

# RECLAIMING EASTER

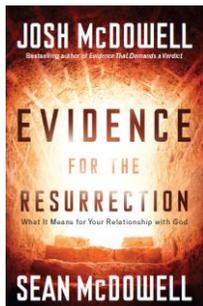
## THE RESURRECTION: FACT? FICTION? or FABLE?

### Resurrection Outline / Transcript

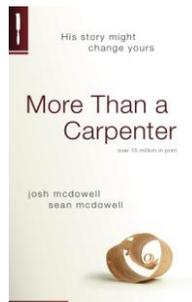
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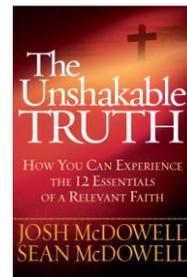
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#### Legend:

**MTAC:** More Than A Carpenter

**E4R:** Evidence for the Resurrection

**[Ppt128]:** PowerPoint Slide #128

**TS¶43:** Paragraph #43 in Sermon Transcripts

# THE RESURRECTION

## Fact? Fiction? Or Fable?

### I. MISCONCEPTIONS OF UNBELIEVERS CONCERNING THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

- A. CHRISTIANITY IS A BLIND FAITH “IGNORANT FAITH” TS¶3
1. Christianity is an intelligent faith.
  2. “You shall know the truth...” - John 8:32
  3. “Love the Lord thy God with all your mind...” - Matthew 22:37
- B. YOU CAN’T PROVE CHRISTIAN TRUTH CLAIMS WITH 100% CERTAINTY TS¶5
- ◆ Contingent Universe
    1. Because of contingencies, you can’t prove anything with 100% certainty.
      - Math & Logic are the exceptions
    2. Plane safety checks
- C. THE CHRISTIAN FAITH IS A SUBJECTIVE FAITH...“IT DOESN’T MATTER SO MUCH WHAT YOU BELIEVE AS LONG AS YOU BELIEVE IT.” TS¶7A
1. Biblical Historical Christian faith is an objective faith – Christ is the object. TS¶7A
  2. The issue is not how much faith do you have, but who do you have your faith in.
    - a. The value of faith is not in the one believing, but in the one who is believed. TS¶10
    - b. The key to faith is not in the one trusting, but in the one who is trusted. TS¶11
    - c. The worthiness of faith is not in the one exercising the faith, but the faithfulness of the one who has the faith exercised in. TS¶11
  3. Saved by faith?
    - a. Ephesians 2:8 – Saved by *grace* through faith in Jesus TS¶12
      - Grace – the objective act of God
    - b. Faith in a deer’s head or faith in Christ TS¶13
      - What’s the difference? The object!
- D. CHRISTIAN TRUTH CLAIMS CANNOT BE SCIENTIFICALLY PROVEN. TS¶18  
MTAC p42
1. Two methods: Modern Scientific Method and the Legal Historical (Evidential) Method [ppt251] TS¶22  
MTAC p42
    - a. Scientific Method: Proving something true by repeating the event in a TS¶23

controlled atmosphere. [ppt252]

- a. Only “repeatable” experiments [ppt264]
- b. You cannot prove past events.

MTAC p42  
TS¶23  
MTAC p42

b. **Evidential Method:** Proving that something is true beyond a reasonable doubt through evidence. [ppt276-279]

◆ Three types of evidence: [ppt280]

1. Written [ppt281]
2. Oral [ppt282]
3. Physical testimony (i.e. finger prints, etc) [ppt283]

TS¶28  
MTAC p43  
TS¶28  
MTAC p43

c. Historical events require the use of the Evidential Method. [see ppt284-295] (Historical events cannot be repeated.)

TS¶28  
MTAC pp43-44

## II. THE RESURRECTION

A. MATTHEW 27:57-66 [ppt1022;1042-1044; 1126-1128]

◆ Hoax or history?

TS¶34  
MTAC p128  
E4R pp176-177; 192-193

B. JESUS PREDICTED HIS DEATH & RESURRECTION [ppt150]

1. John 2:18-21 [ppt184-186]; Matthew 16:21
2. His enemies attested to His claim - Matthew 27:62-63

TS¶36  
TS¶37  
E4R p211  
TS¶38  
TS¶39

C. THE UNIQUENESS OF CHRISTIANITY

1. Other religions are based on philosophical & theological ideologies.
2. Christianity is based on the person of Jesus and his involvement in history.
  - a. History = real time & space. [ppt191]
  - b. It is based particularly on His Resurrection.

TS¶40

## III. SKEPTICS WHO WERE CONVINCED OF THE RESURRECTION BY APPLYING THE EVIDENTIAL METHOD.

TS¶41  
TS¶42

A. DR. SIMON GREENLEAF (Harvard Law School) [ppt207-212]

MTAC p138

1. Authored the three volumes of *The Laws of Legal Evidence*.
2. His students challenged him to apply his laws to the Resurrection.
3. He concluded that the Resurrection of Jesus is one of the best established events of history according to the laws of legal evidence.

