

## How to Give Evidence of the Resurrection WITHOUT Using the Bible with Allen Parr

(August 8, 2025)

### FRANK:

Ladies and gentlemen, how do you show that Christianity is true? If you want to boil this all down, you just need to establish two facts. Because if these two facts are true, everything else falls into place. Number one, God exists. And number two, Jesus rose from the dead. Today we're going to dive into number two, did Jesus rise from the dead? Because if he did and God exists, mark it down, game over. Christianity is true.

In fact, if Jesus rose from the dead, it's not very difficult to show that the Bible is the word of God. That's of course what we do in our book, 'I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist.' But to help me think through this and to talk about evidence that many people don't talk about when it comes to the resurrection of Jesus, evidence outside the Bible, I have my friend Allen Parr here from The B.E.A.T. on YouTube, The B.E.A.T. with Allen Parr. Here he is, all the way from Dallas, Texas. We're right here in Charlotte, North Carolina at the CrossExamined Instructor Academy. Allen, it's great seeing you again, brother.

### ALLEN:

It's always good to see you, Frank. And I'm honored to be back here at CIA. Looking forward to a great weekend.

### FRANK:

That's right. Allen helps us teach young people and even older people how to present the evidence for Christianity, and how to answer questions and objections that people get when they try to present the evidence for Christianity. That's what the CrossExamined Instructor Academy is all about. And Allen, I mean, you went to Dallas Theological Seminary, I think one of the best seminaries in the world. For those people that don't know, we've done podcasts before together.



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But if this is the first podcast you're seeing with Allen, give us a little background about how you got into what you're doing now. Because you've got a great YouTube channel. It deals with apologetic issues, theology current events, over 1.3 million subscribers. How did this happen?

**ALLEN:**

Well, I appreciate that. Yeah, around 2000—

I would say 2014 or so, I was working at a church part-time. And I felt like the Lord was leading me for whatever reason at the time, I didn't know. I felt like he was leading me to leave that church for no particular reason.

The church was great, had a great position at the church, was working part-time there. And I didn't quite know what my next step would be, but I felt like God wanted to do something greater in me and through me than what I had been doing for the last 10 years.

And so, I left the church. Didn't know what my next move was. And right around that same time, when I took that step of faith, I started watching YouTube and started seeing a lot of people posting videos. At the time, there weren't a lot of Christian YouTubers, but there was just people just posting and getting a lot of views and a lot of exposure.

So, I said, man, what if I could, you know, put Christian content out there and teach the Bible in a way that people would really, you know, grasp it and understand it? And so, I figured, well, I'm going to learn about YouTube. And I tried to learn about video editing, graphic design, thumbnails. Didn't know anything about any of that. And then I started posting videos in 2015 or so, and did one video a week. Started off at five minutes of video. And here we are 10 years later. As a matter of fact, in August of this year-- Not sure when this podcast will be out, but it'll be 10 years, August 17, 2025.

**FRANK:**

And now it's full-time, right? You're doing it all the time. You put out two videos a week?

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**ALLEN:**

No, I used to. I had to cut that down to spend more time with family.

**FRANK:**

Okay, good, good.

**ALLEN:**

One video a week.

**FRANK:**

All right. It's great stuff. You get a lot of answers to difficult theological issues, apologetic issues, current event issues, The B.E.A.T. And B.E.A.T. stands for?

**ALLEN:**

Biblical Encouragement and Truth.

**FRANK:**

Biblical Encouragement and Truth. Check out Allen Parr right there. A L L E N P A R R at YouTube. But Allen, let's dive into this. The reason you got your laptop on your lap here is because you're about to give a presentation here at CIA. And whenever I do a presentation, I don't have it all memorized. So, we want to make sure that we don't miss anything.

Because you're going to tell us some evidence from outside the Bible that suggests that Jesus really did rise from the dead. But let's spend a few minutes talking about evidence from the documents that we now call the New Testament. What is some of the evidence that you would bring forth if someone were to say, well, how do you know Jesus rose from the dead?

And don't use the Bible! Well, first of all, even skeptics use the Bible to show certain things were true about Christianity. Even Bart Ehrman will use the Bible because these are historical documents. So, what's some evidence you would get from the New Testament to say, hey, Jesus really did rise from the dead?

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**ALLEN:**

Yeah, well, before we get into that, I think one of the main reasons why a conversation like this is very important is because, unfortunately, a lot of Christians, whenever they're asked the question, well, how do you know if Jesus really rose from the dead or they're having a conversation, Their immediate knee jerk reaction is to go use Scripture.

But what they don't realize sometimes is, you know, they can have this really detailed argument using Scripture. But what happens whenever you come across somebody, like I'm sure many of the people that you connect with on your college campuses, who basically have no regard or belief that the Bible is true?

Then at that point, a lot of Christians are left with, well, I don't quite know where to go in this conversation. And so therefore, we need to make sure we give them evidence of that. But some of the biblical evidences of the resurrection would be well, let's first talk about what we'll call the precautions of the Romans.

