

# THE RESURRECTION

*Prerequisites and  
Postrequisites*



# The Skeptic's Theories



Overdose  
Theory

swcon  
Theory

Swoon  
Theory



Body Double  
Theory



Runaway  
Theory



Eloper  
Theory

# Answering the Skeptics

## Prerequisites

Prove Jesus  
died

Disprove  
alternative  
possibilities for  
the empty tomb.

## Postrequisites

Prove empty  
tomb.

Eyewitness  
testimony





# Biblical Evidence

<u>Event</u>	<u>O.T. Prophecy</u>	<u>N.T. Fulfillment</u>
Wounded and Bruised	Isaiah 53:5	Matthew 27:26
Rejected by His own	Isaiah 53:3	John 19:14-15
Crucified with thieves	Isaiah 53:12	Mark 15:27-28
Heart pour out water	Psalms 22:14	John 19:34
Hands/Feet pierced	Psalms 22:16	Luke 23:33
Stared at on the cross	Psalms 22:17	Luke 23:35
Suffer thirst	Psalms 69:21	Matthew 27:34
Commit spirit to God	Psalms 31:5	Luke 23:46
Bones not broken	Psalms 34:20	John 19:32-33, 36
Side pierced	Zechariah 12:10	John 19:34, 37
Buried with the rich	Isaiah 53:9	Mark 15:43-46

# Biblical Evidence

The Gospels Include Detailed  
Accounts

MATTHEW

Matthew 27:22-50, 55-66

MARK

Mark 15:12-47

LUKE

Luke 23:13-55

JOHN

John 19:1-42

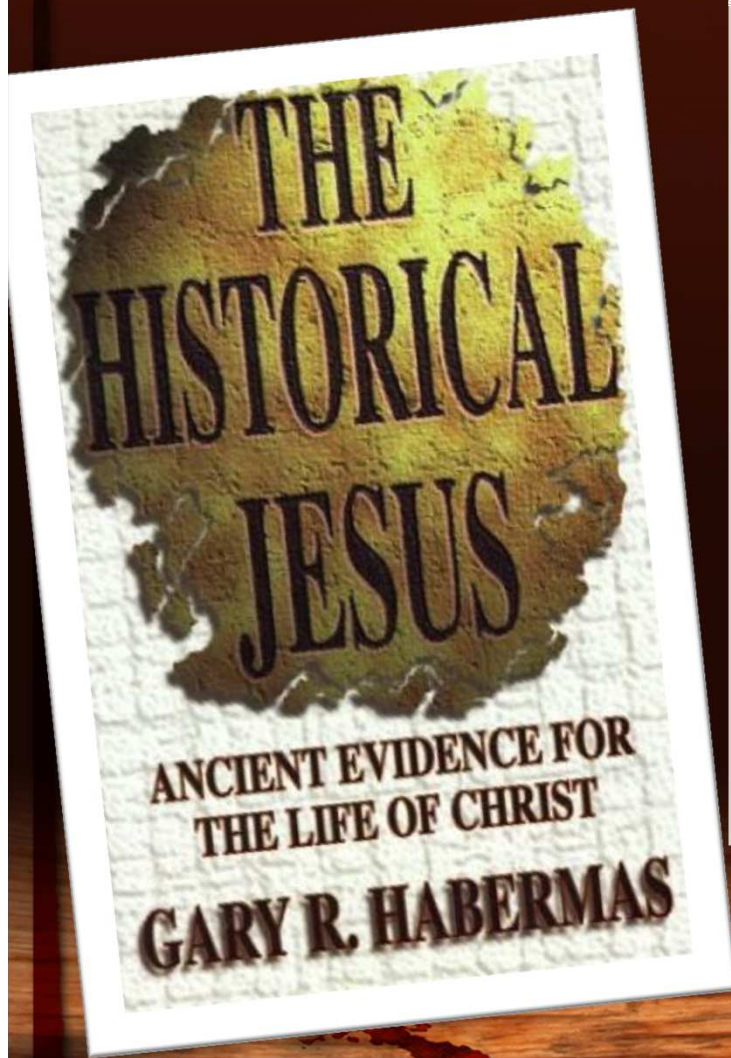
# 1 Corinthians 15:3-5

- “For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve” (1 Corinthians 15:3-5).





