

Minimal Facts

In their book, *The Case for the Resurrection of Jesus* (Kregal, 2004), Gary Habermas and Michael Licona list four historical facts that nearly all scholars (even skeptics) accept as reliable, plus a fifth fact that an “impressive majority” accept as reliable. A solid case can be made for the resurrection being the explanation that best explains these minimal facts.

1. Jesus died by crucifixion
2. Jesus’ disciples believed that he rose from the dead and appeared to them
3. The church persecutor Paul was suddenly changed
4. The skeptic James, brother of Jesus, was suddenly changed
5. The tomb was empty

For an example of how to use the minimal facts in conversations, see “My 200 Word Resurrection Witness” on Clay Jones’ blog:

<http://www.clayjones.net/2010/09/my-200-word-resurrection-witness/>.