

# REthink

## Did Jesus really rise from the dead?

**Mark 15:46 (NIV)** “So Joseph bought some linen cloth, took down the body, wrapped it in the linen, and placed it in a tomb cut out of rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb.”

**Mark 15:47 (NIV)** “Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James saw where he was laid.”

**Mark 16:1-3 (NIV)** “When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. <sup>2</sup>Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb <sup>3</sup>and they asked each other, ‘Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?’”

**Mark 16:4-5 (NIV)** “But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. <sup>5</sup>As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.”

**Mark 16:6 (NIV)** “‘Don't be alarmed,’ he said. ‘You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him.’”

### Five flawed objections to the resurrection:

1st - Objection: The disciples stole the body of Jesus.

**John 20:19 (NIV)** “On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you!’”

2nd - Objection: The disciples lied about the resurrection.

**Acts 2:32 (NIV)** “God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact.”

#### *How the disciples died . . .*

*Matthew was killed with a sword.*

*Mark was dragged through the streets in Egypt until dead.*

*Luke was hanged.*

*John was boiled in a huge pot of oil and then miraculously delivered to die as an old man of natural causes.*

*Peter was crucified upside down in Rome.*

*James was beheaded.*

*James the Less was thrown from the pinnacle of the Temple and then beaten with a club.*

*Bartholomew was skinned alive with a whip.*

*Andrew was crucified.*

*Thomas was stabbed.*

*Jude was shot with arrows.*

3rd - Objection: Jesus was just unconscious not really dead.

**Mark 15:44-45 (NIV)** “Pilate was surprised to hear that he was already dead. Summoning the centurion, he asked him if Jesus had already died. <sup>45</sup>When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he gave the body to Joseph.”

4th - Objection: People who claimed to see Jesus were hallucinating.

**Acts 2:32 (NIV)** “God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact.”

***Jesus appeared to . . .***

*Mary Magdalene (John 20:14).*

*Several women (Matthew 28:9-10).*

*Two men (Luke 24:13-25).*

*Ten disciples (Luke 24:36-43).*

*Eleven disciples (John 20:26-31).*

*Seven disciples (John 21:1-23).*

*500+ people at the same time (1 Corinthians 15:6).*

*Many people as he ascended (Matthew 28:16-20).*

**1 Corinthians 15:3<sub>b</sub>-6<sub>a</sub> (NIV)** “Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup>that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup>and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. <sup>6</sup>After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living . . .”

**1 Corinthians 15:7<sub>a</sub> (NIV)** “Then he appeared to James”

**5th - Objection: Followers of Jesus just got emotionally worked up.**

**Acts 2:41 (NIV)** “Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.”

**Acts 4:4 (NIV)** “But many who heard the message believed, and the number of men grew to about five thousand.”

**Acts 6:7 (NIV)** “So the word of God spread . . . and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.”

***“We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.”***

***Romans 6:4 (NIV)***