

Theories of Resurrection

Skeptics have always denied the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and to support their rejection, they propose alternate theories to explain the empty tomb. Now the question is: does any one of them presented support their conclusion; or do they offer a viable alternative to Jesus' resurrection recorded in the Bible?

The first proposes that Jesus didn't die – He only passed out or appeared to die. When He was laid on the cold slab in the tomb, He revived, got up, and left. However, this seems physically impossible. When Jesus was nailed to the cross, He had already suffered severe tortures that killed most of its victims before they could be crucified. The Roman soldiers, experts in their craft of execution, were convinced, as was everyone else, that Jesus was dead. Even if He had survived the tortures, the crucifixion, and the spear thrust into His side, the theory still struggles. How could Jesus have gotten out of the tightly wound grave clothes, removed the massive stone at the tombs entrance, fought off or evaded the guards, walked away on nail-pierced feet, and convinced hundreds of the people that He had resurrected. Contemporary skeptics reject this theory as being totally preposterous.

The second proposes that Jesus' disciples stole the body. This explanation was created by the Jewish leadership. But the disciples would be incapable of overpowering the armed guards posted at the tomb. Nor would the guards have fallen to sleep, because that offense was punishable by death. And, would the disciples go to such extremes, knowing that their leader, who had promised them so much, now had failed? Would they give their lives as martyrs for someone who they knowing had deceived them? This theory fails serious scrutiny.

The third proposes that early Sunday morning, the women who had followed Jesus went to the wrong tomb, and then everyone else, simply went to the wrong tomb, an empty one. And the body of Jesus was in the original tomb in which it was buried.

This starts poorly. The burial site was known well by the women and others. Even if they had made such an error, they would notice their mistake when morning light came. Most important, the Jewish leaders or the Romans could have ended the whole thing by going to the correct tomb and producing the body of Jesus. The truth is, Jesus died and came back to life.

Scripture: King James Version: Matthew 28:1-20

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