

Why I Believe in Jesus Christ

Encountering God

Do rational reasons for belief in God exist?

The authenticity of the bible

The trustworthiness of the bible

Jesus resurrection

Encountering the resurrected one



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— “The extended lines of relationships intersect in the
eternal You“

Martin Buber, *Ich und Du*, p. 71 (Reclam)

— My encounter with the eternal You

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Do Rational Reasons for Belief in God Exist?

- After encountering God I asked myself: are there rational reasons which confirm my faith
- Is the bible authentic?
- Is the bible trustworthy?
- Did Jesus rise from the dead bodily?

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The Authenticity of the Bible

- “The bible is a fairy tale“
- “The more I studied the manuscript tradition of the New Testament, the more I realized just how radically the text had been altered over the years by the hand of scribes.... In some instances, the very meaning of the text is at stake.“

Bart D. Ehrman, *Misquoting Jesus*, pp. 207, 208

- “That Jesus really walked on the sea, quieted a storm, multiplied bread, changed water into wine und raised the dead is taken by no one seriously today.“

Gerd Lüdemann, *Der große Betrug*

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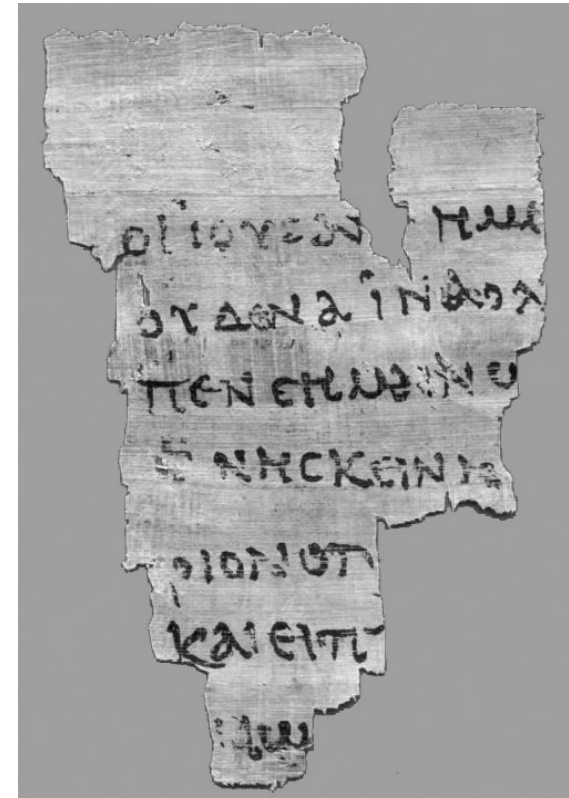
Encountering the resurrected one

The Authenticity of the Bible

- The authenticity of the new testament writings

- “The New Testament, then, has not only survived in more manuscripts than any other book from antiquity, but it has survived in a purer form than any other great book – a form that is 99,5 percent pure.”

Norman L. Geiser and William E. Nix, *A General Introduction to the Bible*, 1963, p. 361



Papyrus 52 (recto) being the oldest discovered manuscript of the gospel of John, about.130 A.D.

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Comparison of ancient texts

Author/Title	Date Written	Earliest Copy	Number of Copies	Accuracy of Copy
Caesar	1st Cent. B.C.	900 A.D.	10	
Livy	1st Cent. B.C.		20	
Tacitus	c. 100 A.D.	1100 A.D.	20	
Herodotus	5th Cent. B.C.	900 A.D.	8	
Homer	9th Cent. B.C.		643	95%
New Testament	50 - 100 a.D.	c. 130 A.D.	5.000	99+%

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“in no other case is the interval of time between the composition of the book and the date of the earliest manuscripts so short as in that of the New Testament.”

“The last foundation for any doubt that the scriptures have come down to us substantially as they were written has now been removed.”

F. Kenyon, *The Bible and Archaeology*, 1940, pp. 288-89
(Sir Frederic Kenyon was director of the British Museum
and an expert for ancient manuscripts)

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“And when there was made an onset both of the Gentiles and of the Jews with their rulers, to treat them shamefully and to stone them, they became aware of it, and fled unto the cities of Lycaonia, Lystra and Derbe, and the region round about:”

Acts 14:5-6

“Luke is a historian of the first rank; not merely are his statements of facts trustworthy; he is possessed of the true historic sense;... In short, this author should be placed along with the very greatest of historians.”

