

**What if there is no
resurrection of the dead?**

1 Corinthians 15:1-20

1 Corinthians 15 outline

The Resurrection of Believers (15:1–58)

1. **The Basis—The Resurrection of Christ (15:1–11)**
2. **The Certainty of Resurrection (15:12–34)**
 - a. If Christ Has NOT Been Raised (15:12–19)
 - b. But Christ HAS Been Raised (15:20–28)
 - c. Arguments for Resurrection (15:29–34)
3. **The Resurrection Body (15:35–49)**
 - a. Analogies of Seeds and “Bodies” (15:35–44)
 - b. Analogy of Adam and Christ (15:45–49)
4. **The Assurance of Triumph (15:50–58)**

Los Angeles Times

March 11, 1995

Scholars Cite Lack of Resurrection Evidence : History: Controversial Jesus Seminar evaluates New Testament. But members affirm that event's religious significance does not hinge on the historical record.

Reason for skepticism

1. Common Greek Belief
2. Modern skepticism
3. Triumphalism

¹¹ While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. ¹² When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, ¹³ telling them, “You are to say, ‘His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.’ ¹⁴ If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble.” ¹⁵ So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day.

Matthew 28:11-15 (NIV) (circa. AD 70)

Triumphalism

17 Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus,¹⁸ who have departed from the truth. They say that **the resurrection has already taken place**, and they destroy the faith of some.

2 Timothy 2:17-18

Triumphalism

“Already you have all you want?
Already you have become rich!
You have become kings-and that
without us! How I wish that you
really had become kings so that
we might Be kings with you!”

1 Corinthians 4:8

Already and not yet

3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying: “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man, and He will live with them. They will be His people, and God Himself will be with them as their God.

4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the former things have passed away.”

Revelation 21:3-4

**There is no gospel without
resurrection!**

What are the facts?

- Christ died for our sins in accordance to the scripture
- was buried ...
- was raised on the third day ... appeared to Cephas,
- then to the twelve,
- then to more than 500 brethren at one time ...,
- then to James,
- then to all the apostles'
- Last of all, he appeared also to me

(1 Corinthians 15:3–8)

What if there is no resurrection?

1. If there is no such thing as resurrection, then Jesus himself did not triumph over death (still dead).
2. 'Our preaching is in vain' **(14)**
3. 'Your faith is in vain' **(14)**
4. 'We are misrepresenting God' **(15)**
5. 'You are still in your sins' **(17)**
6. 'Those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished' **(18)**
7. 'We are of all men most to be pitied' **(19)**

(1 Corinthians 15:13–19)

²⁵He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

Romans 4:25

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(1 Corinthians 15:13–19)



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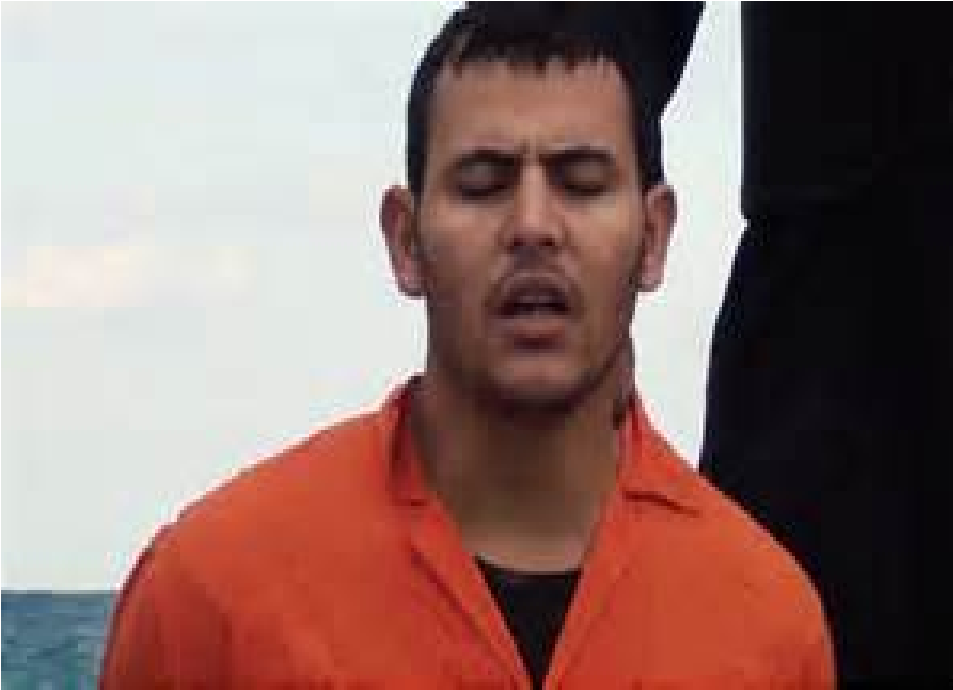
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⁴³ If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go into hell, where the fire never goes out. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, ⁴⁸ where “the worms that eat them do not die, and the fire is not quenched.’

Mark 9:43-48