

**REASONS
FOR
OUR
FAITH**

EMPIRICAL

JUSTIFICATIONS



Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, ² and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-6, 14



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THE GOSPEL

**ACCORDING
TO THE
SCRIPTURES**

**THE
RESURRECTION**

**WITNESSED BY
THE APOSTLES**


WHAT IS THE SINGLE GREATEST EVIDENCE FOR JESUS' RESURRECTION?



³⁶ As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, “Peace to you!” ³⁷ **But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit.** ³⁸ And he said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹ See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” ⁴⁰ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹ And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate before them.

⁴⁴ Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures,


LUKE 24:36-45



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DEFINING EMPIRICISM

Oxford Dictionary of Philosophy (2008)

The view that all knowledge of facts must be derived from experience. Empiricists maintain that sense experience is the ultimate source of all our concepts and knowledge, in contrast to rationalists who hold that knowledge can also be gained independently of experience, through reason.



3 Problems

Logical and Mathematical laws are not empirically derived.

Objective moral laws are not empirically derived.

Empiricism itself cannot be empirically verified.

A BIBLICAL APPROACH TO EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE

Scripture provides the framework within which we understand the world and any empirical evidence... Christian knowledge embraces all perspectives, including empirical ones, but does so under the authority of Christ.

Vern Poythress (Redeeming Science)

The empirical data we use in apologetics only make sense when viewed through the lens of God's revelation, which is the necessary precondition for all intelligibility.

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EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE

Tacitus (AD 56-120)

Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus... (Annals 15.44)

Mara Bar-Serapion (c. AD 80)

What advantage did the Jews gain from executing their wise King? It was just after that that their kingdom was abolished... (Letter to his son)

Babylonian Talmud: On the eve of Passover Yeshu was hanged. For forty days before the execution took place, a herald went forth and cried, 'He is going forth to be stoned because he has practiced sorcery and enticed Israel to apostasy. Anyone who can say anything in his favor, let him come forward and plead on his behalf.' But since nothing was brought forward in his favor he was hanged on the eve of the Passover. (Sanhedrin 43a)

EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE

- **Jesus died by crucifixion**
- **He was in Joseph's tomb**
- **The tomb was empty on the 3rd day**
- **The disciples came to believe in the Resurrection**

THE EMPIRICAL JUSTIFICATION OF THE GOSPEL

1. The Prophets (Scripture) predicts the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus.



2. The Apostles present eyewitness accounts of the ministry of Jesus in conformity with Scripture.



3. The Prophetic Prediction and Apostolic Account are supported by historical/empirical data.