

Embarrassing Admissions

³¹ And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³² And He was stating the matter plainly. And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. ³³ But turning around and seeing His disciples, He rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind Me, Satan; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's."

Mk 8:31-33

An indicator that an event or saying is authentic occurs when the source would not be expected to create the story, because it embarrasses his cause and "weakened its position in arguments with opponents."

Eyewitness Testimony

1. How well could the witness see, hear, or otherwise perceive the things about which the witness testified?
2. How well was the witness able to remember and describe what happened?

Eyewitness Testimony

3. Was the witness' testimony influenced?
4. What was the witness' attitude about the case?
5. Did the witness make inconsistent statements in the past?

6. How reasonable is the testimony when considered with all the other evidence?
7. What is the witness' character for truthfulness?
8. Has the witness engaged in conduct what reflects on his believability?

Early Testimony

The closer the time between the event and testimony about it, the more reliable the witness, since there is less time for exaggeration, and even legend, to creep into the account



Early Testimony

³For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; ⁷then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; ⁸and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, and not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

1 Co 15:3-9

Early Creed

*"For I **delivered** to you as of first importance what I also **received**..."*

Early Testimony

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1 Co 15:3-9.

Fact # 1

JESUS WAS CRUCIFIED

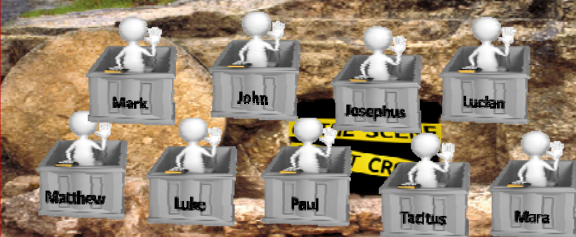
Multiple, Independent Sources

JESUS WAS CRUCIFIED



Multiple, Independent Sources

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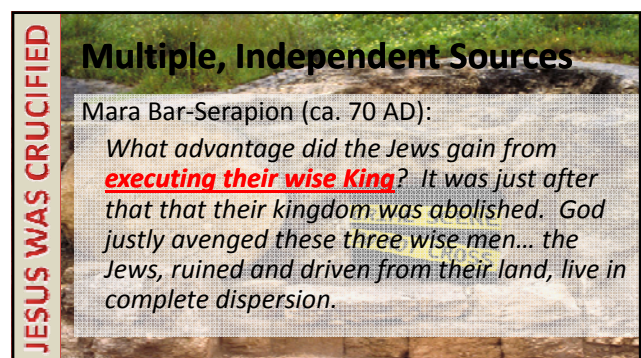
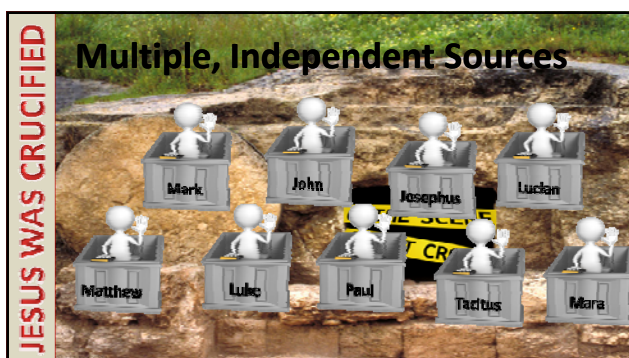
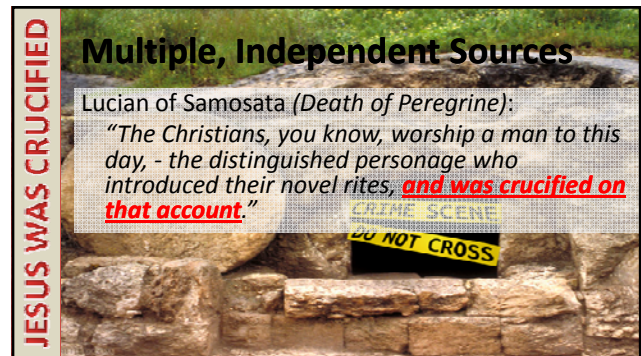
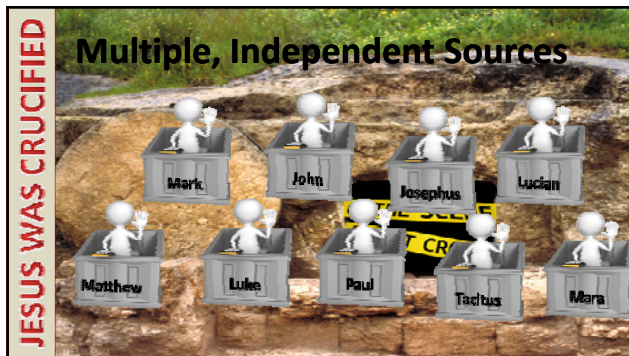


