



The Celebration of Easter from a Science Perspective



Science is a Latin word for knowledge. **Operational Science: making observations that are repeatable or can be tested** to verify or refute these observations. **Historical Science: Conceiving interpretations about the past** from observations in the present.

A fundamental aspect of testing is to make predictions then testing to see if the predictions are valid, do they prove to be true.



The Bible calls these predictions, prophecies. And the Bible provides criteria for evaluating whether those predictions are valid or true. **Deut 18:22** *“When a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the thing does not come about or come true, that is the thing which the Lord has not spoken. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.”*

Bible Prophecies

Question: Are they validated by Science?

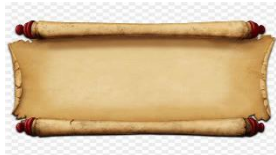
Written 700 years before Christ fulfilled them.



Is 53:2-10 “He has no stately form or majesty,...He was despised and forsaken of men,...a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;...esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted....He was pierced through for our transgressions,...by His scourging we are healed. ...the iniquity of us all to fall on Him. ...He did not open His mouth; silent before its shearers,...By oppression and judgment, He was taken away;...cut off out of the land of the living...His grave was assigned with wicked men,...He was with a rich man in His death

1. The Messiah is to be born in Bethlehem

700-750 BC



Micah 5:2 But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting.”

Matt. 2:1-7 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea



John 7:42 Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from...the town of Bethlehem

Luke 2:4-7 Joseph also went up ...to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem ... she brought forth her firstborn Son

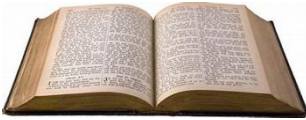
Observations by eye-witnesses: real science confirms the scripture

2. The Messiah is to enter Jerusalem on a donkey

500 BC



Zechariah 9:9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.

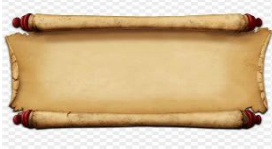


Matthew 21:7 They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them, and set Him on them.

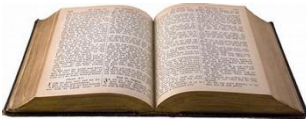
Luke 19:35 Then they brought him (colt or donkey) to Jesus. And they threw their own clothes on the colt, and they set Jesus on him.

3. The Messiah is to be betrayed and sold for 30 pieces of silver.

500 BC



Zechariah 11:12 Then I said to them, "If it is agreeable to you, give me my wages; and if not, refrain." So they weighed out for my wages thirty pieces of silver.

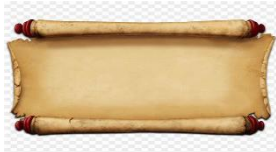


Matthew 26:15 and said, "What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?" And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver

Matthew 27:3 Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders,

4. The money for which Messiah is sold is to be thrown "to the potter" in God's house

500 BC



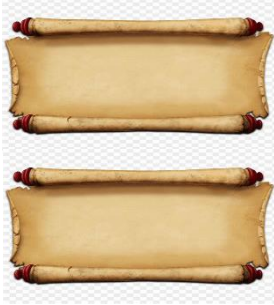
Zechariah 11:13 And the Lord said to me, "Throw it to the potter" that princely price they set on me. So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the Lord for the potter.



Matthew 27:5-7 Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself. But the chief priests took the silver pieces and said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, because they are the price of blood." And they consulted together and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in.

5. The Messiah would have His hands, feet and side pierced.

1000 BC

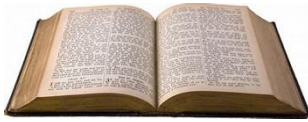


Psalms 22:16-17 For dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet; I can count all My bones. They look and stare at Me.

500 BC

Zechariah 12:10 "then they will look on Me whom they pierced..."

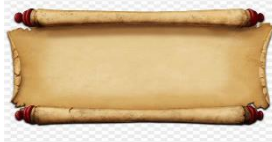
John 19:34 But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.



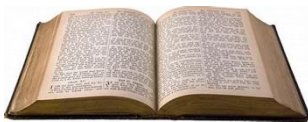
John 20:25-27 So he (Thomas) said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." ... Jesus came... said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing."

