



Myth or
Miracle?





Did it Happen?

- Is it a made-up legend?
- Did the disciples steal the body?
- Did Jesus just “faint” on the cross and then later get revived?



1 Corinthians 15:1-4



Moreover, brethren, I declare to you **the gospel** which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you **hold fast** that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

1 Corinthians 15:1-4



For I delivered to you first of all that **which I also received**: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures

1 Corinthians 15:1-4



For I delivered to you first of all that **which I also received**: that **Christ died** for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that **He was buried**, and that **He rose** again the third day according to the Scriptures

1 Corinthians 15:1-4



For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins **according to the Scriptures**, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day **according to the Scriptures**

Galatians 1:11

“I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel I preached is not something that man made up”





Did Christ really die?



“Christus, the founder of the name (Christians), was put to death by Pontius Pilate, procurator of Judea in the reign of Tiberius.”

Tacitus, Roman historian of early Second Century.



The Romans were really good at crucifixion. No one survived this gruesome method of torture and death. And the testimony of blood and water was clear evidence to the soldiers of Jesus' death.



Christ died *for our sins.*

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8



Christ died for our sins *according to the Scriptures*

“But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.” Isaiah 53:5



Was Christ really buried?



Jesus was buried in the tomb of an influential man, Joseph of Arimathea.



A dramatic landscape featuring a dark, rocky mountain peak. Atop the peak stands a simple wooden cross. The sky is filled with dark, heavy clouds, and several bright, jagged lightning bolts strike down from the sky. A bright, glowing sun or moon is positioned directly behind the cross, creating a halo effect and illuminating the scene with a golden light.

Did Christ rise from the dead?





No one denies an empty tomb.



**No one denies an empty tomb.
The first witnesses are women.**



No one denies an empty tomb.

The first witnesses are women.

**There is a remarkable turnaround in the
disciples' attitudes.**



No one denies an empty tomb.

The first witnesses are women.

There is a remarkable turnaround in the disciples' attitudes.

They are willing to die for their belief.



But is it just a **LEGEND?**

Date of Writing

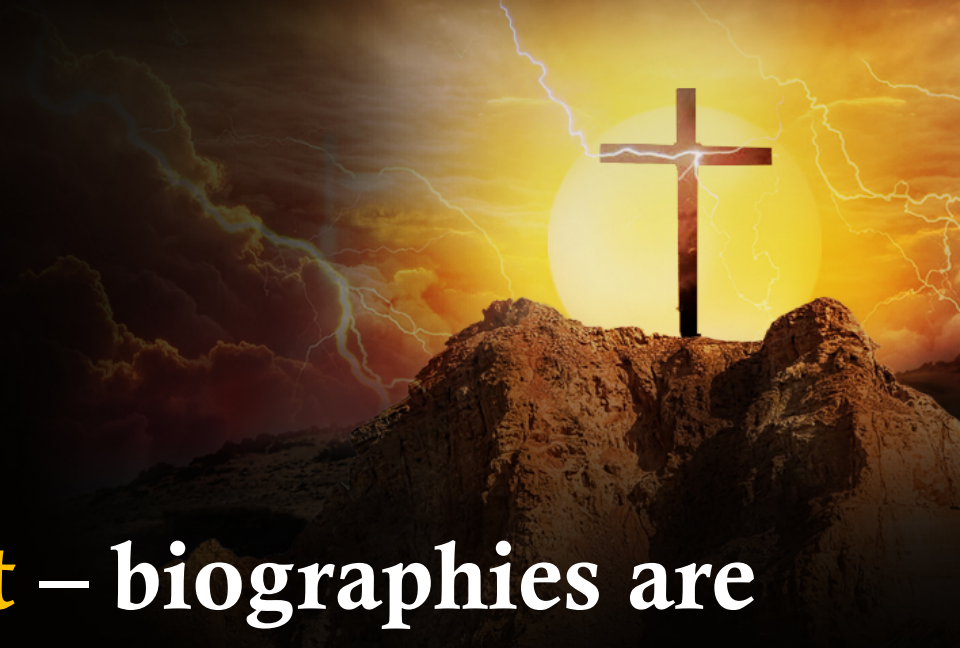


Critics tend to date the writing of the gospels to about A.D. 70 – A.D. 95.

