

Why the Empty Tomb Changes Everything

By Dr. Kenny Russell

The Resurrection of Yeshua: A Historical Fact Worth Investigating

Why Should a New Ager Care About the Resurrection?

In the New Age, spiritual awakening is often pursued through energy work, reincarnation, sacred geometry, or inner ascension. Many seekers are open to Yeshua as an “ascended master” or enlightened teacher. But what if He is far more? What if His resurrection is not symbolic - but a **real, historical event** that proves He is the true Light and the One who conquers death?

Unlike mystical experiences that are purely subjective, **the resurrection of Yeshua is grounded in history**, supported by eyewitnesses, and has never been refuted - only reinterpreted or ignored.

This message invites you to consider the resurrection from a **historical, rational, and spiritually honest** perspective.

1. The Resurrection Is Rooted in a Real Time and Place

Yeshua (Jesus of Nazareth) lived during the early 1st century in Roman-occupied Judea. His trial, execution under Pontius Pilate, and reported resurrection all took place in **verifiable history**, not mythology. This is important:

- **Historians agree** Jesus existed (even skeptical scholars like Bart Ehrman affirm this).
- He was **crucified** around 30 CE in Jerusalem.
- His **tomb was found empty** three days later, and His followers claimed to see Him alive.

If this event can be tested and examined, then it deserves more than just a metaphorical interpretation.

2. The Eyewitness Accounts Are Early and Credible

The Messianic Writings (New Testament) isn't a mystical book - it's filled with **eyewitness testimony**:

- **1 Corinthians 15:3–8**, written by Paul, is an early creed dated to within 3–5 years of the resurrection. It records that **over 500 people saw Yeshua alive** after His death.
- These people weren't visionaries or channelers - they were ordinary men and women, many of whom **suffered persecution and death** rather than deny what they saw.
- None of Yeshua's enemies produced a body. The **tomb was empty** and the **authorities couldn't explain it**.

Unlike legends that develop over centuries, the resurrection reports emerged **immediately** after the event.

3. Alternative Explanations Fail Under Scrutiny

Skeptics have proposed other theories for 2,000 years. Let's look briefly at why each fails:

- **The Swoon Theory:** Claims Yeshua didn't die, but fainted and later revived.
 - This ignores Roman execution expertise and medical evidence. No one survives crucifixion and rolls away a stone in a half-dead state.
- **The Hallucination Theory:** Suggests the disciples "saw" Him in visions.
 - Hallucinations are personal. Over 500 people having the same hallucination at the same time in different locations is **psychologically impossible**.
- **The Stolen Body Theory:** Suggests disciples took the body and lied.
 - Why would they **die for a lie**? Many were tortured, beheaded, or crucified themselves. Liars don't make good martyrs.
- **The Myth Theory:** Argues the resurrection was added later as a spiritual symbol.
 - The resurrection was preached **from the very beginning**, within **months** - not centuries. It's not a later myth, but the foundation of faith.

4. The Jewish Context Confirms the Resurrection is Unique

Unlike pagan myths of dying gods (like Osiris or Mithras), **resurrection wasn't a spiritual metaphor** in Jewish belief. Jews believed in a **bodily resurrection** at the end of time, not one individual rising in the middle of history.

Yeshua's resurrection **broke their paradigm** - which is why even skeptical Jews (like Paul) changed their entire worldview. If you want roots, this is the **rooted truth** that matters.

5. How You Can Investigate It Yourself

As a spiritual seeker, here are some steps you can take to independently explore the resurrection:

- **Read the Gospel of John or Luke** - They present eyewitness testimony.
- **Study 1 Corinthians 15** - The earliest resurrection record.
- **Check non-Christian sources** like Tacitus, Josephus, or the Talmud, which all mention Yeshua's death and the early Messianic movement.
- **Read books like "The Case for the Resurrection" by Gary Habermas or "The Case for Christ" by Lee Strobel** - a former atheist journalist who investigated the resurrection.

Ask yourself: *If this is real, what does it mean for me?*

6. Why the Resurrection Matters to You

If Yeshua rose from the dead, then:

- Death isn't the end.
- Truth is not a frequency or force - it's a Person.
- You can know the living God - not through striving, but by grace.

This isn't about converting to a religion - it's about entering into **a relationship with the Creator** who defeated death, not in concept but in **real time**.

A Final Thought Today:

“If you seek truth, you can't ignore the resurrection. You must explore it.”

- **This resource is a bonus feature from the 30-Day Devotional *From New Age to New Birth*.**
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