

Why I Believe in the Resurrection of Christ

April 10, 2018

“The unexamined faith is not worth
having.”

—anonymous

Three Essential Questions

* *Could* Jesus have risen from the dead?

◆ Are miracles *possible*?

* *Did* Jesus rise from the dead?

◆ Did this *particular* miracle occur?

* *So what?*

◆ **What does it matter?**

So what?

- ◆ Acts 4:11-12

- ◆ “This Jesus (whom you crucified, **whom God raised from the dead**) is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. And **there is salvation in no one else**, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

So what?

- ◆ Romans 10:9
 - ◆ if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and **believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead**, you will be saved.

So what?

- ◆ John 5:27-29

- ◆ And he has given him **authority to execute judgment**, because he is the Son of Man. Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when **all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out**, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.

So what?

- ◆ Acts 17:30-31

- ◆ “The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed: and **of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.**”

So what?

- ◆ 1 Cor. 15:12-19
- ◆ if Christ has not been raised
 - ◆ false witnesses
 - ◆ our sins remain
 - ◆ carpe diem

Three Essential Questions

* ***Could* Jesus have risen from the dead?**

◆ **Are miracles *possible*?**

Could Jesus have risen from the dead?

- ◆ Are miracles possible?
 - ◆ “something which would never have happened had nature been left to its own devices.” (Flew)
 - ◆ “an effect in nature by a cause beyond nature.” (Geisler)

Jesus died

Jesus did not rise
bodily

Jesus did rise bodily

naturalistic explanations for
the known historical facts

supernatural explanation for
the known historical facts

Could Jesus have risen from the dead?

- ◆ If God exists, the resurrection is possible
- ◆ “If we admit God must we admit miracle? Indeed, indeed you have no security against it.” (C.S. Lewis)

Three Essential Questions

* ***Did Jesus rise from the dead?***

◆ ***Did this particular miracle occur?***

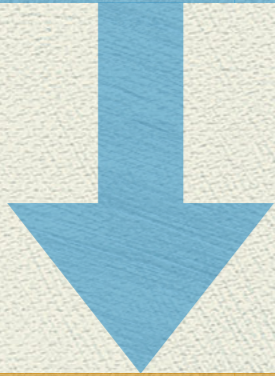
Jesus did not die

Jesus did not die



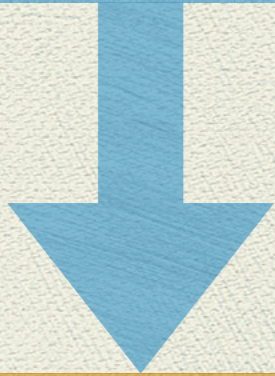
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Jesus did not die



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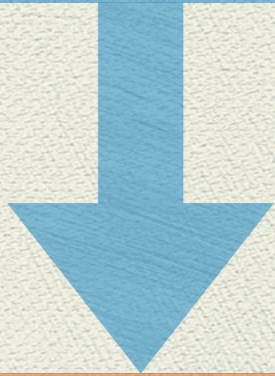
Jesus did not die



swoon

Extra-biblical sources confirm Christ's death

Jesus did not die



substitute

Josephus: "Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men among us, had condemned him to the cross."

Talmud: "on the eve of Passover they hanged Yeshu of Nazareth."

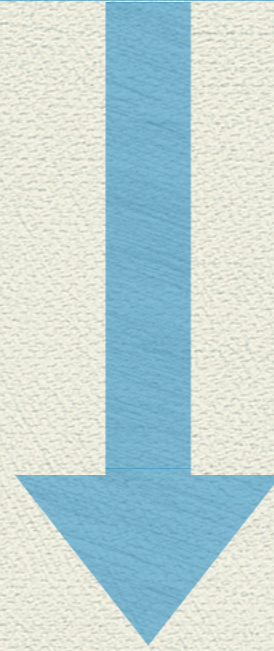
Phlegon: "Jesus, while alive, was of no assistance to himself, but that he arose after death, and exhibited the marks of his punishment, and showed how his hands had been pierced by nails."

Jesus did ~~X~~ not die

- Marcus Borg: execution by Romans “the most certain fact about the historical Jesus”
- John Dominic Crossan: “That Jesus was crucified is as sure as anything historical can ever be.”