Sir William Mitchell Ramsay, *The Bearing of Recent Discovery on the Trustworthiness of the New Testament*, 1915, p. 222

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The Authenticity of the Bible

- The bible is the access to the eternal You
- “But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”

(Matthew 4:4)

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The Trustworthiness of the Bible

- An important criterion for the trustworthiness of the bible are the prophecies
- The destruction of Jerusalem(70 A.D.) was prophesied by Jesus.
- Daniel (about 540 B.C.) prophesied concerning the kingdoms of Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome.

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- The time of the coming of the Christ
Predicted in Daniel 9:24-27 (*about 540 B.C.*)

“Seventy weeks are decreed upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most holy.

Know therefore and discern, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the anointed one, the prince, shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: it shall be built again, with street and moat, even in troublous times.”

Daniel 9:24-25

- Each week comprises 7 years

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- The beginning is marked by the command to rebuild Jerusalem
- This command was given by King Artaxerxes in the 20th year of his reign in the month Nisan.
(Nehemiah 2:1-8)
- This point in time was March 5th, 444 B.C.

Sources: Sir Robert Anderson; „The Coming Prince“
Dr. Harold Hoehner; „Chronological Aspects of the Life of Christ“

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- The time of Messiah's coming was his triumphant entry into Jerusalem. This was the only time he was recognized as Messiah by the people of Israel.
(Luke 19:28-40)
(Zechariah 9:9)
- This point in time was March 30, 33 A.D.

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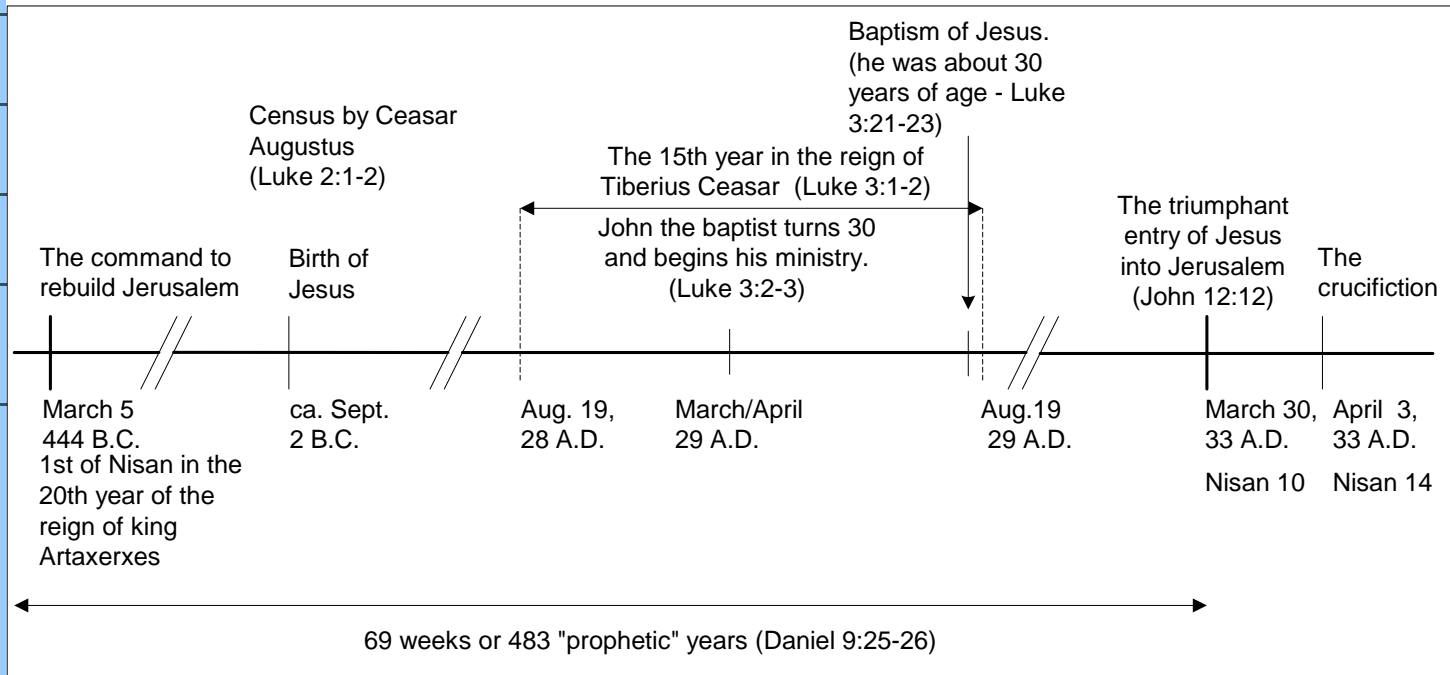
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— The calculation of the time from the command to rebuild Jerusalem to the coming of the Messiah is as follows:

The 483 years are based on the lunar calendar, more exactly on the biblical version of the prophetic year, which has a fixed amount of 360 days per year.