Multiple, Independent Sources

JESUS WAS CRUCIFIED

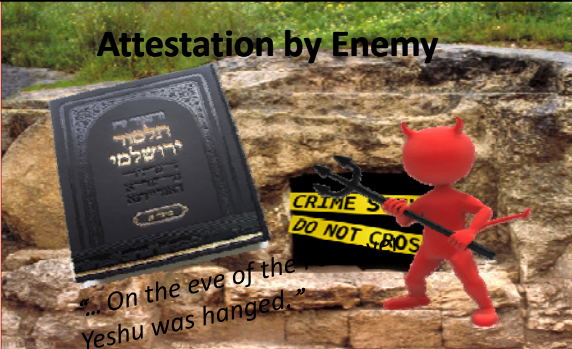
Josephus:

"Pilate condemned [Jesus] to be crucified and to die."
 "I saw many captives crucified; and remembered three of them as my former acquaintance[...] so [Titus] immediately commanded them to be taken down, and to have the greatest care taken of them, in order to their recovery; yet **two of them died under the physician's hands, while the third recovered.**"



JESUS WAS CRUCIFIED

Attestation by Enemy



“... On the eve of the Yeshu was hanged.”

JESUS WAS CRUCIFIED

Embarrassing Admissions

“Then all the disciples left Him and fled.” Mt 26:56b

“And they all left Him and fled.” Mk 14:50

“There were also some women looking on from a distance, among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the Less and Joses, and Salome. “When He was in Galilee, they used to follow Him and minister to Him; and there were many other women who came up with Him to Jerusalem.” Mk 15:40-41.

JESUS WAS CRUCIFIED

Eyewitness Testimony

“There were also some women looking on from a distance, among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the Less and Joses, and Salome.” Mk 15:40

“When Jesus then saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, ‘Woman, behold, your son!’” Jn 19:26.




JESUS WAS CRUCIFIED

Early Testimony

“Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures...” 1 Co 15:3.

“...Jesus the Nazarene...you nailed to a cross...and put Him to death...” Acts 2:22-23




Fact # 2

JESUS' DISCIPLES CLAIMED THEY SAW



DISCIPLES CLAIMED TO SEE JESUS

Multiple, Independent Sources



Multiple, Independent Sources

DISCIPLES CLAIMED TO SEE JESUS

Mark, John, Josephus, Clement, Matthew, Luke, Paul, Tacitus, Polycarp

Multiple, Independent Sources

DISCIPLES CLAIMED TO SEE JESUS

"...you are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who has been crucified. He has risen; He is not here; behold, here is the place where they laid Him.

Mk 16:6.

⁸ And they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to report it to His disciples. ⁹ And behold, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshiped Him.

Mt 28:8-9.

Multiple, Independent Sources

DISCIPLES CLAIMED TO SEE JESUS

"See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have."

Lk 24:39.

Then He said to Thomas, "Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing."

Jn 20:27.

Multiple, Independent Sources

DISCIPLES CLAIMED TO SEE JESUS

Mark, John, Josephus, Clement, Matthew, Luke, Paul, Tacitus, Polycarp

Multiple, Independent Sources

DISCIPLES CLAIMED TO SEE JESUS

Paul's letter to the Galatians:

Paul, an apostle... through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised Him from the dead...

CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS

Multiple, Independent Sources

DISCIPLES CLAIMED TO SEE JESUS

Mark, John, Josephus, Clement, Matthew, Luke, Paul, Tacitus, Polycarp

Multiple, Independent Sources

DISCIPLES CLAIMED TO SEE JESUS

Clement of Rome:
"Having therefore received their orders, and being fully assured by the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, and established in the word of God, with full assurance of the Holy Ghost, they went forth proclaiming that the kingdom of God was at hand."
 Clement's First Letter to the Corinthians

Multiple, Independent Sources

DISCIPLES CLAIMED TO SEE JESUS

Multiple, Independent Sources

DISCIPLES CLAIMED TO SEE JESUS

Polycarp
"...our Lord Jesus Christ, who for our sins suffered even unto death, [but] "whom God raised from the dead, having loosed the bonds of the grave."
 The Epistle of Polycarp to the Philippians, AD 110

Multiple, Independent Sources

DISCIPLES CLAIMED TO SEE JESUS

Multiple, Independent Sources

DISCIPLES CLAIMED TO SEE JESUS

"...a most mischievous superstition, thus checked for the moment, again broke out not only in Judæa, the first source of the evil, but even in Rome..."
 Annals

