

# THE FIVE T'S OF THE RESURRECTION

Trial. Tree. Tomb. Third Day. Testimony.

*Five Historical Anchors for Confident Faith*



**1 Cor 15:3–8, 14–20**

*The Christian faith stands on the actual death, burial, and bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ.*

# PURPOSE OF THE SESSION



We are not gathering primarily to persuade ourselves that the resurrection happened. We believe Jesus died and rose again.



**The purpose of this session is to help believers:**

- ✓ Internalize the historic foundation of Christ's death and resurrection
- ✓ Strengthen their own confidence in the gospel
- ✓ Recognize common objections
- ✓ Respond with Scripture, sound reasoning, and relevant historical evidence
- ✓ Defend the truth graciously



**Goal:** Equip believers with confidence, clarity, and gracious conviction.

# IF CHRIST HAS NOT BEEN RAISED...



1 Cor 15:14 — 'If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.'



1 Cor 15:19 — 'If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.'

# CHRISTIANITY'S DISTINCTIVE CLAIM: THE RISEN LORD

Christianity does not merely preserve the teaching of a dead founder.  
It proclaims the bodily resurrection of the crucified Lord.



## CHRISTIANITY

- ✓ Jesus died
- ✓ Jesus was buried
- ✓ Jesus rose bodily
- ✓ Jesus appeared to witnesses



The Christian faith stands  
or falls on the resurrection.



## BUDDHISM

- Preserves Buddha's teaching
- Not founded on Buddha's bodily resurrection



## ISLAM

- Preserves Muhammad's message
- Not founded on Muhammad's bodily resurrection
- Denies the Christian claim that Jesus was crucified and raised



**1 CORINTHIANS 15:14, 17, 19–20**

*If Christ has not been raised, our preaching is in vain, faith is futile...  
But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead.*

# HOW WE DEFEND THE FAITH



*Gracious, thoughtful, and ready to give a reason for the hope within us.*



## 1. OUR POSTURE

- Gentleness and respect
- Speech seasoned with salt
- Not to win arguments
- Point people to Christ



1 Peter 3:15–16;  
Colossians 4:5–6



## 2. LISTEN FIRST

- Understand the real objection
- Ask clarifying questions



What do you mean by that?



What makes you think that?



How does that explain  
all the evidence?



## 3. BURDEN OF PROOF

- Christians give reasons for our hope
- Competing claims also need evidence
- A possible explanation is not a probable explanation



