



ROSE VISUAL
BIBLE STUDIES

6 SESSIONS

JOURNEY TO THE RESURRECTION

Bible Study



**HENDRICKSON
Publishing Group**

This free e-Chart is taken from the book *Journey to the Resurrection - Rose Visual Bible Study* ISBN 9781628628081. This book is packed with charts, graphs, images, and fascinating facts. These Bible studies are easy enough that the new believer understands, but in-depth enough that the longtime churchgoer still comes away learning something new.

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Read It

Key Bible Passage

For this session, read the story of the resurrection in Luke 24:1–49.

Optional Reading

Read the parallel accounts of the resurrection in Matthew 28:1–20, Mark 16:1–8, and John 20:1–29.

Observe the similarities and differences between the unique perspectives of each gospel writer.



“Why do you look for the living
among the dead? He is not here;
he has risen!”

LUKE 24:5–6



Explore It

At the heart of our Christian faith is the firmly held belief that Jesus rose from the dead. This belief is also a stumbling block for those who don't believe in an afterlife and who deny that miracles like this could occur.

Our faith is not dependent on reason; however, our faith in the resurrection is reasonable. Here are some reasons why:

1. Jesus certainly lived and died.

The gospel writers provide significant details from their experience of Jesus' death, but sources outside of Christianity from the first and second centuries were also aware of Jesus, his life, his death, and his reported resurrection. The Roman historian Tacitus wrote about Emperor Nero blaming Christians for burning Rome:



Gaius Cornelius Tacitus

Nero set up as the culprits and punished with the utmost refinement of cruelty a class hated for their abominations, who are commonly called Christians. Christus, from whom their name is derived, was executed at the hands of the procurator Pontius Pilate in the reign of Tiberius. Checked for the moment, this pernicious superstition again broke out, not only in Judea, the source of evil, but even in Rome.

(Annales, xv. 44, The Neronian Persecution, c. AD 64)

2. The disciples were radically changed.

The portrait of the disciples that emerges just after Jesus' death describes a group of skeptical, fearful, hopeless men (see Matthew 28:17; Luke 24:21; John 20:19). Yet, after repeatedly interacting with Jesus following his resurrection, this same group of Jewish

peasants from an ignored corner of the Roman Empire became dynamic, courageous witnesses of the resurrection. They began a movement that would lead most of them to a martyr's death, but would also subvert world powers, change the world, and alter the course of history (see Acts 2:24; 3:15; 4:2).

3. The tomb was empty.

No one ever produced the corpse of Jesus. This would have been the simplest and fastest way to debunk stories about his resurrection. If the Roman government or the Jewish leaders possessed or could obtain his body or bones, they could have quickly put an end to the fast-spreading word that Jesus had risen from the dead. They didn't. The best they could do was begin a rumor that Jesus' disciples had stolen his body.

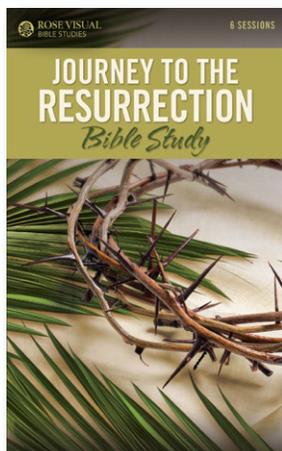


4. World history was altered.

In the several centuries before and after Jesus' life, multiple individuals raised up rebellions to try to obtain Jewish independence and claim the fulfillment of God's promises to his people. Every one of these so-called messiah figures ended in the same way—a horrible death.

About thirty years after Jesus' death and resurrection, a man named Simon ben Giora helped incite a Jewish revolt with limited success against the Romans, even pushing Roman forces out of parts of Judea. Rome responded with great force and devastated the entire region. They led a triumphal march with thousands of captives back to Rome, where Simon was executed.

None of these messiah figures maintained a following after their death, because they clearly died and remained dead. But, not only did the movement around Jesus continue after his death, it dramatically grew. The only possible explanation is that God did something unexpected that had never happened before by resurrecting Jesus from the dead.



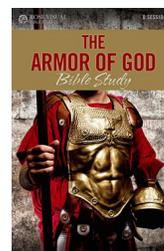
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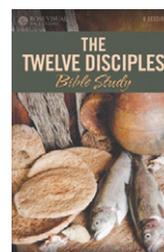
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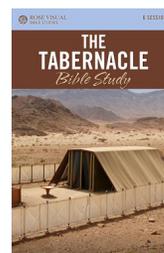
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