Attestation by Enemy

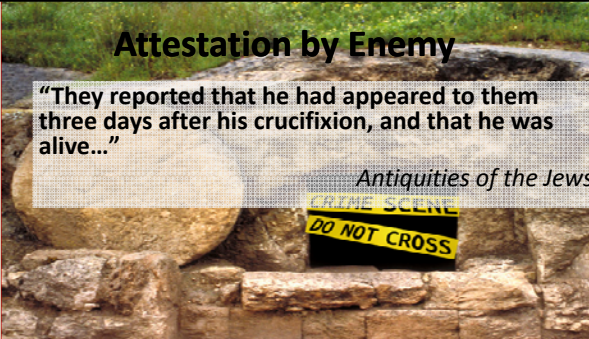
DISCIPLES CLAIMED TO SEE JESUS

DISCIPLES CLAIMED TO SEE JESUS

Attestation by Enemy

"They reported that he had appeared to them three days after his crucifixion, and that he was alive..."

Antiquities of the Jews

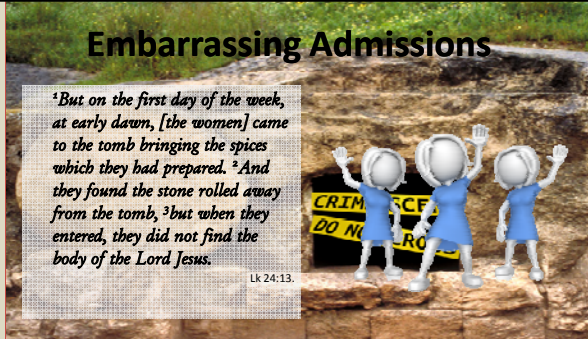


DISCIPLES CLAIMED TO SEE JESUS

Embarrassing Admissions

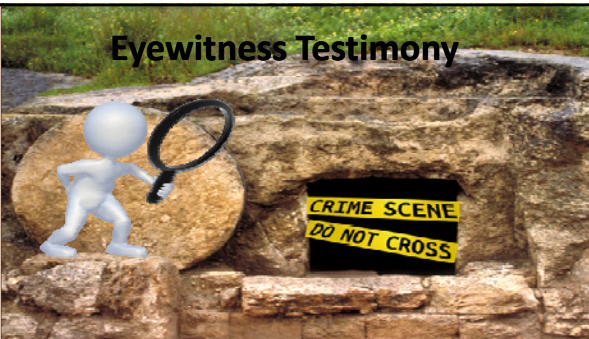
¹But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, [the women] came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. ²And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

Lk 24:13.



DISCIPLES CLAIMED TO SEE JESUS

Eyewitness Testimony



DISCIPLES CLAIMED TO SEE JESUS

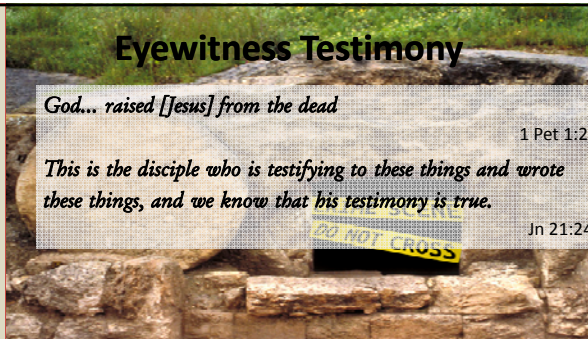
Eyewitness Testimony

God... raised [Jesus] from the dead

1 Pet 1:21

This is the disciple who is testifying to these things and wrote these things, and we know that his testimony is true.

Jn 21:24.

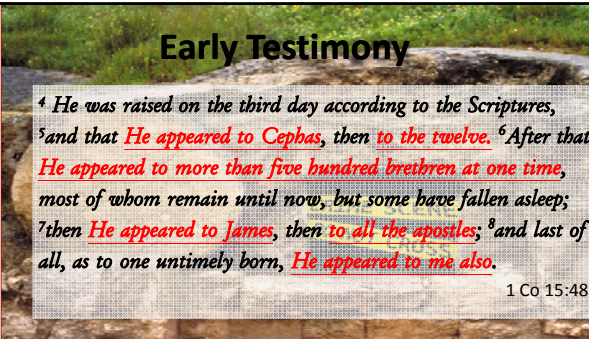


DISCIPLES CLAIMED TO SEE JESUS

Early Testimony

⁴ He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵and that **He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.** ⁶After that **He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time,** most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; ⁷then **He appeared to James, then to all the apostles;** ⁸and last of all, as to one untimely born, **He appeared to me also.**

