

If I told you the Chicago Cubs, on November 2, 2016, in Cleveland, OH, after 108 years, won the World Series, would you believe me? You all say, “Yes”. Why? What’s your evidence? TV? Hype around town? There in person or know someone who was? Parade? Trophy? Championship banner (Wrigley)? 1 year ago? In 2124, 108 years from now, when they win again, will people still believe it? I would say, “Yes.”

Why? When it comes to history, we try to set aside our self-interests and prejudice. And, we try to find out what really happened. We analyze documents, interview experts, ask questions, explore archaeology, study art/literature, learn new languages, cross-reference sources, etc. And, we examine closely the eyewitness evidence. Why? We do it to get to the truth, to find out what really happened then and there!

Well, in ~33 A.D., almost 2000 years ago, after the Sabbath, on the first day of the week (Sunday), Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. In [Matthew 28:5-6 \(NIV\)](#), the angel, who rolled back the stone, sat on it and said, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.”

During the next 40 days, in [1 Corinthians 15:5-8 \(ESV\)](#), Paul says, “Jesus appeared to Cephas (Peter) and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at

the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me (Paul) also, as to one abnormally born.”

These are Eyewitness Accounts. Because of them, on Easter Sunday, we say, “Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!” We believe this because of faith. But, we also believe this because of the reliability of the Bible. In his book, The Case for Christ, Lee Strobel says, “There are about 24,000 ancient manuscripts of the New Testament in existence! And, it has survived 99.5% pure over the past 2000 years!”

But, personally, the Eyewitness Actions are even more impressive! As soon as Pentecost hit, the church spread like wildfire. The people of the Way embraced Jesus’ path of sacrifice, service, and suffering. The disciples, who doubted and denied Jesus, became people willing to die for Him (10 of the original 12 disciples were martyred for their faith.). For them, Jesus truly was the Son of God and the Savior of the world!

Let’s pray. Father, British philosopher, C.S. Lewis, famously once proposed, “Jesus was either a legend, liar, lunatic, or Lord.” Father, because of the eyewitness accounts and actions of Jesus’ disciples, may we all receive Jesus as our Lord. May we boldly proclaim, “Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!” And, may we embrace His invitation to be His witnesses/messengers in every area of our life. Amen.