



All of the evidence Inspector Smart investigated comes from the Bible. You can read all about the life of Jesus in four books (called Gospels) that were written by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Between them they tell us the whole of the Easter story.

Here are some of the Bible passages that show us the evidence that Jesus died and came alive again. They start on the Thursday evening of the very first Easter week.

THURSDAY EVENING

(Jesus and his closest friends were in a quiet garden, praying.)

A crowd came up. The man named Judas was leading them. He was one of the Twelve. Judas approached Jesus to kiss him.

But Jesus asked him, "Judas, are you handing over the Son of Man with a kiss?"

Jesus' followers saw what was going to happen. So they said, "Lord, should we use our swords against them?" One of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear.

But Jesus answered, "Stop this!" And he touched the man's ear and healed him.

Luke 22 v 47-51

The crowd took Jesus to the high priest. All of the chief priests, the elders, and the teachers of the law came together.

They were looking for something to use against Jesus. They wanted to put him to death. But they did not find any proof. Many witnesses lied about him. But their stories did not agree.

The high priest asked him, “Are you the Christ? Are you the Son of the Blessed One (*the Son of God*)?”

“I am,” said Jesus.

The high priest tore his clothes. “Why do we need any more witnesses?” he asked. “You have heard him say a very evil thing against God. What do you think?”

They all found him guilty and said he must die.

Mark 14 v 53, 55-56, 61-64

VERY EARLY FRIDAY MORNING

It was very early in the morning. They tied Jesus up and led him away. Then they handed him over to Pilate (*the Roman governor*).

“Are you the king of the Jews?” asked Pilate.

“Yes. It is just as you say,” Jesus replied.

It was the usual practice at the Passover Feast to let one prisoner go free. The people could choose the one they wanted. A man named Barabbas was in prison. He was there with some other people who had fought against the country’s rulers. They had committed murder while they were fighting against the rulers. The crowd came up and asked Pilate to do for them what he usually did.

“Do you want me to let the king of the Jews go free?” asked Pilate. He knew that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him because they were jealous. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd. So the crowd asked Pilate to let Barabbas go free instead.

“Then what should I do with the one you call the king of the Jews?” Pilate asked them.

“Crucify him!” the crowd shouted.

“Why? What wrong has he done?” asked Pilate.

But they shouted even louder, “Crucify him!”

Pilate wanted to satisfy the crowd. So he let Barabbas go free. He ordered that Jesus be whipped. Then he handed him over to be nailed to a cross (*to be crucified*).

Mark 15 v 1-2, 6-15

9.00AM FRIDAY

As they led Jesus away, they took hold of Simon. Simon was from Cyrene. He was on his way in from the country. They put a wooden cross on his shoulders. Then they made him carry it behind Jesus.

Two other men were also led out with Jesus to be killed. Both of them had broken the law. The soldiers brought them to the place called The Skull. There they nailed Jesus to the cross. He hung between the two criminals. One was on his right and one was on his left.

Jesus said, “Father, forgive them. They don’t know what they are doing.”

The soldiers divided up his clothes by casting lots.

The people stood there watching. The rulers even made fun of Jesus. They said, “He saved others. Let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One.”

The soldiers also came up and poked fun at him. They offered him wine vinegar.

They said, “If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.”

A written sign had been placed above him. It read, THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

It was now about noon. The whole land was covered with darkness until three o'clock. The sun had stopped shining.

Luke 23 v 26, 32-38, 44-45

3.00PM FRIDAY

Later Jesus said, “I am thirsty.” He knew that everything was now finished. He knew that what Scripture (*the Bible*) said must come true. A jar of wine vinegar was there. So they soaked a sponge in it. They put the sponge on a stem of the hyssop plant. Then they lifted it up to Jesus’ lips.

After Jesus drank he said, “It is finished.” Then he bowed his head and died.

It was Preparation Day. The next day would be a special Sabbath. The Jews did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath. So they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. The soldiers came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus. Then they broke the legs of the other man.

But when they came to Jesus, they saw that he was already dead. So they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers stuck his spear into Jesus’ side. Right away, blood and water flowed out. The man who saw it has given witness. And his witness is true. He knows that he tells the truth. He gives witness so that you also can believe.