And we understand that the Romans put several different precautionary measures in place around Jesus' tomb to ensure that nothing happened with the body. So, they put a Roman guard. And for those who don't know, a Roman guard isn't just one single person. It was a group of highly trained Roman soldiers who basically were tasked to guard this tomb with their life. Their life depended on it.

So, the odds that these Apostles would come and have the boldness to fight and to you know, fight their way into this tomb and get past these Roman guards is highly unlikely because these people were trained and their life depended on it.

Matter of fact, later on in the scriptures, whenever the body was gone, they were fearful that they were going to be killed. Right? So, that tells you how seriously. But not just the Roman guard, but there was a seal that was around the stone that was in front of the tomb. And once again, some people might read that in The Bible think, oh, it's just a seal. But no, that seal had a Roman imprint on it. Right? Which lets you know that if I'm messing with this tomb, I'm not just messing with these Roman guards.

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I'm going to have to answer to the Roman government. It would be like us seeing a vault and it had like the imprint of the United States government on it, and it said federal property, hands off, or something. You're not just going to be messing with the people that are protecting that vault. You're going to have to answer to the United States government for that. Right? And not only that, but they also had a huge stone that weighed about two tons.

So, the odds of them being able to go into the tomb and roll that stone away in front of the guards, messing with the seal, it was just highly unlikely. So, they put a lot of measures, in place to ensure that that didn't happen.

**FRANK:**

You know, Allen, one thing about that. I know some skeptical scholars will say, well, Matthew invented the whole guard story. And I just find that ridiculous because if he is trying to convince the Jews that Jesus is the Messiah, and that, of course, is the focus of Matthew's gospel. He's saying that Jesus is the true Israel.

Jesus is the guy you've been waiting for. And in Matthew 28, he also talks about the story that the Jews had to try and explain the resurrection. The disciples came and stole the body while the guards were asleep. That wouldn't—

He would lose all credibility with his Jewish audience if he told those lies, if he said there was a Roman guard there and there really wasn't. And your story for the explanation is that the disciples came and stole the body while the guards were asleep, he would lose just all credibility because they would know.

They would say, that's not our story. We're not saying that the disciples came and stole the body. You're lying to us, Matthew. So, this is, I think, really important for us to point out, ladies and gentlemen, that when you look at the New Testament documents, as we're doing now, and scholars look at them, we're not assuming that they're the word of God, or we're assuming that everything in them is true. But when we look at what we see in these documents written in the first century, it's hard to explain why certain statements would be in these documents if they were lies.

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This has the ring of authenticity, because Matthew is going to destroy his credibility with the very people he's trying to reach if he's going to say there's a Roman guard there when there really wasn't and if he's going to say that your explanation, the Jews explanation is disciples came and stole the body while the guards were asleep. That's just not going to fly. So, it makes sense to believe that yeah, there really was a Roman guard and yeah there really was a resurrection because—

And the story was that they, they were trying to say they stole the body. It just makes sense that what's written in Matthew at this point is actually true and that we have a lot more with Allen Parr and evidence for the resurrection right after this.

Don't go anywhere. We're back right after the break. Welcome back to I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist on the American Family Radio Network and other stations across the country. I'm Frank Turek. My guest is Allen Parr of The B.E.A.T. with Allen Parr on YouTube. Great videos up there on theology, apologetics, current events. Today, we're talking about evidence for the resurrection without really assuming the Bible is true.

We're getting evidence to show that either what's in the Bible or circumstances outside the Bible that we know about evidentiary wise suggests that Jesus really did rise from the dead. Allen, before the break we were talking a little bit about the Roman guard, and the decision, or the explanation that the Jews had that they came and stole the body, the disciples did. Matthew wouldn't have put those in his documents because he's trying to reach those people, and they would know it was a lie if he said that. What's some other evidence that suggests Jesus did rise from the dead?

**ALLEN:**

Well, I think one of the strongest evidences, if we're just sticking with the Bible, we're obviously going to get into the non, extra biblical evidences here in just a moment. But the faith of the disciples, right? You know, the Bible really is very clear that just a few days before the resurrection, these guys were very, very afraid, timid, fearful. As a matter of fact, it says in Mark 14:50, then all his disciples deserted him and ran away.

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And so, if you can think about if the body was truly stolen, if that's the explanation for the empty tomb, then how and where would these disciples have gotten the courage to steal the body of Jesus when just a few days before they were fearful, they were timid, they were running away.

But then not only that, why after the resurrection were these people willing to risk their lives for as you say, something that they knew was a lie? Right. How many people would die for something that they knew was a lie? Nobody would die for something that you know was a lie.

So, the fact that they were willing to die, willing to be persecuted. Paul talks about in 2 Corinthians about him going without food, and sleepless nights, and being whipped and beaten and all these things. I don't know about you, but I only have one life to live. Why would I be willing to do all those things if it wasn't something that I truly believed in?

