

Heb 11:1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Our faith has a rational basis, built on evidence and not merely emotion.

Act 28:23 And when they had set a day for him, they came to him at his lodging in large numbers; and he was explaining to them by solemnly testifying about the kingdom of God, and trying to persuade them concerning Jesus, from both the Law of Moses and from the Prophets, from morning until evening.

The Tomb was Empty

## The crucifixion.

Mark 15:22 And they brought Him to the place Golgotha, which is translated, place of a Skull. 23 And they tried to give Him wine mixed with myrrh; but He did not take it. 24 And they crucified Him, and divided up His garments among themselves, casting lots for them, to decide what each should take.

General Gordon's escarpment. A geologic cave system that is not old enough to be the site of Golgotha.



The feast of the Unleavened Bread was to say Thank you God for giving us life from the ground, the wheat, the barley. They also said give us the life from the earth. As they prayed for God to give them life, Jesus said I am the bread of life (Jn 6:35) unless a grain of wheat fall to the ground and die it remains by itself alone, but if it dies, it bears much fruit (Jn 12:24)

Jesus was planted at the very moment the feast began.

Mar 15:37 And Jesus uttered a loud cry, and  
breathed His last. (38) And the veil of the  
temple was torn in two from top to bottom.  
(39) And when the centurion, who was standing  
right in front of Him, saw the way He breathed  
His last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of  
God!" ...

(42) And when evening had already come, because it was the preparation day, that is, the day before the Sabbath, (43) Joseph of Arimathea came, a prominent member of the Council, who himself was waiting for the kingdom of God; and he gathered up courage and went in before Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus. (44) And Pilate wondered if He was dead by this time, and summoning the centurion, he questioned him as to whether He was already dead. (45) And ascertaining this from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph.

(46) And Joseph bought a linen cloth, took Him down, wrapped Him in the linen cloth, and laid Him in a tomb which had been hewn out in the rock; and he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. (47) And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph were looking on to see where He was laid.

It has been suggested that the women didn't know where the tomb was.

Mk 15.47 And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses were looking on to see where He was laid.



The Garden Tomb, thought by General Gordon (about 1860) to be the place of Jesus' burial.

A first century tomb, carved in a stone wall (thought by General Gordon to be the tomb of Jesus as it was very near the place of the skull).

Some of the wall has crumbled and been replaced with stone. Note the track at the base of the wall, nearly 18 inches wide. The opening is about 4 feet high and you must stoop to enter the tomb. A stone was rolled down the track to seal the opening. The stone lying near weighs several tons. The women wondered who would roll it away.

Mark 16:3 And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?" 4 And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away, although it was extremely large.

Matt 28:5 And the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified. 6 "He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying.

Mat 28:10 Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and take word to My brethren to leave for Galilee, and there they shall see Me." ... (12) And when they had assembled with the elders and counseled together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers, (13) and said, "You are to say, 'His disciples came by night and stole Him away while we were asleep.' (14) "And if this should come to the governor's ears, we will win him over and keep you out of trouble." (15) And they took the money and did as they had been instructed; and this story was widely spread among the Jews, and is to this day.

Is their story credible?



27:66 So they went with the soldiers of the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

Mt 28.12 ... they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers,

The Roman soldier underwent especially rigorous training; discipline was the base of the army's success, and the soldiers were relentlessly and constantly trained with weapons and especially with drill — forced marches with full load and in tight formation were frequent. Discipline was important and infractions were heavily punished by the centurions. Wikipedia – “Legionaries”

Can you imagine a group of soldiers going to sleep on guard duty?

The Philippian jailer was going to kill himself when he thought the prisoners had escaped!

Act 16:27 And when the jailer had been roused out of sleep and had seen the prison doors opened, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped.

Can you imagine 11 disciples from  
Galilee overcoming a group of  
soldiers with their backs to the  
tomb?



It has been suggested that Jesus was not dead but merely slipped into a coma and was then revived by the coolness of the tomb.

How would you grip the stone to roll it away?

If the stone weighed about a ton, how could a 150 lb man, who had been crucified push it over? The wall is too far back to get your feet against it and shove.

If Jesus had gotten out and couldn't perform miracles, how could he have overcome the armed guards?

The Tomb was Empty!

Some have suggested that the story was just a myth made up by men centuries later as they wrote the Bible.

The apostles of Jesus recognized the difference between myth and eyewitness testimony, and they asserted that they witnesses of historical events (Luke 1:1-4; John 19:35; Gal. 1:11-12; 1 Cor. 15:3-8; 2 Pet. 1:16; 1 John 1:1-2)

Joh 20:24 But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. (25) The other disciples therefore were saying to him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I shall see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."

What about a hallucination?

A grieving Mary in the garden might have been a possible candidate for a hallucination, but those not favorably disposed to Jesus, such as Jesus' half-brother James, or the openly hostile Saul clearly were not. It seems impossible that the 500 witnesses referred to by Paul (1 Cor. 15:6) could have simultaneously experienced the same hallucination.

On the feast of first fruits, the beginning of the spring harvest, the Jews brought the very first of the harvest. They said this is all I have but I give it to you because you will give me the rest Jesus was raised on first fruits. His resurrection is the proof that God will give us the rest of the fruit

1 Cor 5:7 Clean out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, just as you are in fact unleavened. For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed.

If you believe the evidence, then acknowledge Jesus as the risen Lord, Savior of mankind and be baptized for the remission of your sins.

Act 18:8 And Crispus, the leader of the synagogue, believed in the Lord with all his household, and many of the Corinthians when they heard were believing and being baptized.