

LUKE

THE SAVIOR'S SAGA

FOR THE SON OF MAN
CAME TO SEEK AND TO SAVE
THAT WHICH WAS LOST



THE REALITY OF THE RESURRECTION

LUKE 24:1-12

Say what? Those closest to Jesus did not believe? Yep, even the Apostles were perplexed and did not initially believe.

And to this day, many deny the reality of the resurrection.

- The Bible clearly states this as a fact, and the bulk of the extra-biblical evidence says that the four gospels were eyewitness accounts of real people who actually believed that Jesus of Nazareth was crucified, died and was buried and resurrected.
- ***Book: The Testimony of the Evangelists, Examined by the Rules of Evidence Administered in Courts of Justice*** is an 1846 Christian apologetic work by Simon Greenleaf, a principal founder of the Harvard Law School.

WHAT MAKES EASTER DIFFERENT FROM ANY OTHER HOLIDAY AND ITS SYMBOLS?

- Jesus Christ, God's own son, died and yet now lives.
- Since that first **Easter Morning** mankind has done its best to **disprove, dismiss, debunk and defame the resurrection.**
- Yet to this day more than a billion people declare **Jesus rose from the dead.**

In complete agreement with **Matt. 28:1-7.**

HOW DID GOD THE FATHER RAISE JESUS CHRIST HIS SON?

We do not know exactly ***how*** God raised Jesus.

- No one saw the act itself, only its consequences—the risen Jesus.
- Just as nobody saw the **creation of the universe** but we believe that is real.

No one knows what spiritual technology God used that we have not yet understood.

SIX THINGS THAT DID NOT HAPPEN

We may not know exactly *how* the resurrection happened, but we do know what did not happen.

- 1.** First, the resurrected Christ was **not a ghost**.
- 2.** The resurrection is also not **resuscitation**.
- 3.** Resurrection is also not **reincarnation**.
- 4.** Resurrection is also distinct from **enlightenment**.
- 5.** Resurrection is also distinct from **translation**.
- 6.** Resurrection is also distinct from a **vision**.

Where did the corroborating evidence come from?

Eyewitnesses, of course, who ultimately lost their lives for continuing to tell of the events.

THERE ARE ONLY 5 REAL POSSIBILITIES

Discovery, Nat Geo, CBS, ABC and NBC have tried them all!

- 1. The resurrection really happened.**
- 2. The apostles were deceived by a hallucination.**
- 3. The apostles created a myth.**
- 4. The apostles were deceivers.**
- 5. Jesus only swooned—or fainted.**

A FAIR INVESTIGATION

All five possibilities are somewhat logically possible, including #1—the resurrection really happened.

- They are also the **ONLY** possibilities, unless we include really far-out ideas that responsible critics have never taken seriously:
 - Such as that Jesus was really a Martian who came in a flying saucer.
 - Or that he never even existed.

PIECES OF EVIDENCE THAT REFUTE THE SWOON THEORY

1. Jesus could not have survived crucifixion.
2. The fact that the Roman soldier did not break Jesus' legs, as he did to the other two crucified criminals.
3. John, an eyewitness, certified that he saw blood and water come from Jesus' pierced heart.
4. The body was totally encased in winding sheets and entombed—***and at least five more things.***

SOMEBODY STOLE HIS BODY?

1. There could be no possible motive for such a lie.
2. If the resurrection was a lie, the Jews would have produced the corpse.
3. The disciples could not have gotten away with proclaiming the resurrection in Jerusalem.
4. The Romans put hired guards under threat of death at the tomb to prevent this very thing.

HOW ABOUT MASS HALLUCINATION?

1. There were too many witnesses.
2. The witnesses were qualified.
3. The five hundred saw Christ together.
4. Hallucinations usually last a few seconds or minutes.
5. Hallucinations usually happen only once, except to the insane.

HOW ABOUT A MYTH OR FAIRY TALE?

1. The style of the gospels is radically and clearly different from the style of all the myths.
2. There was not enough time for a myth to develop.
3. The myth theory has two layers.
4. The first witnesses of the resurrection were women.

SO WHAT HAPPENED THAT MORNING?

Here come the objections:

- 1.** History is not an exact science. It does not yield absolute certainty like mathematics.
 - But this must also be admitted about all history, especially ancient history.
- 2.** You can't trust documents. Paper proves nothing. Anything can be forged.
- 3.** Because the resurrection is miraculous.

This is the most common objection to the resurrection.

By its very definition it employs miracles.

MIRACLES—ARE YOU KIDDING ME?

1. Miracles violate the principle of the uniformity of nature.
2. A miracle, by definition, must violate some law of nature, and therefore must be a maximally improbable event.
3. To accept miracles would be to abandon the method by which science operates.

In a similar way, we believe in countless things every day that we do not have a scientific understanding of their existence, cannot actually see, nor do we have knowledge of their workings—like coronavirus!

SO WHAT DOES THE EVIDENCE SAY?

- A scientist who believes that God caused the universe to exist from nothing has not abandoned the scientific method, but merely acknowledged its limits and his limits to understand the data.

So what does the evidence say? HE IS RISEN.

- The evidence is every bit as compelling as that for *the life of Muhammad, Hannibal and his elephants crossing the Alps, or the conquering of Asia and Europe by Alexander the Great!*

HE IS RISEN!

The evidence is not obscure:

- We celebrate that reality today, complete with adoration of Christ.
- The historical evidence is massive enough to convince the open-minded inquirer.
- By analogy with any other historical event, the resurrection has eminently credible evidence behind it.
- To disbelieve it, you must deliberately make an exception to the rules you use everywhere else in history.

Conclusion—Jesus was raised from the dead!

What do you believe happened?