**FRANK:**

Sure, yeah. I mean, some people will die for a lie they think is the truth, but nobody will die for a lie they know is a lie. And I think the disciples were in a position to know whether Jesus rose from the dead or not. They knew that it wasn't a lie. And if it was a lie, why go through with it? It wouldn't make any sense.

**ALLEN:**

Yeah.

**FRANK:**

Oh yeah, absolutely.

**ALLEN:**

So, another one would be in the book of Acts. Peter and the Apostles, oftentimes mention the resurrection in their sermons. They're always saying things like, this Jesus whom you crucified, and we are all witnesses of this, right? And if you notice, if you read Acts very carefully, not one time in the book of Acts does anyone refute the validity of the resurrection.

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You would expect that if this resurrection didn't happen and these Apostles are preaching about the resurrection of Jesus, you would expect one of them to respond and say, hey, wait a second. What are you talking about, this resurrection of Jesus? Give us proof of that.

Hey, when did that happen? Or we don't believe that happened. But every time that Peter and the Apostles are preaching about the resurrection, and you look at the response, you don't see that event being refuted or denied. Which seems to once again, give positive, plausible evidence from the Bible that the people that were listening agreed that the tomb was empty.

**FRANK:**

Yeah, they did agree the tomb was empty. And the other interesting thing about this was their expectation, Allen, because Jews at that time all believed that a man claiming to be God would be considered blasphemy. And they all believed that there wouldn't be one guy resurrecting in the middle of time. They knew everyone would resurrect at the end of time because Daniel and Isaiah talk about that. But they didn't think one guy would claim to be God and resurrect from the dead.

This is not their expectation. That's why they were scared, scattered, and skeptical before Jesus rose from the dead. But after he rises from the dead, suddenly they're risking their lives and actually giving their lives for something they didn't believe could happen or would happen? It only makes sense if the resurrection really did take place, and that's important. By the way, there's one other interesting point in Acts that I like to point out. God bless you. One is, if you look in Acts 6:7, it says that many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

Priests, like Pharisee priests. And then you notice several chapters later in Acts 15, which is, time wise, probably 10 or 15 years later, it says that these group of Pharisee believers are asking Peter, and Paul, and James if they have to obey the Old Testament laws. Why would Luke say a number of priests, many priests, became obedient to the faith?

And why would he then say that many Pharisee priests were the ones asking the question, hey, we're believers in Jesus, but do we have to obey the Old Testament, all the Old Testament laws? Why would he say that if those things were not true? The Jews would have said, Luke, you're lying all about this. There's no Pharisee priests that are Christians, and there's certainly

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not a group of them asking questions about do I have to obey the Old Testament laws? Well, of course you do. But in Acts 15, that first church council, they're the ones bringing the issue up.

**ALLEN:**

Yeah, yeah, that's actually very interesting. Once again, very strong evidence, you know, just looking at the Bible, that this indeed is something that, it's an event that changed the history of time. And we didn't mention this earlier, but this is assumed. The reason why a conversation like this is so important is because Paul makes it very clear in 1 Corinthians that if we aren't sure about this one event in human history, then our whole faith is useless. This conference that we're at right now is useless. Our preaching is useless. Everything that we're doing, is a waste of time. So—

**FRANK:**

Our lives are waste of time.

**ALLEN:**

Yeah, I mean, obeying God, denying our flesh of what we want to do, having faith, trusting in God, going to church, the whole thing. Matter of fact, the Bible says that we as Christians would be the most pitiful people on earth because we're believing in something that never happened. Right? So, that's why we should be firm on this. Post resurrection appearances of Christ. The Bible talks about Jesus making his appearance several times after his resurrection, he appeared.

And one time he appeared, according to Paul, to over 500 people. And I know later on we'll talk about some of the possible explanations, but we might as well go there now. One of them is, well, the hallucination theory, right?

**FRANK:**

Yeah, deal with that one, because that's probably the biggest one. You know, I had Gary Habermas, who, as you know, is like the world expert on the resurrection. He's written three out of his four magnum opus volumes on the resurrection, and he says that that's still pro the top alternative explanation, the hallucination theory. And I just find it crazy. But anyway, talk about it. Why does it not fly?

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**ALLEN:**

Well, it doesn't seem to fly because, I mean, what are the-- It just seems like a long stretch for people to assume that, you know, the Bible says that Jesus appeared to over 500 people after he rose from the dead. Did all 500 of those people have the same--?

Not just hallucinate, but have the same hallucination about this event? It just seems like we're stretching and trying to-- Not we, but people are trying to stretch in order to explain away something that actually did happen in human history.

**FRANK:**

Hallucinations are not group events.

**ALLEN:**

Exactly.

**FRANK:**

Like, we don't all have the same dream every night. Hey, that was a great dream we had last night, wasn't it? What are you talking about, man? Also, the interesting thing is it doesn't explain the empty tomb.

