

Evidence for the Resurrection

JACK LIPSEY

APOLOGIA INSTITUTE

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

- ▶ “For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: 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...”

If there is no resurrection...

- ▶ Not even Christ has been raised
- ▶ Preaching and faith are in vain
- ▶ Misrepresenting God
- ▶ Still in your sins
- ▶ We are of all people most to be pitied

Objection # 1

EVERYONE
HALLUCINATED

Who saw Jesus?

- ▶ “...he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to **more than five hundred brothers at one time**, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.” (1 Corinthians 15:5-8)

Answering Objection #1

- ▶ “Hallucinations are individual occurrences. By their very nature only one person can see a given hallucination at a time.” (Psychologist Gary Collins)
- ▶ Groups of people will not see the same exact thing that isn't really there.

Objection #2

JESUS NEVER DIED

We must believe that...

- ▶ Jesus passed out on the cross from blood loss;
- ▶ Was also pierced in his side, up to his heart;
- ▶ Was enclosed in a tomb for three days;
- ▶ Revived in the tomb;
- ▶ Moved a 2,000 lb. stone by himself;
- ▶ Victoriously presented himself to his disciples

Dr. Alexander Metherell

- ▶ **“After suffering that horrible abuse, with all the catastrophic blood loss and trauma, he would have looked so pitiful that the disciples would never have hailed him as a victorious conqueror of death; they would have felt sorry for him and tried to nurse him back to health.”**

Objection #3

JESUS' BODY WAS
STOLEN

Some thoughts...

- ▶ First, skeptics admit the tomb is empty.
- ▶ Second, the disciples are not searched.
- ▶ Third, the disciples died for a known lie.

Objection #4

JESUS IS A MYTH

Egyptian god Horus

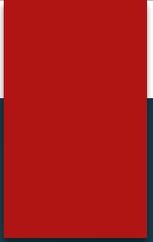
- ▶ Born of a virgin
- ▶ Baptized by Anup the Baptizer
- ▶ Tempted in the desert
- ▶ Healed the sick
- ▶ Walked on water
- ▶ Had twelve disciples
- ▶ Was crucified
- ▶ Resurrected after three days

The Facts

- ▶ Maher cites the Egyptian Book of the Dead, but these descriptions are not found there.
- ▶ Osiris is the only myth of surviving death that predates Christianity.
- ▶ All other parallels of resurrected gods begin around AD 150, more than 100 years after Jesus.

Bart Ehrman (responding to Freke and Gandy)

- ▶ “The authors provide no evidence for their claims concerning the standard mythology of the godmen. They cite no sources from the ancient world that can be checked. It is not that they have provided an alternative interpretation of the available evidence. They have not even cited the available evidence. And for good reason. No such evidence exists. What, for example, is the proof that Osiris was born on December 25 before three shepherds? Or that he was crucified? And that his death brought atonement for sin? Or that he returned to life on earth by being raised from the dead? In fact, no ancient source says any such thing about Osiris (or about the other gods).” (*Did Jesus Exist?*, 26)



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