The Resurrection: Evidence for the Truth of the Gospel





GROUNDED

ESTABLISHING THE TRUTH OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH AND THE CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW



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ESTABLISHING THE TRUTH OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH AND THE CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW

- Session 1: A Call to Defend the Faith
- Session 2: Establish Answers to Objections
- Session 3: Establish Philosophical Foundations
- Session 4: Establish God's Existence Part 1
- Session 5: Establish God's Existence Part 2
- Session 6: Establish Bible's Historical Reliability
- Session 7: Establish Bible's Divine Origin
- Session 8: Establish Christ's Resurrection
- Session 9: Establish the Power of the Gospel

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Existence Attributes c

Does God exist?

about reality knowable?

Is the truth Philosophical **Foundation**

Truth of Christianity

- 1. The Bible Is Historically Reliable
- 2. Prophecy and Miracles
- 3. Christ's Resurrection

Existence and Attributes of God

THE PURPOSE
OF MIRACLES
& PROPHECY
IS TO CONFIRM
A PROPHET'S
MESSAGE IS
FROM GOD.



- 1. The Bible Is Historically Reliable
- 2. Prophecy and Miracles
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Existence and Attributes of God

Truth of Christianity

- 1. The Bible Is Historically Reliable
- 2. Prophecy and Miracles
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Existence and Attributes of God

(1) God exists & miracles are possible



History of the Natural Universe

- Job 9:8- "who alone stretched out the heavens."
- Ps. 104:2- "stretching out the heavens like a tent."
- Isa. 40:22- "stretches out the heavens like a canopy."
- <u>Isa. 42:5</u>- "who created the heavens and *stretched* them out."
- <u>Isa. 44:24</u>- "I am the LORD, who made all things, who alone *stretched* out the heavens."
- <u>Isa. 45:12</u>- "it was my hands that *stretched* out the heavens."
- Isa. 51:13- "who stretched out the heavens . . ."
- Jer. 10:12- "and by his understanding stretched out the heavens."
- Zech. 12:1- "who stretched out the heavens . . ."

- Job 9:8- "who alone stretched out the heavens."
- Ps. 104:2- "stretching out the heavens like a tent."
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(1) God exists & miracles are possible



History of the Natural Universe

Therefore, miracles are possible

- (1) God exists & miracles are possible
- (2) The disciples truly believed they observed the resurrected Jesus
- (3) All naturalistic explanations concerning the empty tomb, concerning the empty tomb
 - The disciples truly obserbled for the resurrected Jesus their claims

- (1) God exists & miracles are possible
- (2) The disciples truly believed they observed the resurrected Jesus
- (3) All naturalistic explanations fail concerning the empty tomb, disciples' claims, & willingness to die for claims

The disciples truly observed the resurrected Jesus

Recorded History and the Early Core Teachings mpty Tomb incerity of Disciples Appetles Jestingony pstanding Moral Teachingsted Jesus Record of Seeing and Hearing Jesus Record of Touching and Interacting with Jesus Enthusiasm and Courage of Disciples Crucifixion Kills orturous Deaths of Disciples for Testimony dentity of Jesus Known by His Family/Disciples Id Testament Predicted Messiah's Resurrection Nothing for Disciples to Gain for Lying

RECORDED HISTORY AND THE EARLY CORE TEACHINGS

(1) The NT was written too early to be legendary

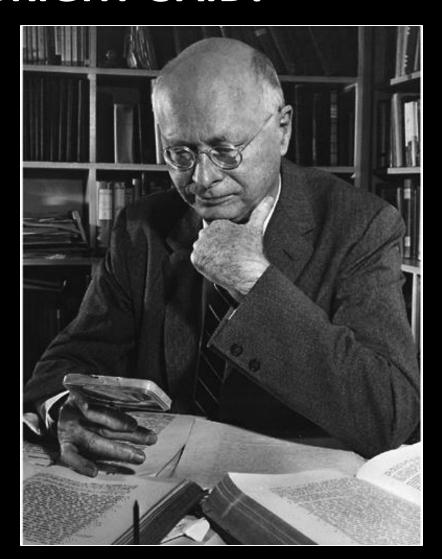


(3) Christianity's core teachings spread too quickly & vastly to be legendary

FATHER OF BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY, WILLIAM F. ALBRIGHT SAID:

"Every book of the New Testament was written by a baptized Jew between the forties and eighties of the first century."

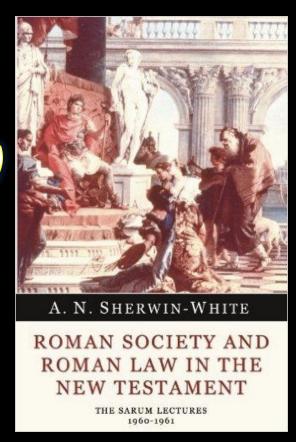
NT Written: 40s – 80s AD



("Towards a More Conservative View," 3).

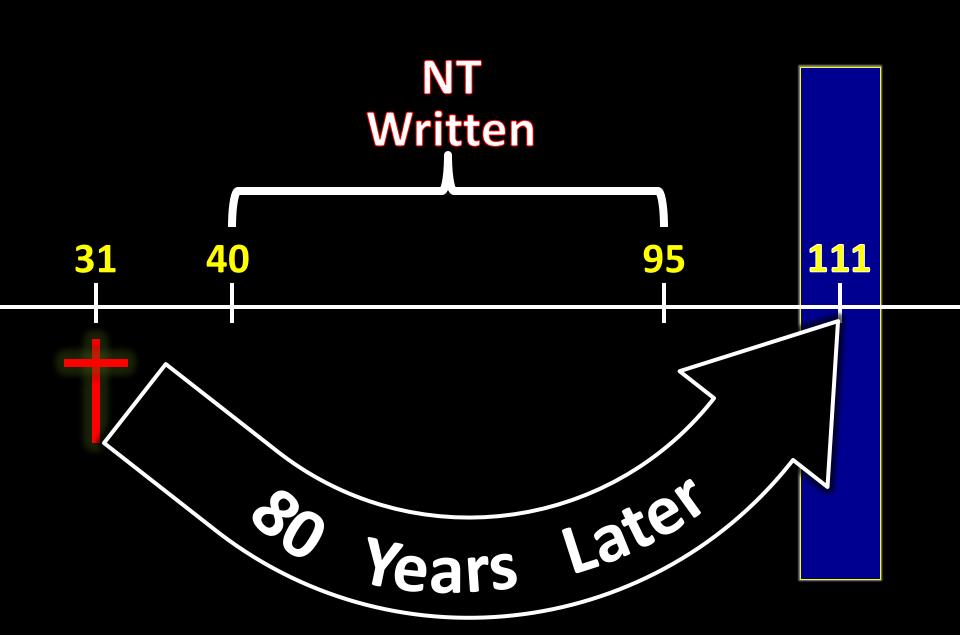
NT Written Too Early For Legends to Develop

- A. N. Sherwin-White expert in ancient history & mythology, said:
 - It takes 2 generations (80 years) for legends to develop.
 - This principle is supported by multiple case studies in ancient literature.



A. N. Sherwin-White, *Roman Society and Roman Law in the New Testament* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1963), pp. 188-91.

NT Written Too Early For Legends to Develop



RECORDED HISTORY AND THE EARLY CORE TEACHINGS

- (1) The NT was written too early to be legendary
- (2) Ancient non-Christian texts affirm Christianity's early core teachings



(3) Christianity's core teachings spread too quickly & vastly to be legendary

RECORDED HISTORY AND THE EARLY CORE TEACHINGS

The Core Teachings of the Resurrection Were:

- 1. Crucified
- 2. Died
- 3. Buried
- 4. Empty Tomb
- 5. Resurrection
- 6. Seen by Witnesses



- 1. Crucified
- 2. Died
- 3. Buried
- 4. Empty Tomb
- 5. Resurrection

1 Corinthians 15: 1-9- "The Gospel I preached to you... I also received: that Christ died for our sins. . . that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day . . . he appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve. . . He appeared to more than five hundred brothers at once, most of whom are still alive ... He appeared to James, 6. Seen by Witnesses . . . to all the apostles . . . He appeared also to me."

