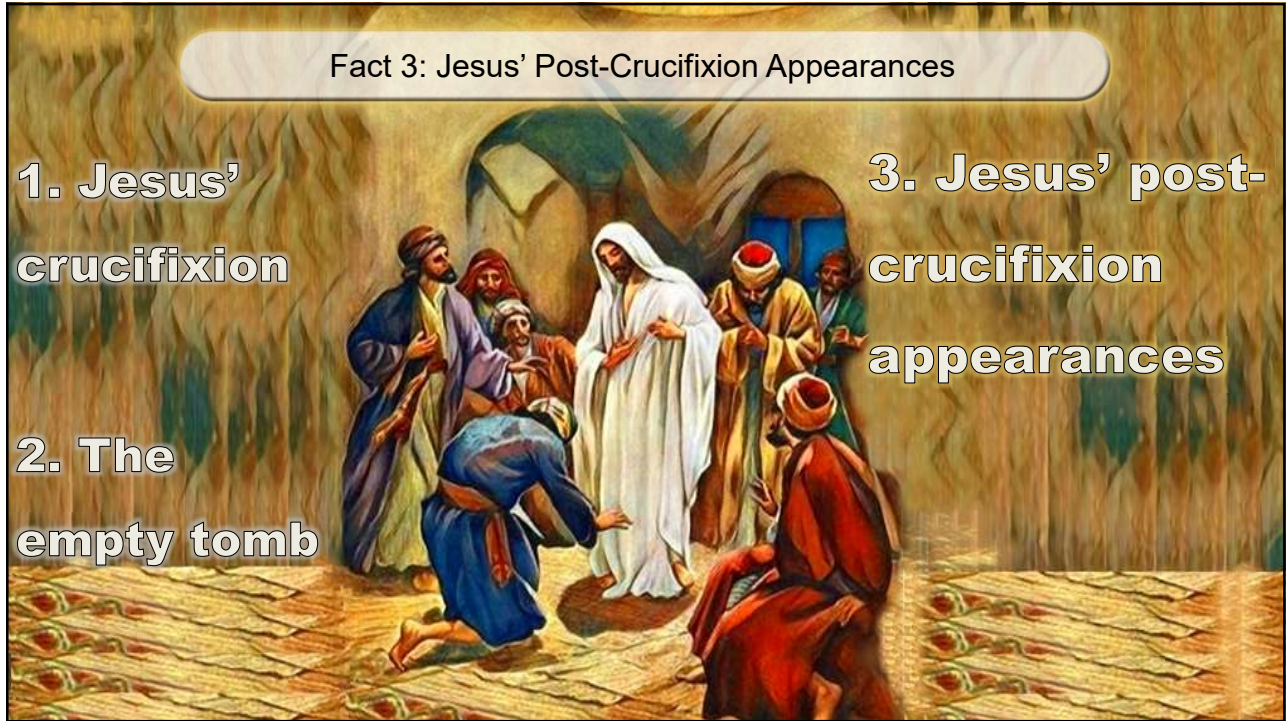
Gerd Lüdemann

18

1 Corinthians 15:5–8

[Christ] was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time.