6. On the cross they would divide up His garments.

1000 BC



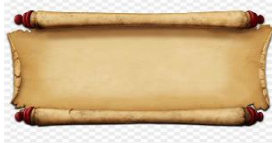
Psalms 22:18 They divide My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots.



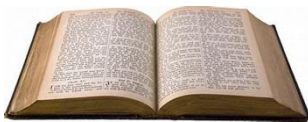
John 19:23-24 Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His garments and made four parts, to each soldier a part, and also the tunic. Now the tunic was without seam, woven from the top in one piece. They said therefore among themselves, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be," that the Scripture might be fulfilled which says: "They divided My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots."

7. The Messiah is to be given vinegar to quench His thirst

1000 BC



Psalms 69:21 They also gave Me gall for my food, And for My thirst they gave Me vinegar to drink.



Matthew 27:34 they gave Him sour wine mingled with gall to drink. But when He had tasted it, He would not drink

John 19:29-30 Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on hyssop, and put it to His mouth. So when

Prophecies are not fulfilled by Chance! But by God's Directive!



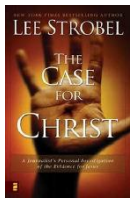
2 Pet 1:20-21 *“But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.”*

A Question for Us Today:

According to the Bible’s criteria, did Jesus fulfill these prophecies? Can we trust these testimonies in the Bible?

- 1. The testimonies of their fulfillment were all written within 100 years after the resurrection.**

Book of Mark written ≈70 years afterwards, Matthew and Luke ≈80 years, John ≈90 years. Because the gospels were written so soon after the actual event, people were still around that could speak out against it if it were not true. But, because it was true, the news spread like wildfire. So much so that it radically changed the whole world.



As Lee Strobel wrote in his book the Case for Christ *“The two earliest biographies of Alexander the Great were written by Arrian and Plutarch more than four hundred years after Alexander’s death in 323 B.C., yet historians consider them to be generally trustworthy.”* The testimonies in the Bible were written <100 years after the event.

No one has ever proved them wrong!

- 2. Jesus’ appearing to the apostles and others after his resurrection radically changed their lives.**

John 20:19 *When therefore it was evening, on that day, the first day of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them ‘Peace be with you.’*

The Disciples were scared and hiding behind closed doors. His appearing radically changed their lives. As Strobel wrote, *“these disciples had nothing to gain except criticism, ostracism, and martyrdom. They certainly had nothing to win financially. If anything, this would have provided pressure to keep quiet, to deny Jesus, to downplay him, even to forget they ever met him—yet because of their integrity, they proclaimed what they saw, even when it meant suffering and death.”* How many of us today would be willing to do that if it were a lie?

- 3. Archeology and Geography confirms the Scriptures.**



We can trust the testimonies recorded in the Bible. When the writers mention people, places, and events, they have been independently verified to be correct.

Archaeology has repeatedly confirmed specific references in the gospels, including the use of 5-7 inch spikes for crucifixion.

4. The Bible is the Most Read and Authenticated Book in History

There are over 5000 copies of the original Greek New Testament manuscripts still around today. As Strobel points out *“the Roman historian (Tacitus), who wrote his Annals of Imperial Rome in about A.D. 116. **“His first six books exist today in only one manuscript, and it was copied about A.D. 850. the greatest amount of manuscript testimony is of Homer’s Iliad, which was the bible of the ancient Greeks. There are fewer than 650 Greek manuscripts of it today. Some are quite fragmentary.”***

5. Historians Confirmed the Bible’s Testimonies of Jesus



Probably the most recognized historian is Flavius Josephus who wrote *“Now there was about this time Jesus, a wise man, **if it be lawful to call him a man, for he was a doer of wonderful works, a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He drew over to him both many of the Jews and many of the Gentiles. He was the Christ, and when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men among us, had condemned him to the cross, those that loved him at the first did not forsake him; for he appeared to them alive again the third day; as the divine prophets had foretold these and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning him. And the tribe of Christians so named from him are not extinct to this day.”***

2000 Years later the “Tribe of Christians” are still not extinct

Jesus’ Crucifixion and Resurrection



1 Cor 1:3-9 says “For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures”

Question: Are the Bible’s account of Jesus’ crucifixion supported by medical science?