Josephus Said in A.D. 94- "There was at this time a wise man who was called Jesus. . . Pilate condemned him to be crucified and to die. And those who had become his disciples did not abandon his discipleship. They reported that he had appeared to them three days after his crucifixion and that he was alive."

(Arabic Version of Josephus' *Testimonium* similar passage in Greek Version of Josephus' *Antiquities* 18:3:3)

Cornelius Tacitus' Said in A.D. 100- "Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus, and a most <u>mischievous superstition</u> broke out not only in Judea, the first source of the evil, but even in Rome."

(Annals, 15:44)

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Suetonius' Life of Nero 16.2 (A.D. 110-138)"Punishment by Nero was inflicted on the Christians, a class of men given to a new and mischievous superstition."

Lucian said in A. D. 170- "The Christians, you know, worship a man to this day—the distinguished personage who introduced their novel rites, and was crucified on that account. . . . [They] deny the gods of Greece, and worship the crucified sage, and live after his laws."

(The Death of Peregrine, 11–13)

The Babylonian Talmud says in A.D. 200-"It has been taught: On the eve of the Passover Yeshu was hanged [on a cross]. For forty days before the execution took place, a herald went forth and cried, 'He is going to be stoned because he has practiced sorcery and enticed Israel to apostasy."

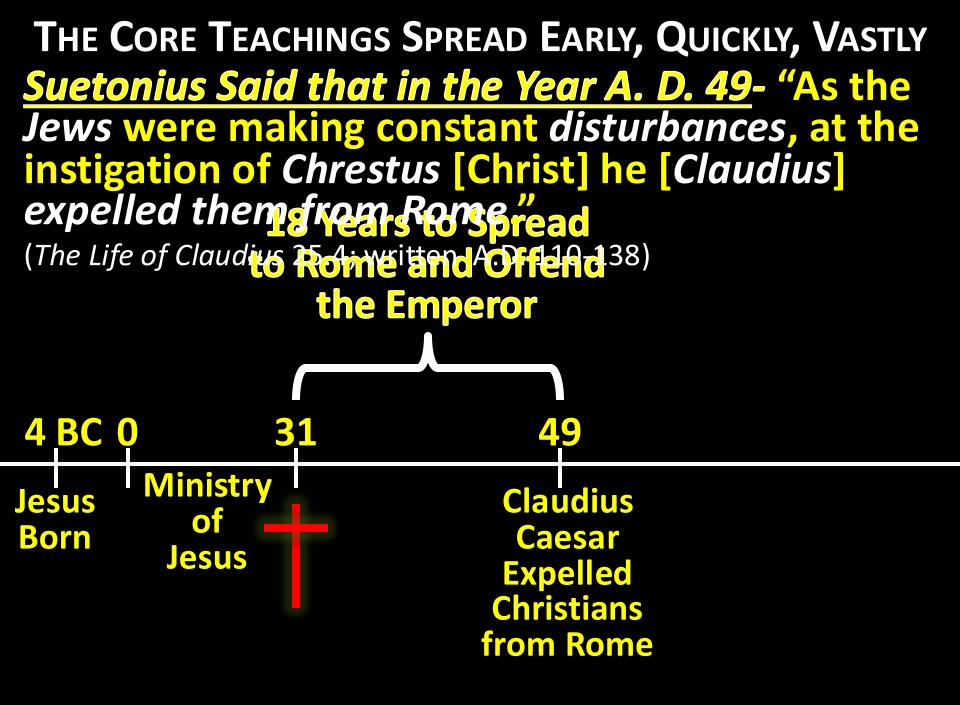
(Sanhedrin 43a)

RECORDED HISTORY AND THE EARLY CORE TEACHINGS

- (1) The NT was written too early to be legendary
- (2) Ancient non-Christian texts affirm Christianity's early core teachings
- (3) Christianity's core teachings spread too quickly & vastly to be legendary

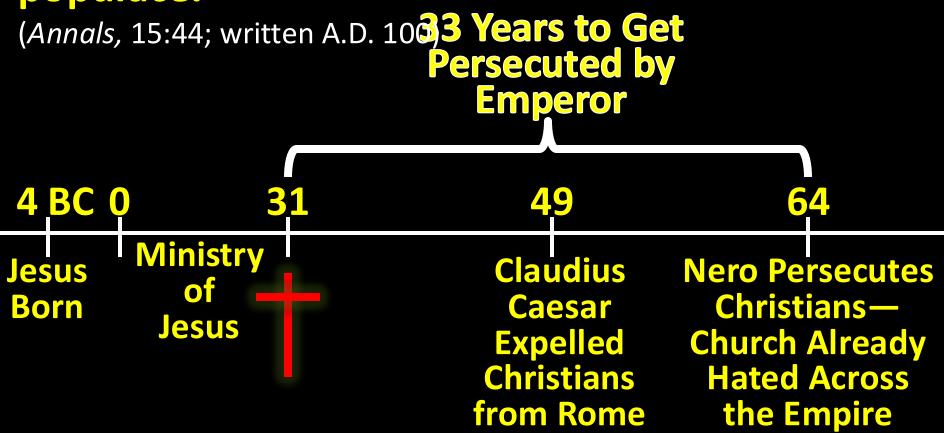
- 1. Crucified
- 2. Died
- 3. Buried
- 4. Empty Tomb
- 5. Resurrection
- 6. Seen by Witnesses

These core teachings were taught/recorded too early and spread too quickly and too vastly for legends to develop.

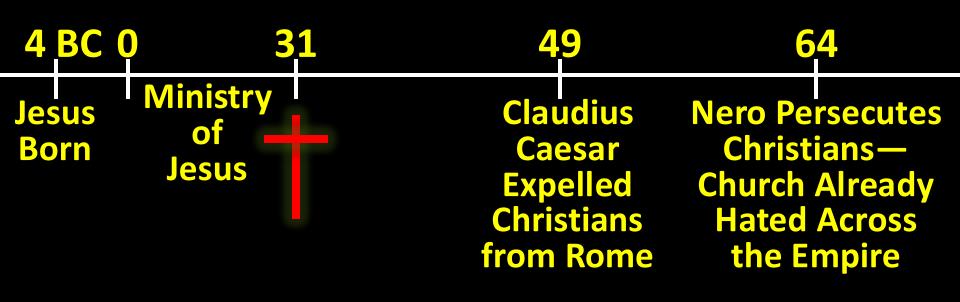




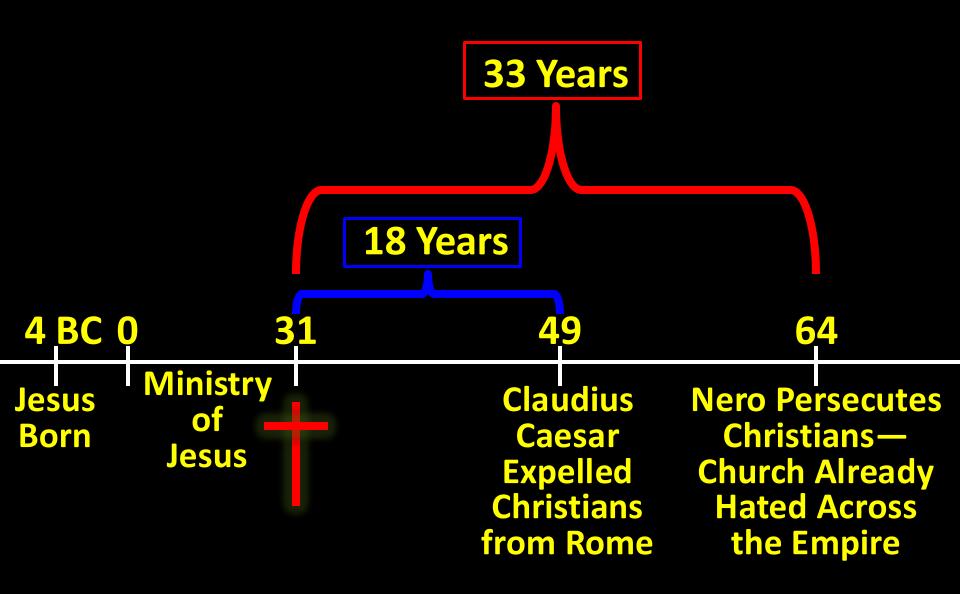
Cornelius Tacitus' Said that in A. D. 64"Nero fastened the guilt and inflicted the most exquisite torture on a class hated for their abominations, called Christians by the populace."