Jesus di~~X~~ not die

Jesus died



Jesus did not rise
bodily

Jesus di~~X~~ not die

Jesus died



Jesus did not rise
bodily



hallucination

hallucinations

Private

Individual

Lasting moments

Borne out of expectation

appearances

Public

Groups

40 days

unexpected

appearances of Christ

- ◆ 1. To Mary Magdelene (John 20:10-18)
- ◆ 2. To other women (Matt. 28:1-10)
- ◆ 3. To Peter (1 Cor. 15:5; John 20:3-9)
- ◆ 4. To disciples on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35)
- ◆ 5. To the Eleven disciples – minus Thomas (Luke 24:36-49; John 20:19-23)
- ◆ 6. To the Eleven – with Thomas (John 20:24-31)

appearances of Christ

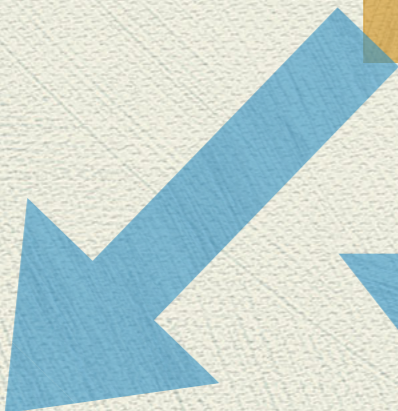
- ◆ 7. To seven disciples (John 21)
- ◆ 8. To commission the apostles (Matt. 28:16-20)
- ◆ 9. To five hundred (1 Cor. 15:6)
- ◆ 10. To James – brother of Jesus (1 Cor. 15:7)
- ◆ 11. At the Ascension (Acts 1:4-8)
- ◆ 12. To Paul (Acts 9:1-9; 1 Cor. 15:8)

Jesus did ~~X~~ not die

Jesus died



Jesus did not rise
bodily



hallucination ~~X~~

myth

importance of the word “Christian”

- ◆ Tacitus - *Annals*: history of the Roman Empire from Tiberius to Nero (14-68AD)
- ◆ Explaining the fire in Rome: “to get rid of the report, Nero fastened the guilt and inflicted the most exquisite tortures of a class hated for their abominations, *called Christians by the populace.*”

Jesus di~~X~~ not die

Jesus died

Jesus did not rise
bodily

hallu~~X~~nation

my~~X~~th

conspiracy

For we did not follow cleverly
devised myths when we made known
to you the power and coming of our
Lord Jesus Christ, but we were
eyewitnesses of his majesty.

—Apostle Peter (2 Pet. 1:16)

Jesus di~~X~~ not die

Jesus died

Jesus did not rise
bodily

hallu~~X~~nation

~~X~~myth

consp~~X~~iracy

Jedi Jesus

Views on the Afterlife

annihilationism	no soul	no body
reincarnation	same soul	another body
undead	no soul	same body
spiritism ("Jedi Jesus")	same soul	no body
resurrection (biblical Jesus)	same soul	same body

Jesus did ~~X~~ not die

Jesus died

Jesus did rise bodily

Jesus did ~~X~~ not rise bodily

hallucination ~~X~~

myth ~~X~~

conspiracy ~~X~~

Jedi ~~X~~ Jesus

Jesus di~~X~~ not die

Jesus died

Jesus did rise bodily

Christianity

“God raised Jesus from the dead”

- ◆ 1. simple, unvarnished message from Day One:
 - ◆ Acts 2:32 – this Jesus God raised up
 - ◆ Acts 3:15 – you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead
 - ◆ Acts 4:10 – Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead
 - ◆ Acts 5:30 – the God of our fathers raised Jesus

“God raised Jesus from the dead”

- ◆ Acts 10:40 – God raised him up on the third day
- ◆ Acts 13:30 – God raised him from the dead
- ◆ Acts 17:31 - he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.
- ◆ Acts 26:8 - Why is it thought incredible by any of you that God raises the dead?

Early Christian Creed

- ◆ Jesus died 30/33AD; Paul writes in 55AD
- ◆ For I delivered to you (52AD) as of first importance what I also received (35AD? - Galatians 1):
 - ◆ That Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared...(Cephas, 12, 500, James, all, Paul)

“God raised Jesus from the dead”

- ◆ 2. first-century men were not gullible
 - ◆ they “knew” dead people stay dead
 - ◆ disbelieved testimony of women (Mk 16:11; Lk 24:11)
 - ◆ disbelieved testimony of men (Mk 16:12-13)
 - ◆ disbelieved own eyes (Matt. 28:17)

Four Indisputable Facts of History

- ◆ Jesus died by crucifixion
- ◆ Jesus' disciples sincerely believed Jesus rose from the dead and appeared to them

“It may be taken as historically certain that Peter and the disciples had experiences after Jesus' death in which Jesus appeared to them as the risen Christ.”

Gerd Ludemann (atheist NT scholar)

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Explanation with Greatest Explanatory Scope and Power

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- ◆ Conversion of Paul
- ◆ Conversion of James

**“God raised
Jesus from
the dead”**

“I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?”

—Jesus Christ