What does medical science tell us about the torture He endured?



Matt 26:38 Then He (Jesus) said to them, “My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death; remain here and keep watch with Me.”

Luke 22:44 And being in agony He was praying very fervently; and His sweat became like drops of blood, falling down upon the ground.

Hematidrosis: Condition in which capillary blood vessels that feed the sweat glands rupture, causing them to exude blood. Occurs under extreme physical or emotional stress. Causes Severe Pain. The skin becomes extremely fragile so when Jesus was flogged it was extremely painful.

Medical Science Confirms the Bible Account of Jesus Sweating Blood!

Scourging and Crucifixion In Roman Tradition

(W.D. Edwards, Mayo Clinic; W.J. Gabel, West Bethel United Methodist Church; F.E Hosmer, Mayo Clinic)



“Flogging was a legal preliminary to every Roman execution”

“A short whip with several braided leather thongs .. small iron balls or sharp pieces of sheep bones,...the man was stripped and his hands tied to an upright post. The back, buttocks, and legs were flogged by two soldiers (lictors),...to a state just short of collapse or death. The iron balls would cause deep contusions, and the leather thongs and sheep bones would cut into the skin,...as the flogging continued, the lacerations would tear into the underlying skeletal muscles and produce quivering ribbons of bleeding flesh. Pain and blood loss generally set the stage for circulatory shock.

The victim would experience tremendous pain and go into hypovolemic shock.

Lee Strobel says this does 4 things: “(1) the heart races to try to pump blood that isn’t there; (2) the blood pressure drops, causing fainting or collapse; (3) the kidneys stop producing urine to maintain what volume is left; and (4) the person becomes very thirsty as the body craves fluids to replace the lost blood volume.”

Question: Is this consistent with eye witness testimonies?

John 19:1-3 “Pilate then took Jesus and scourged Him. And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and put a purple robe on Him; and they began to come up to Him and say, “Hail, King of the Jews!” and to give Him slaps in the face.”

Matt 27:26 “after having Jesus scourged, he handed Him over to be crucified.”

The eye-witness testimonies confirm that Jesus was scourged!



John 19:17 They took Jesus, therefore, and He went out, bearing His own cross, to the place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha

Matt 27:32 As they were coming out, they found a man of Cyrene named Simon, whom they pressed into service to bear His cross.

Scriptures describe how Jesus could not continue to carry the cross to Golgotha

Sweating and loss of blood would severely dehydrate Jesus



*John 19:28 After this, Jesus, knowing that all things had already been accomplished, to fulfill the Scripture, *said, “I am thirsty.”*

The medical conditions are confirmed by eye-witness testimonies!



Five-seven inch long spikes driven through the wrists. The spike would go through the place where the median nerve runs which would be excruciating but allowed the skeleton to hold up the body. The arms would be stretched until the shoulders dislocate.

This confirms the prediction of the Bible 1000 years before

Psalm 22:14, predicted when it said 'All My bones are out of joint.'



Death on the cross was usually a slow excruciating death by asphyxiation. To exhale the victim had to push themselves up on their feet so the tension in the chest muscles could ease enough to exhale. Then they could relax back down into hanging position and inhale.

This confirms the prediction of the Bible 1000 years before

Ps 22:15 "My strength is dried up like a potsherd"



As the victim's breathing slows down, they go into respiratory acidosis. The carbon dioxide in the blood is dissolved as carbonic acid and the acidity of the blood increases. And leads to an erratic heartbeat.

This confirms the prediction of the Bible 1000 years before

Ps 22:14 which says "My heart is like wax, it is melted within me."

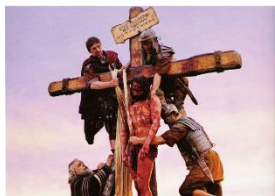


Jesus knew when it was the end and said his final words "Lord, into your hands I commit my spirit" And then He died of cardiac arrest. The hypovolemic shock would have caused a sustained rapid heart rate that would have contributed to heart failure. This would have resulted in the accumulation of fluid in the membrane around the heart, called a pericardial effusion, as well as around the lungs, which is called a pleural effusion.

