

Weekly Study Guide

4/7/24 - Eyewitnesses to the Resurrection

Read the following Bible verses:

“After his passion, Jesus presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.” –Acts 1:3

“Whom we have heard and seen. We saw him with our own eyes and touched him with our own hands.” –1 John 1:1

“We did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.” –2 Peter 1:16

“Having carefully investigated everything accurately from the beginning, I also have decided to write an orderly account for you...” –Luke 1:3

“(Jesus) was seen by more than 500 of his brethren at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died.” –1 Corinthians 15:6

“We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen.” –Acts 10:39-40

“The king is familiar with these things, so I can speak freely to him. I am convinced that none of this has escaped his notice, because it was not done in a corner.” –Acts 26:26

Questions:

1. What stands out to you the most from the verses above? What do they have in common? Are there any words that stand out to you? What is the significance?
2. How do you think most people view the Gospel story? Do you think they see it as made-up stories, fairy tales, myths, legends, or accurately recorded history? Do you see Christ’s life, death, and resurrection as fact or fiction? Explain.
3. Is history important? Does it matter that we view the Gospel narratives as historical? What are the implications to our faith? If Christ’s life, death, and resurrection are historical fact, what difference does it make?
4. What is one big takeaway from all of this? How can we apply this to our lives? Are there any actions we should take?

For later: Prayerfully ask yourself the following questions...

Do you believe that Jesus lived, died, was buried, and raised to life in history? How does this impact your life every day? Are there any areas of your faith that you struggle to accept or believe? Is there any area of your life that you need to surrender to God, receive forgiveness, commit to the Lord, experience God's grace and love, assurance of salvation, eternal life, or healing?

Additional Support: [1 John 1:1](#); [2 Peter 1:16](#); [Luke 1:1-3](#); [1 Cor 15:3-7](#); [Acts 10:39-40](#); [Acts 2:22](#); [Acts 26:24-26](#)

Helps:

His-story defined: a knowledge of the past based upon testimony

The critic says you cannot know history. Then it would also be fair to say that you cannot claim that Jesus was not raised from the dead!

Eyewitness defined:

- eoptes - a spectator of anything, such as a contest (cf. 2 Peter 1:16)
- autoptes - seeing with one's own eye, a medical term: autopsy, a detailed examination (cf. Luke 1:2)
- martys/martyreo - a witness both in a legal and historical sense, to affirm that one has seen or heard or experienced something, to give, or not to keep back, testimony, to utter honorable testimony, give a good report (cf. Acts*)

*Witness as used in the Book of Acts - 1:8, 1:22, 2:32, 3:15, 5:32, 10:39-43, 13:31, 22:15, 22:20, 23:11, 26:16; Revelation 17:6

Cleverly devised stories - invented myths or fables

If each of the 500 were to give 6 minutes of testimony, that would be more 50 hours of firsthand testimony!

Consider that 500 brethren could in reality be much more including women and children and teens.