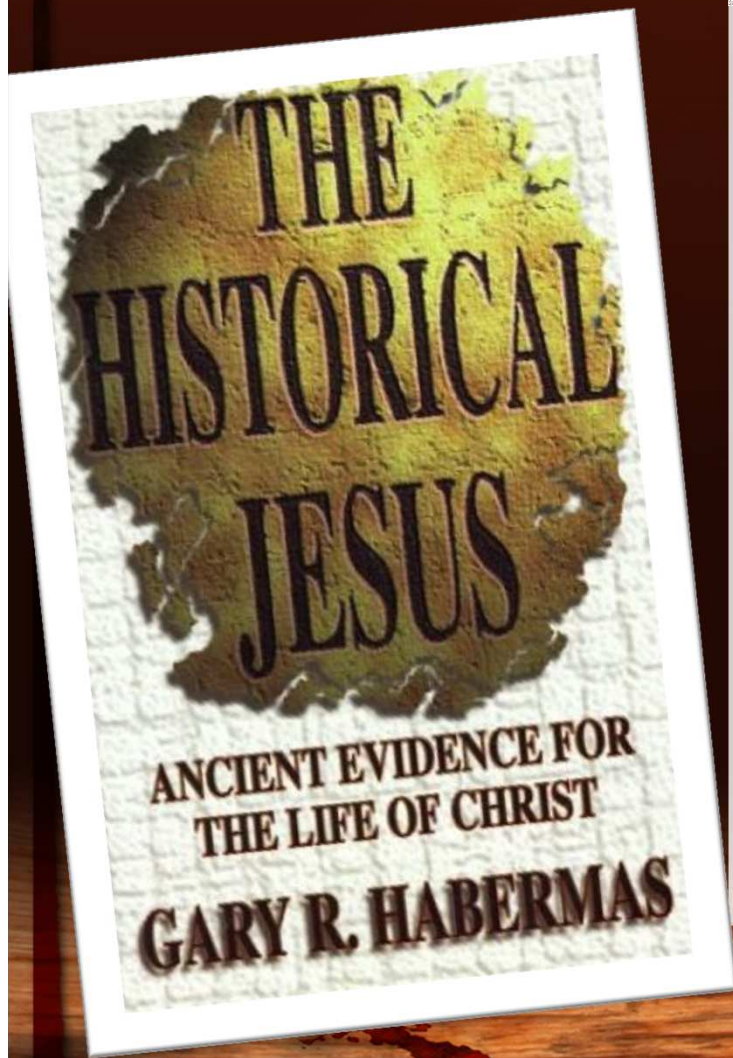
# Extra-Biblical Evidence



“The Jewish leaders judged that Jesus was guilty of teaching spiritual apostasy, thereby leading Israel astray (Talmud, cf. Apocryphon of John). So the Jews sent a herald proclaiming that Jesus would be stoned for his false teaching and invited anyone who wished to defend him to do so. But none came forward to support him (Talmud).”



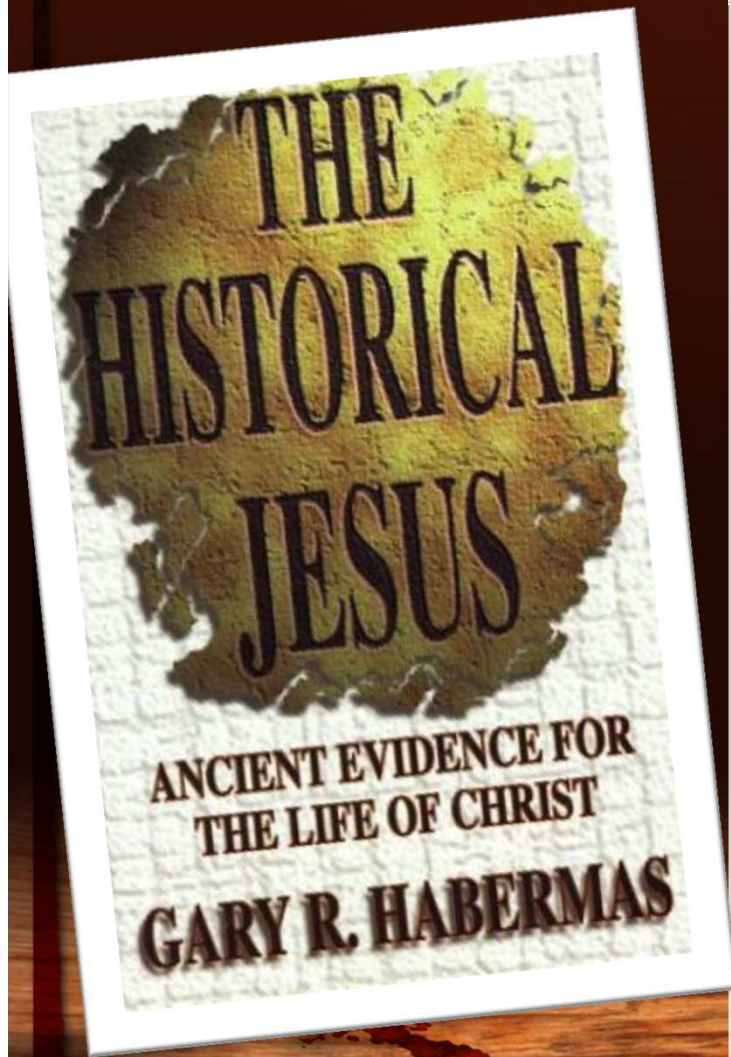
# Extra-Biblical Evidence



“After suffering persecution (Gospel of Truth) and as a result of his teachings (Lucian), Jesus was put to death (Gospel of Thomas, Treatise on Resurrection). He died at the hands of Roman procurator Pontius Pilate (Tacitus), who crucified him (Josephus, Talmud, Lucian, Gospel of Truth, Acts of Pilate) during the reign of Emperor Tiberius (Tacitus, Phlegon).”