**Ask:** What evidence leads  
you to that conclusion?

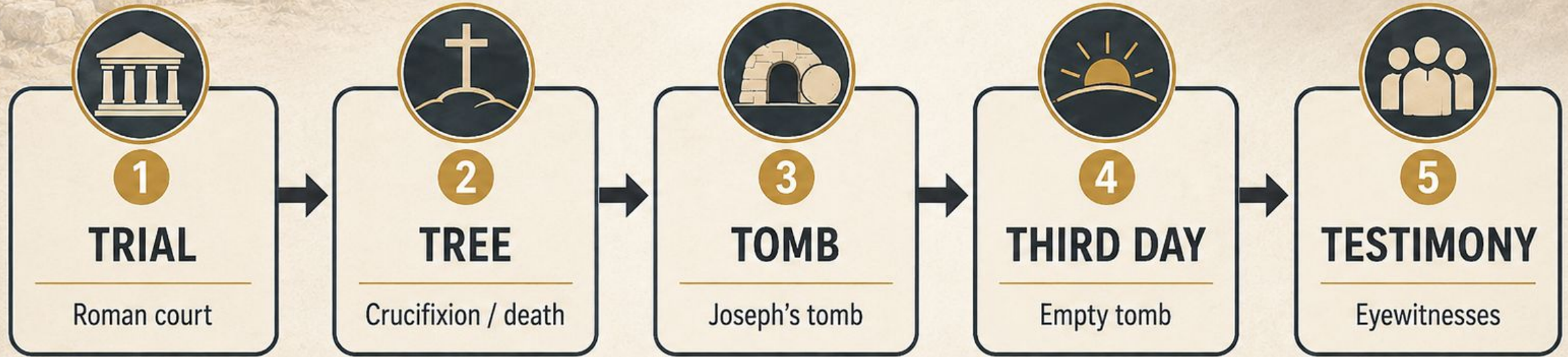


**Goal:** Help people reconsider false, superficial, or unexamined conclusions.

# THE FIVE T'S TIMELINE



*A simple framework for remembering the historical case*



**1 Cor 15:3–8**

# PUBLIC HISTORY, NOT MYTH



## *The Trial of Jesus*



### BIBLICAL WITNESS

-  Matthew 27
-  Mark 15
-  Luke 23
-  John 18–19
-  Acts 4:27–28



### HISTORICAL SUPPORT

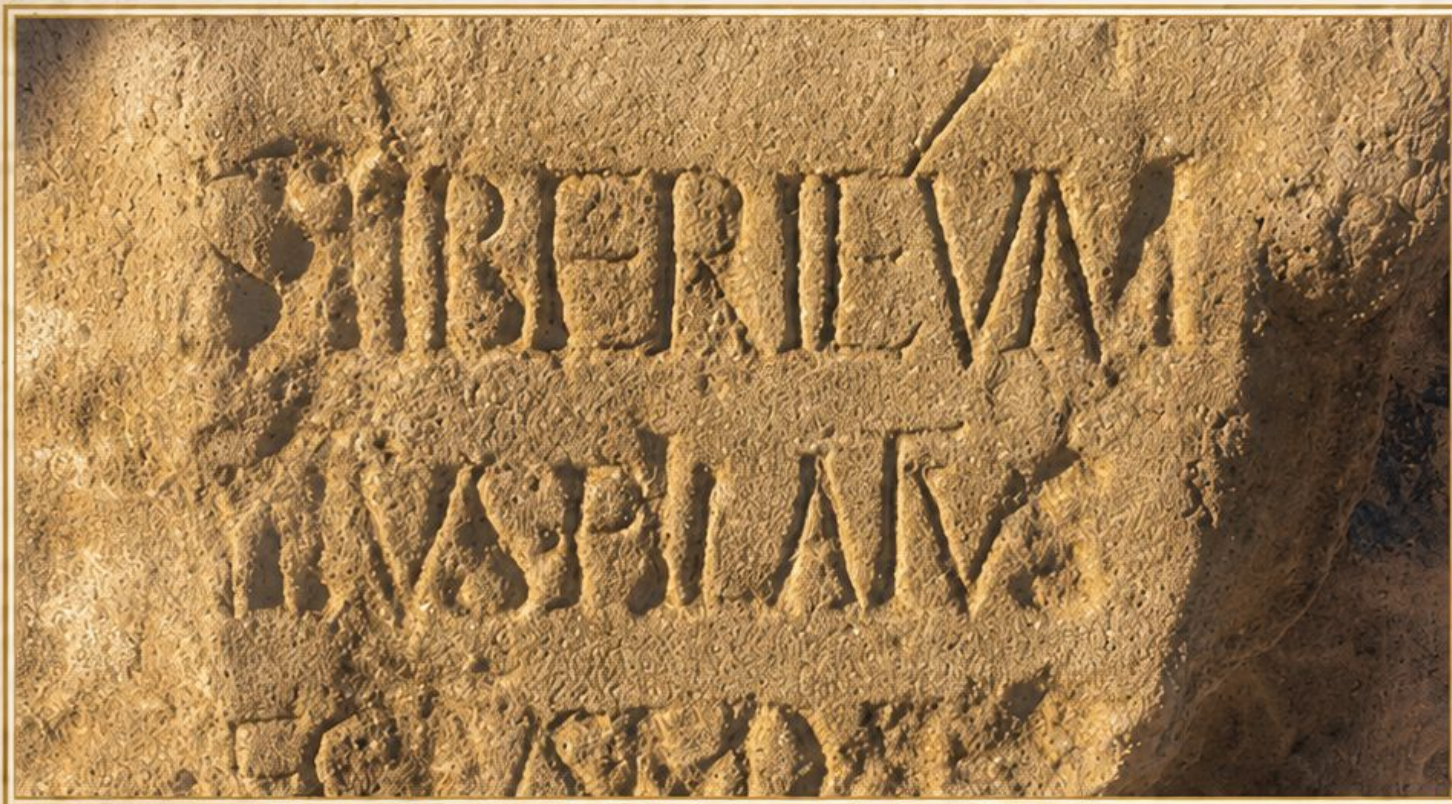
-  Pontius Pilate
-  Tacitus
-  Josephus (qualified)
-  Pilate Stone



**Jesus was condemned under Roman authority in public history.**

# THE PILATE STONE

*Archaeological evidence for Pontius Pilate*



## DISCOVERED:

Caesarea Maritima, 1961



## LANGUAGE:

Latin inscription



## KEY WORDS:

Pontius Pilatus • Praefectus Iudaeae



## SIGNIFICANCE:

Names Pontius Pilate as  
prefect of Judaea

### INSCRIPTION (SURVIVING TEXT)

...TIBERTEUM  
...[PONTI]US PILATUS  
...PRAEFECTUS IUDAEAE...

