



- Setting the “Proof”
  
- Dealing with Historical Proof

### Historians: Five Critical Principles

- **Principle #1** – Multiple \_\_\_\_\_ sources support historical claims
  - When an event or saying is \_\_\_\_\_ by more than one independent source, there is a \_\_\_\_\_ indication of historicity
  
- **Principle #2** – Attestation by an \_\_\_\_\_ supports historical claims
  - Reason: an enemy is not \_\_\_\_\_
  
- **Principle #3** - \_\_\_\_\_ admission supports historical claims
  
- **Principle #4** - \_\_\_\_\_ testimony supports historical claims
  
- **Principle #5** - \_\_\_\_\_ testimony supports historical claims

## Minimal Fact Argument

- It considers \_\_\_\_\_ data that is so strongly attested historically that they are granted by nearly \_\_\_\_\_ scholar who studies the subject.
- Meets to criteria
  - They are well \_\_\_\_\_
  - Nearly every scholar \_\_\_\_\_ them

### Fact #1: Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ by crucifixion

- Christian Attestation
  - These texts were written in the first century and record the crucifixion
    - Ancient Text \_\_\_\_\_
    - Ancient Text \_\_\_\_\_
    - Ancient Text \_\_\_\_\_
    - Ancient Text \_\_\_\_\_
- Secular Attestation
  - Jewish Historian \_\_\_\_\_
    - Antiquities of the Jews, Book XVIII, Ch 3, Vs 3 (Completed in 93 A.D.)
    - “When Pilate, upon hearing him accused by men of the highest standing amongst us, had condemned him to be crucified...”
  - Roman Historian Cornelius \_\_\_\_\_ (Lived 55-117 A.D.)
    - “Nero fastened the guilt [of burning Rome] and inflicted the most exquisite tortures on a class hated for their abominations, called Christians by the populace. Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hand of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilate.”
  - \_\_\_\_\_ of Samosota (mid-second century)
    - “The Christians, you know, worship a man to this day- the distinguished personage who introduced their novel rites, and was crucified on that account”
  - Mara Bar-Serapion (Second Century)
    - “What advantage did the Athenians gain from putting Socrates to death? Famine and plague came upon them as a judgment for their crime. What advantage did the men of Samos gain from burning Pythagoras? In a moment their land was covered with sand. What advantage did the Jews gain from executing their King [Jesus]? It was just after that that their kingdom was abolished. God justly avenged these three men... the Jew, ruined and driven from their land, live in complete dispersion.”
    - Note it does not mention the crucifixion but only that he was killed
  - \_\_\_\_\_ (Commentary on Jewish law, ethics, history and customs)
    - “on the eve of Passover Yeshu was hanged

## Fact #2 – Jesus’ disciples \_\_\_\_\_ that He rose and appeared to them

- Attestation
  - Gospels (Ancient Manuscripts)
    - First century documents
    - Written with 70 years of the cross
- Independent Attestation: POW
  - What evidence is there that the disciples believed Jesus appeared to them?
    - P \_\_\_\_\_
    - O \_\_\_\_\_
    - W \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ claimed that the disciples believed they had seen the risen Lord
  - Remember- Paul’s letters are ancient texts written in the 1st century and we are not assuming they are inspired
  - Paul claimed that he knew the \_\_\_\_\_ personally and they believed that they saw the risen Christ
  - 1 Corinthians (written around 55 A.D.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ tradition
  - Example: Grandma’s recipe of her Cuppa Cuppa Cuppa Cake
  - Creed
    - Why were the popular in passing down information?
      - Easy to \_\_\_\_\_
      - Easy to \_\_\_\_\_
  - Ancient Creed found in 1 Corinthians
    - 1 Corinthians 15:3-5
    - For what I **received** I passed on to you as of first importance:
      - that** Christ died for our sins  
according to the Scriptures,
      - that** he was buried,
      - that** he was raised on the third day  
according to the Scriptures,
      - that** he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve.
  - “For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance”
    - Received – means in the form of a \_\_\_\_\_
  - “that he appeared to Cephas”
    - Peter (Greek) is mentioned as \_\_\_\_\_ (Aramaic)