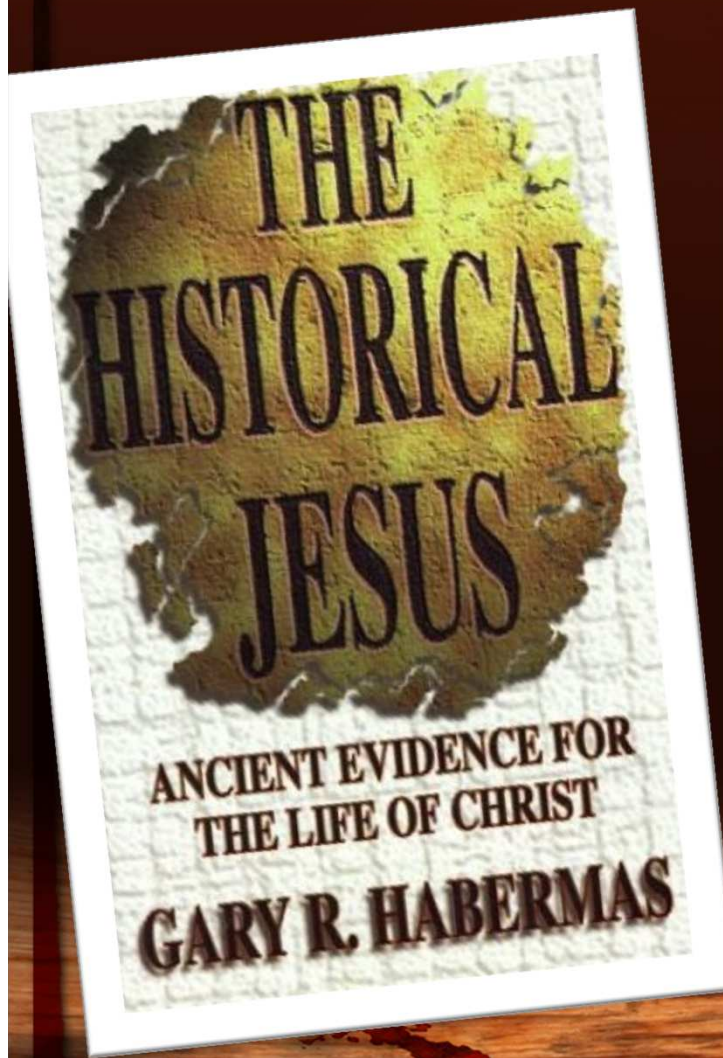
# Extra-Biblical Evidence



“Even some details of the crucifixion are provided. The event occurred on Passover Eve (Talmud) and included being nailed to a cross (Phlegon, Gospel of Truth, Acts of Pilate, cf. Tacitus), after which the executioners gambled for his garments (Acts of Pilate). There were signs in nature, too, as darkness covered the land for three hours due to an eclipse of the sun (Thallus, Phlegon), and great earthquakes occurred (Phlegon). Mara Bar-Serapion asserted that Jesus was executed unjustly and that the Jews were judged accordingly by God” (pp. 220-221).



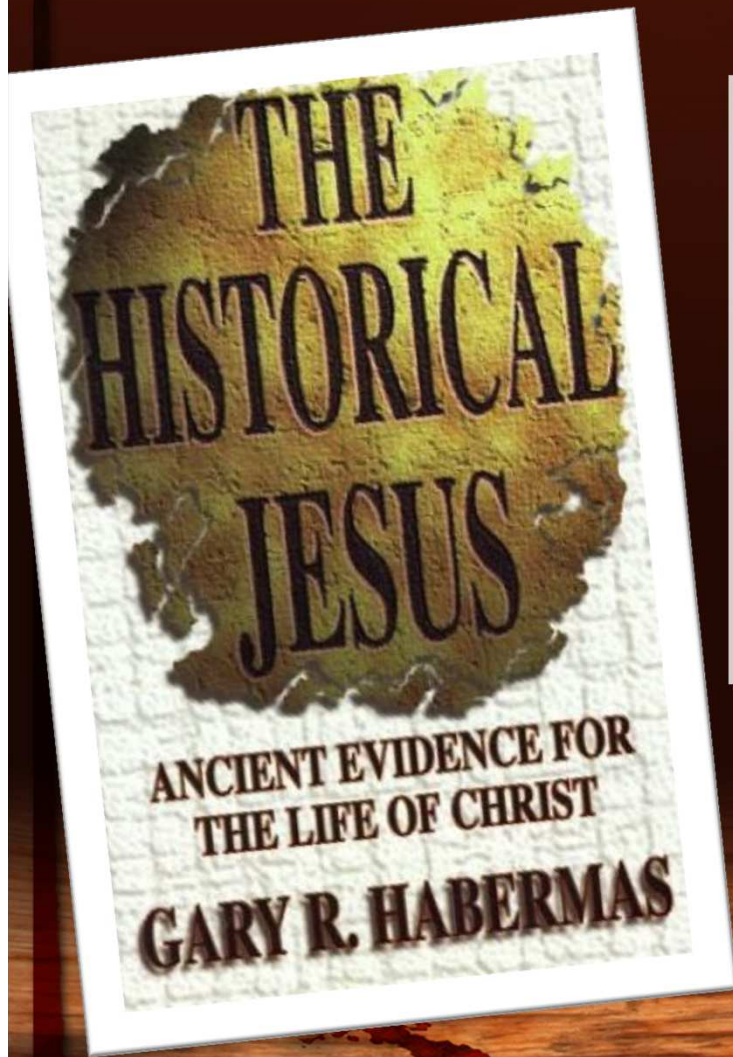
# Extra-Biblical Evidence



“These early Christian writers were careful to point to the facticity of Jesus’ death by crucifixion (Ignatius, Barnabas, Justin). They sought to link it firmly to history, such as with the assertion that this event occurred during the governorship of Pontius Pilate and the reign of Herod (Ignatius). Details of the crucifixion are also provided, such as Jesus being nailed to the cross (Ignatius, Justin) while his clothing was divided among his assassins (Justin).”