### COMMON TRANSLATION

[Pontius Pilate], Prefect of Judaea,  
[dedicated] the Tiberieum.

# ROMAN CRUCIFIXION: DESIGNED TO KILL

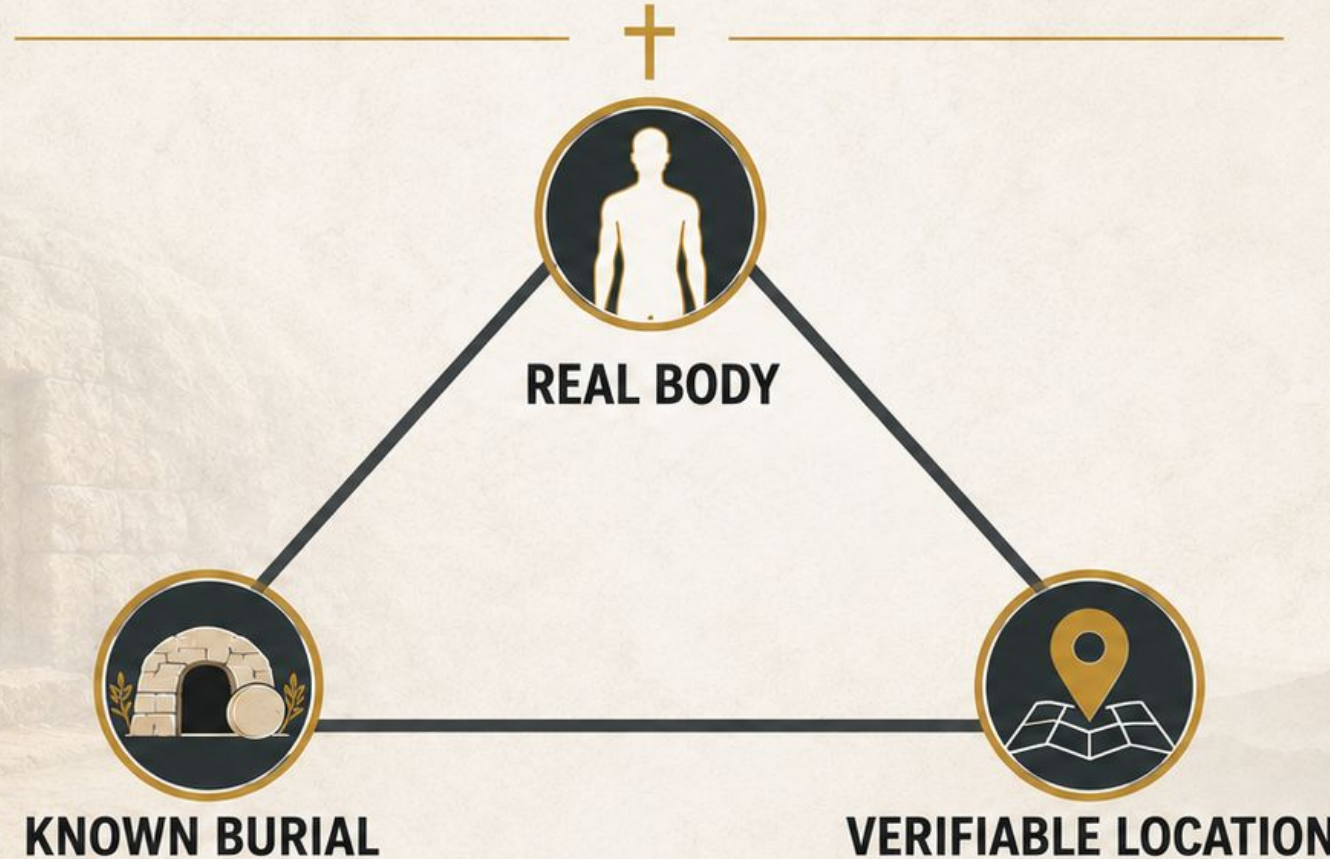


*What happens to the body*



Severe trauma, shock, dehydration, respiratory distress, and cardiovascular collapse worked together in crucifixion.