Later, Joseph asked Pilate for Jesus’ body.

Joseph was from the town of Arimathea. He was a follower of Jesus. But he followed Jesus secretly because he was afraid of the Jews. After Pilate gave him permission, Joseph came and took the body away.

Nicodemus went with Joseph. He was the man who had earlier visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought some mixed spices, about 75 pounds. The two men took Jesus’ body. They wrapped it in strips of linen cloth, along with the spices. That was the way the Jews buried people’s bodies.

At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden. A new tomb was there. No one had ever been put in it before. That day was the Jewish Preparation Day, and the tomb was nearby. So they placed Jesus there.

John 19 v 28-35, 38-42

SATURDAY

The next day was the day after Preparation Day. The chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. “Sir,” they said, “we remember something that liar said while he was still alive. He claimed, ‘After three days I will rise again.’ So give the order to make the tomb secure until the third day. If you don’t, his disciples might come and steal the body. Then they will tell the people that Jesus has been raised from the dead. This last lie will be worse than the first.”

“Take some guards with you,” Pilate answered. “Go. Make the tomb as secure as you can.” So they went and made the tomb secure. They put a seal on the stone and placed some guards on duty.

Matthew 27 v 62-66

SUNDAY MORNING

The Sabbath day was now over. It was dawn on the first day of the week. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

There was a powerful earthquake. An angel of the Lord came down from heaven. The angel went to the tomb. He rolled back the stone and sat on it. His body shone like lightning. His clothes were as white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

Matthew 28 v 1-4

Mary Magdalene went to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the entrance. So she ran to Simon Peter and another disciple (*follower of Jesus*), the one Jesus loved. She said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb! We don't know where they have put him!"

So Peter and the other disciple started out for the tomb. Both of them were running. The other disciple ran faster than Peter. He reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there. But he did not go in.

Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived. He went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there. He also saw the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself. It was separate from the linen.

The disciple who had reached the tomb first also went inside. He saw and believed. They still did not understand from Scripture (*the Bible*) that Jesus had to rise from the dead.

Then the disciples went back to their homes. But Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she cried, she bent over to look into the tomb. She saw two angels dressed in white. They were seated where Jesus' body had been. One of them was where Jesus' head had been laid. The other sat where his feet had been placed.

They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said. "I don't know where they have put him."

Then she turned around and saw Jesus standing there. But she didn't realize that it was Jesus.

"Woman," he said, "why are you crying? Who are you looking for?"

She thought he was the gardener. So she said, "Sir, did you carry him away? Tell me where you put him. Then I will go and get him."

Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned toward him. Then she cried out in the Aramaic language, "Rabboni!" Rabboni means Teacher.

Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me. I have not yet returned to the Father. Instead, go to those who believe in me. Tell them, 'I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news. She said, "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

John 20 v 1-18

While the women were on their way (*to the disciples*), some of the guards went into the

city. They reported to the chief priests all that had happened.

When the chief priests met with the elders, they came up with a plan. They gave the soldiers a large amount of money. They told the soldiers, “We want you to say, ‘His disciples came during the night. They stole his body while we were sleeping.’ If the governor hears this report, we will pay him off. That will keep you out of trouble.”

So the soldiers took the money and did as they were told. This story has spread to this very day.

Matthew 28 v 11-15

SUNDAY EVENING

On the evening of that first day of the week, the disciples were together. They had locked the doors because they were afraid of the Jews.

Jesus came in and stood among them. He said, “May peace be with you!” Then he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were very happy when they saw the Lord.

Thomas was one of the Twelve (*the twelve disciples*). He was not with the other disciples when Jesus came. So they told him, “We have seen the Lord!”

But he said to them, “First I must see the nail marks in his hands. I must put my finger where the nails were. I must put my hand into his side. Only then will I believe what you say.”

John 20 v 19-20, 24-25

ONE WEEK LATER

A week later, Jesus’ disciples were in the house again. Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus came in and stood among them.

He said, “May peace be with you!” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here. See my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen me but still have believed.”

Jesus did many other miraculous signs in front of his disciples. They are not written down in this book. But these are written down so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. If you believe this, you will have life because you belong to him.

John 20 v 26-31

All Bible references taken from the New International Reader’s Version (NIrV)