19

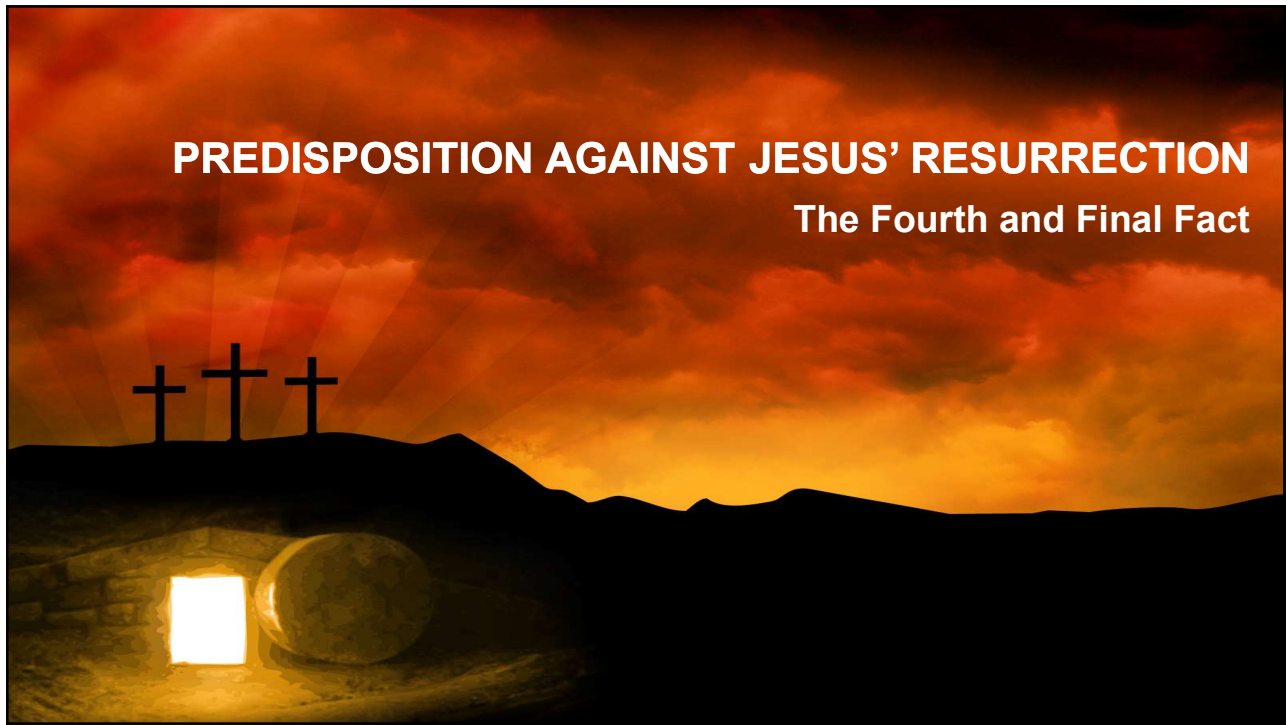


Fact 3: Jesus' Post-Crucifixion Appearances

1. Jesus' crucifixion

2. The empty tomb

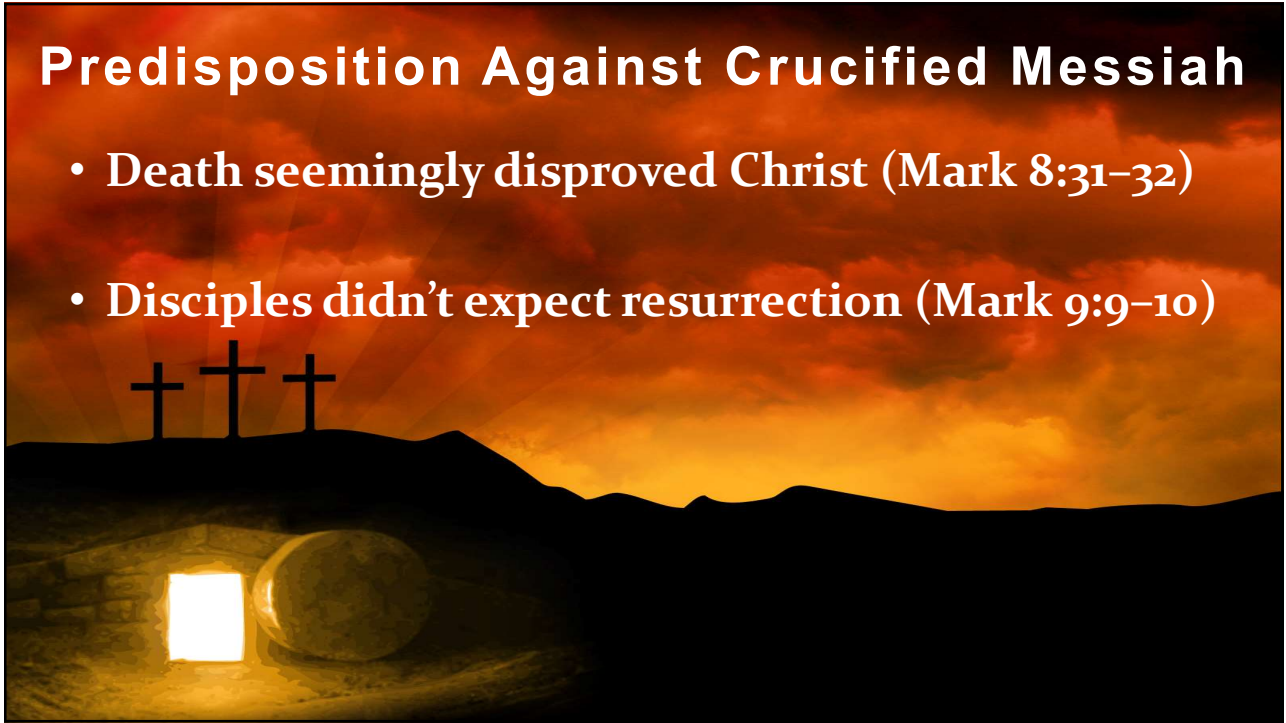
3. Jesus' post-crucifixion appearances



PREDISPOSITION AGAINST JESUS' RESURRECTION
The Fourth and Final Fact

Predisposition Against Crucified Messiah

- Death seemingly disproved Christ (Mark 8:31–32)
- Disciples didn't expect resurrection (Mark 9:9–10)