- When did Paul received the Oral Creed
        - Jesus died: \_\_\_\_\_ A.D.
        - Paul was on the Damascus Road in \_\_\_\_\_ A.D.
        - Paul received the oral creed in \_\_\_\_\_ A.D.
        - If Paul received the creed in \_\_\_\_\_ A.D., when was the creed developed?  
\_\_\_\_\_
      - The core beliefs of Christians within 3-5 years after the death of Christ
- \_\_\_\_\_ tradition: Early Church Fathers
  - \_\_\_\_\_ of Rome (30-100 A.D.)
    - Pastor in Rome
    - Letter to the Corinth in 95 A.D.  
“Therefore, having received orders and complete certainty caused by the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and believing in the Word of God, they (disciples) went with the Holy Spirit’s certainty, preaching the good news that the kingdom of God is about to come.”
    - He was disciplined by \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
    - He personally \_\_\_\_\_ the disciples
    - He \_\_\_\_\_ that the disciples believed in the resurrection of Jesus
  - \_\_\_\_\_ (69 – 155 A.D.)
    - He wrote in 110 A.D. a letter to the Philippian church  
“Paul himself and the other apostles...For they did not love the present age, but him who died for our benefit and for our sake was raised by God.”
    - He personally \_\_\_\_\_ the disciples
    - He states the disciples \_\_\_\_\_ that Jesus was raised from the dead
  - What proves the disciples believed the message?
    - They \_\_\_\_\_ and were \_\_\_\_\_ for their faith
    - Skeptic – “Just because they died for their beliefs does not mean it is true?”
      - People might die for something false, but they \_\_\_\_\_ believe it is  
\_\_\_\_\_
      - Willingness to die shows they regarded their beliefs as \_\_\_\_\_
  - What is the difference between present day martyrs and the apostle’s martyrs?
    - Modern martyrs act solely out of the trust and beliefs on what \_\_\_\_\_ have taught them
    - Apostles died holding to their own testimony that they had \_\_\_\_\_ seen the risen Lord
    - There is no \_\_\_\_\_ that the disciples ever \_\_\_\_\_

### Fact #3: The church persecutor \_\_\_\_\_ was suddenly changed

#### Evidence

- Paul's own \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ records it in Acts
- The story was circulating in \_\_\_\_\_ (Galatians 1:13)
- It is well documented that Paul was willing to suffer and be martyred for the Gospel
- There is a key difference between Paul the the disciples
  - The disciples claimed to see Jesus – they were \_\_\_\_\_
  - Paul claimed to see Jesus – He was an \_\_\_\_\_
- Skeptic - "The cause of Paul's conversion is really no big deal; people convert to different faiths all the time"
  - People usually convert because they have heard a message from a \_\_\_\_\_ source and believed the message
  - Paul's conversion was based on what he perceived to be a \_\_\_\_\_ appearance of the risen Lord

### Fact #4 – The skeptic \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus, was suddenly changed

- After the alleged event of Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_, he became a \_\_\_\_\_ to Christianity because he \_\_\_\_\_ that he saw Jesus

#### Evidence

- Gospels report that he was an \_\_\_\_\_ during Jesus' ministry on the earth (John 7:5)
- Early \_\_\_\_\_ 1 Corinthians 15 (5 years after the cross)
- After the alleged seeing the risen Jesus, James becomes a \_\_\_\_\_ in the church
  - Attestation #1 - \_\_\_\_\_ (Galatians 1:19)  
"I saw none of the other apostles—only James, the Lord's brother."
  - Attestation #2 – \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 15:12-21)  
"When they finished, James spoke up. "Brothers," he said, "listen to me...." (Jerusalem Council)
- He died a \_\_\_\_\_
  - Non-Christian Attestation #1 - \_\_\_\_\_ records it
  - Christian Attestation #2 - \_\_\_\_\_ of Alexandria

## Fact #5 – The tomb was \_\_\_\_\_

- It is not accepted by everyone (highly accepted but not universally accepted)
  - There is still strong evidence for it by an impressive \_\_\_\_\_ of scholars
  - About \_\_\_\_\_% of both liberal and conservative scholars accept this fact
  
- Three Main Arguments for the Empty Tomb (JET)
  - J \_\_\_\_\_ Factor
    - Jesus was \_\_\_\_\_ executed in \_\_\_\_\_
    - It would be \_\_\_\_\_ for Christianity to get off the ground in Jerusalem if the \_\_\_\_\_ had still been in the tomb
    - Skeptic – the place of the tomb was forgotten
      - The tomb was owned by \_\_\_\_\_ (this story is not considered myth)
      - Early church would not make up a specific \_\_\_\_\_
      - Early church would not make up a specific \_\_\_\_\_
      - Early church would not make the \_\_\_\_\_ look good, while they were cowering in fear
    - Skeptic – the body would be decayed and unrecognizable
      - In the \_\_\_\_\_ climate of Jerusalem, a corpse's hair, stature and distinct would have been identifiable up to \_\_\_\_\_ days
  - E \_\_\_\_\_ attestation
    - The empty tomb is attested not only by Christian sources. Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_ indirectly admitted it as well
    - When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, telling them, "You are to say, 'His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.' If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." (Matthew 28:12-14)
    - There would be no need for an attempt to account for the missing body, if the body was still in the \_\_\_\_\_
  - T \_\_\_\_\_
    - When we come to the account of the empty tomb, women are listed as \_\_\_\_\_ witnesses (in all four gospels)
    - This would be an odd invention, since both in Jewish and Roman \_\_\_\_\_, women were \_\_\_\_\_ esteemed and their testimony was regarded as questionable, certainly not as \_\_\_\_\_ as man's testimony
    - Jewish women could not \_\_\_\_\_ in court