That means a 40 year gap after Jesus' death.

Date of Writing

Alexander the Great – biographies are
written 400 years later



Date of Writing



Alexander the Great – biographies are written 400 years later

Tiberius Caesar – 70 years after his death, recorded by Tacitus

1 Corinthians 15:1-5

For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures **and that He was seen by Cephas ...**





When was this written?

Written to Corinth in 55 A.D.

Paul first visited Corinth in 51 A.D.

Gap is just 20 years!

But Paul says he “received” this material much earlier.

Galatians 1

Paul tells his conversion experience



Galatians 1:18-19

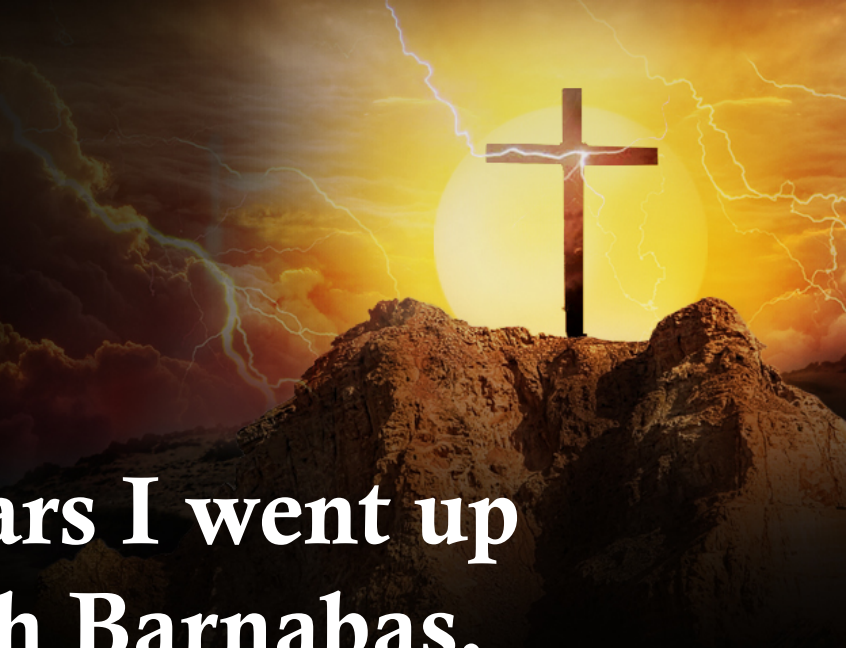
Then after three years (in Arabia) I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.



Galatians 2:1

Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas.

A.D. 49 – Jerusalem Council



Galatians 2:1

Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas.

A.D. 49 – Jerusalem Council

A.D. 36 – First visit to Jerusalem



1 Corinthians 15:5-8

He 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.





How many witnesses?

Peter

James

Twelve

500 brethren

Paul

Acts 1:11

“This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”



1 Corinthians 15:14-17



“If Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God.... And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!”



Myth or
Miracle?



But if Christ is **RISEN**

Then Jesus is coming again!





But if Christ is **RISEN**

Then Jesus is coming again!

The dead **WILL** be raised!



But if Christ is **RISEN**

Then Jesus is coming again!

The dead **WILL** be raised!

We shall be changed!



But if Christ is **RISEN**

Then Jesus is coming again!

The dead **WILL** be raised!

We shall be changed!

Death is defeated!



But if Christ is **RISEN**

Then Jesus is coming again!

The dead **WILL** be raised!

We shall be changed!

Death is defeated!

God gives us victory through Jesus!



Simon Dewey