

WHY TRUST THE BIBLE?

PART 2 - SUMMARY

BECAUSE HE ROSE FROM THE DEAD (ie HE IS RISEN!)

- **Bias** exists in all texts, religious or secular. No historian discounts the NT documents because of bias, but instead takes the bias into account.
- Gospels contain too many **details** that if being made up are **too embarrassing** for the writers and counter productive to their message (eg cup pass from me, why have you forsaken me etc).
- **Resurrection claim** was definitely made from the beginning of the church, not injected into Jesus story later. (1 Corinthians 15: 3-10 creed **dated very early**).
- **Five facts most agree on.**
 1. Virtually all scholars agree the tomb was empty regardless of whether he rose from it. (Women as eyewitnesses, could have brought the body out to prove he was dead if still there)
 2. Jesus disciples' willingness to die for the belief he had risen. (Liars make poor martyrs).
 3. Jesus was definitely killed by the crucifixion. (Survival of roman crucifixion almost non-existent).
 4. Conversion of skeptics James and Paul. (Both had nothing to gain, only extreme loss).
 5. Spread of the early church. (Against persecution that should have made it very difficult to convert people, early church thrived with resurrection claim its central pillar).
- **Easy to disprove one** of these things, much harder to take them all together. Take a stand on one and you have to admit another. (eg. Say they were willing to die because they hallucinated, that doesn't explain tomb. Say they lied to explain tomb, that doesn't explain willingness to die for a lie. Then add the other 3 things and becomes even harder to explain.)
- **Liar, Lunatic, Lord** - CS Lewis' argument that if he wasn't who he said he was (Son of God), he was either lying and deceived followers to their deaths or was a lunatic. Can't be called a 'good' teacher and followed in that way.
- Better than all reasonable arguments, **to the Christian**, the way God works through the words of Scripture is the best proof that the Bible can be trusted. **It is truly self-authenticating.**