22

“

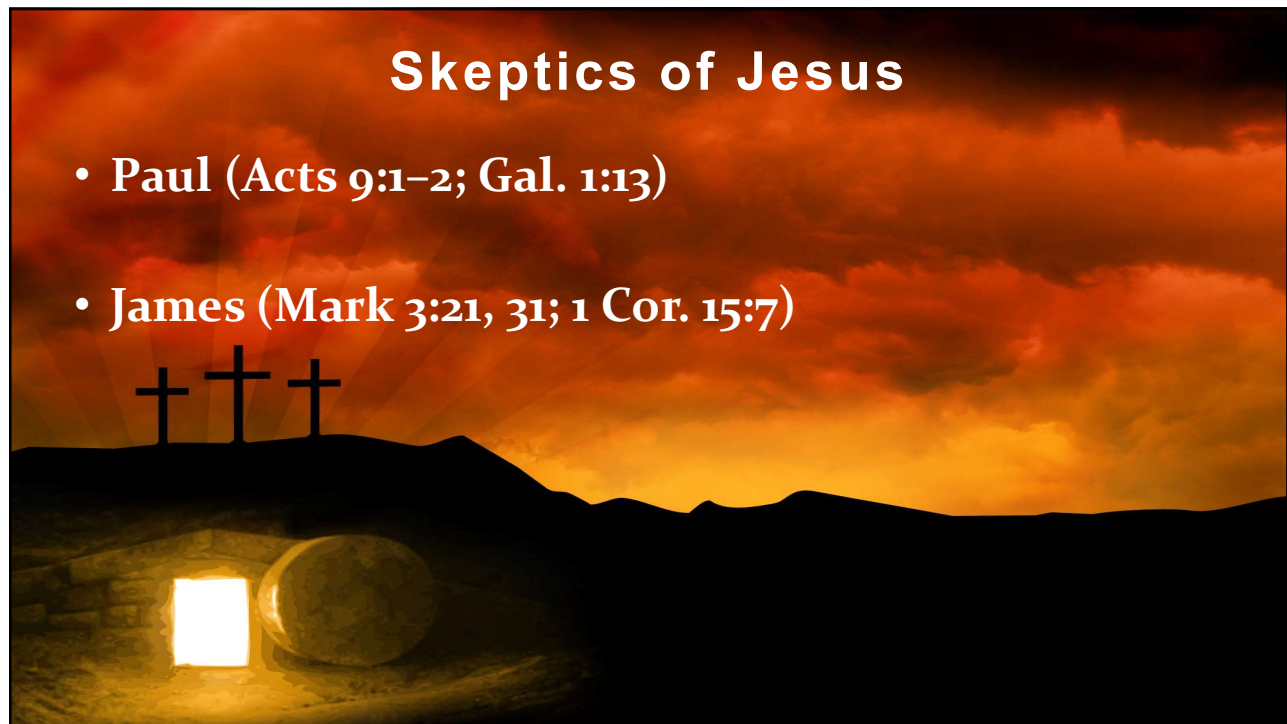
There was not a Jew on the planet who thought the messiah was going to be crushed by his enemies ... That was the *opposite* of what the messiah would do.

