

THE **REASON** TO BELIEVE IN JESUS

The majority of Biblical scholars, including the skeptics who do not accept the New Testament, do accept the data pertaining to Jesus as reliable history. Ancient non-Christian sources such as the Jewish historian Josephus, the Roman historian Tacitus, and the Jewish Talmud, among others, record that Jesus died by "hanging on a stake".

When Jesus predicted his death and resurrection, either his disciples did not have a clue what he was talking about, or they could not accept what he was saying. It is hard to imagine the anguish his disciples were going through after his execution. When Jesus appeared to them three days later, his disciples were transformed. Absolutely no opposition could silence them. On Pentecost, Peter, who had cowered in fear earlier, spoke boldly to the crowds in Jerusalem. He was not whispering in a corner. The high priest marveled at his words and wisdom. The news spread rapidly, and lives were radically changed. Through persecution and death, their faith was unshakable.

Jesus's brother James, was a skeptic and ridiculer of Jesus, but he became the leader of the Jerusalem congregation. There was Saul (Paul), who was obsessed with obliterating this new sect. He was also utterly transformed, and became the apostle to the Gentiles. From personal experience they knew that Jesus had been resurrected.

James and Paul were both executed because they could not deny the resurrection. Like others, they also had a choice. Caesar and life, or Jesus and death. This also is verified in non-Christian sources.

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Tacitus, a renowned historian of ancient Rome, wrote that when Jesus was executed by Pontius Pilate, Christianity was *"Checked for a moment"*, but then it *"broke out, not only in Judaea...but even in Rome."*

The Roman Senator, Pliny stated the *"willingness"* of Jesus' disciples to suffer martyrdom. Tradition says that all the apostles were martyred.

There are Buddhist, Christian and Muslim martyrs who are very zealous about their belief. They BELIEVE what they have been taught, and will die for their belief. But the disciples of Jesus had a *personal* experience. They KNEW he died on a *"stake"* and was buried. Three days later he appeared to them in his glorified body, and not just once, but numerous times.

If even one Apostle would have said the resurrection was a lie to save his life, Christianity would have received a severe blow. If the resurrection did not happen, the disciples would not have willingly let themselves be tortured to death to promote a lie.

WOULD YOU DIE
FOR A LIE???

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