TS¶43

B. LORD LITTLETON & BENJAMIN GILBERT WEST (Oxford) [ppt1263-1271]

MTAC pp122-123  
TS¶44

1. Set out to refute two things:
  - a. The conversion of Saul of Tarsus, the apostle Paul [**ppt1265**] MTAC pp122-123
  - b. The Resurrection [**ppt1264**] MTAC p122
2. They wrote *Observations of the History and the Evidence for the Resurrection* TS¶45
3. Dr. Frank Morris (lawyer) wrote *Who Moved the Stone?* [**ppt203-206**] MTAC p139

#### IV. SECURITY PRECAUTIONS TAKEN AT JESUS' BURIAL

TS¶49

##### A. SOLID ROCK TOMB [**ppt1022, 1128**]

MTAC p128

1. Entrance about 4.5-5 feet tall
2. Three cadavers inside – left, front, right
3. Head protruding in the wall 8.5-11 inches

TS¶50a

##### B. PREPARATION OF THE BODY [**ppt996-999**]

E4R p174  
MTAC p128

1. Over 100 pounds of aromatic spices [**ppt1013**] E4R p175
2. Too much?
  - a. Gamaliel – 86 pounds of spices [**ppt1014**] E4R p175
  - b. Herod – 500 servants to carry the spices [**ppt1014**] E4R p175
3. Body wrapping
  - a. They mixed the spices with a gummy consistency [**ppt1018**] E4R p175
  - b. They wrapped the body with a linen cloth about 30cm wide
  - c. They placed the consistency in between the folds [**ppt1018**] E4R p175
  - d. Cloth wrapped from his feet to his neck with another piece around his head [**ppt1017**] TS¶50b  
E4R p175
  - e. Approximately 117-120 pounds encasement

##### C. STONE ROLLED AGAINST THE ENTRANCE [**ppt1125-1140**]

E4R pp176;  
192-193  
TS¶52

1. “Extremely large stone” - Mark 16:4 [ppt1127] E4R pp192-193
2. A note in the margin of the oxyencheo manuscript reads, “A stone that could not be moved by 20 men.” TS¶53

- a. Engineer professors from Georgia Tech concluded that the stone had a minimum weight of 1.5-2 tons. [ppt1129] E4R p176

#### D. ROMAN GUARDS [ppt1023; 1041-1048; 1141-1145]

MTAC p128  
E4R pp176-77;  
193  
E4R p176-177

1. Matthew 27:62-66 [ppt1042-1044]

2. Background of the Temple Guards:

- a. If a temple guard fell asleep, he was to be burned. [ppt1046] E4R p177

- b. He had to be standing on his feet at all times. TS¶55

E4R p177

3. Greek word, “koustodian” [ppt1051]

- a. Flavius Vegetius Renuat: *The Military Institutes of the Romans*

- i. Koustodian: 4-16 man security unit [ppt1060-1062]

E4R p180

#### E. SEAL PLACED ON THE TOMB [ppt1024-1032]

MTAC p128;  
130  
E4R p184

1. Made of two pieces of rawhide, four clay packs on the outside, and large clay pack in the center with a Roman insignia embedded in it. TS¶59

2. The seal was a symbol of authentication. [ppt1030] TS¶60

E4R p184

- a. The guard was to stake their life on protecting what was sealed.

### V. THEORIES EXPLAINING THE RESURRECTION

#### A. THE DISCIPLES STOLE THE BODY? [PPT1464-1471]

MTAC p132  
E4R pp216-219  
TS¶60

1. The breaking of the Roman seal

- a. Anyone who broke that seal would be crucified by the Romans.

- b. How could the cowardly disciples have had enough courage to attempt this?

2. The stone? [see ppt1131-1140]

E4R pp176;  
192-193  
TS¶61

- a. The stone was rolled up an incline or slope. [ppt1133-1135]

E4R p192

E4R p176

b. The stone weighed 1.5-2 tons. [ppt1129]

c. How could that massive stone be moved without the guardians awaking?

3. The guards? [ppt1141-1145]

¶62  
E4R p193

a. A guard was put to death for sleeping while on duty: This is documented in *Justice Digest #49*.

b. How could all of these guards have been willing to take the chance to sleep?

¶64

4. The grave clothes? [ppt1146-1148]

E4R p194

a. The body of Christ had passed through the grave into a new existence.

b. Why would the disciples have removed his clothes from his body?

B. THE ROMANS OR JEWS STOLE THE BODY? [ppt1584-1597]

E4R pp220-221  
MTAC pp133-134

1. Why would they want to cause this unnecessary controversy? [ppt1586]

E4R p220

◆ If they left Him in the tomb, no one would think He was resurrected.

2. Why would they not produce the body?

a. Once the Resurrection began to be proclaimed, they could have produced His body.

