

Jesus Died, Jesus is Alive

The Witnesses

This list of witnesses was written in a letter in 55AD, no more than 25 years after the event:-

- Peter
- The Twelve Disciples
- More than 500 people at one time
- James the brother of Jesus
- All the Apostles
- Paul.

(1 Corinthians 15:5-8)

There were over 500 witnesses. Some knew Jesus very well. Some had been hostile to Jesus.



This is the Colosseum in Rome. It was not built when Nero's persecution began, but many Christians died there later.

The witnesses to the resurrection suffered great persecution because of their testimony. From the start they were arrested in Judea and after the Fire of Rome in 65AD they could be put to death - often torn to pieces by animals as a spectacle for others to watch.

The Resurrection

- Jesus was put to death by crucifixion
- He was buried in a sealed tomb
- On the third day the tomb was empty
- Jesus had been raised to life by God

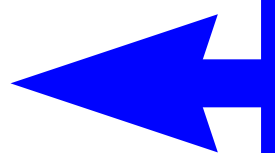
Evidence

There are two kinds of evidence.

Physical Evidence: The Empty Tomb

Human Evidence: The Witnesses who met Jesus alive

What it Means



- Jesus has overcome death.
- Jesus is approved by God, and shown to be the Son of God.
- Forgiveness is available for all mankind.



The Tomb

- The tomb of Jesus was in Jerusalem.
 - Thousands visited it and were convinced.
 - The body of Jesus was never produced by the authorities.
 - Jewish sources continued to refer to the empty tomb.
- There is no doubt that the empty tomb existed.

A First Century Tomb

The entrance could be sealed with a rolling stone. Inside the body would be laid on a shelf until it decomposed, after which the bones would be placed in a box.

