

WHY

I BELIEVE

?

THE RESURRECTION | PASTOR STEVE STEELE | AUGUST 9TH, 2026

First
BAPTIST CHURCH OF LEBANON

“Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. ¹⁶ But do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ.”

1 PETER 3:15-16 (NLT)

“And if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins. ¹⁸ In that case, all who have died believing in Christ are lost! ¹⁹ And if our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are more to be pitied than anyone in the world.”

1 CORINTHIANS 15:16-19 (NLT)

Was Jesus a _____ person?

“Many people have set out to write accounts about the events that have been fulfilled among us. ² They used the eyewitness reports circulating among us from the early disciples. ³ Having carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I also have decided to write an accurate account for you, most honorable Theophilus, ⁴ so you can be certain of the truth of everything you were taught.”

LUKE 1:1-4 (NLT)

Was Jesus _____ ?

“Then Pilate had Jesus flogged with a lead-tipped whip.”

JOHN 19:1 (NLT)

“So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the two men crucified with Jesus. ³³ But when they came to Jesus, they saw that he was already dead, so they didn't break his legs. ³⁴ One of the soldiers, however, pierced his side with a spear, and immediately blood and water flowed out. ³⁵ (This report is from an eyewitness giving an accurate account. He speaks the truth so that you also may continue to believe.)”

JOHN 19:32-35 (NLT)

“Pilate couldn't believe that Jesus was already dead, so he called for the Roman officer and asked if he had died yet. ⁴⁵ The officer confirmed that Jesus was dead, so Pilate told Joseph he could have the body.”

MARK 15:44-45 (NLT)

Was Jesus _____ on the _____ ?

“Very early on Sunday morning, just at sunrise, they went to the tomb. ³ On the way they were asking each other, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' ⁴ But as they arrived, they looked up and saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled aside.

⁵ When they entered the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a white robe sitting on the right side. The women were shocked, ⁶ but the angel said, 'Don't be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He isn't here! He is risen from the dead! Look, this is where they laid his body.' ”

MARK 16:2-6 (NLT)

“ I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. ⁴ He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. ⁵ He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve. ⁶ After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷ Then he was seen by James and later by all the apostles.”

1 CORINTHIANS 15:3-7 (NLT)

“ God raised Jesus from the dead, and we are all witnesses of this.”

ACTS 2:32 (NLT)

SO WHAT ?

Was Jesus _____ was?

“ Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.”

JOHN 14:6 (NLT)

“ Then the high priest stood up before the others and asked Jesus, ‘Well, aren’t you going to answer these charges? What do you have to say for yourself?’ ⁶¹ But Jesus was silent and made no reply. Then the high priest asked him, ‘Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?’

⁶² Jesus said, ‘I am. And you will see the Son of Man seated in the place of power at God’s right hand and coming on the clouds of heaven.’ ”

God, the Father _____ .

MARK 14:60-62 (NLT)

“ One day Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee, and John baptized him in the Jordan River. ¹⁰ As Jesus came up out of the water, he saw the heavens splitting apart and the Holy Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹ And a voice from heaven said, “You are my dearly loved Son, and you bring me great joy.”

The Disciples _____ .

MARK 1:9-11 (NLT)

“ Jesus and his disciples left Galilee and went up to the villages near Caesarea Philippi. As they were walking along, he asked them, ‘Who do people say I am?’ ²⁸ ‘Well,’ they replied, ‘some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say you are one of the other prophets.’ ²⁹ Then he asked them, ‘But who do you say I am?’ Peter replied, ‘You are the Messiah.’ ”

The Roman Soldier _____ .

MARK 8:27-29 (NLT)

“ When the Roman officer who stood facing him saw how he had died, he exclaimed, ‘This man truly was the Son of God!’ ”

MARK 15:39 (NLT)

_____ ?

“ Then Jesus told him, ‘You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me.’ ”

JOHN 20:29 (NLT)

DISCUSSION Questions: COMMUNITY GROUP VIDEOS available on the APP |

- 1- Do you have any conspiracy theories you think are fun to talk about? Why?
- 2- In the age of misinformation and AI images and video, How do you decide what to believe and what to reject? Have you ever been duped? Or truly believed something that wasn’t true?
- 3- What are some of the most common objections people have to the resurrection of Jesus? How do you answer them?

- 4- Re-read 1 Corinthians 15:16-19. Why is the resurrection so central to our faith?
- 5- Re-read 1 Peter 3:15&16. How can you believe in the resurrection and have open conversations about faith but do it in a gentle and respectful way?
- 6- Who has God laid on your heart to ask “What do you think?” Pray for the opportunity to ask questions.

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