**ALLEN:**

Exactly. Yeah, yeah, yeah. That was going to be the last one from a biblical perspective was the empty tomb, right? I mean, at the end of the day, that's the strongest evidence that Jesus rose from the dead. If they wanted to really destroy Christianity, or discredit it, all they had to do was produce a body.

Right? If they could produce the body of Jesus Christ after he supposedly rose from the dead and showed no, he didn't rise from the dead, here he is in the same way and condition that he was when we put him in, then Christianity would have been, you know, discredited from the first century on. It would never gain any traction.

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But the fact that the tomb was empty, they were not able to reproduce a body. And that's when they had to come up with the other ideas of, you know, the body was stolen and different things like that. But yeah, the empty tomb is the strongest evidence.

**FRANK:**

Yeah, other than the appearances themselves, the empty tomb. Because the Jews and the Romans were all too eager to disprove Christianity. How easy would it be to disprove it? You just go to the tomb. You know where the tomb is. You put a guard on it. I mean, it would be so easy to just blow Christianity out of the water by saying, here's the body. And they couldn't do it.

**ALLEN:**

Yeah, yeah, absolutely. So, those are just a few from the Bible. But what happens when you're in conversation with someone and they say, okay, all that is good, but I don't even believe your Bible.

Can you give me some evidence of the resurrection of Jesus without using any Scripture? Because I don't believe that your Bible is true. So, that's kind of where we want to spend the rest of our time.

**FRANK:**

Yeah, let's go there. And I might push back on somebody who said that. And I'd ask them, well, why do you think the Scriptures--? Do you think everything in the Bible is false? I mean, I would want to get some evidence as to why they think the Bible is false.

And I would also want to differentiate between the Bible being a religious book and it being an historical book and talk about some of the things we just talked about. But let's say we've already done that and they're still resistant to believing what the Bible says. Where do we go from here?

**ALLEN:**

Yeah, I was going to mention that because that's a good point. Because implied in that question or in that statement is that the Bible is not historically accurate. But let's just say for sake of

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argument that you feel like it's not. So, you know, obviously we could talk, about the historical, writings from non-Christian sources. I think that's very, very strong. And I've got a graphic that we'll probably put up on the screen, that talks about, you know, just first of all, the evidence that Jesus existed.

You've got people like Suetonius that says Jesus was a real man. He was called the Christ, caused Jewish disturbances. You got Celsus, allegedly born of a virgin, father was a carpenter, had miraculous power. Josephus, obviously wise man, his followers reported a resurrection.

And by the way, correct, me if I'm wrong, but none of these people were Christian historians. They were all secular historians. So, they had no bias or no reason to say, okay, you know, I'm going to kind of fudge some of the history so that it will align with my worldview as a Christian. I mean, these are people that were just committed to being good at their craft. They were historians and they wanted to be truth tellers, if they will.

**FRANK:**

So, yeah, Josephus was Jewish.

**ALLEN:**

Jewish, yes.

**FRANK:**

Not necessarily secular, but he became the best Jewish historian of the time for the Romans.

**ALLEN:**

Right.

**FRANK:**

And some dispute his citation. He actually quotes Jesus, I think, at least twice. One in reference to James, Jesus' brother. But also, this passage about Jesus perhaps being the Messiah.

Actually, there's some new evidence on that, Allen. I just learned about it a couple of months ago. Sean McDowell had this scholar on his YouTube channel. We'll put it in the show notes.

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And this guy thinks that the writing, the original quotation from Josephus is legitimate. Josephus did say that Jesus perhaps was the Messiah. We'll put it in the show notes. We can't get into it here. I don't remember all the arguments but check that out in the show notes. And we're going to have a lot more evidence with Allen Parr from outside the Bible that suggests Jesus really did rise from the dead.

You're listening to I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist with me, Frank Turek on the American Family Radio Network and other stations around the country, website [crossexamined.org](http://crossexamined.org), Cross Examined with a D on the end of it. Back right after the break. Welcome back to I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist.

Today we're talking to the great Allen Parr of The B.E.A.T. with Allen Parr on YouTube. We're talking about evidence for the resurrection, evidence even from outside the Bible that suggests Jesus rose from the dead.

And what we're going to do in the brand-new 'Digging Up the Bible' course is reveal so many archaeological discoveries that deal with Jesus, the Apostles, the resurrection, and so much from the Old Testament. In fact, when you take this course, you're going to see that we have discovered in the dirt seven people associated with the crucifixion of Jesus. It includes Jesus himself, James, his half-brother, who actually wasn't necessarily associated with the crucifixion.

That would be number eight. But we have James in the archaeology. We have Peter in archaeology. We have Caiaphas, the high priest who sentenced Jesus to die in the archaeology, and several others. If you want to be a part of the Digging Up the Bible course, go to [Crossexamined.org](http://Crossexamined.org). Click on online courses. You will see it there. I'll be your instructor. We'll have several Zoom sessions together. We'll also have Titus Kennedy, an archaeologist, for one of the Zoom sessions as well. This is 22 hours of video, ladies and gentlemen.