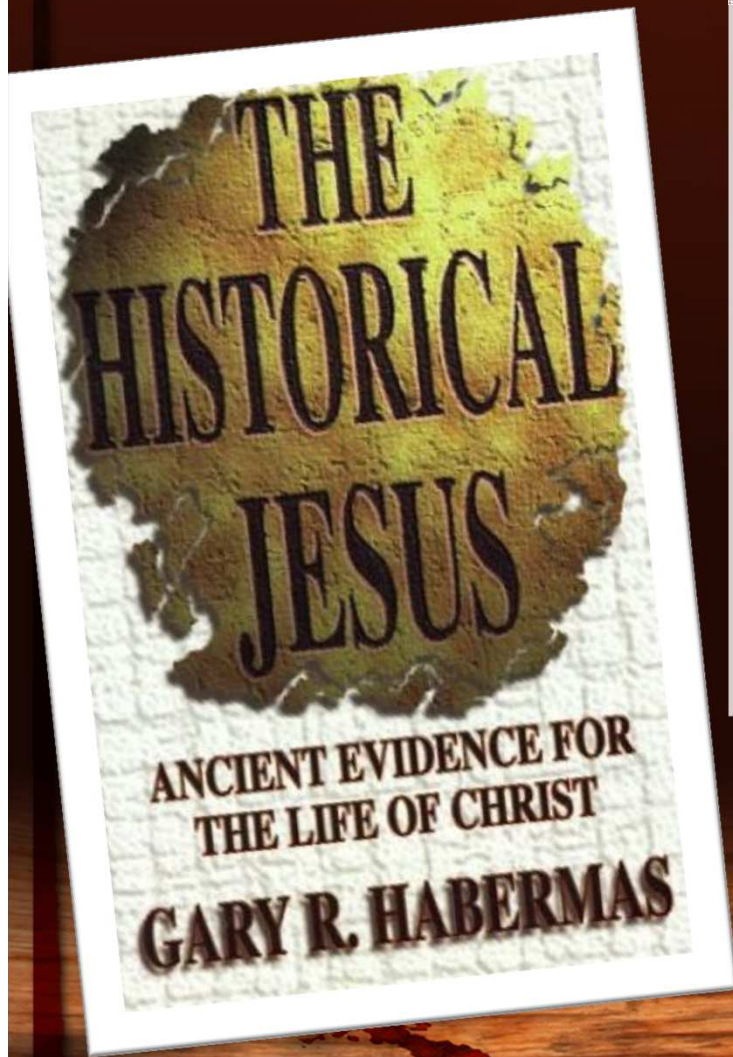
# Extra-Biblical Evidence



“Jesus hung on the cross until evening, after which he was taken down and buried (Justin). During this period of time, his friends forsook and denied him (Justin)” (Habermas, Gary. *The Historical Jesus*, p. 240).



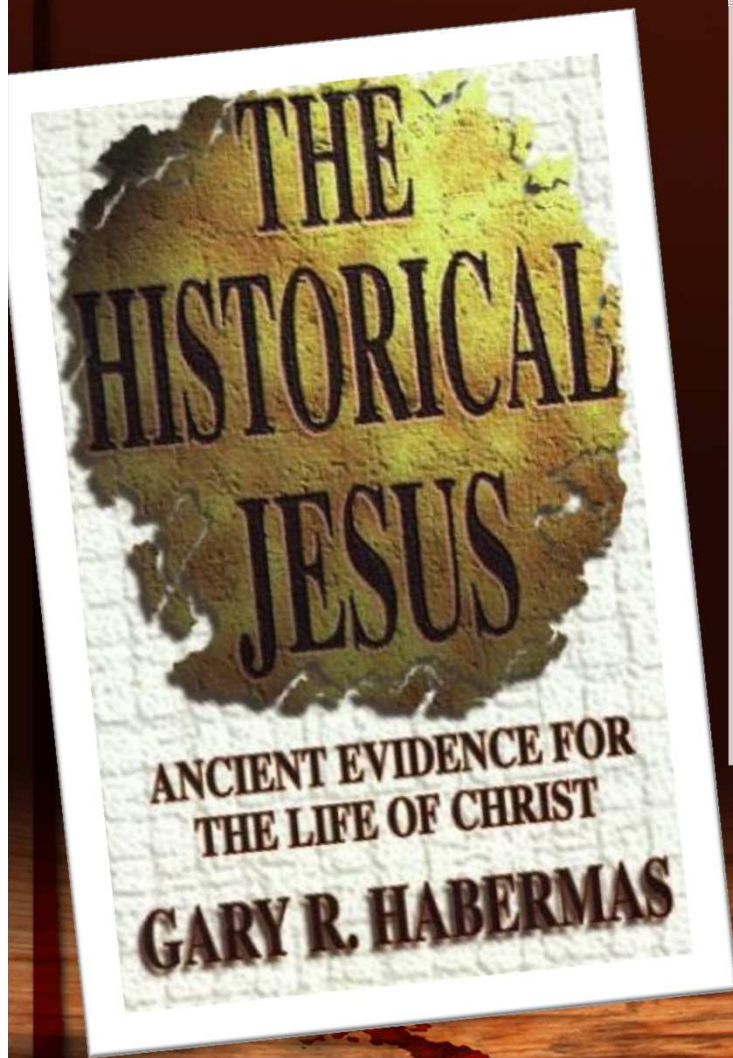
# Extra-Biblical Evidence



“Of all the events in Jesus’ life, more ancient sources specifically mention his death than any other single occurrence. Of the 45 ancient sources, 28 relate to this fact, often with details. Twelve of these sources are non-Christian, which exhibits an incredible amount of interest in this event.”