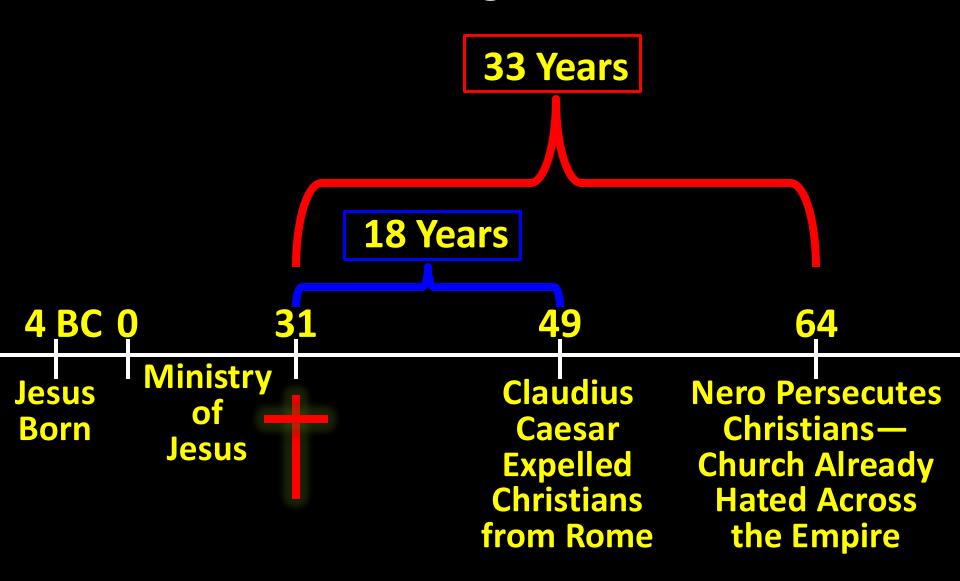
To spread so far so quickly so early, Christianity must have *already* had its set of *core teachings*, and these teachings have been documented by both believers and unbelievers.



What Exactly Was Spreading?



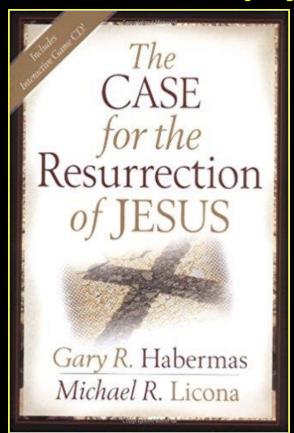
To identify "Christians" they must have a set of core beliefs that distinguish them from others.

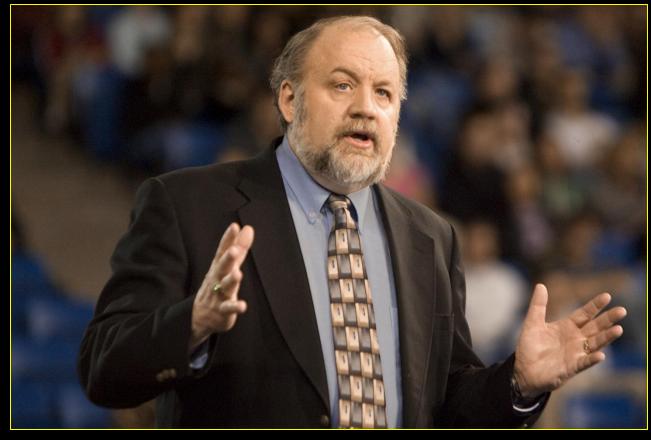


Recorded History and the Early Core Teachings **Empty Tomb** Sincerity of Disciples/Apostles Testimony **Upstanding Moral Teachings** Record of Seeing and Hearing Jesus Record of Touching and Interacting with Jesus Enthusiasm and Courage of Disciples **Crucifixion Kills** orturous Deaths of Disciples for Testimony dentity of Jesus Known by His Family/Disciples Id Testament Predicted Messiah's Resurrection othing for Disciples to Gain for Lying

GARY HABERMAS

- Greatest Expert on the Resurrection
- Found that 75% of critical scholars affirm the empty tomb.





Non-Christian Scholars Affirm The Empty Tomb Because

- (1) Early Jews & Romans said the disciples stole Jesus' body
- (2) Jews/Romans never tried to present the body
- (3) Emperor Hadrian desecrated the site

The Jews and Romans never tried to present Jesus' body.



The Jews and Romans said the disciples stole the body



Tacitus and Suetonius called Christianity a "mischievous superstition."

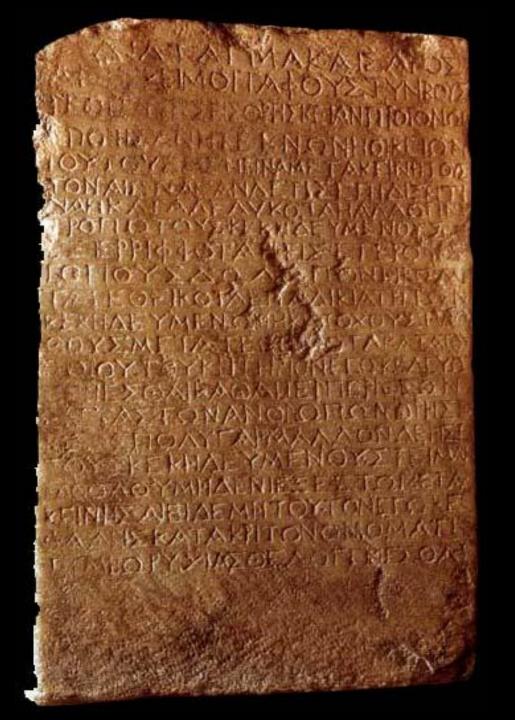


The Nazareth Inscription

Inscription
Ordered
By
Emperor Claudius
(A. D. 41-54)

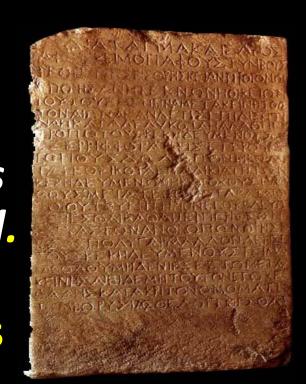
The same

> emperor who
kicked Christians
out of Rome
in A.D. 49.



The Nazareth Inscription

"Ordinance of Caesar: It is my pleasure that graves and tombs remain perpetually undisturbed. ... [If anyone] has in any other way extracted the buried or has maliciously transferred them to other places . . . I desire that the offender be sentenced to capital punishment on charge of violation of a sepulcher."



