

- Annas Elder High Priest of the Jewish Sadducees
- Joseph Caiaphas High Priest of the Jewish Sadducees
- King Herod Antipas
- Emperor Caesar Tiberius
- Pontius Pilate
- Entire Greek Population
- Entire Jewish Population
- Entire Roman Legion of warriors
- Entire Sanhedrin (Council of all Pharisees and Sadducees)
- Every other person in Jerusalem and the rest of the world that traveled to Jerusalem for the Jewish Passover celebration

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Many of these people and groups represent the immense body of people (thousands) that wanted nothing more than to stop this new movement called Christianity. Christianity was a threat to all of these people and groups. Many would have laid their life down to put an end to it.

Bart D. Ehrman lists five factors that drew people to Christianity, abandoning what they have practiced and known for thousands of years. The birth of Christianity:

1. The promise of salvation and eternal life to everyone willing to put their faith in Christ. God shows NO impartiality. Salvation was not dependent on any amount of works, money, or any other worldly thing. Faith and faith alone from the peasant to the king.
2. All the false Roman Gods only consisted of were fanciful stories, but no proof. False religions conveniently do “miraculous” things in secret where nobody can see it for themselves. Christ performed miracles that cannot be explained in natural ways in front of large crowds and directly in front of many important figures listed above. Even the Jews that hated Jesus wrote about his miracles in the Talmud, simply saying that his miracles were the result of Satanic power. Even the Koran speaks of this person named “Jesus” and his miraculous powers. All this showed that Jesus was the one TRUE God.
3. The lower class people, the peasants, diseased, broken, and lost souls, those considered the “least of these”, Jesus brought a promise of a better future not dependent on their “worldly” position or status
4. In a world full of worship of many, many false Gods with all their rules, requirements, and often evil rituals, Christianity revealed the one true God. A God radiating with love, shown through Jesus Christ, who came first to serve in his death, and then extending the offer to become one with Him through faith. Works come THROUGH faith and love for Christ, not an act of works earning Christ’s love and forgiveness.
5. In the Roman world, converting one member of the household (especially the father) often meant the entire household became converts to Christianity

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All of these people and groups, thousands of people in total:

- witnessed the entire three years of Jesus’ ministry
- witnessed Jesus’ miracles

- witnessed the brutal, almost fatal, scourging of Jesus
- witnessed his last “walk” to the cross
- witnessed the nails being driven
- witnessed him hanging on the cross
- witnessed the ceasing of movement/breathing
- witnessed the Romans checking if he was really dead
- witnessed Jesus being speared through the side and into his heart cavity
- witnessed him being taken down off the cross hurriedly before Passover began
- witnessed him being placed in the tomb and the stone rolled into place
- witnessed the Roman guards (16) guarding the tomb
- witnessed the disciples sadness and confusion over the death of their king

Christianity lives or dies on the fact that Christ in fact beat death. If Christ didn't rise, then you're a dead man/woman walking. There is no salvation. There is no chance at heaven. Christianity is the absolute biggest hoax in the known history of mankind. Our church, our works, our faith, our beliefs, are all fairy tales. Someone please read 1 Corinthians 15:13-19

So I would like to ask each person/group representative, if you wanted to squash the Christian movement and prove Christ really did not rise from the grave, what one thing would stop the movement in it's track?

### **SHOW ME THE BODY!!**

If Christ did not rise from the grave, then he should still be in the tomb. In one simple act, King Herod, Pontius Pilate, the Sadducees, the Pharisees, the Greek Pagan citizens, the Jewish citizens.... Could simply get the body from the tomb and put the dead Jesus on display for the entire world to see. Just like that, Christianity is over.

But they couldn't! The enemies began making up stories and people to this day began making up their own stories.

- The Roman guards fell asleep and the disciples stole the body.
- Jesus wasn't really dead
- The women went to the wrong tomb and it was open
- Everyone was hallucinating that saw Jesus after he rose

The Argument is NOT IF Jesus was prepared for burial, placed in the tomb as a dead man, and the tomb sealed tightly shut for three days until it was found open.

The Argument is “Why was the tomb empty three days later?” The body was NEVER produced. Jesus' was no longer in the tomb.

As we begin to approach Easter, we will be looking at some of these arguments against Jesus' resurrection and be asking you to use your common sense as we approach these outrageous claims to suppress the truth. Jesus died and rose again!