

EASTER (2019)

Louis Farrakhan, the black heretic hate racist from Chicago, just made the news earlier this month because of a speech he gave. In the speech he said God does not love the world. God never sent Jesus to die for the world. Jesus was never on a cross. The real story is “I am the Messiah.” That is what he claimed. He claims that he is the real Messiah and Savior.

Every now and then some religious liar and kook surfaces who claims they are the Messiah. In the Jewish religion, ever since the time of Christ, some 14 have claimed to be. In the history of Christianity, nearly 40 have claimed to be the Messiah (Sun Myung Moon and David Koresh). In Islam religion some eight have claimed they are the Messiah, the latest is Farrakhan.

But there is one key event that you can look at that proves they are all frauds. That event is the resurrection. When the false religious heretics die, none of them comes back to life and shows himself to the very people who went to his funeral. Jesus did. Only one was raised from the dead and the only One is Jesus Christ.

THE RESURRECTION APPEARANCES OF JESUS CHRIST PROVES HE IS THE ONLY GOD/SAVIOR/MESSIAH/KING.

There is no religion that can save you from your sins and there is no other religious leader who can save you from your sins. There is no church that can save you from your sins. There is only one and that one is Jesus Christ. The events concerning His death, burial and resurrection are carefully documented in four gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

The fact that Jesus Christ was crucified and arose is also documented in secular history. Tacitus (AD 56-120), the Roman senator, said Christ was executed by Pontius Pilate. Josephus (AD 37-100), the Jewish historian commissioned by Rome, said that Pilate crucified Jesus and on the third day He appeared “restored to life.” Pliny (AD 23-79), a friend of Tacitus, said that Christ was worshipped as a God. Babylonian Talmud (AD 500) said on the eve of the Passover, Jesus was hanged. Lucian (AD 120-192) said Christians worship a crucified sage and live by his laws.

Secular mentions of Jesus Christ are impressive, but the Biblical documentation of events is far more impressive. The data is very precise and detailed right to the very day. From these accounts, we would like to lay out some of the date details.

There are eight date details; there are eighteen specific events and interestingly there are twelve documented resurrection appearances of Jesus Christ. Just as there are twelve tribes of Israel and twelve Apostles to the Church, so there are twelve appearances of Jesus Christ.

DATE DETAIL #1 – The events that occurred on Friday.

Jesus had been up all night and went through three religious trials—Annas, Caiaphas, Sanhedrin. He also went through three civil trials—Pilate, Herod, Pilate. He was sentenced to die on a cross in the wee hours of the morning.

He was paraded through the streets at about 8AM and nailed to the cross at about 9AM Friday morning. He was on that cross for about six hours and He died at about 3PM. From 9AM-12PM, He was mocked; He saved a thief and turned His mother over to John. From 12PM-3PM, darkness covered the land, He cried it is finished and the veil of the temple was torn in two.

By about 3PM Friday afternoon, Jesus was dead, hanging on the cross dead. After the death of Jesus Christ, a rich man, named Joseph of Arimathea (Matt. 27:57-60), went to Pilate and asked for the body so he could bury it in his own new tomb. Joseph had been a member of the Sanhedrin council (Mark 15:43), but he had not gone along with their plan to kill Jesus Christ (Luke 23:50-51). He risked his career, his reputation and his life by going to Pilate and asking for the body, but he did and Pilate granted him permission to take the body (John 19:38), so he took the body to bury it that Friday afternoon.

Another religious leader named Nicodemus, the man who came to Christ at night (John 3), came to join Joseph and he came with about 100 pounds of spices to wrap the body and anoint the body (John 19:39). That afternoon, these two men buried Jesus' body in a tomb in the garden (John 19:41-42). By about 5 PM that Friday, Jesus' body was buried in the tomb of Joseph. Almost everyone, including His own disciples, thought that body is buried forever.

But the religious leaders were jumpy that something might happen to that dead body, so they went to Pilate and convinced him to send a Roman guard to guard the tomb of Jesus' dead body and put a seal on the tomb (Matt. 27:62-66).

We have never been to a graveside where the concern is that within three days the body will come out of the grave after it has been buried. But that was their concern because Jesus had predicted this would happen on the third day, which He called the sign of Jonah (Matt. 16:4).