THE JEWS AND ROMANS BELIEVED THE TOMB WAS EMPTY

Justin Martyr (A.D. 160) - "[Jews say] his disciples stole him by night from the tomb, where he was laid when unfastened from the cross, and now deceive men by asserting that he has risen from the dead and ascended to heaven."

(Dialogue with Trypho, chapter 108).

(See also Tertullian's *De Spectaculis*, chap. 30; c. A.D. 200).

EMPEROR HADRIAN
(REIGNED A.D. 117-138)
PLACED A STATUE OF JUPITER
ON TOP OF JESUS' TOMB TO
DESECRATE THE SITE FOR CHRISTIANS

JEROME (A.D. 386) (HADRIAN REIGNED A.D. 117-138)



"From the time of Hadrian to the reign of Constantine . . . the spot which had witnessed the resurrection was occupied by a figure of Jupiter. . . The original persecutors, indeed, supposed that by polluting our holy places they would deprive us of our faith in the passion and in the resurrection."

(Epistle 58: To Paulinus, 2).

(See also Eusebius, The Life of Constantine, 3.26)

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Bible Critic, Bart Ehrman Said:

"Why, then, did some of the disciples claim to see Jesus alive after his crucifixion? . . . Paul, writing about twenty-five years later, indicates that this is what they claimed, and I don't think he is making it up."



The New Testament A Historical Introduction to the Early Christian Writings, p. 301

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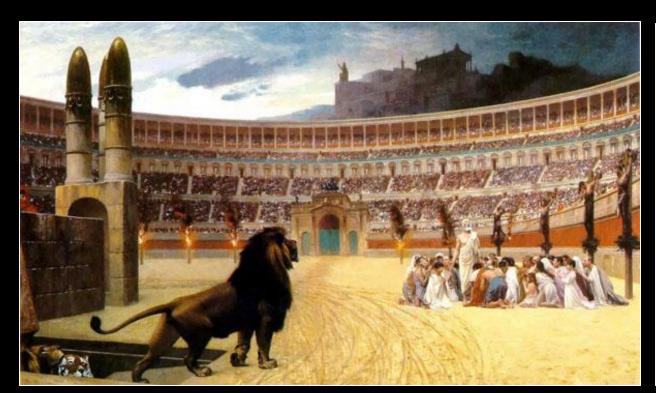
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TORTUROUS DEATHS OF THE DISCIPLES FOR TESTIMONY

The Disciples Were Willing To Endure:

- Imprisonment (Acts 5:18, 12:5, 24:27)
- Torture (Acts 5:40, 16:23, 2 Cor. 11:24-25)
- Painful Deaths:





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- Imprisonment (Acts 5:18, 12:5, 24:27)
- Torture (Acts 5:40, 16:23, 2 Cor. 11:24-25)
- Painful Deaths
 - 1) Stephen Stoned- Acts 7:55-58.
 - 2) James Killed with Sword- Acts 12:2.
 - 3) Peter Crucified-John 21:18-19.
 - 4) James (Jesus' Brother) Stoned- Cited by Josephus.
 - 5) Many Other Disciples'/Apostles' Deaths Are Mentioned in Early Christian Historical Records.
 - 6) Nero's Persecution- Recorded by Roman Historians: Tacitus and Suetonius.

Around A. D. 100 the Roman Historian, Tacitus, Wrote About Nero Persecuting Christians in A. D. 64



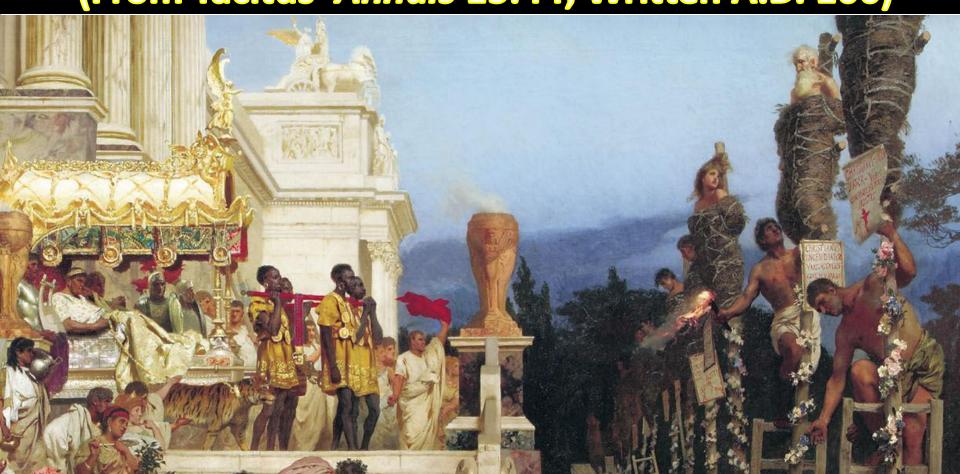
"Nero . . . executed with the most exquisite punishments those people called Christians. . . Therefore, first those were seized who admitted their faith, and then, using the information they

(From Tacitus' Annals 15:44; Written A.D. 100)



provided, a vast multitude were convicted... And perishing they were additionally made into sports: they were killed by dogs by having the hides of beasts attached to them, or they were nailed to crosses or set aflame."

(From Tacitus' Annals 15:44; Written A.D. 100)



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OLD TESTAMENT PREDICTED MESSIAH'S CRUCIFIXION, DEATH, BURIAL, AND RESURRECTION

Isaiah 53:5, 8-9, 11 (700 B.C.): "He was pierced for our Crucifixion transgressions.... 8For he was cut off from the land of the living; Death for the transgression of my people he was stricken. ⁹He was assigned a grave with the wicked. **Burial** ... ¹¹After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light of life Resurrection and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities."

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NOTHING FOR DISCIPLES TO GAIN FOR LYING

Many Were Willing To Sacrifice Obtaining:

- Wealth
- Women (Wives/Family)
- Political Power
- Social acceptance

Unlike

Muhammad (Started Islam)



Joseph Smith (Started Mormonism)

- King
- Wealthy; 10,000 in Army
- •11 Wives

- Mayor
- Wealthy; 4000 in Army
- 40-49 known wives

Cannot Argue For Selfish Motive

Can Argue For Selfish Motive

Jesus and the Apostles

Muhammad Joseph Smith

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THE RESURRECTION ARGUMENT

- (1) God exists & miracles are possible
- (2) The disciples truly believed they observed the resurrected Jesus
- (3) All naturalistic explanations fail concerning the empty tomb, disciples' claims, & willingness to die for claims

The disciples truly observed the resurrected Jesus

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The disciples truly observed the resurrected Jesus

- a. Theft Theory
- b. Apparent Death Theory
- c. Hallucination Theory
- d. Wrengromb Theoryplanations fail
- e. Body Eaten by Dogs Theory
- f. Twin Theory
- g. Resurrection Theory

THE HISTORICAL METHOD THE BEST HISTORICAL HYPOTHESIS:

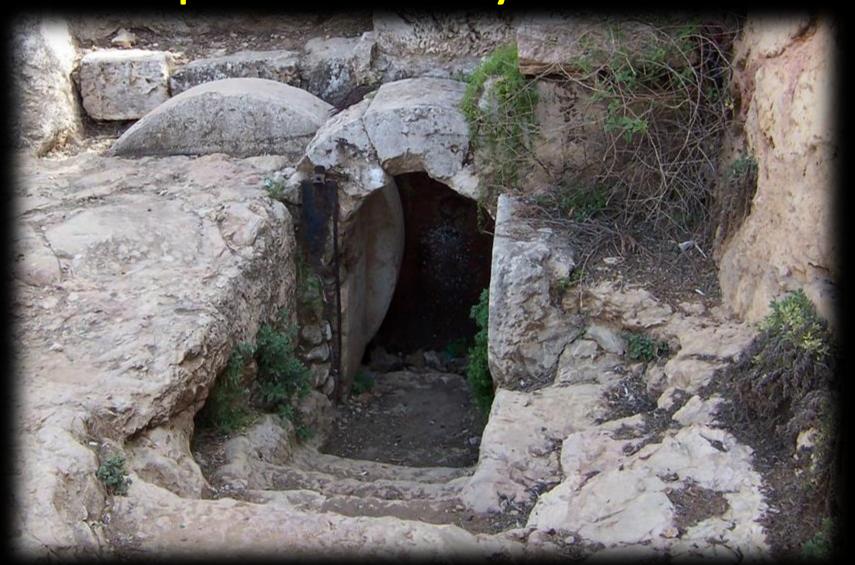
- 1. Has the Greatest Explanatory Scope and Power-It explains more historical data and answers more questions than other hypotheses.
- 2. Is the Most Plausible (Probable)- It has superior historical documentation, lines up with human nature and reality, and has fewer arguments against it.
- 3. Appeals to the Least Amount of Imaginary Scenarios (Is Less Ad Hoc)- The hypothesis with the least amount of speculation and the least undocumented ideas is probably correct.

All of the Naturalistic Explanations Fail

- a. Theft Theory
- b. Apparent Death Theory
- c. Hallucination Theory
- d. Wrong Tomb Theory
- e. Body Eaten by Dogs Theory
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THEFT THEORY

The disciples stole the body and lied about it.



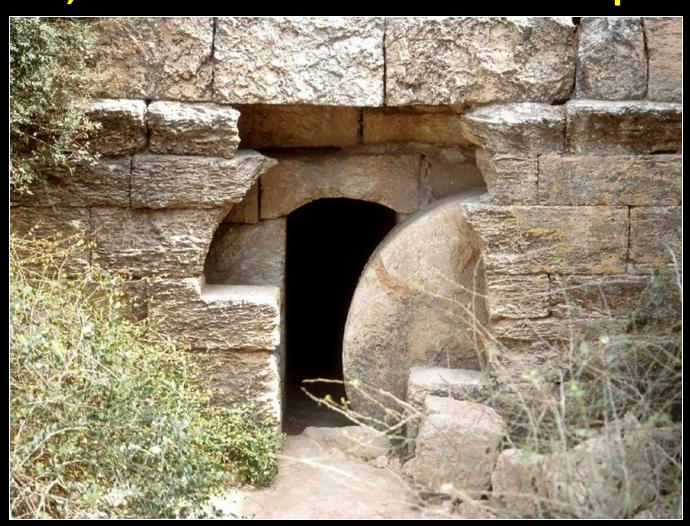
THEFT THEORY

This is the only alternative theory that was promoted in the A. D. first century.

Matthew 28:12-15- "When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, 13 telling them, 'You are to say, "His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep." ... 15 So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day."

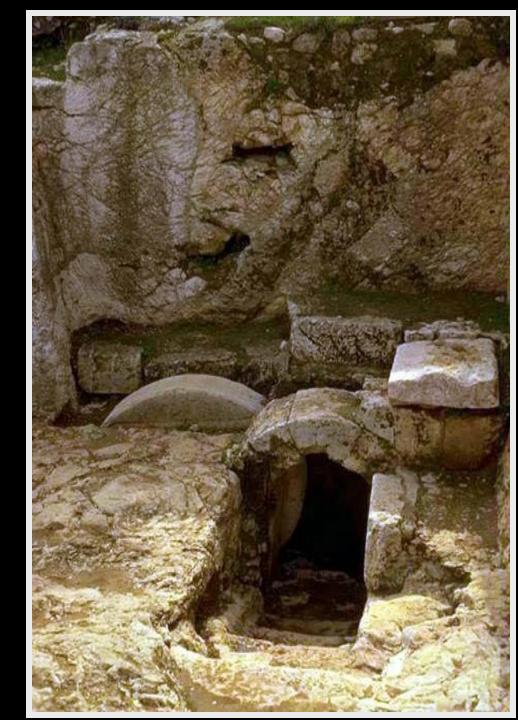
PROBLEMS WITH THE THEFT THEORY

Rolling stone tombs were designed to be difficult to break into, so there'd be evidence of tampering.



They're Built out of Stone

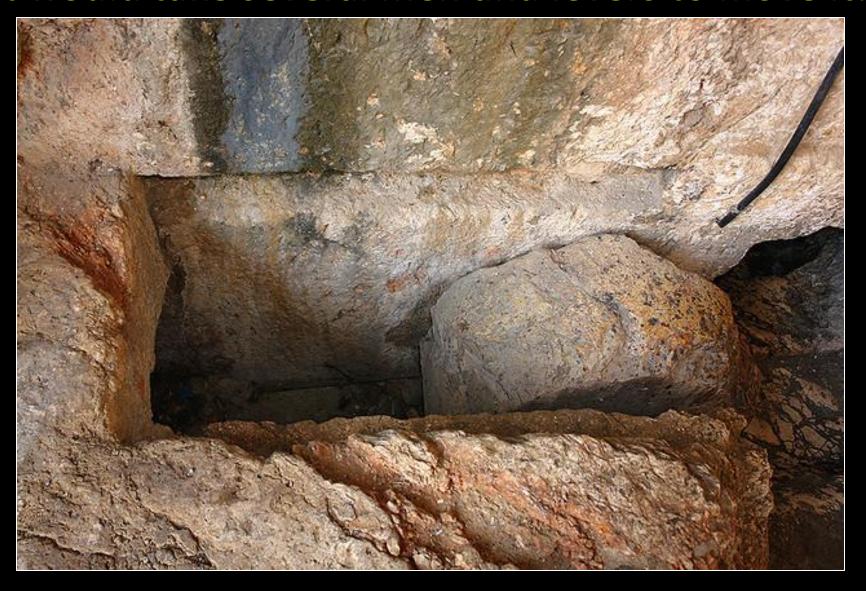
Rolling Stones:
4.5 ft Diameter
1 ft Thick
3000-4000 Pounds

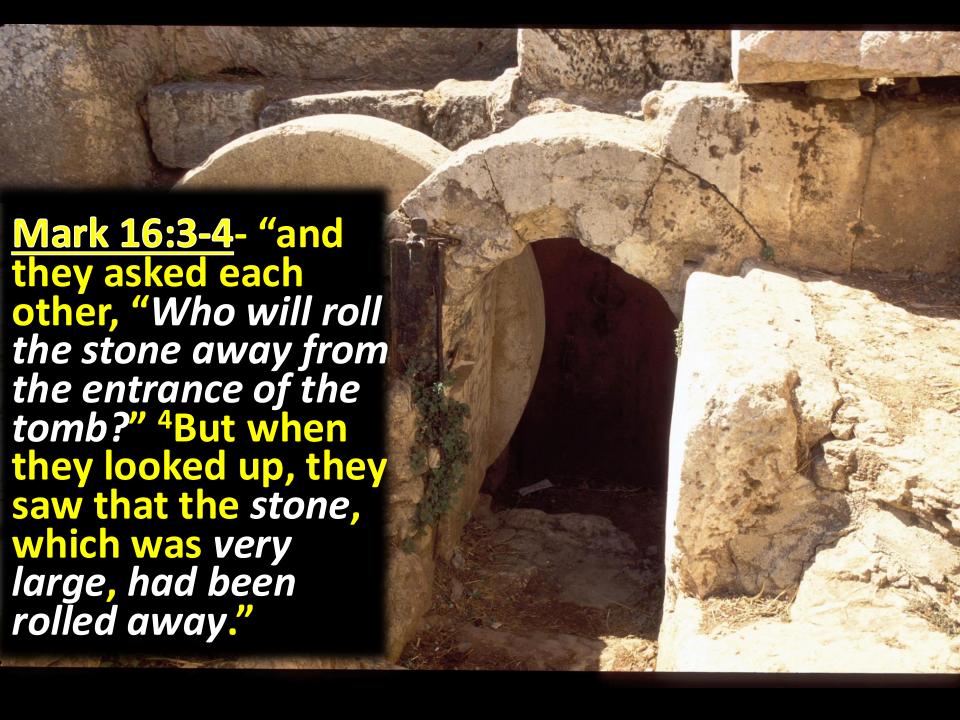






PROBLEMS WITH THE THEFT THEORY It would take several men and levers to move it.