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Check it out, [crossexamined.org](http://crossexamined.org) with a D on the end. Let me go back to my friend, the great Allen Parr. Allen, we're talking about some of the non-Christian writers that mentioned Jesus and the Apostles. Who else do you have? We talked about Suetonius, Celsus. We talked a little bit about Josephus. Who else?

**ALLEN:**

Well, we've got the Talmud. Obviously, it talks about Jesus was executed the day before the Passover, had magical power. And by the way, this graphic and all these writings, they don't just give evidence of the resurrection of Jesus, but they also, interestingly enough, another apologetic question, which is the idea how do we know the Bible is true?

Or let's just say, how do we know the New Testament is reliable? You know you can really put together the overarching story of the entire New Testament, with just this document right here, with this looking at all—

Because some people will say, well, how do you know that the New Testament is true? Well, if you look at what the outside writers say about Jesus, or about certain things that happened in the New Testament, it seems to corroborate very closely with the things that happened that the New Testament writers talked about, right? So, the Talmud said he had magical power.

Thallus said Jesus lived, Jesus was crucified, darkness and earthquake happened when he was crucified. So, all this is consistent with the New Testament Gospel accounts. Tacitus said he was called the Christ. His followers were Christians executed under Pilate. Bar Serapion, Jesus was a wise king.

The Jews wanted him dead, and his teachings remain. Phlegon predicted the future. He said Jesus predicted the future. And then he even said Jesus rose after death and showed signs of crucifixion. And then Pliny, the Younger, his followers thought he was God.

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So, all of these non-Christian historians are giving evidence that this Jesus first and foremost, existed. But also, some of them are giving strong evidence that he rose from the dead as well.

**FRANK:**

Yeah, they're at least hinting in that direction. It's interesting, the Talmud talks about that Jesus was crucified on the eve of the Passover from practicing sorcery. You know, sorcery, like he was a magic-- Did you say magical powers? It was kind of a negative way of dealing with Jesus to say he was kind of an occultist almost.

**ALLEN:**

Right.

**FRANK:**

But they're admitting that he was doing something unusual, something that appeared to be supernatural as you say. Yeah. So, those writings by the way, ladies and gentlemen, are all within 100, well they're all at least within 150 years of Jesus' life.

Some closer than 150 years. And when you add them all up, you're right, Allen. You get a story congruent with the New Testament. They don't all say they believe Jesus rose from the dead, but they certainly say the disciples believed he rose from the dead.

**ALLEN:**

Right.

**FRANK:**

Which is an important corroboration. But you know what, not to get too far off track, but when people ask me for non-Christian sources, I say, well, here they are. But a lot of times I think, Allen, people don't realize that they, well what they think is, is that you can't trust the biblical writings because they're somehow biased. You can only trust the non-Christian sources.

But if you really think about that, ladies and gentlemen, that's a ridiculous belief, because it seems to me that the people that wrote down the New Testament documents had everything to lose by saying the resurrection was true if it really wasn't.

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**ALLEN:**

True.

**FRANK:**

They were biased to say it wasn't true. They're all Jews. Even people, scholars are believing Luke was a Jew now, that all the writers of the New Testament were all Jews. Why would they say, why would they abandon their 1500 year old religion for this new religion that's going to get them beaten, tortured, and killed unless it was really true.

**ALLEN:**

Absolutely.

**FRANK:**

So, if I'm going to trust anybody, I'm going to trust the people that had the most to lose by saying it was true. And those were the New Testament writers. These people are just the, you know, they're referencing the New Testament and referencing the events there, but they don't have as much skin in the game.

**ALLEN:**

Yeah. Because they're just historians.

**FRANK:**

That's right, yeah.

**ALLEN:**

Yeah. Their job is to tell what happened based on history. So, that's what they're doing. Yeah, absolutely. I know we talked offline about the minimal facts, right?

**FRANK:**

Yes.

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**ALLEN:**

You know, and that's, I think, a pretty strong evidence that Jesus lived. And there's several of these facts. And these are facts that historians pretty much universally agree on, as it relates to the life and the person of Jesus. Right? A Jewish man named Jesus died by Roman crucifixion.

He was buried most likely in a private tomb. Soon afterwards, now notice how this is phrased. His followers were discouraged, bereaved, and despondent, and having lost hope. So, they're not once again saying that Jesus rose from the dead. They're saying that his followers were discouraged because they had lost hope. And then fact number four, Jesus' tomb was found empty very soon after his burial. Fact number five, his followers had experiences that they believed were actual appearances of the risen Jesus.

Now, I want you to notice how that's phrased. The people that are-- Historians aren't saying Jesus rose from the dead. They're saying that his followers had experiences that they believed were encounters or actual appearances of the risen Jesus. So, we're saying, hey, okay, this is what they believe. And then number six, due to these experiences, the disciples' lives were transformed.