# WHY THE TOMB MATTERS



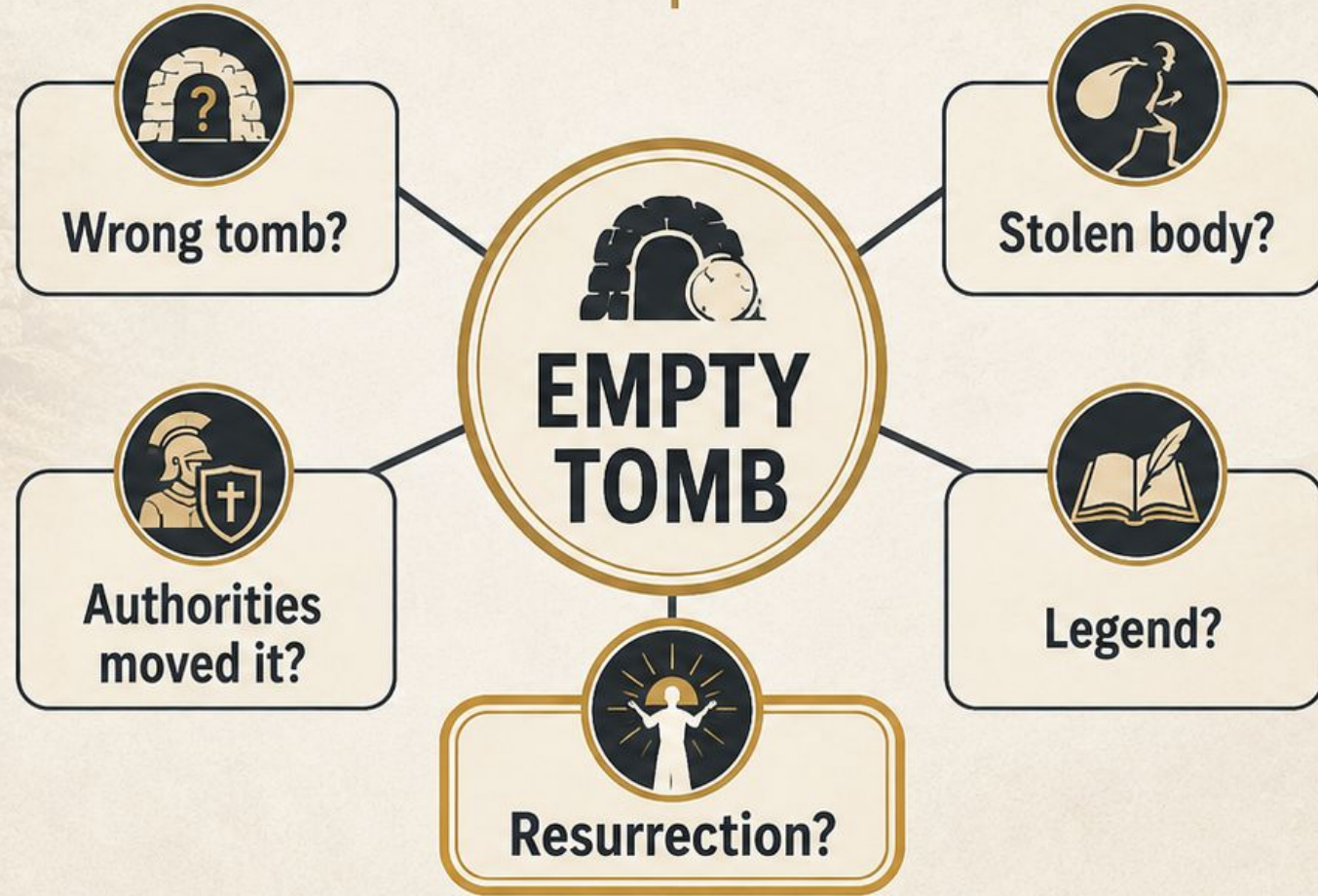
**The resurrection claim is not vague or merely spiritual.**



**Scripture references:** Matthew 27:57–61 • Mark 15:42–47 • Luke 23:50–56 • John 19:38–42

# THE EMPTY TOMB MUST BE EXPLAINED

*Which explanation accounts for all the facts?*



Matt 28 • Luke 24 • John 20



# WHO CLAIMED TO SEE HIM ALIVE?



*Resurrection testimony from 1 Corinthians 15*



**Peter**

**1**



**The Twelve**

**2**



**500+**

**3**



**James**

**4**



**All the  
Apostles**

**5**



**Paul**

**6**



*Individuals, groups, skeptics, and opponents*



**1 Cor 15:3–8**

# THE CUMULATIVE CASE



*Each anchor contributes to the historical picture*

 ANCHOR	 WHAT IT ESTABLISHES
 Trial	Public Roman setting
 Tree	Real death
 Tomb	Known burial
 Third Day	Empty grave
 Testimony	Resurrection appearances



**The force is cumulative: all five point in the same direction.**

# THREE GOOD QUESTIONS



Conversation tools for gracious apologetics



1

**What do you mean by that?**



2

**What makes you think that?**



3

**How does that account for all five T's?**



**POSTURE**

Know it deeply. Hold it confidently. Explain it gently.



Col 4:6 • 1 Pet 3:15