- $483 * 360$ equals 173.880 days

The conversion in our calendar is as follows:

- 444 B.C. until 33 A.D equals 476 years (notice that 1 B.C. til 1 A.D. is only 1 year)
- $476 \text{ years} * 365,24219879 \text{ days/year} = 173.855 \text{ days}$
- From March 5 to March 30 are 25 days
- $173.855 + 25 = 173.880 \text{ days}$

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The probability that somebody per chance fulfils 8 prophecies is about 1 : 10^{17} (10 to the 17)

The probability of fulfilling 48 prophecies is about 1 : 10^{157}

(this matches about the number of electrons in the universe)

Peter W. Stoner (Mathematician), *Science Speaks*

There are more than 300 concrete prophecies concerning the Messiah, which were all fulfilled by Jesus

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— “And he said unto them, O foolish men, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Behooved it not the Christ to suffer these things, and to enter into his glory?

And beginning from Moses and from all the prophets, he interpreted to them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.”

Luke 24: 25 - 27

— “Ye search the scriptures, because ye think that in them ye have eternal life; and these are they which bear witness of me;

and ye will not come to me, that ye may have life.”

John 5:39 - 40

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Jesus Resurrection

- Did the miracle of resurrection really happen?
- If Jesus truly rose from the dead, then this is the strongest proof that he was the Christ of God.

Then we must also accept, that the message of the bible concerns us

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Jesus Resurrection

— “Beyond that Pannenberg claims that the resurrection of Jesus is not only a matter of Christian faith, but that it is a historically verifiable fact, which must lead every historian to accept the truth of faith.”

*Encarta (german version), concerning Wolfhart
Pannenberg,
Professor of Theology, München*

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Jesus Resurrection – a Historic Fact

- **Generally Acknowledged Facts**

- **1. The Empty Tomb**

- “...nearly all NT scholars agree that Jesus’ burial is one of the best-established facts about Jesus.”

William Craig, *Reasonable Faith*, S. 273
Professor of Philosophy, Biola University, CA

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Jesus Resurrection – a Historic Fact

2. The Appearances of the Resurrected One

“and that he appeared to Cephas; then to the twelve; then he appeared to above five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain until now, but some are fallen asleep; then he appeared to James; then to all the apostles; and last of all, as to the child untimely born, he appeared to me also.”

The apostle Paul, *1. Cor. 15:5-8*

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Jesus Resurrection – a Historic Fact

3. The Origin of the Christian Faith

“...the birth and rapid rise of the Christian Church...remain an unsolved enigma for any historian who refuses to take seriously the only explanation offered by the Church itself.”

C.F.D. Moule

Theologian, Cambridge University, UK,
The Phenomenon of the New Testament, Studies in
Biblical Theology 2/1 p. 13

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Jesus Resurrection

“The book that refused to be written”

“When, as a very young man, I first began to seriously study the life of Christ, I did so with a very definite feeling that, if I may so put it, His history rested upon very insecure foundations.”

“I had long wanted to study it, to investigate the origins of its literature, so sift some of the evidence at first hand, and to form my own judgement on the problem it presents. I will only say that it effected a revolution in my thought.”

Frank Morison, *Who Moved the Stone*, p. 2 and 4

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Encountering the Resurrected One

— Encountering the resurrected one

— “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I that live, but Christ living in me: and that life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith which is in the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself up for me.”

The apostle Paul, in Galatians 2:20

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Encountering the Resurrected One

- “But the righteousness which is of faith saith thus,
Say not in thy heart, Who shall ascend into heaven?
(that is, to bring Christ down:)
or, Who shall descend into the abyss? (That is, to
bring Christ up from the dead.)
But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, in thy
mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith,
which we preach:
because if thou shalt confess with thy mouth Jesus
as Lord, and shalt believe in thy heart that God
raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved:”
The apostle Paul, Romans 10:6 - 9