

EVERYONE EVERYWHERE
PART ONE

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DISCUSS



**WHAT IS THE
MOST INCREDIBLE
THING YOU'VE
EVER SEEN IN-
PERSON?**



‘LUKE’S HISTORY IS UNSURPASSED IN RESPECT OF IT’S TRUSTWORTHINESS... LUKE IS A HISTORIAN OF THE FIRST RANK; NOT MERELY ARE HIS STATEMENTS OF FACT TRUSTWORTHY, HE IS POSSESSED OF THE TRUE HISTORIC SENSE... ..IN SHORT THE AUTHOR SHOULD BE PLACED WITH THE VERY GREATEST OF HISTORIANS.’

WILLIAM RAMSEY, HISTORIAN

‘THE HISTORICAL FRAMEWORK IS EXACT. IN TERMS OF TIME AND PLACE THE DETAILS ARE PRECISE AND CORRECT... AS DOCUMENTS THESE NARRATIVES BELONG TO THE SAME HISTORICAL SERIES AS THE RECORD OF PROVINCIAL AND IMPERIAL TRIALS IN EPIGRAPHICAL AND LITERARY SOURCES OF THE FIRST AND EARLY SECOND CENTURIES AD... FOR ACTS THE CONFIRMATION OF HISTORICITY IS OVERWHELMING... ANY ATTEMPT TO REJECT ITS BASIC HISTORICITY EVEN IN MATTERS OF DETAIL MUST NOW APPEAR ABSURD. ROMAN HISTORIANS HAVE LONG TAKEN IT FOR GRANTED.’

A.N. SHERWIN-WHITE, GRAECO-ROMAN EXPERT



Rome

Black Sea

Caspian Sea

PONTUS

ASIA

PHRYGIA

CAPPADOCIA

MEDIA

PARTHIA

CRETE

PAMPHYLIA

Mediterranean Sea

MESOPOTAMIA

ELAM

CYRENE

Jerusalem

LIBYA

EGYPT

JUDEA

ARABIA

Persian Gulf

0 200 400 600 mi

0 200 400 600 800 km



Roman Empire



Parthian Empire

Red Sea

Acts and Different Church Traditions

CHARISMATIC APPROACH

Charismatic/pentecostals tend to emphasise some of the earlier chapter of Acts, particularly the parts which emphasise the work of the Holy Spirit doing awesome things, and incredible miraculous moments.

CONSERVATIVE APPROACH

Conservatives tend to emphasise some of the middle chapters of Acts that emphasise preaching or 'mission' work (where people take the message of Jesus to others).

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen.

After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.

ACTS 1V1-3

Why believe in the resurrection?

- 01** All of the first disciples were executed or exiled for refusing to stop talking about it.
- 02** Over 500 First Century people saw a resurrected Jesus and nobody at the time contested this.
- 03** No Jewish people were expecting a resurrection, but came to believe it in great numbers.
- 04** Many of the details (eg female witnesses to empty tomb) are not what you'd say if you were making it up.
- 05** Even those opposed or ambivalent to Christianity in the First Century did not deny the resurrection.