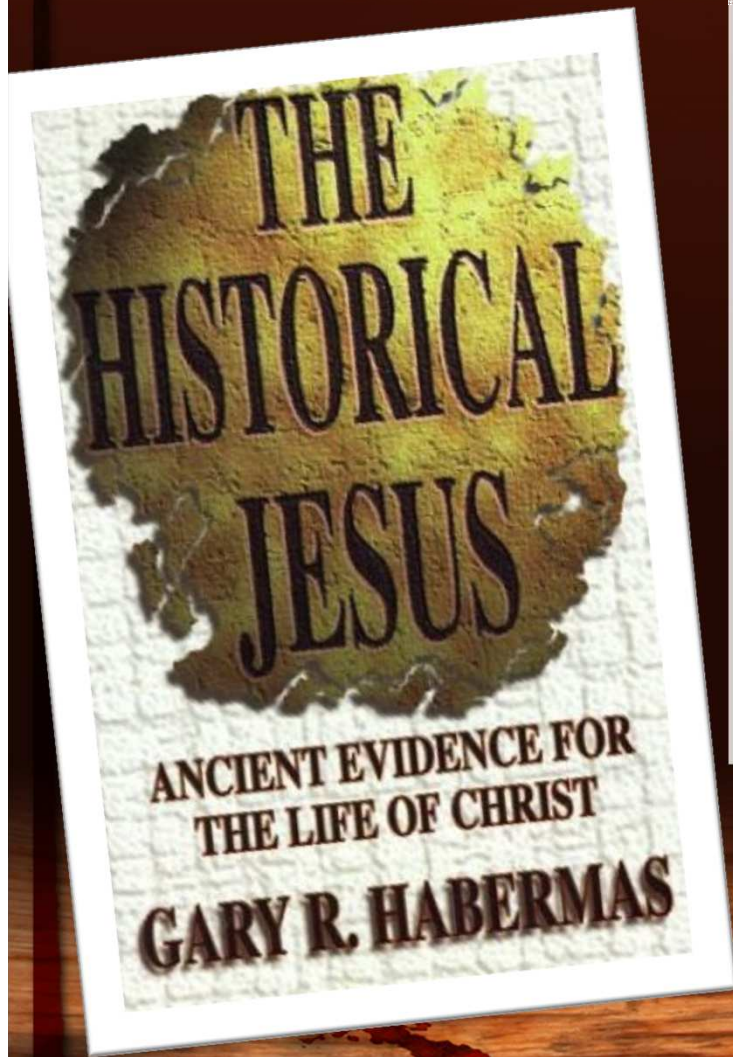
# Extra-Biblical Evidence



“Not only is Jesus’ death by crucifixion of major concern to these authors, but 14 of the 28 sources give various details about the crucifixion, from medical observations to political information concerning the current rulers, to historical specifications of the times in which Jesus died, to religious details about the reason for his death.”



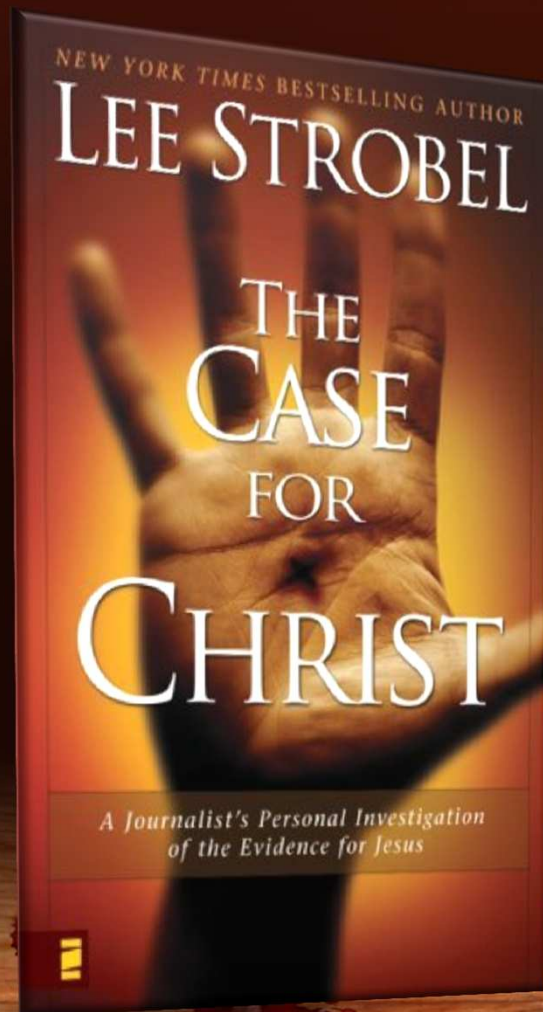
# Extra-Biblical Evidence



“These data witness to the facticity of Jesus’ death by crucifixion, regarding both the reality of the event itself, as well as numerous details surrounding it. It is fair to assert that this is one of the best-attested facts in ancient history” (Habermas, Gary. *The Historical Jesus*, p. 252).



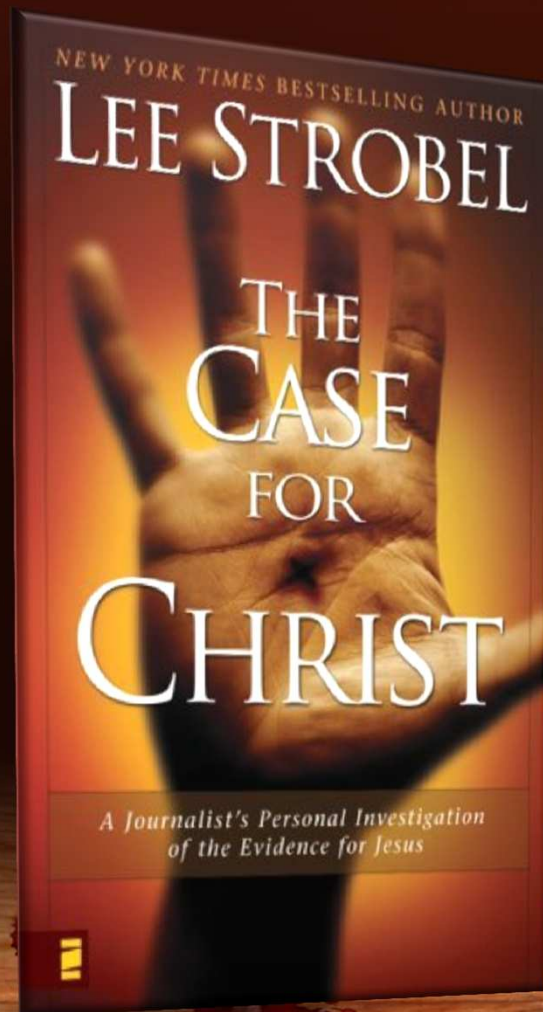
# Medical Evidence



“...even in the case of someone brutally executed on a Roman cross two millennia ago, medical evidence can still make a crucial contribution: it can destroy one of the most persistent arguments used by those who claim that the resurrection of Jesus—the supreme vindication of his claim to deity—was nothing more than an elaborate hoax.”



# Medical Evidence



“Jesus went with his disciples to the Mount of Olives...there...he prayed all night. Now, during that process he was anticipating the coming events of the next day. Since he knew the amount of suffering he was going to have to endure, he was quite naturally experiencing a great deal of psychological stress.”



## Medical Evidence

Luke 22:44, “Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.”

“This is a known medical condition called hematomidrosis. It’s not very common, but it is associated with a high degree of psychological stress. What happens is that severe anxiety causes the release of chemicals that break down the capillaries in the sweat glands. As a result, there’s a small amount of bleeding into these glands, and the sweat comes out tinged with blood.”





