

## Easter For Skeptics

### The Key Question

⇒ \_\_\_\_\_ Will \_\_\_\_\_ ...  
\_\_\_\_\_ The \_\_\_\_\_?

There are a minimum number of facts agreed upon by practically all critical scholars, whatever their school of thought. At least *twelve* separate facts are considered to be knowable history.

Jesus (1) died by crucifixion and (2) was buried. (3) Jesus' death caused the disciples to despair and lose hope, believing his life was ended. (4) Although not widely accepted, many scholars hold that the tomb in which Jesus was buried was discovered to be empty a few days later. Critical scholars further agree that (5) the disciples had experiences they believed were literal appearances of the risen Jesus. Because of these experiences, (6) the disciples were transformed from doubters who were afraid to identify themselves with Jesus to bold proclaimers of his death and resurrection. (7) This message was the center of their preaching in the early church and (8) was especially proclaimed in Jerusalem, where Jesus died and was buried shortly before. As a result of this teaching, (9) the church was born and grew, (10) with Sunday as the primary day of worship. (11) James, who had been a skeptic, was converted to the faith when he also believed that he saw the resurrected Jesus. (12) A few years later, Paul was converted by an experience he, likewise, believed to be an appearance of the risen Jesus. (Gary R. Habermas, *The Historical Jesus*)

Each naturalistic theory is beset by many major objections that invalidate it as a viable hypothesis. (Gary R. Habermas, *The Historical Jesus*)

This will take place on the day when God judges people's secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares. (Romans 2:16)



All passages, unless otherwise noted, are from the New International Version of the Bible.  
You can download the free YouVersion Bible app that includes the NIV translation at your favorite app store.

# message notes

April 8 & 9, 2023  
Michael Yearley

## Christ, Culture, & the Cross

*Easter For Skeptics*

1 Corinthians 15:1-19

---

### The Return

## Christ, Culture, & the Cross

*The Letter of 1 Corinthians*



## Easter For Skeptics

### *The Resurrection*

1 Corinthians 15:1-19

<sup>1</sup> Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. <sup>2</sup> By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

<sup>3</sup> For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that 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 Cephas, and then to the Twelve. <sup>6</sup> After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup> Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, <sup>8</sup> and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

<sup>11</sup> Whether, then, it is I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.

<sup>12</sup> But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? <sup>13</sup> If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. <sup>14</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. . . . <sup>17</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. . . . <sup>19</sup> If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

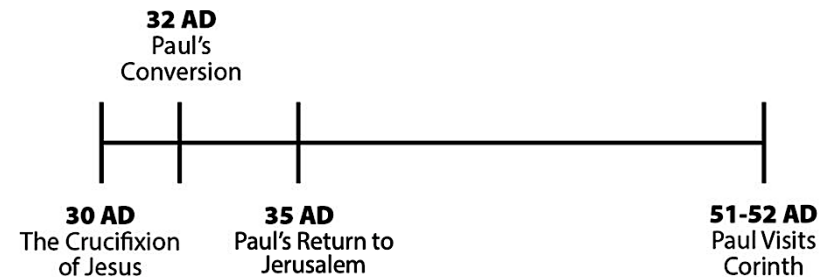
## Easter For Skeptics

### *The Letters & Life of Paul*

*Evidence For The Historical Jesus // The Historical Jesus (Gary Habermas)*

⇒ *Paul's Letters*

⇒ *Paul's Life*



For you have heard of my previous way of life in Judaism, how intensely I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it. But when God . . . was pleased to reveal his Son in me . . . my immediate response was not to consult any human being. I did not go up to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before I was, but I went into Arabia. Later I returned to Damascus. Then after three years, I went up to Jerusalem to get acquainted with Cephas and stayed with him fifteen days. I saw none of the other apostles—only James, the Lord's brother. I assure you before God that what I am writing you is no lie. (Galatians 1:13-20)