

# **The Bible – Part 3**

*Josh McDowell*

## I. Introduction.

## II. Argument from the lives of the apostles.

A. They were directly mentored by Jesus.

B. Ten or Eleven of them gave their lives for the conviction that Jesus had been raised from the dead on the third day.

1. Accusations: a lot of people have died for a lie.

2. However, if it was not true the twelve men had to know that it was not true.

a. Those people who died for a lie thought it was the truth.

b. The challenge is to find those who died for a lie when they knew that it was a lie.

c. Illustration: Andre Cole, one of the greatest illusionist, could not have reproduced the resurrection. This brought him to Christ.

d. If we cannot trust the witness of the apostle's death, then we cannot trust any historical witness.

3. Accusation: many have died for a great cause.

4. However, the Apostles' great cause died on the cross.

a. The Jews misunderstood the Old Testament thinking that there would be two Messiah's - one suffering, and one reigning.

b. Their mistake was in not seeing that there would be one Messiah - first coming to suffer and later coming to reign.

c. During the time of Christ the Jewish leaders were teaching that they acted as the suffering Messiah and the reigning Messiah would come and free them from Roman oppression.

d. Since a ruling Messiah was expected the Jews could not understand that the Messiah would have to suffer and be buried. They were not thinking of a suffering Messiah, but a reigning Messiah.

e. The Apostles were expecting a ruling Messiah and their hopes were dashed when their cause died at the cross. It would have taken something totally drastic for them to go out and give their lives.

f. Without the resurrection there would simply be no church.

g. One of the greatest legal minds in America argued that in all the history of military warfare there is nothing that compares to the bravery and courage of the apostles - this bravery and courage had to have solid grounds therefore.

### III. Conclusion.

A. The Bible must be true and worth giving one's life for.

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## STUDY GUIDE

### Part 1: What do you see?

1. What are the main accusations against the veracity of the resurrection based upon the Apostle's willingness to give up their life for it?

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2. How does the Jewish understanding of Messiah at the time of Christ contribute to the unlikeliness that the Apostles would have died for Jesus unless he had been risen?

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3. How did the pictures in the Old Testament about the suffering Messiah and the ruling Messiah come together in reality?

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### Part 2: What do you think?

1. Why is it unlikely that the Apostles were dying for a lie when so many people have done so before? What about the character of their claims and their sacrifice for those claims made a lie so unlikely in this circumstance?

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2. What about the resurrection makes it beyond reproduction for the illusionist?

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3. Why is it that for that the resurrection was *the* necessary cause for the Apostles to be willing to give their lives for Jesus' sake?

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***Part 3: What will you do?***

1. How will you use the witness of the Apostles' deaths to demonstrate the validity of their testimony in the Scriptures?

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2. In what ways is the resurrection not only important for defending the faith, but important for your understanding of Jesus as well? What attitudes should it evoke in you?

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3. The Apostles laid down their lives for the powerful truth set down before them. Are you willing to "take up your cross" and follow Jesus? If anything, what is holding you back?

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