WHY DIDN'T THE DISCIPLES "BREAK"?

Peter:

"I have something to tell you guys..."



PROBLEMS WITH THE THEFT THEORY

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APPARENT DEATH THEORY

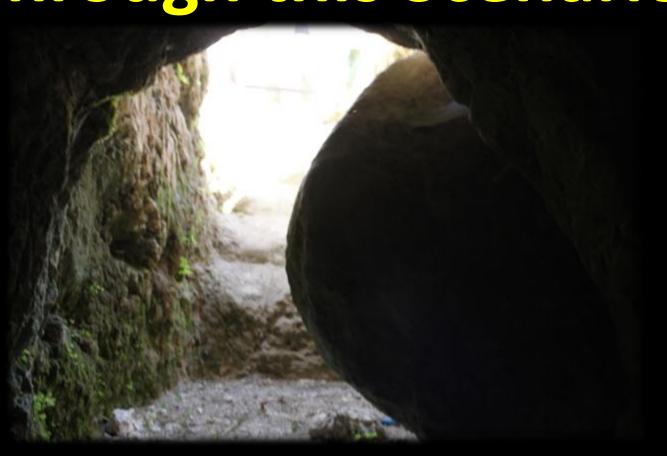
Jesus never fully died. The coolness of the tomb revived him. Then, many people saw him until he died sometime later.





PROBLEMS WITH THE APPARENT DEATH THEORY

Let's Walk Through this Scenario



First, the professional Roman soldiers failed to accomplish their job.









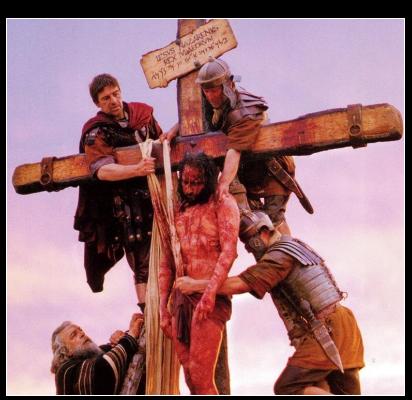


Second, the executioners were supposed to pierce the victim's side to ensure his death, but Jesus survived this.

John 19:34- "When they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, ... One of the soldiers *pierced* Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water."

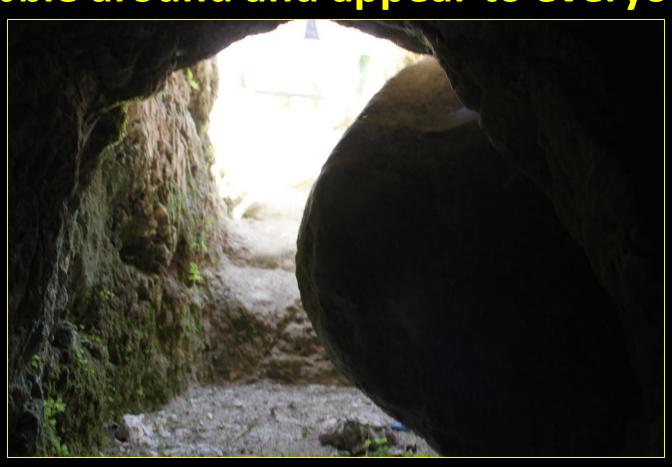


Third, nobody noticed he wasn't dead.

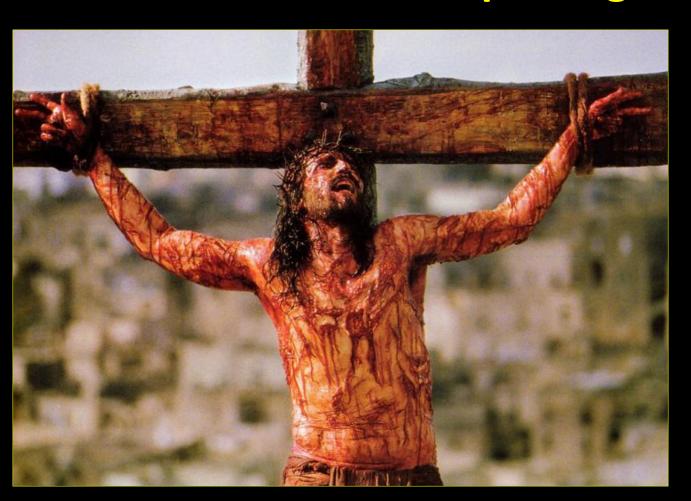




Fourth, it would be impossible for him to get out of the tomb by himself—especially in his condition, and then hobble around and appear to everyone.



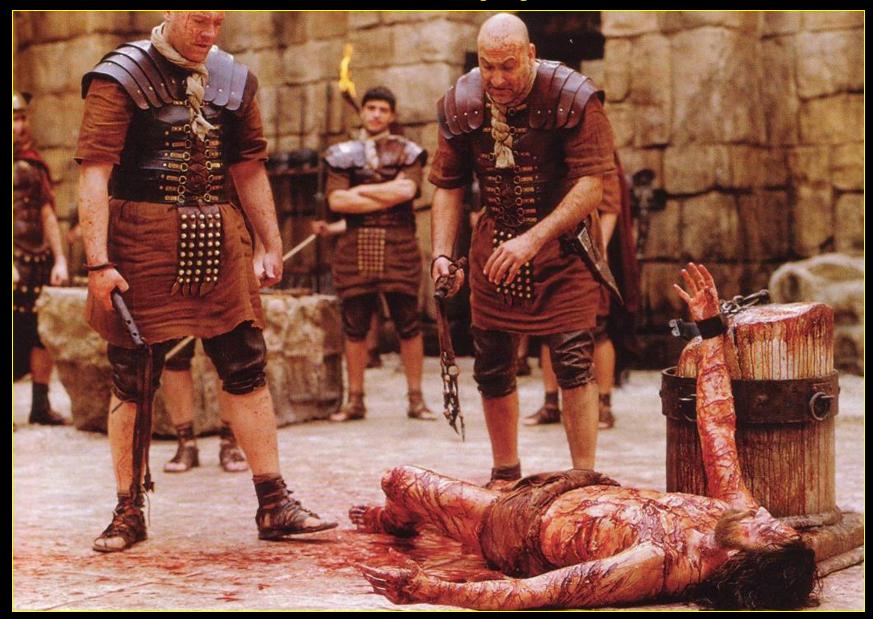
Fifth, he wouldn't be able to use his hands or feet for awhile; so others would have to help him get around.







Sixth, his frail condition would make it obvious that he simply never died.