DATE DETAIL #2 – The events that occurred on Saturday. Mark 16:1

The second day was Saturday and that was the Sabbath Day and all things were quiet. All anyone knew at that point is that Jesus was dead and buried in a tomb. From what we may gather, no one expected much of anything to happen that day or any other day. They certainly did not expect Jesus Christ to show up alive anywhere. But a lot of things started happening on Sunday morning, the third day.

DATE DETAIL #3 – The events that occurred Sunday Morning.

That first Sunday morning after Christ had been crucified there were at least 9 documented events that took place.

Event #1 - A violent earthquake occurred and an angel appeared and rolled the tombstone away in front of the Roman soldiers. **Matt. 28:2-4**

Now the angel was a specific angel of the Lord. Jesus controls angels and apparently one of His specific angels showed up for this event. His appearance was brilliant, like lightning and his clothing was as white as snow.

This event occurred very early in the morning, before it was light. The tomb was being guarded by Roman soldiers and when this happened, and when they saw that angel, they all shook in fear and fell down like dead men and then they got up and fled (Matt. 28:11).

That is how that Sunday morning started.

Event #2 - Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, Salome, Joanna and other women begin their walk to the tomb, bringing their spices to anoint the body. **Mark 16:1; Matt. 28:1; Luke 24:10**

The women started walking in the dark, long before daybreak. This is probably around 6AM. This is about a two mile walk from Bethany and for slower walkers it could take the better part of an hour, especially in the dark. As they were walking to the tomb, they are wondering how they will get the stone rolled away to anoint the body. Not one of these women think Jesus is alive.

A tombstone was typically 4-6 feet in diameter. It could weigh 2,000 pounds. Usually there was a groove which made it possible for a person to move the stone into position. It was angled in such a way that it would roll into place. The difficulty was not getting the stone into place; it would be to move it back out once it was in place. So the ladies are walking and discussing this.

Event #3 - Mary Magdalene is the first to get to the tomb. **John 20:1-2**

Mary Magdalene got to the tomb ahead of the other women and it was still dark and when she found the tomb open, she immediately ran to inform Peter and John that the body has been stolen. We may assume that her route is a different one from the other women, because she does not appear to run past the women with whom she had been walking. Mary Magdalene does not believe at this point that Jesus has been raised from the dead; she thinks the body has been stolen.

Event #4 - Mary, Salome, Joanna and the other women get to the tomb and find it is open. **Mark 16:4**

The rest of the women get to the tomb after the sun has come up (Mark 16:2). **They go inside the tomb and they see two angels (Luke 24:4), one of which informs them that Jesus has risen from the dead (Matt. 28:5-7).** The angel tells them to go and tell the other disciples that Jesus has risen from the dead and will meet them in Galilee.

Event #5 - The women take off running to find the disciples. **Matthew 28:8**

These women believe the angels and are happy and joyful. They immediately take off running to find the disciples. The same women who had been walking are now running. They are not wearing nice running shoes nor are they running in running clothes. The women were probably in good shape because they walked everywhere; but these are not women athletic runners. But this news made them run. They are excited to learn Jesus is alive.

Event #6 - Peter and John take off running to the tomb as soon as Mary Magdalene told them Jesus' body was gone.

Mary Magdalene found Peter and John (John 20:2) and she told them that someone had moved the body of Jesus Christ and she didn't know where it is. So Peter and John took off running to the tomb and John brings out the fact that he outran Peter (John 20:3-10). When they get to the tomb, they found the linen wrappings that had been on the body plus the face-cloth. The tomb was empty so they went back to their houses. They did not believe Jesus was alive and risen from the dead.

Event #7 - Mary Magdalene went back to the tomb again and she sees two angels (John 20:11-18).

Mary Magdalene was the woman Christ had healed of seven demons. She was standing outside the tomb weeping and as she looked in she saw two angels who questioned her about her weeping. She said I am crying because they have taken away my Lord and she did not know she was talking to Jesus. **Jesus appears first to Mary Magdalene** alone here (Mark 16:9).

Event #8 - The other women have not yet reached the other Apostles and Jesus appears to them. **Matt. 28:8-10**

As the women were on their way to reveal the message of the angel to the disciples, Jesus, Himself, appeared to the women and told them to go tell the disciples that He would see them in Galilee. **This is Jesus' second resurrection appearance.** So His first appearance was to a woman and His second appearance was to the rest of the women who had gone to the tomb. These women went and told the disciples, but the disciples did not believe any of them (Mark 16:11).