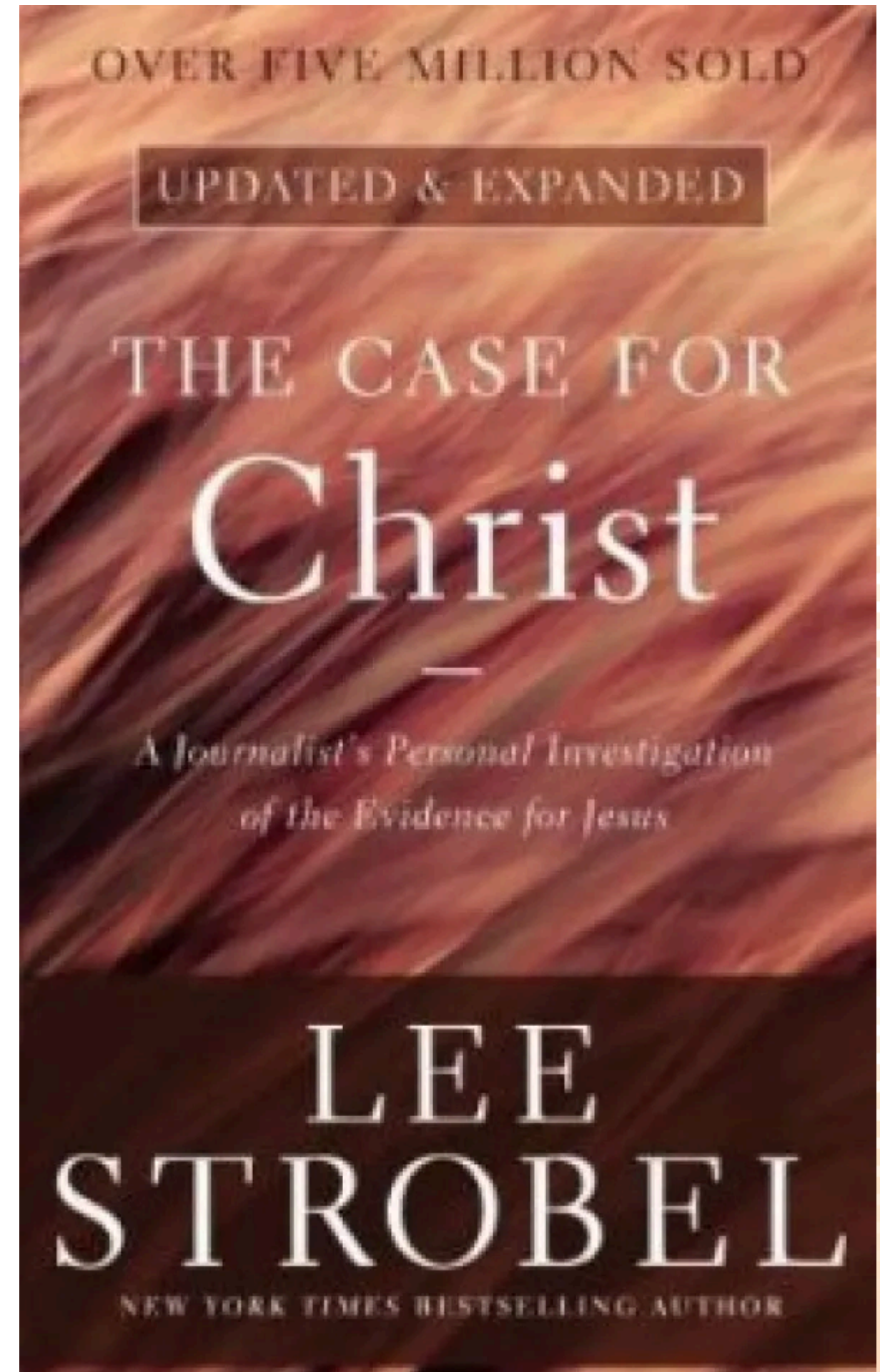
Why believe in the resurrection?

- 06** Many skeptics from all cultural backgrounds have looked hard at the evidence and become Christians.
- 07** Nobody in history has conclusively demonstrated a strong case that it didn't happen by using the evidence. (And people have certainly tried)
- 08** Objections tend to be down to incredulity rather than a discussion of the historical evidence.

More on the resurrection:

The Case for Christ

by Lee Strobel



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ACTS 1V1-3

**THE 'KINGDOM OF GOD' IS NOT
POLITICAL TAKEOVER,
MORAL IMPROVEMENT,
OR PRIVATE SPIRITUALITY.**

**IT IS GOD RESTORING ALL THINGS
THROUGH THE CRUCIFIED
AND RISEN KING, JESUS.**

'Jesus Researcher' Luke >>> 'Jesus Enquirer' Theophilus

- 01** Jesus is the point of all this
- 02** Jesus is still at work
- 03** Jesus suffered and it's done
- 04** Jesus is alive and it's undeniable
- 05** Jesus is King and it must be announced..

DISCUSS



Do you believe that Jesus truly resurrected from death? Why or why not? What would you say are the biggest implications if He did?

Why do you think Christians throughout history have been SO committed to telling people about it?

How do you feel about telling others about Jesus? What make it easier or harder for you?

MAYBRIDGE
COMMUNITY CHURCH

EVERYONE EVERYWHERE

Following the Book we call 'Acts'