

I'm sure you've seen this "fish" symbol before. *Show image.* In the early church, because of severe persecution by the Roman Empire, the Christians would draw half the fish. If someone completed the symbol, it showed that they, too, were Christian. 1) **ΙΧΘΥΣ** is the Greek word for "fish". 2) **ΙΧΘΥΣ** also is an acronym for Jesus (**Ιησούς**), Christ (**Χριστός**), God (**Θεός**), Son (**Υιός**), and Savior (**Σωτήρ**).

Today, we conclude our series, "The Case for Christ", based off a book (movie) by Lee Strobel. It's an investigation of the evidence that Jesus is the Christ (Messiah), God's Son, and Savior of the world. So far, we've examined eyewitness evidence inside the Bible, historical evidence outside the Bible, and analyzed Jesus. Today, let's add one final leg to the case by examining closely **Evidence for the Resurrection.**

To do so, we must wrestle with two major questions. First, **Did Jesus die?** Some would say, "No!" "In the "swoon hypothesis", Jesus merely fainted from exhaustion on the cross or had been drugged to make Him appear to die, and He was later revived by the cool, damp air of the tomb. Consequently, Jesus' reappearance wasn't a miraculous resurrection but a fortuitous resuscitation." This is certainly a theory!

But, they forget one detail: Crucifixion. Resurrection expert **Michael Licona** says, "Crucifixion and the tortures that normally preceded it was the worst way to die in antiquity. A person was scourged to the

point usually that their intestines, arteries, and veins were laid bare. And, then, after that, a person was dragged out where they were impaled to a cross or a tree. And, then, left there in excruciating pain.”

Jesus died! The Bible and history record it! Second, Was Jesus later seen alive? Those who say He DID NOT rise from the dead give these reasons: A. Jesus’ tomb wasn’t really empty. B. The disciples stole the body. C. The women went to the wrong tomb. D. The disciples embellished the story because they were His friends. E. The empty tomb was simply a legend that developed over time. This, too, is a theory!

The eyewitness accounts, evidence outside the Bible, analysis of Jesus, and evidence for the resurrection say otherwise. The ancient Christian creeds: 1 Corinthians 15:3-7 (Paul), Apostles’, Nicene, and Athanasian say otherwise. But, what’s your verdict? My prayer, if you haven’t already, is that you would believe in Jesus, receive Him into your life, and become a child of God. Believe + Receive = Become.

Let’s pray. Lord, Lee Strobel says, “The resurrection is the supreme vindication of Jesus’ divine identity and His inspired teaching. It’s the proof of His triumph over sin and death. It’s the foreshadowing of the eternal resurrection of His followers and the basis of all Christ hope! It’s the miracle of miracles.” Lord, in these words, we believe, by faith, **ΙΧΘΥΣ**. Jesus is the Christ, God’s Son, and Savior of the world. Amen