



In an age obsessed with empirical evidence, measurable data, and scientific verification, the question of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ may seem, to many, out of place. How can one prove a unique, unrepeatable event that occurred over two thousand years ago? Is it even possible to speak of “proof” in a rigorous sense?

The answer, surprisingly, is yes... but not from the laboratory—rather, from the courtroom.

This article proposes a solid, profound, and accessible approach: the **legal or juridical method**, a form of analysis used for centuries to determine the truth of past events. Through this lens, we will discover that the Resurrection is not merely a pious idea, but an event with extraordinary testimonial weight.

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## 1. The Modern Mistake: Trying to Prove Everything with the Scientific Method

We live under the influence of the scientific method, which has produced extraordinary results in fields such as medicine, physics, and technology. But here lies a fundamental problem: **not everything can be subjected to the scientific method.**

The scientific method is based on three essential pillars:

- Observation
- Experimentation
- Repetition

For something to be scientifically verifiable, it must be repeatable under controlled conditions. For example:

- If you drop an object, it will fall (gravity).
- If you mix certain compounds, they will react predictably.

Now, **the Resurrection of Jesus Christ is not a repeatable phenomenon.**

We cannot “recreate” the empty tomb in a laboratory or trigger a resurrection for observation. It would be like trying to scientifically prove that Julius Caesar crossed the Rubicon: it cannot be repeated, yet no one doubts that it happened.



□ **A clear example:**

No one has personally witnessed the signing of many historical treaties, and yet we accept them as valid because there are documents, witnesses, and verifiable consequences.

Therefore, demanding scientific proof of the Resurrection is to apply an inadequate method. It is like using a thermometer to measure justice or a scale to weigh love.

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## 2. The Legal Method: How a Historical Fact Is Proven

This is where the **legal method** comes into play, used in courts to determine the truth of past events.

This method does not require repetition but is based on three types of evidence:

### 1. Testimonies

- Eyewitnesses
- Consistent statements
- Agreement among different sources

### 2. Documentary Evidence

- Written texts
- Historical records
- Letters and chronicles

### 3. Material Evidence

- Physical objects
- Traces of the event
- Verifiable consequences

This is the same method we use to accept universally acknowledged historical facts:

- The existence of Socrates
- The Punic Wars
- The fall of the Roman Empire



And it is precisely this method that is applied to the Resurrection.

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### 3. Testimonies: The Heart of the Case

The Gospels are not late myths, but **testimonies close to the events**, written in a culture where lying about public occurrences carried serious consequences.

#### a) Multiple and Independent Witnesses

- Mary Magdalene
- The apostles
- The disciples on the road to Emmaus
- More than 500 people (according to St. Paul)

*“He appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living...” (1 Corinthians 15:6)*

This is crucial: St. Paul is essentially saying, *“You can go and ask them yourselves.”*

#### b) Inconvenient Witnesses

In a culture where a woman’s testimony had little legal value, the fact that women are the first witnesses is **not propaganda**, but a sign of authenticity. If it were fabricated, more “credible” witnesses would have been chosen according to the mentality of the time.

#### c) Transformation of the Witnesses

The apostles went from:

- Fear
- Hiding
- Denying Christ

to:



- Public preaching
- Accepting persecution
- Dying as martyrs

No one dies for something they know to be a lie.

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## 4. Documentary Evidence: The Gospels Under Scrutiny

The Gospels have been examined using rigorous historical criteria:

- **Temporal proximity:** written only a few decades after the events
- **Internal coherence:** though stylistically different, they agree on the essentials
- **External confirmation:** non-Christian sources (such as Roman and Jewish historians) acknowledge the existence of Jesus and the early Christian movement

Furthermore, they include uncomfortable details:

- Peter's cowardice
- Thomas's doubt
- The abandonment at the cross

This is not propaganda; it is faithful memory.

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## 5. Material Evidence: The Empty Tomb and Its Consequences

### a) The Empty Tomb

Even Jesus' enemies did not deny that the tomb was empty. Instead, they spread the claim that the body had been stolen.

But this explanation raises serious problems:

- How could frightened disciples have stolen the body?



- Why would they later die defending that lie?
- How do we explain the appearances?

## b) The Birth of the Church

Something extraordinary happened:

- A small, persecuted group changed the world
- Faith in the risen Christ spread rapidly
- A community emerged willing to die rather than deny this truth

This cannot be explained without a real event driving it.

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## 6. The Theological Dimension: Beyond Proof

Although the legal method offers a solid foundation, the Resurrection is not merely a historical fact—it is **a mystery that speaks to the heart**.

“If Christ has not been raised, our faith is futile” (1 Corinthians 15:14)

The Resurrection is not an addition to Christianity; it is its very core.

It means that:

- Death does not have the final word
  - Sin has been defeated
  - Eternal life is real
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## 7. Practical Applications: Living as Witnesses Today

This is not just an intellectual matter. It has profound consequences for our daily lives:



## 1. Live with Hope

If Christ has risen, our struggles are not meaningless.

## 2. Face Suffering with Purpose

The cross is not the end; it is the path to glory.

## 3. Bear Witness

Every Christian is called to be a witness—not only with words, but with life.

## 4. Seek Truth Honestly

God does not fear sincere investigation. Faith is not blind; it is reasonable.

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## Conclusion: A Case Open to the Heart

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ cannot be confined to a laboratory, but it can be examined rigorously. The legal method shows us that:

- There are reliable testimonies
- There are coherent documents
- There is evidence difficult to explain without the Resurrection

But in the end, as in every great trial, there is a personal decision to be made.

Christ does not only want to be analyzed... He wants to be encountered.

And perhaps the most important question is not:

**“Can the Resurrection be proven?”**

But rather:

**“If it is true... what will I do with it?”**