## Medical Evidence

Luke 22:44, “Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.”

“We’re not talking about a lot of blood; it’s just a very, very small amount. What this did was set up the skin to be extremely fragile so that when Jesus was flogged by the Roman soldier the next day, his skin would be very, very sensitive.”



## Medical Evidence

Matthew 27:26,  
“Then he released  
Barrabas to them;  
and when he had  
**scourged Jesus**, he  
delivered Him to be  
crucified.”

“Roman floggings were known to be terribly brutal. They usually consisted of thirty-nine lashes...the soldier would use a whip of braided leather thongs with metal balls woven into them. When the whip would strike the flesh, these balls would cause deep bruises or contusions, which would break open with further blows. And the whip had pieces of sharp bone as well, which would cut the flesh severely.”





## Medical Evidence

Matthew 27:26,  
“Then he released  
Barrabas to them;  
and when he had  
**scourged Jesus**, he  
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crucified.”

“The back would be so shredded that part of the spine was sometimes exposed by the deep, deep cuts. The whipping would have gone all the way from the shoulders down to the back, the buttocks, and the back of the legs...a third-century historian by the name of Eusebius described a flogging by saying, ‘The sufferer’s veins were laid bare, and the very muscles, sinews, and bowels of the victim were open to exposure.’”





## Medical Evidence

Matthew 27:28-29,  
“And they stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him. When they had twisted a crown of thorns, they put it on His head...Then they spat on Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head. And when they had mocked Him, they took the robe off Him...”

“The half-fainting Jesus is then untied and allowed to slump to the stone pavement, wet with His own blood. The Roman soldiers see a great joke in the provincial Jew claiming to be a king. They throw a robe across His shoulders and place a stick in His hand for a scepter. They still need a crown to make their travesty complete. A small bundle of flexible branches covered with long thorns (commonly used for firewood) are plaited into the shape of a crown and pressed into his scalp.”



## Medical Evidence

Matthew 27:28-29,  
“And they stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him. When they had twisted a crown of thorns, they put it on His head...Then they spat on Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head. And when they had mocked Him, they took the robe off Him...”

“Again there is copious bleeding, the scalp being one of the most vascular areas of the body. After mocking Him and striking Him across the face, the soldiers take the stick from His hand and strike Him across the head, driving the thorns deeper into His scalp. Finally, they tire of their sadistic sport and the robe is torn from His back. This had already become adherent to the clots of blood and serum in the wounds, and its removal, just as in the careless removal of a surgical bandage, causes excruciating pain...and the wounds again begin to bleed.”



## Medical Evidence

Matthew 27:32, “Now as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. Him they compelled **to bear His cross.**”

“We know that many people would die from this kind of beating even before they could be crucified. At the least, the victim would experience tremendous pain and go into hypovolemic shock. Hypo means ‘low,’ vol refers to volume, and emic means ‘blood,’ so hypovolemic shock means the person is suffering the effects of losing a large amount of blood. This does four things. First, the heart races to try to pump blood that isn’t there; second, the blood pressure drops, causing fainting or collapse...”





## Medical Evidence

Matthew 27:33-34,  
“And when they had  
come to a place  
called Golgotha, that  
is to say, Place of a  
Skull, they gave Him  
sour wine mingled  
with gall **to drink**.  
But when He had  
tasted it, He would  
not drink.”

“third, the kidneys stop producing urine to maintain what volume is left; and fourth, the person becomes very thirsty as the body craves fluids to replace the lost blood volume...Jesus was in hypovolemic shock as he staggered up the road to the execution site at Calvary...the Roman soldier ordered Simon to carry the cross for him. Later we read that Jesus said, ‘I thirst,’ at which point a sip of vinegar was offered to him...there’s no question that Jesus was already in serious to critical condition even before the nails were driven through his hands and feet.”



## Medical Evidence

Matthew 27:33-34,  
“There they **crucified**  
**Him**, and divided  
His garments,  
casting lots...”

“...it’s important to understand that the nail would go through the place where the median nerve runs. This is the largest nerve going out to the hand, and it would be crushed by the nail that was being pounded in...picture taking a pair of pliers and squeezing and crushing a nerve. That effect would be similar to what Jesus experienced.”



## Medical Evidence

Matthew 27:33-34,  
“There they **crucified**  
**Him**, and divided  
His garments,  
casting lots...”

“The pain was absolutely unbearable. In fact, it was literally beyond words to describe; they had to invent a new word: excruciating. Literally, excruciating means ‘out of the cross.’ At this point Jesus was hoisted...then nails were driven through Jesus’ feet. Again, the nerves in his feet would have been crushed, and there would have been a similar type of pain.”





## Medical Evidence

Matthew 27:33-34,  
“There they **crucified**  
**Him**, and divided  
His garments,  
casting lots...”

“Once a person is hanging in the vertical position crucifixion is essentially an agonizingly slow death by asphyxiation. The reason is that the stresses on the muscles and diaphragm put the chest into the inhaled position; basically, in order to exhale, the individual must push up on his feet so the tension on the muscles would be eased for a moment.”



## Medical Evidence

Matthew 27:33-34,  
“There they **crucified**  
**Him**, and divided  
His garments,  
casting lots...”

“In doing so, the nail would tear through the foot, eventually locking up against the tarsal bones. After managing to exhale, the person would then be able to relax down and take another breath in. Again he’d have to push himself up to exhale, scraping his bloodied back against the coarse wood of the cross. This would go on and on until complete exhaustion would take over, and the person wouldn’t be able to push up and breathe anymore.”





## Medical Evidence

Luke 23:46, “And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, ‘Father, into your hands I commit My spirit.’ Having said this, **He breathed His last.**”

“As the person slows down his breathing, he goes into what is called respiratory acidosis—the carbon dioxide in his blood is dissolved as carbonic acid, causing the acidity of the blood to increase. This eventually leads to an irregular heartbeat. In fact, with his heart beating erratically, Jesus would have known that he was at the moment of death, which is when he was able to say, ‘Lord, into your hands I commit my spirit.’ And then he died of cardiac arrest.”