1 Co 15:48.

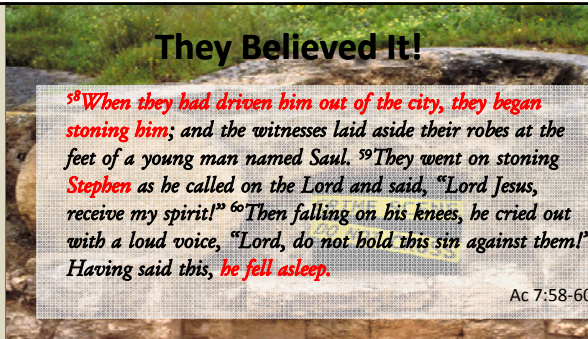


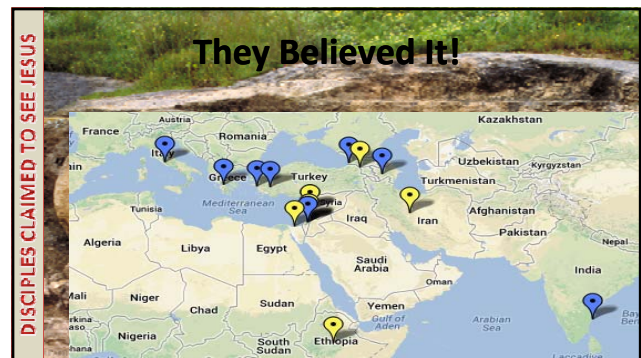
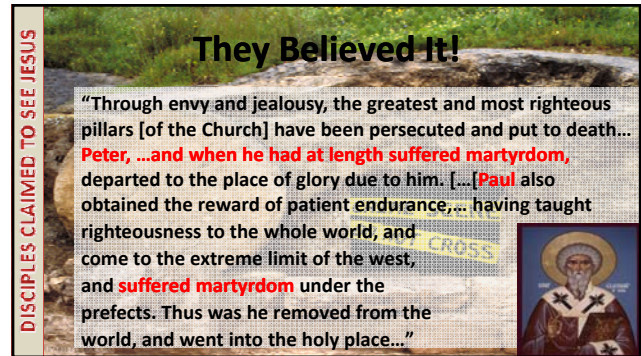
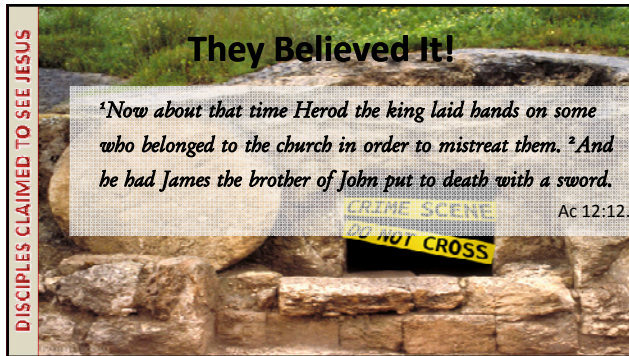
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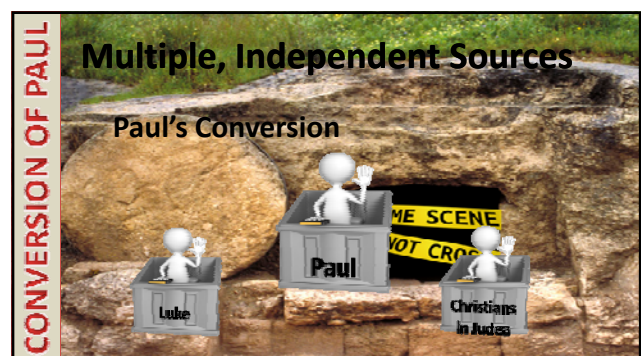
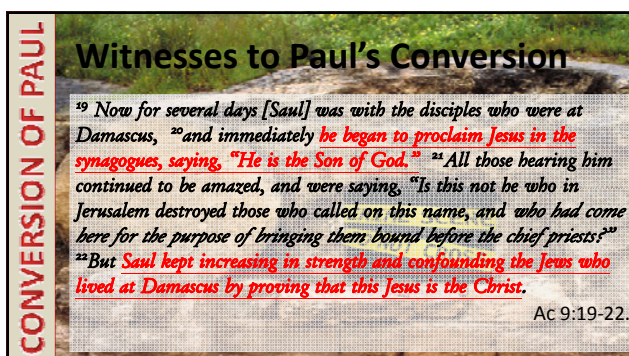
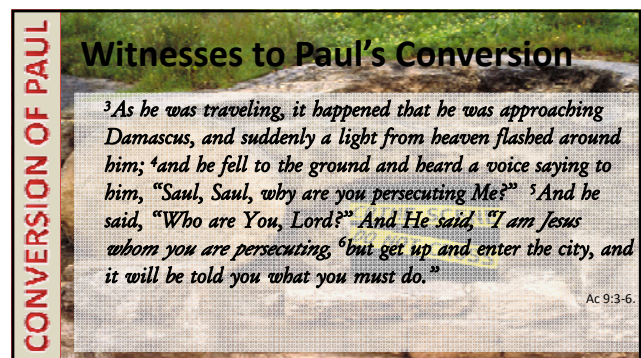
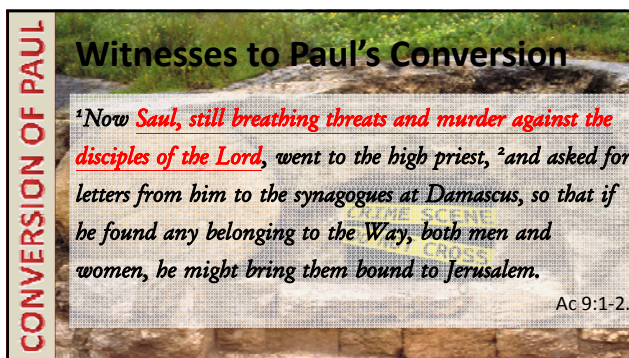
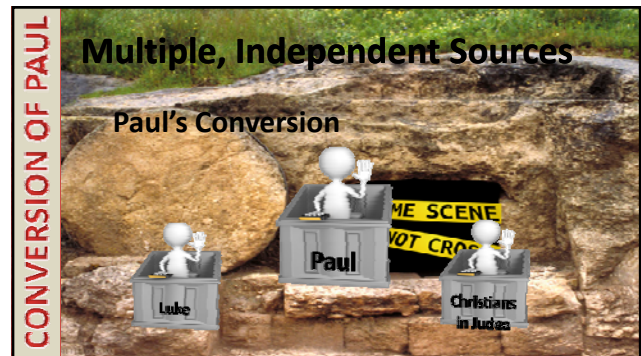
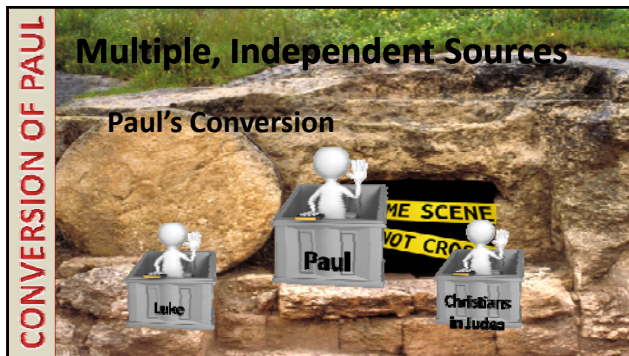
They Believed It!