¶65

i. This could have killed the movement from the beginning.

b. If there would have been a body, there would never have been a faith.

¶64

3. Christianity is a bodiless faith.

◆ Comparison of Islam & Christianity

a. Muslims honor a tomb with the body of Muhammad.

b. Christians do not honor a tomb. **Why?**

c. Because the body of Christ left the tomb.

C. THE WOMEN WENT TO THE WRONG TOMB? [ppt1331; 1336]

MTAC p131  
E4R pp202-203

◆ This theory would require that **everyone** went to the wrong tomb. [ppt1339]

E4R pp202-203

1. If the women went to wrong tomb than the men went to the wrong tomb. [ppt1332; 1337]

MTAC p131  
E4R pp202-203

- 2. If the men went to the wrong tomb than the Jews went to the wrong tomb. [ppt1333; 1337] ¶69  
MTAC p131  
E4R p203
- 3. If the Jews went to the wrong tomb than the Romans went to the wrong tomb. [ppt1334; 1338] MTAC p131  
E4R p203
- 4. If the Romans went to the wrong tomb than Joseph went to the wrong tomb. [ppt1336] E4R pp202-203

**D. JESUS REALLY DIDN'T DIE? (THE SWOON THEORY) [ppt1371-1375; 1625-1643]** MTAC p132  
E4R pp221-225  
¶70

- 1. Could Jesus really have survived the crucifixion process?
- 2. 10 contentions to this theory:
  - a. He went through 6 trials (3 Roman & 3 Jewish). [ppt1635] E4R p222
  - b. He endured anywhere from 39 to possibly 45 lashes. [ppt1635]
  - c. Spikes were driven through His hands and He was crucified. [ppt1637] E4R p222
  - d. A spear was thrust into His side and a mixture of blood & water poured out. [ppt1637] E4R p222
  - e. Four professional executers signed His death warrant.
  - f. He was wrapped in 100+ pounds of aromatic spices and linens. [ppt1638] E4R p222  
¶66
  - g. He was placed in a damp tomb (this theory says the dampness healed him!). [ppt1641] E4R p222
  - h. He would have had to move the stone by Himself (1.5-2 tons!). [ppt1642] E4R p222
  - i. He would have had to escape the guardian unit. [ppt1642] E4R p222
  - j. Despite all this effort, He never appeared to a single unbeliever?

**VI. THE CONVERSION OF THOSE CLOSEST TO HIM**

**A. HIS FAMILY**

- 1. They were embarrassed of Him during His ministry. [ppt1522-1526] MTAC p95

- ◆ They thought He was a lunatic because of His outrageous claims
  - a. “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life...”
  - b. “I am the Vine, you are the branches...”
  - c. “I am the Shepherd, you are the sheep...”

2. They were ashamed of His death.

- a. This degraded the family.
- b. To be crucified was a curse.

## B. THE DISCIPLES

1. The disciples were afraid.
2. They ran and hid behind locked doors.
3. Their leader had been crucified.
4. All hope was lost.

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## C. THEY SUDDENLY BECAME WORSHIPPERS IN THE UPPER ROOM – WHAT COULD HAVE CAUSED THIS TRANSFORMATION?

## D. MOST OF THEM BECAME MARTYRS – WHAT COULD HAVE PRODUCED THIS KIND OF BOLDNESS?

## E. JAMES

1. His brother
2. Opposed Jesus during his ministry.
3. Scriptures affirming James’ conversion.
  - a. James 1:1 – “I, James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ...”
  - b. 1 Corinthians 15:7 – “...then he appeared to James...”
  - c. James also became a martyr.

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- ◆ Only Jesus’ bodily appearance could have caused this transformation.  
[ppt1528]

¶71  
MTAC p95

## **VII. WHAT JESUS ACCOMPLISHED BY HIS RESURRECTION**

### **A. HE ENABLED US TO HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD THROUGH HIM AND HIS SACRIFICE WAS ACCEPTED.**

1. At the cross, Jesus took on our sins and received God's wrath for them.
2. This was necessary in order for us to be forgiven.
3. Forgiveness of sins was necessary for us to be in right relationship with God.

### **B. THE RESURRECTION WAS CENTRAL TO THIS EVENT.**

1. Jesus forbid the women to touch Him when they saw Him – because He had “not yet ascended to the father”
2. Later He told Thomas that He could touch Him
  - ◆ He had then already ascended to the Father and His sacrifice was accepted.
3. OT foreshadow
  - a. When the High Priest entered the inner courts to perform the atoning sacrifice the people would stand outside awaiting his return.
  - b. They did this because they knew the priest must return as proof that God had accepted the sacrifice
4. Jesus returned to His followers.
  - ◆ When Jesus told Thomas he could touch him, he proved that he had ascended to the father and that his sacrifice had been accepted.
5. Therefore, Jesus' resurrection completed our atonement.