## Medical Evidence

John 19:34, "...when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately **blood and water came out.**"

"Even before he died...the hypovolemic shock would have caused a sustained rapid heart rate that would have contributed to heart failure, resulting in the collection of fluid in the membrane around the heart, called a pericardial effusion, as well as around the lungs, which is called a pleural effusion...The spear apparently went through the right lung and into the heart, so when the spear was pulled out, some fluid—the pericardial effusion and the pleural effusion—came out. This would have the appearance of a clear fluid, like water, followed by a large volume of blood, as the eyewitness John described in his gospel" (Strobel, Lee. *The Case for Christ*).



## Medical Evidence

John 19:39-40, “And Nicodemus...also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds. Then they took the body of Jesus, and bound it in linen with the spices, as the custom of the Jews is to bury.”

“...the remarkable Circumstance of wrapping up the dead Body in spices, by Joseph and Nicodemus, according to the Manner of the Jews in burying, is full proof that Jesus was dead. Had there indeed been any remains of life in Him, when taken down from the cross, the pungent nature of the myrrh and aloes, their strong smell, their bitterness, their being wrapped around his body in linens with a roller, and over his head and face with a napkin, as was the custom of the Jews to bury, must have entirely extinguished them” (Chandler, Samuel. *Witnesses of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ*).



# Medical Evidence



“Clearly, the weight of historical and medical evidence indicates that Jesus was dead before the wound to His side was inflicted and supports the traditional view that the spear, thrust between His right ribs, probably perforated not only the right lung but also the pericardium and heart and thereby ensured His death.

Accordingly, interpretations based on the assumption that Jesus did not die on the cross appear to be at odds with modern medical knowledge” (McDowell, Josh. *New Evidence That Demands a Verdict*, p. 224).





# The Empty Tomb

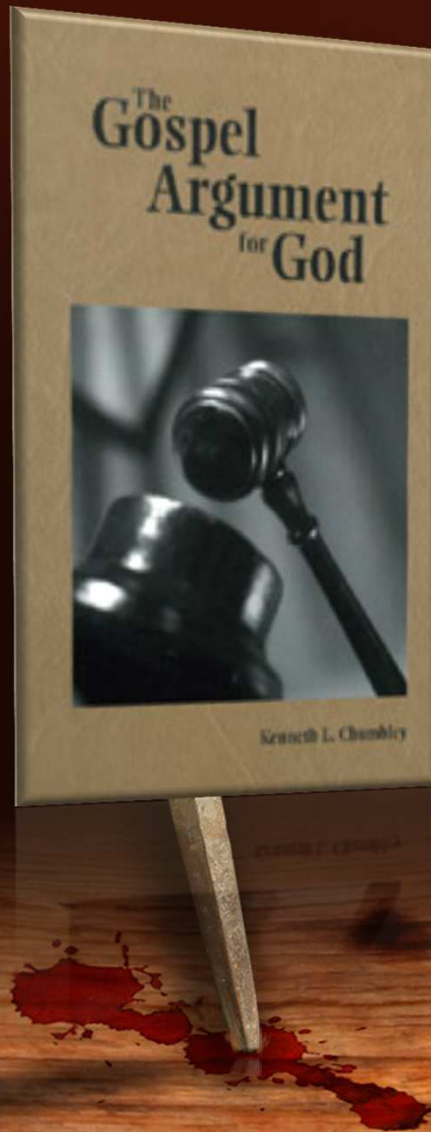
Acts 2:29, 32, "Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day...concerning the resurrection of the Christ...His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses."



David's Tomb:  
Occupied

Jesus's Tomb:  
Empty!

# The Empty Tomb



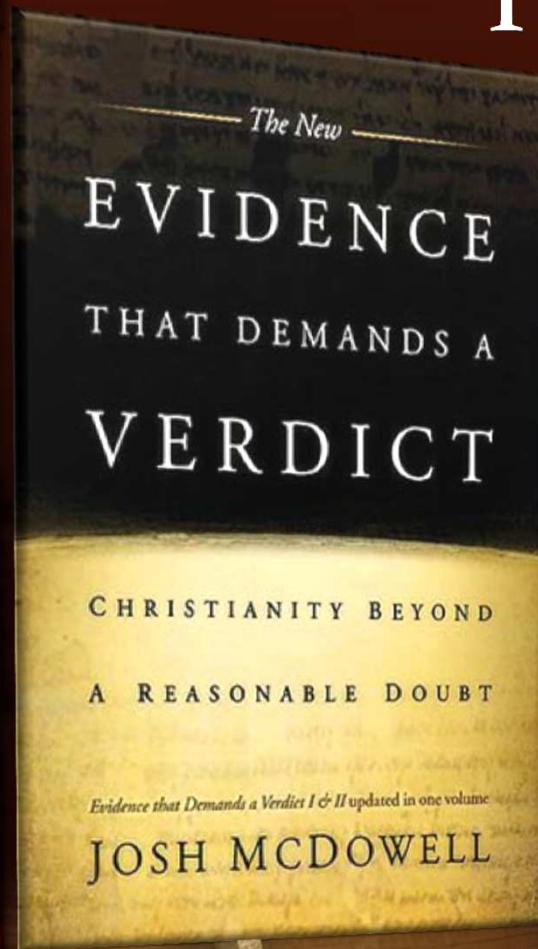
“When the apostles preached Christ’s resurrection in Jerusalem, the priestly authorities did not counter by going to the tomb of Joseph and showing to all concerned that the body of Jesus was still there. In none of the first century Jewish writings is it affirmed that the body of Jesus was yet in the grave on the third day after His burial. Rather, it is conceded that the grave was empty and naturalistic explanations are cited as the reason for it being so” (Chumbley, Kenneth L. *The Gospel Argument for God*. p. 47).