They were even willing to die for their beliefs. So, this would be one that we could use from a biblical perspective, as we talked about earlier, the faith of the disciples. But we could also introduce this as a talking point, for people who say, well, how do you know that the Bible-- Excuse me, that the resurrection happened without using the Bible?

Well, you could look at the fact that these disciples lives were transformed. People like Paul, people like James, Jesus' brother. I mean, think about how hard it would be to get your brother to believe that you're Jesus.

**FRANK:**

Yeah, right. That you're God.

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**ALLEN:**

Yeah, that you're God. Right, exactly. You're the Messiah that the Jewish people have been waiting for. So, I mean, if anyone would have been difficult to convert, it had to have been his own brother. Right? But the fact that his brother was converted, Paul was converted, and other skeptics were converted as well.

And people who are resistant to the Christian faith, skeptics, they seldom change their position on, their worldview rather, on something without sufficient proof. Right? I mean, typically think about the people that we encounter all the time. People who are skeptical about the Christian faith. Seldom do people just decide, oh, I'm going to believe differently now, when they believe one way their whole lives. So, the fact that these people were very, very skeptical, the Apostle Paul, once again, a great example.

Here's this guy out here, ordering for Christians to be killed and persecuting Christians. Something must have happened to cause him to no longer be a skeptic, and now he's planting churches. Right? So, that would be the minimal facts theory. Of course, we could talk about the transformation. That would be the other topic.

**FRANK:**

Let me mention one thing about minimal facts, just so people understand that we're not covering this in detail, but Gary Habermas does. In fact, he's sort of the author of this kind of argument. And Allen, he points out that when he says minimal facts, he doesn't just mean Christian scholars.

He's saying that scholars across the board, whether they're atheists or Christians or anywhere in between would to a 90% level, 90% of scholars agree with these minimal facts. The only question is, how do you interpret the facts?

**ALLEN:**

Right.

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**FRANK:**

Right? Here are the facts, but how do we interpret them? Are we going to say that there was a resurrection, or are we going to say, well, it was hallucinations, or disciples stole the body, or something else like that? So, the minimal facts are widely accepted. The only question is, how do you interpret them?

And by the way, if you're going to say that, well, there is no supernatural, you're never going to interpret the facts as saying Jesus rose from the dead. You're always going to say there's got to be a natural explanation.

**ALLEN:**

Yeah, yeah, absolutely. Yeah, that's very true. I think another talking point would be the rapid growth of Christianity.

**FRANK:**

Explain that. Go ahead.

**ALLEN:**

So, you know, this is another one of the minimal facts is that the proclamation of the resurrection took place very early, from the beginning of church history, right? So, that is a fact that the disciples, they went out and they started preaching about the resurrection.

And the fact that Christianity continued to grow seems to give some evidence that there was this historic supernatural event, the resurrection of Christ. Because if this event had not happened—

Well, first of all, let's talk about Christianity emerged from Jerusalem, right? It started growing out of the Jewish community in Jerusalem, which is exactly the place where the resurrection allegedly occurred.

So, if there was one place that would have been the easiest to dispute the resurrection, and to really to put an end to this whole lie or this myth or this story about the resurrection, the easiest place to have done that would have been in Jerusalem.

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So, it's not like the-- It's not like the resurrection happened in, let's just say, New York City and then Christianity started growing in Los Angeles. Right?

**FRANK:**

Right.

**ALLEN:**

No, I mean, if the resurrection occurred in New York City and then Christianity started growing rapidly in New York City, then how could that have happened? Because if the resurrection had not occurred in New York City, then all the people in New York would have easily been able to say, hey, wait, no.

There's the tomb, there's his body. No, it was stolen, or hey, we never saw these post resurrection things, never happened, or whatever, and Christianity would have quickly been squashed. But the fact that it continued to grow right in the place where the resurrection occurred, seems to give evidence that it did indeed occur.

**FRANK:**

Yeah, right out of Jerusalem. The easiest place to refute Christianity would be there. And yet, that's where it starts. And then it spreads around the world and transforms a lot of lives, which we're going to talk about right after the break. You're listening to I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist with me, Frank Turek on the American Family Radio Network.

My guest, Allen Parr. The B.E.A.T. with Allen Parr. Check him out at YouTube because he has some great videos up there, you're really going to enjoy. Many of them are on difficult issues like, oh, yeah, I don't know how to answer that. Well, check Allen Parr out.

He's gone to Dallas Theological Seminary, one of the best seminaries in the world, and he has some great stuff up there. We're going to be back right after the break. Don't go anywhere. See you after the break.

Welcome back to I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist. Today, I'm talking to my friend Allen Parr of The B.E.A.T. with Allen Parr. Allen, we've been talking about evidence for the

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resurrection. It's one of the two main facts you need to show are true to show that Christianity is true. The first is God exists. The second is Jesus rose from the dead. So, we're concentrating on did Jesus rise from the dead? Before we get there, I want to mention that if Genesis 1:1 is true, every other verse in the Bible is at least possible. And even atheists now are admitting there was a beginning to the universe.

