

**Talk – 1 Cor 15:1-19 & John 20:24-31 – How can I be sure?**

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**Talk 1**

The Gospel

New Atheists

**Talk 2**

Evidence

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*There are no substantial doubts about the general course of Jesus' life:*

*when and where he lived, approximately when and where he died, and the sort of thing that he did during his public activity...I shall first offer a list of statements about Jesus that meet two standards: they are almost beyond dispute, and they belong to the framework of his life, and especially of his public career:*

*Jesus was born c.4<sup>BCE</sup>, near the time of the death of Herod the Great; he spent his childhood and early adult years in Nazareth, a Galilean village; he was baptised by John the Baptist; he called disciples; he taught in towns, villages and countryside of Galilee (apparently not the cities); he preached the 'kingdom of God'; about the year 30 he went to Jerusalem for Passover; he created a disturbance in the temple area; he had a final meal with his the disciples; he was arrested and interrogated by Jewish authorities, specifically the High Priest; he was executed of the order of the Roman prefect, Pontius Pilate.*

*We may add here a short list of equally secure facts about the aftermath of Jesus life: his disciples fled; they saw him (in what sense is not certain) after his death; as a consequence, they believed that he would return to found the kingdom; they formed a community to await his return and sought to win others to faith in him as God's Messiah. (E.P.Sanders, *The Historical Figure of Jesus*. Penguin Books, 1993, 11.)*

## The Resurrection of Jesus

Who were the witnesses?

What is the value of being sure?