# An Answer to Every Theory

<u>Theory</u>	<u>Answer</u>	<u>Passage</u>
Swoon Theory	Jesus died!	John 19:30-41
Left on the Cross, Eaten	Against Jewish law	Deut. 21:22-23
Stolen By Disciples	Stone, Guard, Lie	Matthew 28:11-15
Stolen by Jews	No motive, no body	Matthew 27:63-66
Misidentified Body	New, rock-hewn tomb	Matthew 27:59-60
Substitute Jesus	Identified as Jesus	Matthew 27:37
Wrong tomb	Saw grave clothes	John 20:2-8
Hallucination	Various people, places	1 Cor. 15:3-8
Only in the hearts of men	Seen, touched, handled	Jn. 20:27; 1 Jn. 1:1

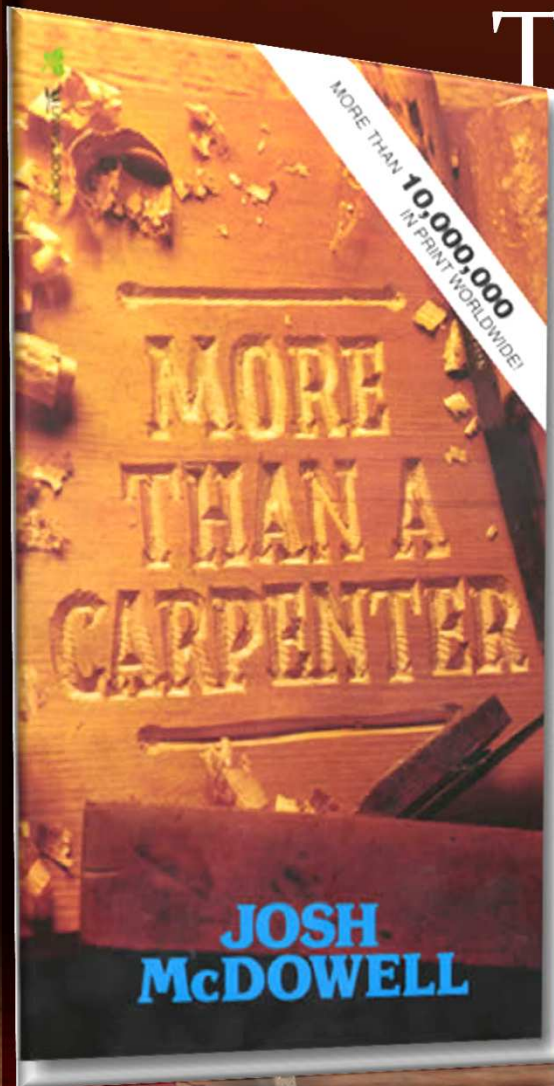
# The Empty Tomb



“The empty tomb is a *sine qua non* of the resurrection...When therefore the disciples began to preach the resurrection in Jerusalem and people responded, and when religious authorities stood helplessly by, the tomb must have been empty. The simple fact that the Christian fellowship, founded on belief in Jesus’ resurrection, came into existence and flourished in the very city where he was executed and buried is powerful evidence for the historicity of the empty tomb” (McDowell, Josh. *The New Evidence That Demands a Verdict*, p. 243).



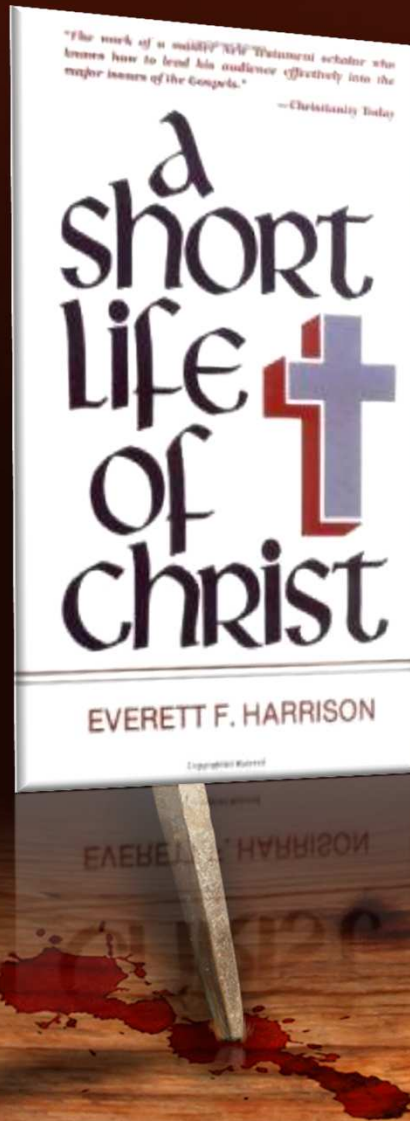
# The Empty Tomb



- “[Christianity] could not have been maintained in Jerusalem for a single day, for a single hour, if the emptiness of the tomb had not been established as a fact for all concerned”  
(McDowell, Josh. *More Than a Carpenter*).



# The Empty Tomb



- “Without the certification of the empty tomb early Christian preaching about the resurrection would have been lame and halting. But it proceeded in the serene confidence that no one could contest this fact. Pagans in faraway Athens could mock at Paul’s declaration that a man had risen from the dead (Acts 17:32), but not so the chief men in Jerusalem. They had to watch the infant church grow daily before their eyes because of the proclamation of the risen Savior, and could do nothing to stop it, for they had themselves been unwilling witnesses of the empty tomb” (Harrison, Everett F. *The Short Life of Christ*).



A wooden nail, likely a crucifixion nail, is shown vertically on the left side of the image. At its base, there is a pool of dark red blood that has spread across a wooden surface. The background is a dark, textured brown.

# THE RESURRECTION

*"...brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you— unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day..." (1 Cor 15:1-3).*