⁵⁸When they had driven him out of the city, they began stoning him; and the witnesses laid aside their robes at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹They went on stoning Stephen as he called on the Lord and said, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!" ⁶⁰Then falling on his knees, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them!" Having said this, **he fell asleep.**

Ac 7:58-60.







CONVERSION OF PAUL

Witnesses to Paul's Conversion

Paul's Testimony:
"I used to persecute the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it;"
 Ga 1:13.

CRIME SCENE
"I am the least of the apostles, and not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God."
 1 Co 15:9.

"[I was] a persecutor of the church"
 Phil 3:6

CONVERSION OF PAUL

Multiple, Independent Sources

Paul's Conversion

CONVERSION OF PAUL

Witnesses to Paul's Conversion

Christians in Judea

²²I was still unknown by sight to the churches of Judea which were in Christ; ²³but only, they kept hearing, "He who once persecuted us is now preaching the faith which he once tried to destroy." ²⁴And they were glorifying God because of me.
 Ga 1:22-24.

CONVERSION OF PAUL

Multiple, Independent Sources

Paul's Suffering

CONVERSION OF PAUL

Multiple, Independent Sources

Paul's Suffering

CONVERSION OF PAUL

Witnesses to Paul's Suffering

But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having won over the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead.
 Ac 14:19.

Then all the city was provoked, and the people rushed together, and taking hold of Paul they dragged him out of the temple... they were seeking to kill him... and when they saw the commander and the soldiers, they stopped beating Paul.
 Ac 21:30-32.