

Did Jesus rise from the dead?

The “Minimal Facts” Argument for the Resurrection of Jesus

Video: John Ankerberg (Habermas vs. Flew)

What makes a historical source most credible?

1. Multiple, independent sources
2. Attestation for enemies
3. Embarrassing admission
4. Eyewitness testimony
5. Early testimony

The Minimal facts approach in 2 steps (NJ treated only a ancient document)

1. The data/evidence is strong
2. Only data accepted by virtually all scholars (including critical scholars) is allowed

5 of the 12 steps granted by even the most critical scholars

1. **Fact #1:** Jesus died by crucifixion
 - a. All 4 gospels record his death
 - b. Sources outside Bible report his death: Josephus, Tacitus, Lucian of Samosata, Mara Bar-Serapion, Talmud
2. **Fact #2:** Jesus’ disciples believed that he rose and appeared to them
 - a. They claimed it (9 early, independent sources) including creed of 1 Cor. 15
 - i. POW acronym
 - ii. Paul → oral tradition (1 cor. 15, Acts 2) → written tradition (Gospels, Clement, Polycarp)
 - b. They believed it: they were transformed from doubters/skeptics into believer willing to die (at least 7 sources attest to this fact: Acts, Clement of Rome, Polycarp, Ignatius, Tertullian, Origen, Ignatius, Dionysius of Corinth)
3. **Fact #3:** Enemy of the Church Paul was suddenly changed
 - a. He converted (Paul, Acts, early Judeans Christians in Galatians)
 - b. He suffered and was martyred for his beliefs (Paul, Luke, Clement of Rome, Polycarp, Tertullian, Dionysius of Corinth, Origen)
4. **Fact #4:** Skeptic James, brother of Jesus, suddenly changed
 - a. James an unbeliever (Mark 3:21, 31; 6:3-4; John 7:5)
 - b. Creed shows Jesus appeared to James (1 Cor. 15:3-7)
 - c. James leader of Jerusalem church (Acts 15:12-21; Gal. 1:19)
 - d. James martyred for his belief in resurrection (Josephus, Hegesippus, Clement of Alexandria)
5. **Fact #5:** The tomb was empty (75% of scholars agree) (JET acronym)
 - a. The Jerusalem factor: impossible for Christianity to start if tomb not empty
 - b. Enemy attestation (Matt. 28:12-13, Justin Martyr, Trypho 108, Tertullian, De Spectaculus 30)
 - c. Testimony of women