John 19:34 "But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you also may believe."

Science Confirms John's eye-witness account

The resurrection is the corner stone of the Christian faith!



1 Corinthians 15: 17 "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins."

Question: Is the Resurrection true, can it be validated?

One of the greatest proofs of His resurrection was the empty tomb.



What do we know about the empty tomb.

Matt 28:5-7 *The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified. He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying. Go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen.”*

The first witnesses of the empty tomb were women. Why?



Extraordinary use of eye witnesses

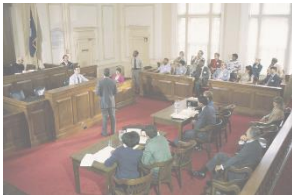
Consider that the empty tomb was recorded by Matthew, Mark, Luke & John as first discovered and reported by women. Women were not respected in first-century Palestine. Their testimony was regarded as worthless. They weren't allowed to serve as legal witnesses in a Jewish court of law.

Not the way you would write it if you fabricated the story.

Testimonies of His Resurrection, Chronologically

Jesus appeared to: Mary Magdalene, in John 20: 10–18; the other women, in Matthew 28: 8–10; Cleopas and another disciple on the road to Emmaus, in Luke 24: 13–32; 11 disciples and others, in Luke 24: 33–49; 10 apostles and others, with Thomas absent, in John 20: 19–23; Thomas and the other apostles, in John 20: 26–30; 7 apostles, in John 21: 1–14; the disciples, in Matthew 28: 16–20. the apostles at the Mount of Olives before his ascension, in Luke 24: 50–52 more than 500 brethren at one time in 1 Cor 1:3-9; and Paul on the road to Damascus, in Acts 9:1-3.

Can Eye Witness accounts be trusted?



There are minor differences between the empty tomb narratives but this is further evidence of their truth. If they were exactly alike one would have to question if they got together and concocted their accounts. **Lee Strobel concludes that the slight differences from multiple, independent witnesses of an empty tomb confirm the story.**

Further evidence that these eyewitness accounts are true.

We see after the resurrection that they **started abandoning their occupations**, and committing themselves to **spreading a very specific message**—that Jesus Christ was the Messiah, who died on a cross, was buried and rose again and doing this amid extreme persecution-even death. Paul gave up his career as a Pharisee plus he was **“beaten times without number, often in danger of death. Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine lashes. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent in the deep. I have been on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers among false brethren; I have been in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.”** 2 Cor 11: 23-27

Further Proofs of His Resurrection



Consider that there were Romans soldiers guarding the tomb. World's leading professional army. They were there to prevent the disciples from stealing the body then claiming he had risen.

Matt 27:63-64 "Sir, we remember that when He was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I am to rise again.' Therefore, give orders for the grave to be made secure until the third day, otherwise His disciples may come and steal Him away and say to the people, 'He has risen from the dead,' and the last deception will be worse than the first."



The Pharisees tried to cover up the empty tomb? ***Matthew 28:11-14 tells us the Chief Priest paid the guards a large sum of money to say that the disciples stole the body while they were sleeping.***

Why wasn't it believed?

Remember Paul and Silas were in jail. Acts 16:27 When the jailer awoke and saw the prison doors opened, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped.

Roman soldiers would be disgraced and executed

Facts backed by Science (Observations & Predictions)

Jesus was scourged by the Romans

He was crucified

He was buried

He rose the third day

He is alive!



He is Alive,

Our Savior Lives

He Reigns!



Rom 5:12, 15 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned... BUT, the free gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the GIFT by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many.

The Dave Crowder song 'How He Loves' says "Oh, how He loves us, Oh how He loves... Heaven meets earth like an unforeseen kiss...I don't have time to maintain these regrets when I think about, the way that He loves me." (Lyrics by John Mark McMillian). At Easter we are reminded how much Jesus loves us, But, have you considered how much God the Father loves us?

Is 53:10, 11 says "But the Lord (God the Father) was pleased to crush Him (Son), putting Him to grief. If He would render Himself as a guilt offering." "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall... have eternal life." Jn 3:16 Remember "God demonstrates His own love towards us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us" Rm 5:8