”

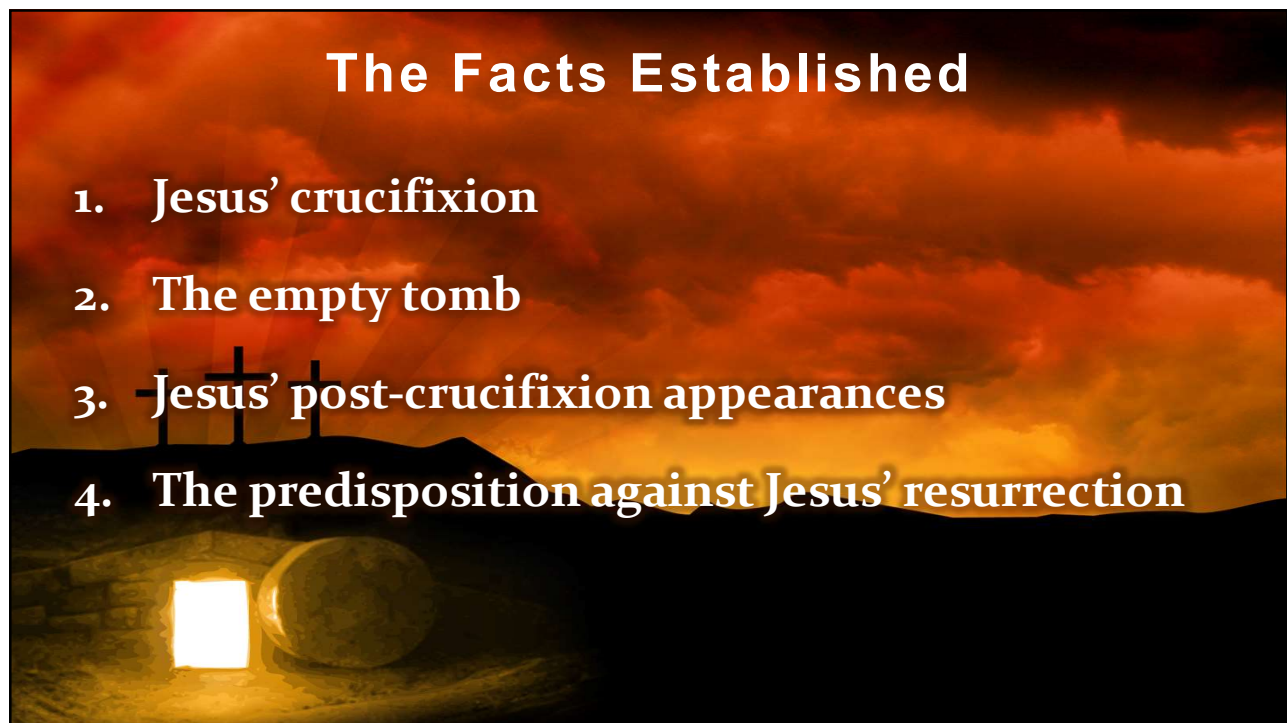


Bart D. Ehrman

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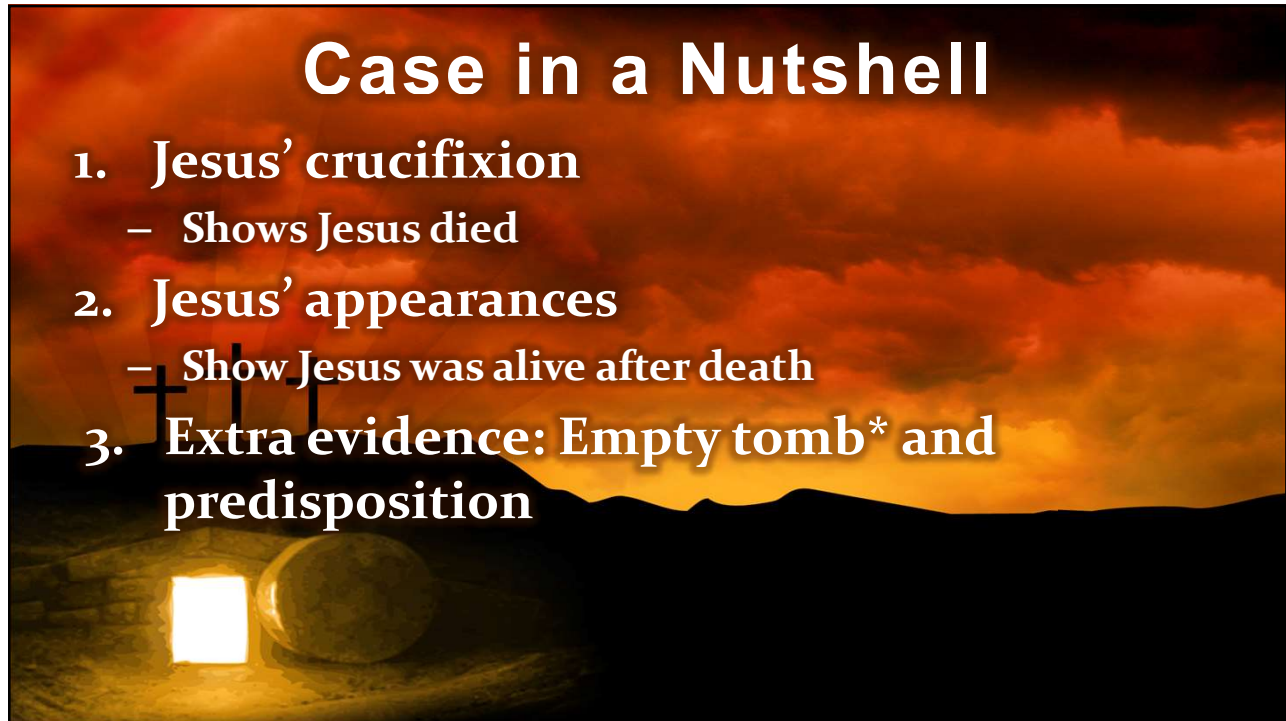
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	Resurrection	Hallucination	Stolen Body & Hallucination	Twin	Swoon
Explanatory Scope	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
Explanatory Power	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓
Plausibility	—	✗	✗	✗	✗
Not Ad Hoc	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗

