

W Faith

Here are the facts. Jesus was a real person that walked the earth around 2,000 years ago. He was sentenced to death by the Romans and was crucified. A number of historical records (not just the Bible) support these two statements as fact.

So the question is, was Jesus the son of God? According to the Bible Jesus performed countless miracles that hundreds of people witnessed. Something was definitely going on because in a 3-year period he was drawing crowds in the thousands, many of whom were coming out because they'd heard of his miracles and wanted to witness one themselves. Even King Herod had heard of Jesus' miracles and tried to get Jesus to perform one for him (Jesus refused).

After Jesus was crucified he was placed in a tomb and a large rock was placed in front of the tomb to seal it. On the third day, his tomb was found to be empty. Most believe one of 4 things happened. Some believe he was the son of god and that he rose from the grave as old testament scripture had foretold. Some say his disciples came in the middle of the night, took his body and hid it. Some say the Romans or the Jews did the very same thing. And some say he wasn't really dead. That he simply moved the stone himself and disappeared, never to be seen again.

Let's tackle the last one first. Hundreds of eyewitnesses saw him brutally beaten and tortured, nailed to a cross and hang there for hours. It seems there was a general consensus that he was dead, as his lifeless body hung there for all to see. Even if he wasn't dead, it seems very unlikely that a man that had been beaten that severely and had lost that much blood could have perked up, moved a heavy stone by himself and disappeared, never to be heard from again.

Could the Romans or the Jews have taken his body? It's certainly possible. But both had a lot to lose with the spread of Christianity. And as we all know, Christianity did in fact, take off. When they saw this happening, wouldn't they have produced the body at some point? It would certainly have stopped Christianity dead in its tracks if the resurrection of Jesus was proven to be false.

So that leaves the disciples. It's certainly possible that some or all of them could have gone in the middle of the night and taken his body. While most non-believers...

would cite this as the most likely scenario, I would say it's the least likely. Why? Because the 11 remaining disciples went on to preach in the name of the risen savior Jesus Christ, and 10 of them were tortured to death and killed because of it. Only John escaped a torturous death, and he was exiled for his teachings.

Would all of these men have gone on to preach about Jesus to the point of being tortured to death if they knew it was a sham? No way. Wouldn't at least one of them have thrown their hands up and said this isn't worth it? Or cracked under the pressure of being tortured and admitted that it was a lie? Perhaps none of them did either of those things because they had in fact seen the risen Jesus. According to the Bible, they saw him many times over a 40 day period until Jesus ascended into heaven. And many other people outside of the disciples saw the risen Jesus as well.

Outside of the historical "facts of the case" it still boils down to a matter of faith, and if you accept the Bible as truth. Even though I grew up in a Christian home, it was only after I decided to educate myself more about Jesus and the Bible that I truly accepted what I had been taught as a child and decided for myself to live for him. And since that time my life has improved by a measure I can't fully convey here.

Now if these reasons still aren't enough for you I don't want you to feel bad. It took me 46 years to get there. But I encourage you to read the Bible for yourself. It's not as boring as you might think. And be prepared for a lot of violence in the old testament! Do some research. Look up the Apostle Paul's back story.

Want some rules of thumb that are guaranteed to bring you success in life? Read the book of Proverbs. Talk to people that are educated on these subjects. And run the numbers. Yes, the numbers. Here's a good place to start:
<http://www.empower.global/the-mathematical-probability-that-jesus-is-the-christ/>

It wasn't until I "did my homework" that my faith became something very real and meaningful in my life. And I pray that it will become the same for you.