Event #9 - Sometime late in the morning, Jesus appeared to Peter. Luke 24:22, 34; I Cor. 15:5

This would have been an incredible encouragement to Peter who had denied the Lord. But Jesus specifically appeared to Peter. **This is Jesus' third appearance.**

These nine events all took place on that first Sunday morning.

DATE DETAIL #4 – The events that occurred on Sunday Afternoon.

Event #10 - Jesus appears to two men on the road to Emmaus (Mark 16:12-13; Luke 24:13-32; John 20:19-25)

A lot had happened that Sunday morning and now it is Sunday afternoon. Emmaus was about seven miles from Jerusalem (Luke 24:13). This is about a two to three hour walk. One of the men walking was named Cleopas. As they were walking, they were discussing the things that had happened and Jesus showed up. Jesus walked along with these two and talked to them about the events that had occurred, even though they did not know it was Him. They were discussing Christ's death and the report of the women who claimed they saw angels who said Jesus was alive.

Jesus talked to them about the resurrection and about all the Scriptures that referred to Him and as He was talking, their hearts burned within them, but they still didn't know who He was. As they got to their village of Emmaus, the two urged Jesus to stay with them and eat with them which Jesus did. He took some bread and blessed it and broke it and gave it to them and their eyes were opened and they realized they had been with Jesus (Luke 24:29-32). It was the breaking of the bread that opened their eyes. **This was Christ's fourth appearance.**

The two got up and went seven miles back to Jerusalem to inform the disciples of what happened, but they did not believe them (Luke 24:33; Mark 16:12-13).

DATE DETAIL #5 – The events that occurred on Sunday Evening.

Much had happened on that Sunday but come Sunday evening, things were not over.

Event #11 - Jesus appears to ten disciples minus Thomas in the Upper Room. Luke 24:36-43; John 20:19-25

That first Sunday evening the disciples were locked in a room afraid of what the Jews might do to them (John 20:19). Jesus showed up in the midst of the room and the first thing He says to them is "peace be to you." His cross work had made it possible for sinners to be at peace with God. Jesus showed them His hands and feet; He showed them His side (John 20:20) and He ate some broiled fish with them (Luke 24:42-43). He spent time teaching them. **This was Christ's fifth appearance.**

Every one of these eleven events occurred on that first Sunday of His resurrection. We could certainly conclude from this that Jesus Christ does meet with His people collectively Sunday morning and Sunday evening.

DATE DETAIL #6 – The events that occurred on the following Sunday one week later.

Event #12 - Jesus appears to the eleven Apostles including Thomas. **John 20:26-28**

Thomas had missed Christ's first appearance the week before. He told everyone that unless he would see the nail prints in Christ's hands and put his hand into His side he would not believe. Jesus came to the disciples a week later and stood in their midst. He actually had Thomas take his finger and touch His hands and side and Thomas said, "My Lord and My God." Jesus did many sign things in the presence of His disciples. **This was His sixth appearance.**

DATE DETAIL #7 – The events that occurred in the following 32 days.

Event #13 - Jesus appeared to seven disciples by the Sea of Galilee. John 21:1-14

This is the third time He appeared to a collective group of His disciples. This meeting took place on the shore and at this appearance, Jesus let His disciples catch fish and He cooked breakfast for them and confronted Peter. **This was His seventh appearance.**

To this point Jesus has appeared to nearly 40 people, who have actually seen Him alive.

Event #14 - Jesus appears to 500 brethren, most of whom were still alive when Paul wrote I Corinthians. **I Cor. 15:6**

This is His eighth appearance and now the numbers are at least 540 people who have seen Him alive.

Event #15 - Jesus appears again to the eleven at the mountain in Galilee. **Matt. 28:16-20**

This is Jesus' ninth resurrection appearance which now brings the total number of people who have seen Him alive to 551.

Event #16 - Jesus appears to James the half-brother of Jesus. **I Cor.15:7**

This is Jesus' tenth appearance and now the total number of eyewitnesses is 552.

Event #17 - Jesus appears to His eleven disciples in Jerusalem and led them outside the city and ascended into heaven. Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:4, 9

This is Jesus' 11th appearance and the number of eyewitnesses is at least 563.

DATE DETAIL #8 – The event that occurred months later. **Cor. 15:8-9; Acts 9:1-5**

Event #18 - Jesus appeared to Paul many months later.

This is Jesus' 12th appearance. What we have is a record of 564 people that we know of who saw Jesus Christ alive.

Jesus Christ is the Only God Savior Messiah King and if you will believe on Him, you will have life and hope.