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Case in a Nutshell

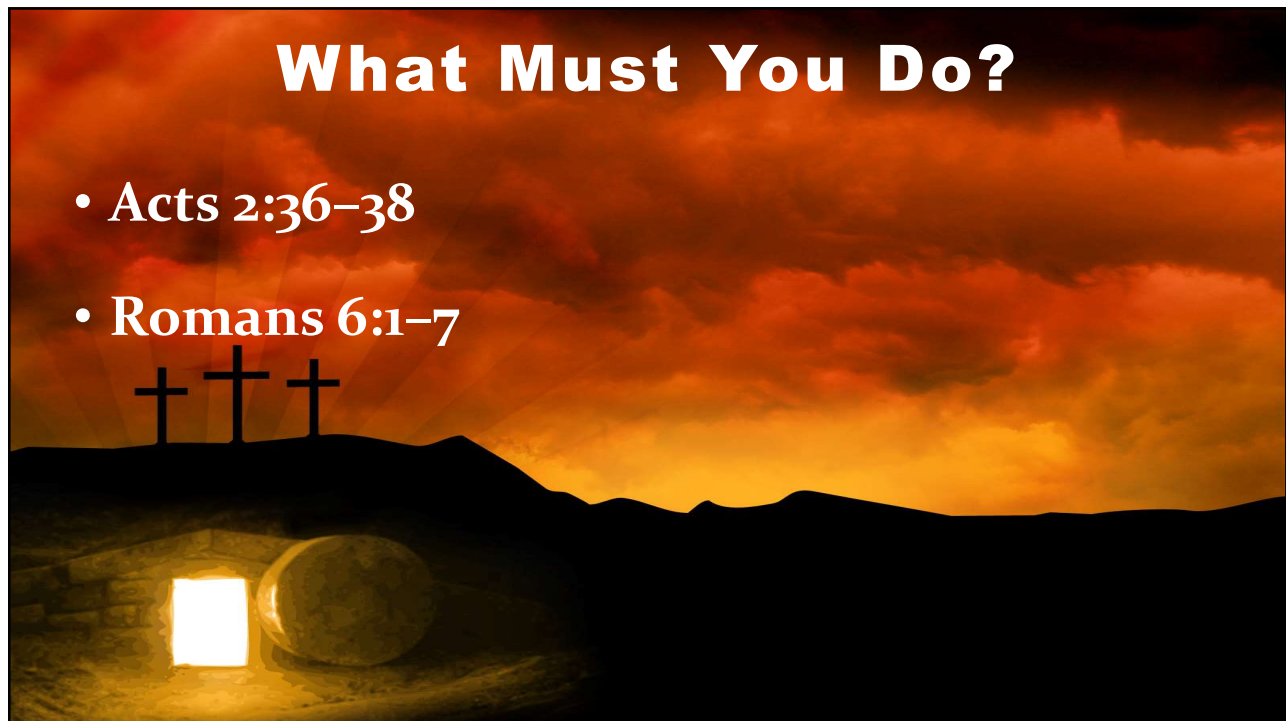
1. Jesus' crucifixion
 - Shows Jesus died
2. Jesus' appearances
 - Show Jesus was alive after death
3. Extra evidence: Empty tomb* and predisposition



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What Must You Do?

- Acts 2:36–38
- Romans 6:1–7



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