Is The Resurrection True?

Adam Willingham · 1 Corinthians 15:3–8

INTRODUCTION

- Christianity really does stand or fall on the resurrection of Jesus Christ. And this is a matter of first importance.
- If Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless. You are still in your sins.
- We're going to do this by looking at the alternatives. If Jesus did not rise from the dead, then what did happen?

1 The Legend Theory

1 Corinthians 15

- Jesus' body was still in the tomb, and years later, the disciples of Jesus just sort of made all these stories up that Christ appeared to people.
- But the problem with that is the resurrection of Jesus was preached from the very beginning. It wasn't something that was thought of years later.
- Pentecost was only fifty days after Passover and Jesus died at the time of the Passover.
- That was only about two decades after the time of Christ, much too early for all these legends and myths to have arisen.

2 The Wrong Tomb Theory

- They maybe went to the wrong tomb and they found this tomb that was empty.
- Are we to believe that nobody knew which tomb was the right tomb?
- Are we to believe that even the Jewish opponents wouldn't have known which tomb it was that Jesus was buried in?
- Aren't they the ones that put the guard that went to Pilate and had the Roman guard placed there? Surely they would have known.

3 Mistaken Identity and Hallucination Theories

- What the eyewitnesses say is that they were eating with Jesus and speaking and talking with Jesus and touching Jesus, and he was even breathing on them at one point.
- Are we to believe that multiple individuals saw over and over the same hallucination?
- The enemies never produced the body of Jesus.
- They did not advocate any of the theories that I just told you about. Instead, they simply made up ways to explain how Jesus' tomb was empty.

4 The Stolen Body Theory

Matthew 27:62–65; Matthew 28:14–15

- Lest his disciples come by night and steal him away, and say to the people, He is risen from the dead.
- This saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.
- If the disciples stole the body to tell a big hoax, then that means that they were willing to suffer for something that they knew was a lie.
- Do people suffer and die for things that they know are not true?
- Maybe somebody else stole the body. Like the Jewish authorities.
- If they did steal the body, then why didn't they ever just produce the body and say Jesus hasn't risen from the dead?

5 The Swoon Theory

- Swoon means faint. So maybe Jesus didn't die at all.
- They scourged him, then they put him on a cross for six hours, and then they put a spear at his side just to make sure he was dead.
- You mean to tell me that Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus, in preparing Jesus for burial, somehow couldn't tell that Jesus was still alive and breathing?
- He gets put into this dark tomb until the third day without food, water, or medical treatment.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Which one sounds more reasonable? This is an either or proposition. There is no middle ground. We have to make a decision. What are we going to believe?**

MY NOTES