

# DID JESUS RISE FROM THE DEAD?

## THE KNOWN FACTS

- JESUS' TOMB WAS FOUND EMPTY.
- JESUS WAS TORTURED AND CRUCIFIED.
- CHRISTIANITY SPREAD LIKE WILDFIRE THROUGHOUT THE KNOWN WORLD.
- MANY DIFFERENT WITNESSES (MORE THAN 500) ATTESTED TO SEEING JESUS AFTER HIS DEATH.
- ALL THE DISCIPLES WERE TORTURED FOR THEIR FAITH, AND 11 OF THE 12 ENDED UP DYING FOR IT.
- PREVIOUSLY SCARED DISCIPLES WERE ONLY DAYS LATER CLAIMING THE RESURRECTION WITH BOLDNESS.
- THE DISCIPLES PREACHED TO CROWDS OF THOUSANDS IN JERUSALEM, CLAIMING THAT JESUS HAD RISEN FROM THE DEAD.

## THE BEST THEORIES EXPLAINING THE FACTS

### 1 SWOON

JESUS DIDN'T ACTUALLY DIE, BUT FAINTED (SWOONED) ON THE CROSS AND LATER REVIVED.

### 2 HALLUCINATION

JESUS' FOLLOWERS ONLY IMAGINED THAT THEY SAW HIM.

### 3 SPIRITUAL RESURRECTION

JESUS ONLY ROSE FROM THE DEAD IN A SPIRITUAL SENSE.

### 4 THEFT

THE DISCIPLES STOLE THE BODY AND CLAIMED HE ROSE FROM THE DEAD.

### 5 WRONG TOMB

CONFUSED BY GRIEF, THE DISCIPLES WENT TO THE WRONG TOMB.

THE MOST PLAUSIBLE EXPLANATION OF ALL THE FACTS IS THAT GOD RAISED JESUS FROM THE DEAD!

## OBJECTIONS

- Roman soldiers, who were expert executioners, oversaw the crucifixion and pronounced him dead.
- How could Jesus, after being tortured, crucified, speared, and buried, unwrap himself, move a stone, defeat soldiers, and walk seven miles?
- On multiple occasions and under various circumstances, different individuals and groups of people experienced appearances of Jesus raised from the dead.
- The original disciples believed that Jesus was raised from the dead despite every predisposition to the contrary.
- The gospels claim to be historical accounts, not symbolism or allegory.
- The gospels provide multiple, independent attestations of these appearances.
- The earliest Jewish allegation that the disciples had stolen Jesus' body (Matthew 28:11-15) shows that the body was in fact missing from the tomb.
- The disciples were devastated by the death of Jesus.
- To steal the body, the disciples would have needed an elaborate plan, including bribed guards, sufficient motive, a place to dispose of the body, faked witnesses—all with each of them taking the secret to his grave.
- The story is simple and lacks signs of legendary embellishment.
- Multiple witnesses saw where Jesus was laid.
- If Jesus was only raised in a spiritual sense, what happened to his physical body?
- Jesus' glorified resurrected body still has physical features: he could eat and be touched.
- Paul claims Christianity is pointless without a bodily resurrection.
- There is no evidence that the body was stolen.
- Would the disciples allow themselves to be martyred for an elaborate hoax?
- Joseph of Arimathea's involvement and testimony must be rejected to accept this view.
- If the disciples accidentally went to the wrong tomb, all anyone would have had to do is produce Jesus' body.
- Contemporary scholars have almost universally discounted all these theories. None of these naturalistic theories succeed in meeting the conditions as well as the resurrection theory does.