DEFENDING THE FAITH

Apologetics

LESSON #3: HOW WOULD A HISTORIAN LOOK AT THE EVIDENCE?

What you will find: This lesson takes a look at how a historian might look at the claims of Christianity. It specifically deals with the "resurrection claim."

> PART 1 OF VIDEO

What is the "resurrection claim?"

• 1 Corinthians 15:17,19

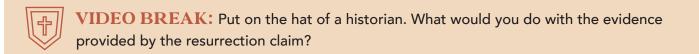
What are the five minimal facts every credible historian agrees with about the resurrection claim?

- 1. Jesus actually ______.
- 2. Jesus was _____ by the Romans.
- 3. His body was buried in a ______ tomb.
- 4. That tomb was found to be _____.
- 5. _____ claim to have seen Jesus alive.

What three groups had access to the body of Jesus?

Which of the three groups had a motive to fake a resurrection?

What is circular logic and how do Christians get out of this accusation when dealing with a skeptical friend?



PART 2

The four gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) record the claim of Jesus' resurrection. What is the first test to see if they are reliable?

The	Test asks: Did the	that's written in
the text get to us in an	and	way?

How were ancient texts transmitted (copied)?

Definitions of:

- Autograph:
- Manuscript:

How were both used to make copies of the Bible?

VIDEO BREAK: Discuss the reliability of the New Testament and why the ancient autographs and manuscripts in the transmission process are important.

> PART 3

How do the New Testament texts fare when compared to other texts of the same era? And why is that important?

Two gaps in the transmission process:	<u>Two reasons for the two gaps:</u>
Gap 1:	Reason 1:
Gap 2:	Reason 2:

Why were the Gospels not written immediately after Jesus' ascension?

What is the "chain of custody" when it comes to the New Testament information?

What is a vetting process that occurred?

VIDEO BREAK: Discuss how we can know with absolute certainty that the New Testament texts are authentic and accurate.



Apologetics: Defending the Faith is produced by WELS Congregational Services N16W23377 Stone Ridge Drive • Waukesha, WI 53188-1108



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