

**“The Defense Rests”**  
**Easter Sunday \* April 12, 2009**

I. Christianity has always staked its reputation on its \_\_\_\_\_.

II. In defending their faith before the unbelieving world of the first century, the early Christians appealed to...

A. ...the integrity of their \_\_\_\_\_.

B. ...the integrity of their \_\_\_\_\_ experiences.

C. ...the \_\_\_\_\_ tomb.

III. Evidence that the resurrection did, in fact, occur:

A. Exhibit A – Jesus tomb never became a \_\_\_\_\_.

B. Exhibit B – Not one of Christianity’s opponents or enemies have ever \_\_\_\_\_ that the tomb was empty.

1. What story was first concocted to explain the empty tomb?

2. We know this isn’t true because...  
a. ...of the state of the \_\_\_\_\_.

b. ...and the state of the \_\_\_\_\_.

3. Would the disciples have been capable of inventing such a hoax?

4. How about the explanation that Jesus just fainted on the cross and later revived in the tomb?  
Does this make sense?

C. Exhibit C – Each of the remaining 11 disciples went to their \_\_\_\_\_ proclaiming that Jesus had \_\_\_\_\_.

1. Would 11 men all suffer persecution and death for something they knew to be a lie?

2. What happened with Mormonism’s “witnesses”?

3. What was true of Jesus’ 11 disciples?

**“The Defense Rests”**  
**Easter Sunday \* April 12, 2009**

I. Christianity has always staked its reputation on its truthfulness.

II. In defending their faith before the unbelieving world of the first century, the early Christians appealed to...

C. ...the integrity of their Scriptures.

D. ...the integrity of their personal experiences.

C. ...the empty tomb.

III. Evidence that the resurrection did, in fact, occur:

B. Exhibit A – Jesus tomb never became a shrine.

B. Exhibit B – Not one of Christianity’s opponents or enemies have ever denied that the tomb was empty.

1. What story was first concocted to explain the empty tomb?

**That the disciples stole the body.**

2. We know this isn’t true because...

b. ...of the state of the tomb.

**It was guarded by soldiers, sealed by Rome, and shut up by a large stone.**

b. ...and the state of the disciples.

**They were frightened, weak men.**

3. Would the disciples have been capable of inventing such a hoax?

**It’s clear from the Scriptural evidence that these men wanted nothing more than to put this nightmare behind them. The idea that they “invented a religion” is ludicrous.**

4. How about the explanation that Jesus just fainted on the cross and later revived in the tomb?

*Does this make sense?*

**When you consider all that Jesus suffered in the 36 hours prior to his death, this too is laughable. Roman soldiers were trained in death. They knew it when they saw it. The reason they didn’t break Jesus’ legs to hasten his death is because he was already dead. Yet just to make sure, they speared him. A modern pathologist knowing that blood and water came from the wound would surmise that Jesus’ heart ruptured.**

C. Exhibit C – Each of the remaining 11 disciples went to their **deaths** proclaiming that Jesus had **risen**.

1. *Would 11 men all suffer persecution and death for something they knew to be a lie?*

**Not a chance.**

3. *What happened with Mormonism's "witnesses"?*

**8 of the 11 whose names appear on the inside cover of the Book of Mormon later recanted, saying that Joseph Smith was a fraud.**

3. *What was true of Jesus' 11 disciples?*

**They each went to their deaths – 10 of them sufferings martyrdom – saying that Jesus was alive.**