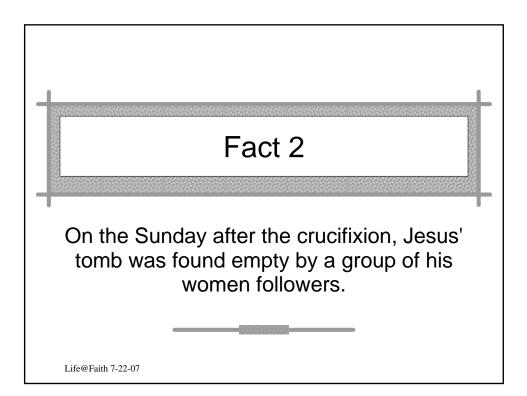




- **Evidence** supporting this fact:
- Jesus' burial is attested in the very old information handed on by Paul in his first letter to the church in Corinth, Greece. (1 Cor. 15:3–5)
- 2. The burial account is part of very old source material used by Mark in his gospel.
- 3. As a member of the Jewish high court that condemned Jesus, Joseph of Arimathea is unlikely to be a Christian invention.

13

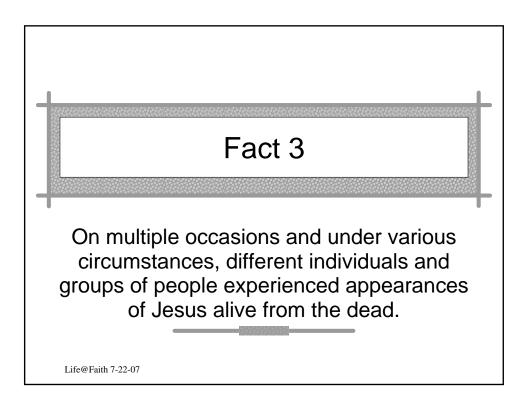
- 4. The burial story lacks any signs of legendary development.
- 5. No other competing burial story exists.





- **Evidence supporting this fact:**
- 1. The old information transmitted by Paul implies the empty tomb (e.g., "he was buried ... he was raised").
- 2. The empty tomb story is also part of Mark's very old source material.
- 3. The story is simple and lacks signs of legendary embellishment.
- 4. The tomb was probably discovered empty by women. This is significant because in Jewish society, the testimony of women were regarded as unreliable.
- 5. The earliest known Jewish response to the proclamation of Jesus' resurrection presupposes the empty tomb.
- Jacob Kramer: "By far most exegetes hold firmly to the reliability of the biblical statements concerning the empty tomb."

15



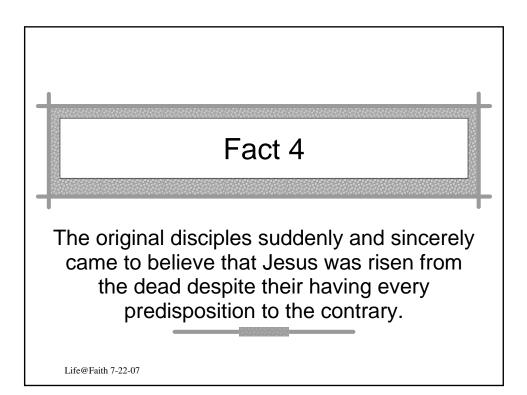


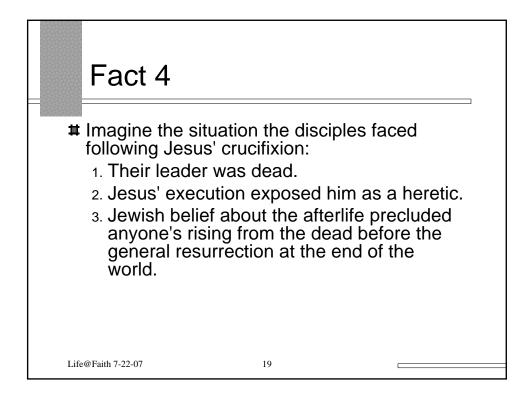
# Evidence supporting this fact:

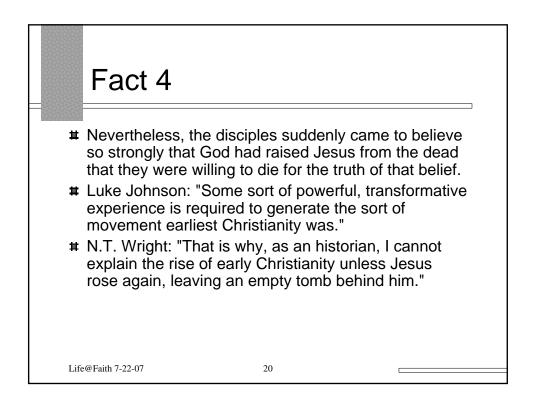
 The list of eyewitnesses to Jesus' resurrection appearances that is quoted by Paul imply that such appearances occurred. (Cephas, the Twelve, more than 500 brethren, James, all the apostles, Paul. [I Cor. 15:5–8])

 The appearance narratives in the gospels provide multiple, independent attestation of the appearances. Gerd Ludemann: "It may be taken as historically certain that Peter and the disciples had experiences after Jesus' death in which Jesus appeared to them as the risen Christ."

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## **Best Explanation**

- C. B. McCullagh, in *Justifying Historical Descriptions*, lists six tests historians use in determining the best explanation for a given body of historical facts:
  - 1. It has great explanatory scope.
  - 2. It has great explanatory power.
  - 3. It is plausible.
  - 4. It is not ad hoc or contrived.
  - 5. It is in accord with accepted beliefs.
  - 6. It far outstrips any of its rival theories in meeting conditions 1–5.
- The hypothesis "God raised Jesus from the dead" passes all these tests.

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