Of course they don't think it was God. But what else could it be? If space, time and matter had a beginning out of nothing, whatever created it can't be made of space, time, and matter. In other words, the cause must be spaceless, timeless, immaterial, powerful, personal and intelligent to create this universe out of nothing. If that's really true and the evidence really suggests it is, then a resurrection is possible.

You can't rule it. And that's what we're talking about today. Allen, what is some other evidence or other explanations that people give against the resurrection? Let's deal with that. What are the alternative explanations to the resurrection?

**ALLEN:**

Yeah, well, this is probably one of the strongest talking points that you can use when you're having a conversation with someone who does not believe in the Bible. They don't want you to use any Scripture. Notice, we haven't used any Scripture in this second part of our conversation is at the end of the day, there's a lack of a convincing alternative explanation when it comes to this event of the resurrection. And over the centuries, many, people have tried to come up with these strange explanations to describe or explain what happened, right?

So, one of them was that Jesus body was stolen, right? Now, this one is always funny to me because once again, as we had talked about earlier, what are the odds? What are the odds if you have a tomb that is protected and guarded by highly trained Roman soldiers whose lives were dependent on protecting this tomb as if they were protecting a vault, with billions of dollars in it at a high, you know, a high security bank or something like that. I mean, what are the odds that someone who's not trained will be able to break into that bank and break through? It's just highly unlikely.

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**FRANK:**

What's the motive? Why would they want to do it anyway?

**ALLEN:**

Exactly. I mean, they're going to—

**FRANK:**

There's no motive.

**ALLEN:**

Yeah, yeah, exactly. I mean, and even if you get the body, and the body is stolen, right, and Jesus still doesn't appear anywhere, you still can't really make the argument that he rose from the dead.

**FRANK:**

You've got to prop him up. It's not going to work. [Laughter]

**ALLEN:**

Yeah. The body's gone. Okay, but that doesn't prove that he's—

**FRANK:**

That's right.

**ALLEN:**

That doesn't prove that he's, you know, so that, what would be the motive of that? And then once again, kind of along those same lines, you know, it's interesting. Let's just say for sake of argument that they stole the body. And I always use this illustration. Let's imagine that you and your friends made up a story that you won million dollar lottery, right? You start telling everybody that you're millionaires, but you know that you didn't, you just made this story up.

Well, obviously when persecution happens, it might seem easy at first to kind of keep the story up. It's harmless fun. But if people start threatening you, your family, your livelihood, your

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children, your children's schools and things like that, how far would you continue to take this lie that you and your friends won the lottery, if you know, okay, all right.

It was fun at first, but we all made this story up. I'm not going to risk my kids at school getting hurt and my wife threatens-- And at some point, you would say, okay, we stole the body. This is not something that was true. And you would relent from it. But they never did that, willing to risk their lives. Another explanation, and this was funny. Jesus swooned and didn't really die, right?

**FRANK:**

Didn't really die.

**ALLEN:**

And people may not know what swooned means, but it's like, okay, well, maybe he almost died. Yeah, he fainted. They beat him unconscious. To me, that's a funny one, because that would be insinuating that the Romans did not know how to properly execute someone. I mean, this wasn't their first go around when it comes to killing people or crucifying people.

You know, they were trained to do this. They know, just like today, it would be crazy for someone to be pronounced dead because they know they can take your pulse. You know, they can-- There's certain ways that we know in our society that we can tell whether someone is truly dead or not.

Well, they can do the same thing. Not only that, but I mean, let's just think of it like this. If Jesus really swooned or whatever, and barely beaten to a bloody pulp, and he was basically barely recognizable, then what would be the odds, once again, of him breaking out of his own tomb past the guards, in the condition that he was completely unconscious, and beaten down, and bloody and all that stuff.

**FRANK:**

And then who would have thought he rose from the dead? We'd say, hey, man, you need medical attention. [Laughter] You're not the Lord of the universe.

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**ALLEN:**

Exactly. Right. Yeah, you need to go and get some help there. So, another one would be the disciples went to the wrong tomb.

**FRANK:**

Ooh, that's a good one. And they've been going to the wrong tomb ever since, right? [Laughter]

**ALLEN:**

So, that one, once again, it's funny how the type of great lengths that people will go to to explain away the resurrection.

**FRANK:**

It takes a lot more faith to believe that.

**ALLEN:**

It takes a lot more faith to believe that, right. And so, once again, this is insulting the intelligence and the memory of everyone who went to the original tomb and somehow or another they forgot where it was. So, now they went to a tomb that was empty and, oh, well, he just rose from the dead. Really? I mean, no one remembered where the real tomb was?

**FRANK:**

And who was the guy doing all the miracles after the alleged resurrection if Jesus hadn't risen from the dead? Right? I mean, you got that evidence too, that you've got to deal with. It's not just explaining the empty tomb. It's explaining the testimony that Jesus rose from the dead afterwards and did all these miracles and ascended to heaven and all this. It doesn't fit the data.