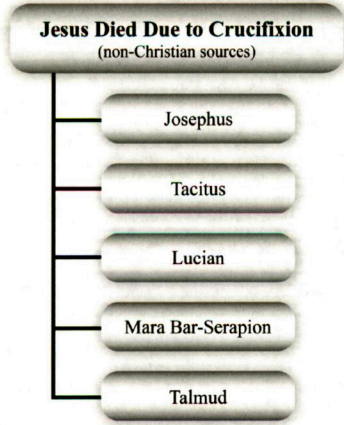


Gary Habermas

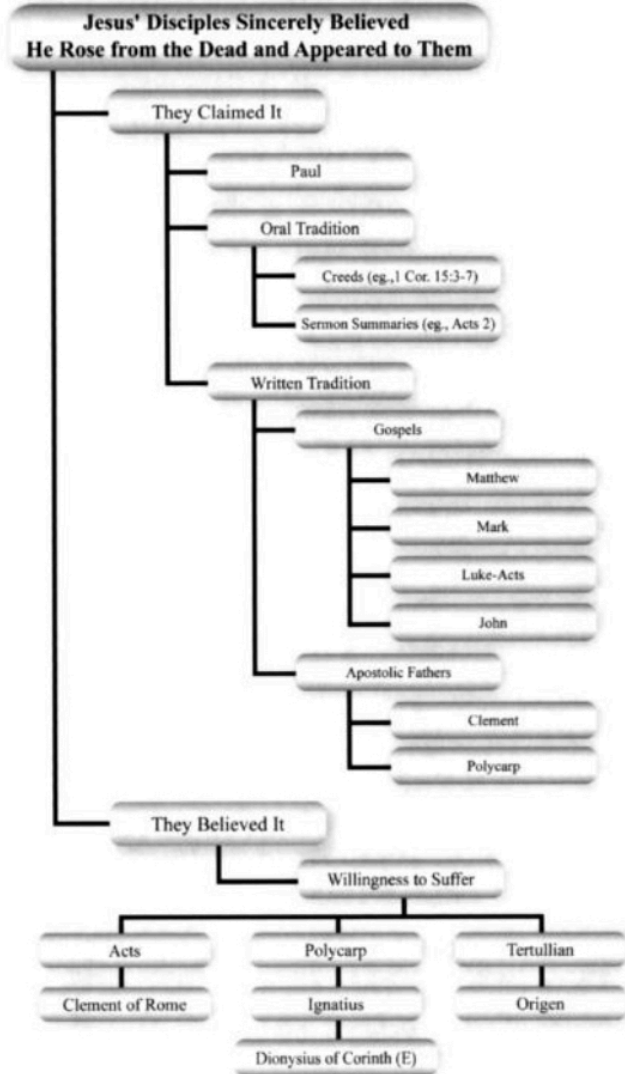


* Next week: focus on alternate theories besides resurrection to explain these facts

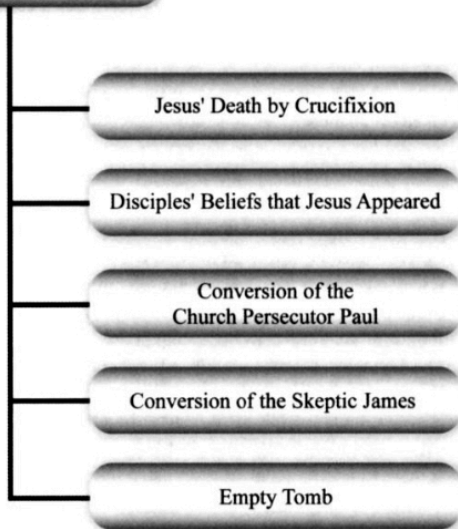
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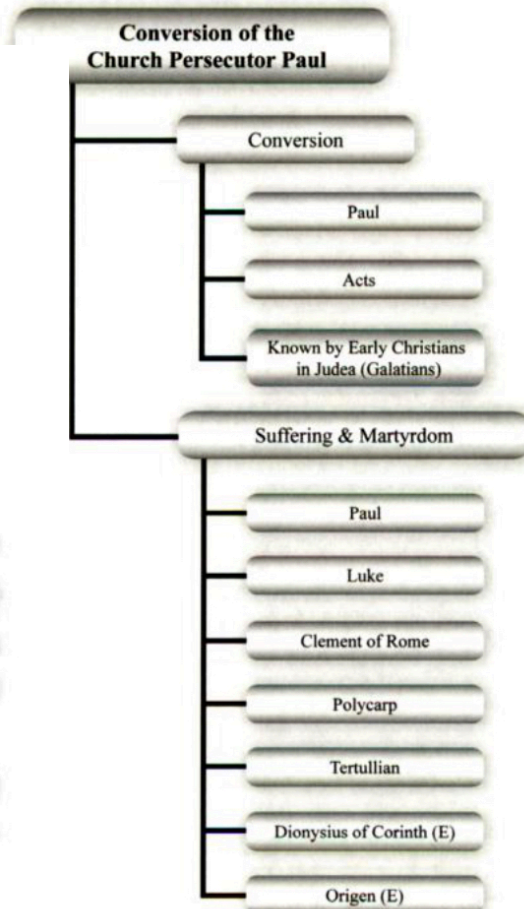
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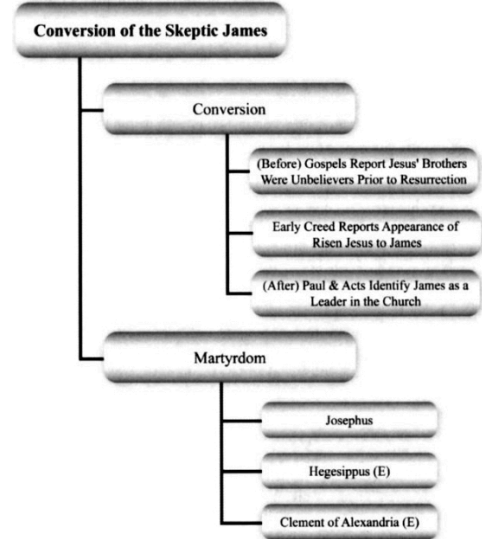
Five Facts (4+1)



3



4



5

