

IS THERE LIFE AFTER LIFE AFTER DEATH?

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The New Testament and the People of God
"The Resurrection."

Jesus is indeed risen from the dead. Three proofs:

I. THE LINGUISTIC PROOF.

The concept of resurrection...

- A. **never meant** *life after death*.
- B. **always meant life after life after death.** Physical resurrection from the dead.

II. THE CAUSE AND EFFECT PROOFS

Ten Historical Events or Effects.

For each of them, the only sufficient cause is **the belief** of the very early Christians in the bodily rez of Jesus Christ.

1. **The Continuity and Yet the Discontinuity in Their Beliefs Concerning Resurrection.**
2. **The Basic Change in the Roman World Cf. Afterlife and Resurrection.**
3. **Their Belief in Jesus as the Messiah, King of Kings.**
4. **The Change in Their Views Cf. The Messiah.**
5. **Jesus Was Never Seen as a Martyr, like James and Stephen.**

6. **Neither James or Peter Took Jesus' Place as Rebel Leader and Would-be Messiah.**
7. **Christians Did Not Follow Any of the Messiahs and Were Not Involved in Jerusalem's Fall in 70 A.D.**
8. **Christians Left So Much Written Testimony to the Bodily Resurrection of Jesus Christ.**
9. **The cross was changed from a symbol of shame to a symbol of God's saving love.**
10. **The Christians worshiped on the first day of the week rather than on Saturday.**

There are many historical effects that point to the historical cause of the early Christians belief in the rez of Jesus X.

III. THE NECESSARY AND SUFFICIENT PROOFS.

What led the very earliest Xtians to believe that Jesus was bodily risen from the grave?

Meaning of necessary and sufficient conditions.

1. Sufficient cause to produce the effect.
2. The Necessary cause to produce the effect.

The Empty Tomb.

1. The Jewish apologetic against the rez assumes the tomb to be empty!
2. No record of a secondary burial of Jesus. 6 to 18 mo.
3. No record of His tomb or niche being venerated.

The Empty Tomb is not sufficient by itself for early Christian belief.

The Appearances of Jesus.

Also not sufficient by itself.

The Empty Tomb Plus the Appearances of Jesus.

The combination is **sufficient** for the early Christians' faith that Jesus was risen from the dead.

This rules out gradual development theories.

The Empty Tomb Plus the Appearances of Jesus Are Also Necessary for the Disciples Belief in His Bodily Rez.

What led to the proven historical facts of the empty tomb and the bodily appearances of Jesus after His death?

Let's go back to **necessary** and **sufficient** conditions.

The Bodily Resurrection of Jesus from the Dead would be a **sufficient** condition or cause to produce the effects of an empty tomb and bodily appearances.

The Bodily Resurrection of Jesus from the Dead is also a **necessary** cause to produce the effect of an empty tomb and bodily appearances.

The Bodily Resurrection of Jesus Christ is actual historical fact based upon the historical tool of necessary and sufficient proof.