**ALLEN:**

Yeah, yeah.

**FRANK:**

These explanations.

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**ALLEN:**

It doesn't, it doesn't. And then of course, the fourth one is one we talked about before. People who claim they saw him were all hallucinating. We kind of talked about that before. And once again, it's a big stretch to assume that Jesus made all these post resurrection appearances according to the Bible, right?

Now, if you don't believe in the Bible, well, then that's not necessarily an argument you can make. But people have made the argument that these people were hallucinating. And once again, as you mentioned earlier, hallucination is normally not a group event. And they're not all having the same hallucination around the same time. So, that is a stretch as well. And then another one, the resurrection is a legend made up up much later. What are your thoughts about that?

**FRANK:**

Yeah, well, that just doesn't fit the facts either. If it's made up much later—

First of all, we have very early testimony, and we have documents that go way back. I mean, the earliest document we have is early 2nd century, and that had to have been written sometime in the first century. It's almost universally recognized now, even among skeptical scholars, that the resurrection was preached from the very beginning of Christianity.

It wasn't something that came along later. In fact, it was, Richard Baucham who said the earliest Christology was already the highest Christology, meaning that people thought Jesus was God from the very beginning.

And the creed in 1 Corinthians 15, which talks about the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, even skeptical scholars say that goes back to the event itself within weeks or months of the event. So, that doesn't wash either. And yet, people will try and make these claims that it's a legend later. It just doesn't fit the data.

**ALLEN:**

Yeah.

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**FRANK:**

But Allen, let me mention one other thing that John Lennox recently mentioned. If you asked John Lennox, what's the greatest evidence for Christianity, he would say transformed lives. What's your thought on that? Because that seems a little subjective to me. But on the other hand, there is an objective element to it.

There are so many people that have been completely transformed in their outlook on life for the better by saying, you know, I was a drug addict. Now I've accepted Jesus and everything's fixed. Right? What's your thought on that argument?

**ALLEN:**

You know, I used to use that argument quite a bit, and I think it is a very strong argument that gives evidence that Christianity is, you know, is true. And of course, Jesus rose from the dead. But my question would be to that, how does Christianity have a monopoly on transformed lives? Because what about someone who joins the Nation of Islam or something like that?

Maybe they were out on the street, and they were selling drugs, and now they're selling bean pies and, you know, and now they're saying, hey, once I joined the Nation of Islam, I'm a better husband, a better father. So, what would you, or even people who I don't know, joined another religion?

**FRANK:**

Sure, yeah. Certainly, if you believe something, it can help transform your life. So, I would not use the argument exclusively, but it would be in addition to the arguments we've talked about in others to say, if Christianity were true, you would expect this.

**ALLEN:**

Yes.

**FRANK:**

Right? But it's not-- It doesn't stand alone by itself. Although can we be honest that most people don't come to faith through arguments.

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**ALLEN:**

I agree.

**FRANK:**

Most people come to faith because there's a crisis in their life, and they want to fix something, and they see oh, maybe Jesus can help me fix it, and that's how they become Christians. That's okay. You can become a Christian and not know it's true, even though it is true.

**ALLEN:**

Right.

**FRANK:**

And apologetics in that regard is often then, it often confirms what they already believe, which is fine. But most people don't come to faith by adding all the arguments up and going, oh, yeah, it's true. Right?

**ALLEN:**

Which makes what we do interesting, because that's what—

**FRANK:**

Yeah, yeah.

**ALLEN:**

I mean, we try to give people arguments and, you know, not arguments, but talking points for their faith.

**FRANK:**

Sure, no. Arguments and talking points to say, yeah, this is indeed true. So, yeah, it's not a standalone argument, although when you look back at history, it is the largest, of course, religion in the world. But I think it transforms lives more so than any other sort of belief system that I think I've ever seen.

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**ALLEN:**

Yeah. And I think for that reason, it is a strong evidence, you know, that Christianity is true when you look at people. Yeah.

**FRANK:**

Yeah. And maybe Dr. Lennox is saying this because he's a little bit older than us, like 20 years or so. And he's seen so much of it, particularly over in the UK, that so many people who were, many of the students he's seen that were depressed and dejected have become Christians. And now they're believers, and they're transformed. So, he sees that. Allen, it's been great having you on the program. Tell our listeners again about your YouTube channel.

**ALLEN:**

Yeah, The B.E.A.T. with Allen Parr. I've got over 800 videos on a variety of different topics, so hopefully you can check them out. And you can also learn more about me and what we're doing, our ministry, [AllenParr.com](http://AllenParr.com).

**FRANK:**

[AllenParr.com](http://AllenParr.com) and you can donate to [AllenParr.com](http://AllenParr.com) too, if you like what you see. And you will. Check it out there. [AllenParr.com](http://AllenParr.com). Ladies and gentlemen, it's been great being with you. We'll see you here next time. God bless.

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