

**The Case for Christ**  
**Part 2: Exploring the Case**  
**1 Corinthians 15:3-8**

**Questions #1: Was Jesus alive at Point A?**

- Virtually every scholar, secular and Christian, agrees Jesus actually lived in the first century.
- Some skeptics on the internet claim the story of Jesus was stolen from the story of a mythological god named Mithras. But this has been proven false.
- T. N. D. Mettinger: “The nearly universal consensus of scholars around the world is that there are no examples of any mythological gods dying and rising from the dead that came before Jesus. These resurrection myths came **after** Christianity, so Christianity could not have done the borrowing.”
- Bart Ehrman, “The claim that Jesus was simply made up falters on every ground.”

**Question #2: Was Jesus dead at Point B?**

- Though the Qur’an claims Jesus ascended into heaven without dying, five ancient sources outside the Bible claim Jesus was crucified under Pontius Pilate: Josephus, Tacitus, Lucian, Mara Bar-Serapion, and the Talmud.
- Even the atheist New Testament scholar Gerd Lüdemann said, “Jesus’ death as a consequence of crucifixion is indisputable.”

**Question #3: Was Jesus alive again at Point C?**

• **The tomb was empty**

1. If it were not empty, the Jews and/or Romans would have shown Jesus’ body.
2. The fact that we’re told **women** discovered the empty tomb first was an embarrassment to early Christians. Why include that detail unless it was true?
3. The disciples didn’t have the motive, means, or opportunity to steal the body. Besides, why suffer and die for a lie?

• **The risen Jesus appeared to many**

1. **The 1 Corinthians 15 creed (1 Cor. 15:3-8)**
2. **Paul’s testimony about the disciples (1 Cor. 15:11)**
3. **Sermon summaries in Acts**
4. **Matthew (and points 5, 6, and 7) The four Gospels confirm the disciples saw the resurrected Jesus.**
5. **Mark**
6. **Luke**
7. **John**
8. **Clement**
9. **Polycarp**