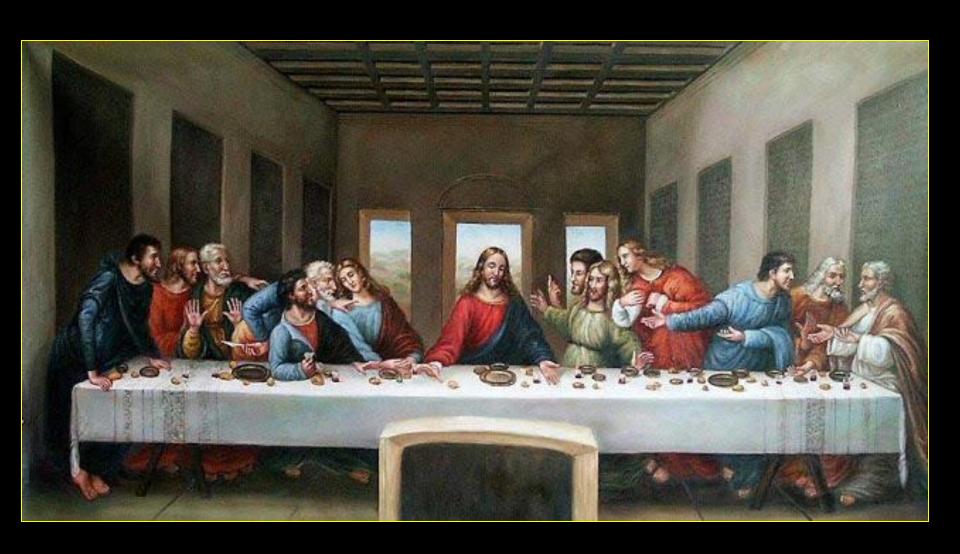


Seventh, the biblical accounts of his glorious, resurrected body would be lies.

"[God] will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body."



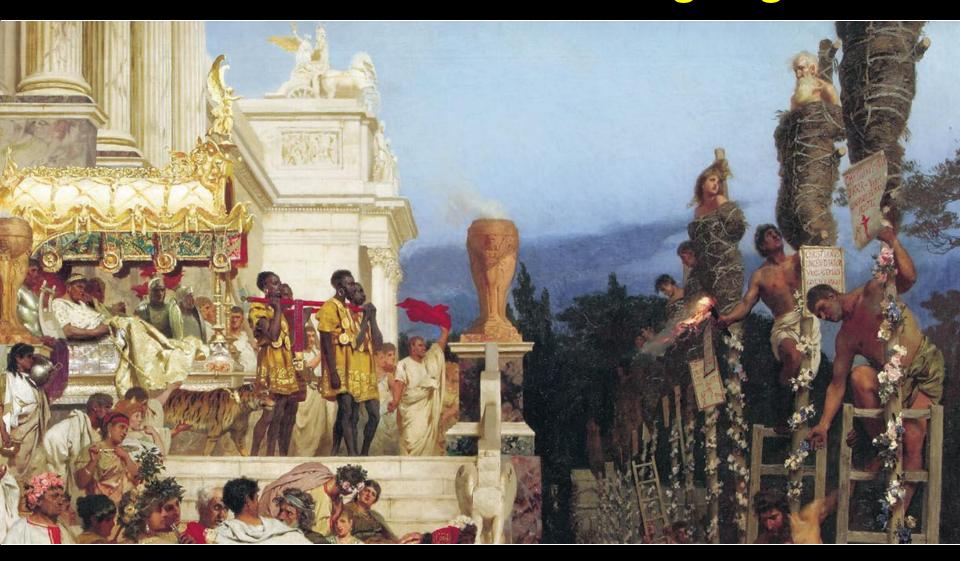
Eighth, eventually, he would die for real and his friends and family would know it.



Ninth, his disciples must be willing to lie about his real condition and his real death and then bury him in secret.



Tenth, his disciples must be willing to die for this lie with nothing to gain.



PROBLEMS WITH THE APPARENT DEATH THEORY

Recorded History and the Early Core Teachings **Empty Tomb** Sincerity of Disciples/Apostles Testimony pstanding Moral Teachings Record of Seeing and Hearing Jesus Record of Touching and Interacting with Jesus nthusiasm and Courage of Disciples Crucifixion Kills orturous Deaths of Disciples for Testimony dentity of Jesus Known by His Family/Disciples **Old Testament Predicted Messiah's Resurrection** Nothing for Disciples to Gain for Lying

All of the Naturalistic Explanations Fail

- a. Theft Theory
- **b.** Apparent Death Theory
- c. Hallucination Theory
- d. Wrong Tomb Theory
- e. Body Eaten by Dogs Theory
- f. Twin Theory
- g. Resurrection Theory



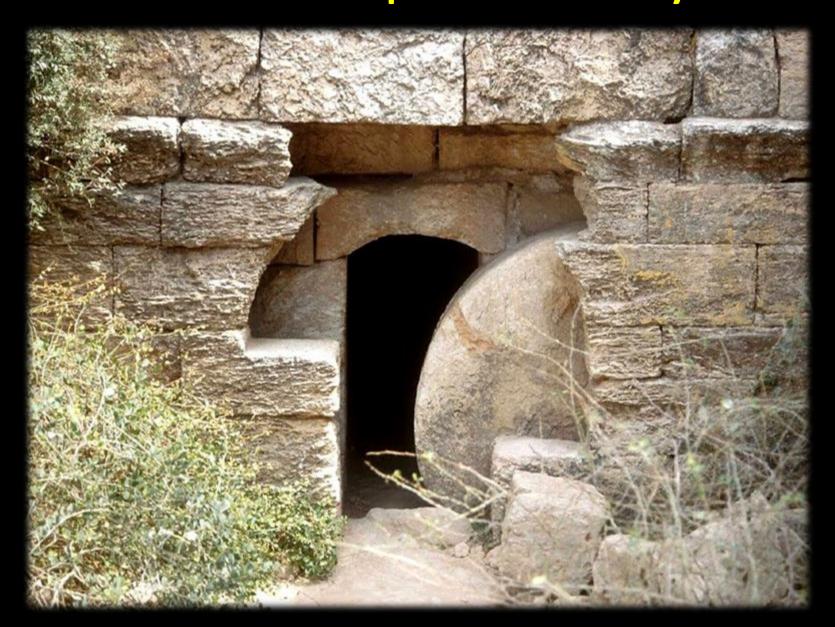


PROBLEMS WITH THE HALLUCINATION THEORY

- 1. First, hallucinations are *rare* (only 15% of the public hallucinates). Proponents of this theory must believe all of the following experiences were hallucinations:
 - a. All of the women at the tomb.
 - b. Peter and John's individual experiences.
 - c. The disciples on the road to Emmaus.
 - d. Eleven disciples at once (without Thomas).
 - e. All Twelve disciples.
 - f. Jesus' half-brother, James.
 - g. Over 500 people at once.
 - h. The Apostle Paul.

- 2. Second, no recorded hallucinations are as extensive or intensive as Jesus' Resurrection.
- 3. Third, there's no way everyone would hallucinate the same thing at the same time. And, most present wouldn't see anything because most people don't hallucinate.
- 4. Fourth, they claimed to see, hear, and touch him.
- 5. Fifth, they saw him eat, which means the food that was there would be gone afterward.
- 6. Sixth, Paul and Jesus' brother were unbelievers, so why did they hallucinate?
- 7. Seventh, why did everyone's hallucinations stop at the same time?

8. Eighth, what about the empty tomb? Why didn't the Jews and Romans present the body?



PROBLEMS WITH THE HALLUCINATION THEORY

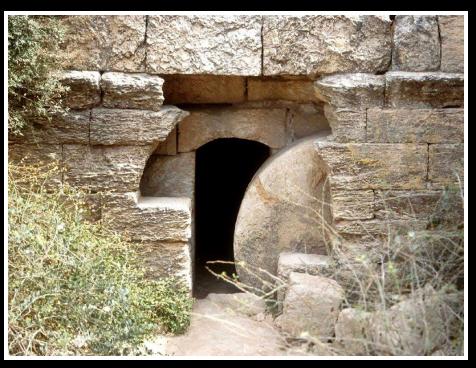
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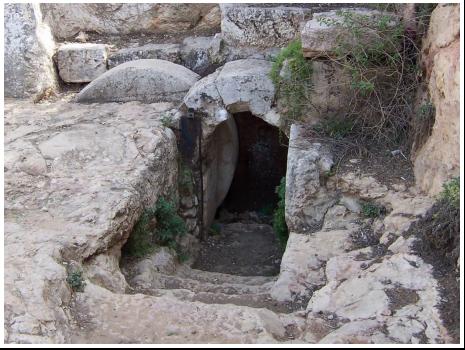
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THE WRONG TOMB THEORY

The women went to the wrong tomb and nobody conducted a fact-check to identify the correct tomb.





PROBLEMS WITH THE WRONG TOMB THEORY

- 1. First, this would mean that the women, the disciples, Jesus' family, the Jewish leaders, and the Romans were all wrong about the location of the tomb.
- 2. Second, the Bible says two Sanhedrin members, Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus, buried Jesus, which is something that would be unlikely for Christians to make up. It also says that Joseph of Arimathea buried Jesus in his own tomb (Mat. 27:57-60; John 19:38-42). Therefore, wouldn't Joseph of Arimathea know the location of his own tomb?
- 3. Third, what about their claims to witness the resurrection? Did they die for a lie?

PROBLEMS WITH THE WRONG TOMB THEORY

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BODY EATEN BY DOGS THEORY

Dogs broke into the tomb and ate Jesus' body, so the tomb was empty when the women arrived.



PROBLEMS WITH THE BODY EATEN BY DOGS THEORY

1. First, rolling stone tombs are designed to keep animals out.



PROBLEMS WITH THE EATEN BY DOGS THEORY

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TWIN THEORY

Maybe Jesus had a twin brother or an imposter claimed to be Jesus.





PROBLEMS WITH THE TWIN THEORY

- 1. First, Jesus' family would have known if he had a twin, so who appeared to his brother, James?
- 2. Second, his disciples knew him well enough to be able to identify him.
- 3. Third, was his twin lying to people? If so, why and for what?
- 4. Fourth, the resurrected Jesus performed miracles. Did the imposter perform miracles too? Or, did the disciples lie about that?
- 5. Fifth, his disciples claimed to touch his wounds from the crucifixion. Did they lie about that?
- 6. Sixth, what about the empty tomb?

PROBLEMS WITH THE TWIN THEORY

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RESURRECTION THEORY

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THE PRIMARY OBJECTION TO THE RESURRECTION:

You Would have to Say: "God Did It."

	Theft	Never Died	Halluc- ination	Wrong Tomb	Dogs Ate	Twin	Raised to life
+ Kills	X		X	X	X	X	X
Empty Tomb	X	Χ		X	Χ		Х
Disciples' Enthusiasm			X	X	X	X	X
Disciples' Sincerity			X				X
Claim-See	X	X	X			X	X
Claim-Touch	X	X					X
Moral Teach.			X				X
Discipl. Suffer			X				X
Fam.&Friends		X					X
1 st Cen. Doc.	X						X
Totals:	5/10	4/10	6/10	3/10	3/10	3/10	10/10

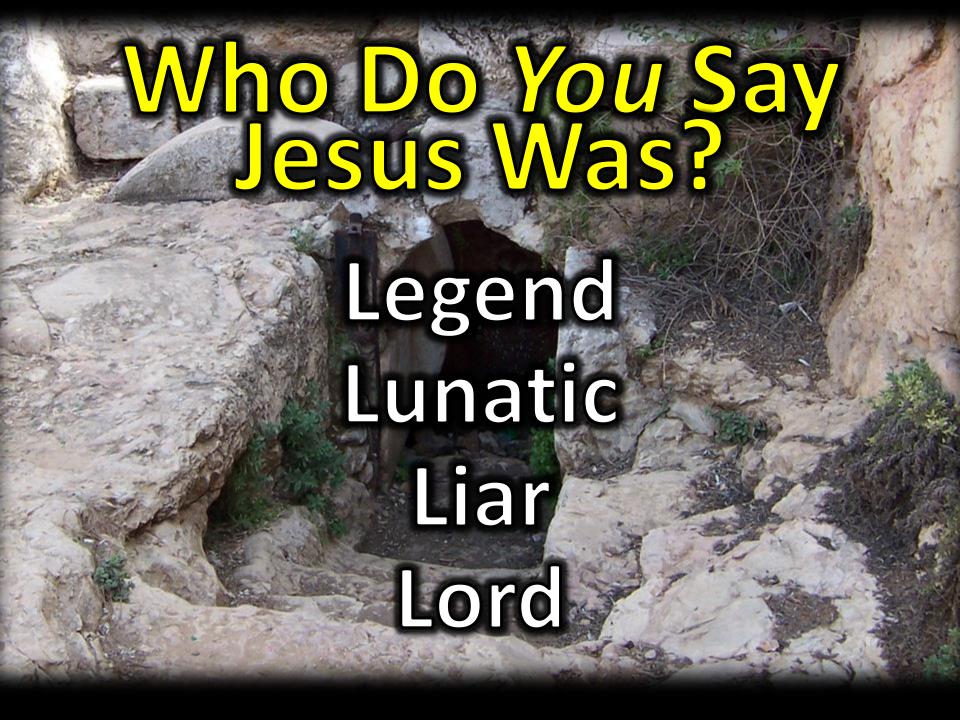
You Have to Pick a Theory, So Which One Are You Prepared to Defend?

- 1. Theft Theory
- 2. Apparent Death Theory
- 3. Hallucination Theory
- 4. Wrong Tomb Theory
- 5. Body Eaten by Dogs Theory
- 6. Twin Theory
- 7. Resurrection Theory

THE RESURRECTION ARGUMENT

- (1) God exists & miracles are possible
- (2) The disciples truly believed they observed the resurrected Jesus
- (3) All naturalistic explanations fail concerning the empty tomb, disciples' claims, & willingness to die for claims

The disciples truly observed the resurrected Jesus



Why Does This Matter?



Heb. 9:27- "It is appointed for man to die once . . . "



Death Is the Greatest Human Tragedy





John 11:25- "Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies."

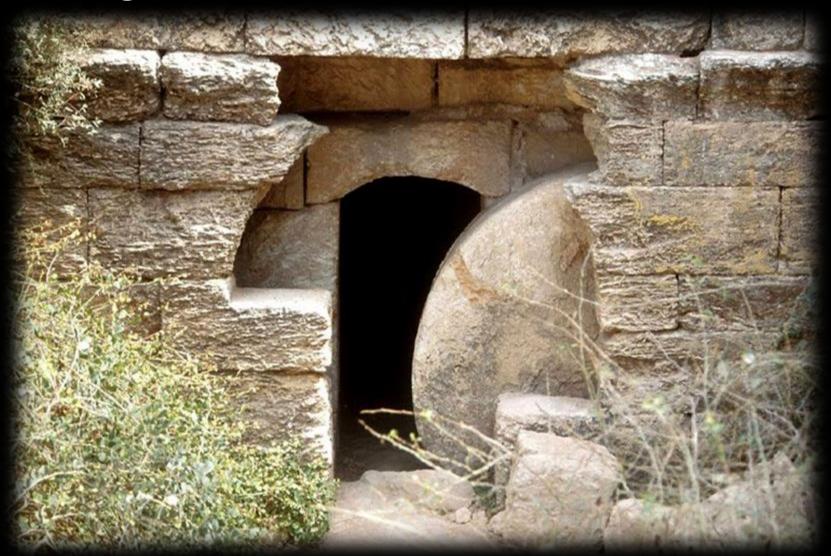




Promise: Your Tomb Will Be Empty Too



1 Cor. 15:54-55 - "Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"



2 Tim. 1:10- "Christ abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel."



The Resurrection: Evidence for the Truth of the Gospel

