



Jesus the Resurrected Lord

The Resurrection of Jesus

- ✘ Lucian: These misguided creatures start with the general conviction that they are **immortal for all time**, which explains the contempt of death and voluntary self-devotion... from the moment that they are converted, and deny the gods of Greece, and worship the **crucified sage**.

**Jesus died by Roman
crucifixion**

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Tacitus, *Annals*, 109 AD:

“Nero... inflicted the most exquisite tortures on a class hated for their abominations, called Christians by the populace. Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus”

Jesus died by Roman crucifixion

**John Dominic Crossan: “That
he was crucified is as sure
as anything historical can
ever be.”**

Jesus died by Roman crucifixion

John Dominic Crossan: “I take it absolutely for granted that Jesus was crucified under Pontius Pilate. Security about the *fact* of the Crucifixion derives not only from the unlikelyhood that Christians would have invented it but also from the existence of two early and independent non-Christian witnesses to it, a Jewish one from 93-94 C.E. and a Roman one from the 110s or 120s C.E.”

Jesus died by Roman crucifixion

Gerd Ludemann “It is certain that Jesus was crucified around the year 30.”

Jesus died by Roman crucifixion

JAMA: Clearly, the weight of historical and medical evidence indicates that Jesus was dead before the wound to his side was inflicted and supports the traditional view that the spear, thrust between his right rib, probably perforated not only the right lung but also the pericardium and heart and thereby ensured his death.

Accordingly, interpretations based on the assumption that Jesus did not die on the cross

appear to be at odds with
modern medical knowledge.

Jesus died

Ludemann: The fact of Jesus, death as the consequence of crucifixion is indisputable.”

Jesus' tomb was found empty

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Luke 24:1-3: 1: On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. 2 They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, 3 but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

Jesus' tomb was found empty

Sermons in Acts: (2:29-32)

“David died and was buried and his tomb is with us to this day.”

But “this Jesus God has raised up.”

Jesus' tomb was found empty

Matthew 28:11: Behold, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests all that had taken place. 12 And when they had assembled with the elders and taken counsel, they gave a sufficient sum of money to the soldiers 13 and said, "Tell people, 'His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.' 14 And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." 15 So they took the money and did as they were directed. And this story has been spread among the Jews to this day.

Jesus' tomb was found empty

Justin writes to Trypho: “You have sent chosen and ordained men throughout all the world to proclaim that a godless and lawless heresy had sprung from one Jesus, a Galilaean deceiver, whom we crucified, but his disciples stole him by night from the tomb, where he was laid when unfastened from the cross, and now deceive men by asserting that he has risen from the dead and ascended to heaven.”

Evidential apologetics

Acts 17:31-34: For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given *proof* of this to all men by raising him from the dead.

Evidential apologetics

- × **Paul before Felix, Acts 24:21:** I shouted as I stood in their presence: “It is concerning the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial before you today.”

Evidential Apologetics

1 Cor. 15:3-8 (NASB): For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that 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.

Evidential Apologetics

- ✘ John Dominic Crossan says 1 Cor. “Written from Ephesus in the winter of 53-54 C.E.....”

Evidential apologetics

- × Gert Ludemann, “We can assume that all the elements in the tradition [of 1 Cor. 15:3-8] are to be dated to the first two years after the crucifixion of Jesus.”

Disciples claimed Jesus raised

- × Michael Martin, *The Case Against Christianity*: It “is correct that the Resurrection was proclaimed by the early Christians.”

Disciples claimed Jesus raised

Ludemann: “However,
it is certain that something must
have happened after Jesus’
death which led his followers to
speak of Jesus as the risen
Christ.”

Disciples claimed Jesus raised

- × Bart Ehrman: “Historians, of course, have no difficulty whatsoever speaking about the belief in Jesus’ resurrection, since this is a matter of **public record**. For **it is a historical fact** that some of Jesus’ followers came to believe that he had been raised from the dead soon after his execution.”

So what's the skeptic's explanation?

Keith Parsons: “Jesus’ crucifixion marked the bitter end of a failed mission. He had come to Jerusalem full of messianic fervor and gripped by an apocalyptic vision. Yet the predicted apocalypse did not occur. Instead Jesus was seized... beaten, humiliated, and subjected to a painful and shameful death. His disciples, despondent and fearful for their own lives, scattered and hid....”

So what's the skeptic's explanation?

Parson's continues: Then something extraordinary happened. The former followers of a failed and disgraced prophet became convinced that their executed leader had risen from the grave. Soon they were back in Jerusalem, fearlessly proclaiming Jesus' resurrection to all that would hear. What happened? From the earliest days, the best argument for the historical veracity of the Resurrection has focused on these **facts**.

So what's the skeptic's explanation?

Parsons continues: What other than the actual appearance of the risen Jesus to his disciples could account for their radical transformation from terrified and dejected fugitives to evangelists and missionaries quite willing to risk their lives to preach their gospel?...

So what's the skeptic's explanation?

Obviously, the disciples were convinced that Jesus had risen. But is actual resurrection the best explanation for the **fact** that the disciples believed it? Skeptics have always had an alternative explanation, namely, that some of the disciples experienced visions or hallucinations that convinced them that Jesus had arisen.”

Problems with the hallucination theory

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- ✘ Hallucinations are subjective
- ✘ Jesus appeared at different times
- ✘ Jesus appeared to different individuals, groups, at various locales and under various circumstances
- ✘ Interlocking hallucinations

Problems with the hallucination theory

- ✘ Not only believers like the women at the tomb, but also by unbelievers like James, the brother of Jesus, and the Pharisee Saul of Tarsus.

Problems with the hallucination theory

- ✘ In the ancient world visions of the dead weren't taken as evidence that they were alive, it was taken as evidence that they were dead.

Problems with the hallucination theory

- ✘ Does not explain the empty tomb!**

Disciples Willing to Die

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- ✘ Eusebius: It is, therefore, recorded that Paul was beheaded in Rome itself, and that Peter likewise was crucified under Nero. This account of Peter and Paul is substantiated by the fact that their names are preserved in the cemeteries of that place even to the present day.

Disciples Willing to Die

- ✘ Josephus: “Festus was now dead, and Albinus was but upon the road; so he assembled the Sanhedrim of judges, and brought before them the brother of Jesus, who was called Christ, whose name was James, and some others, and when he had formed an accusation against them as breakers of the law, he delivered them to be stoned....”

The Resurrection Witness

Many disciples did die

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- ✘ Lucian: “These misguided creatures start with the general conviction that they are immortal for all time, which explains the contempt of death and voluntary self-devotion which are so common among them

Many disciples did die

- ✘ Galen (2nd century pagan doctor): “Thus we now see the people called Christians... sometimes acting like true philosophers. For their lack of fear of death and of what they will meet thereafter is something we can see every day, and likewise their restraint in cohabitating.”

Many disciples did die

W. E. H. Lecky: “Those hateful games, which made the spectacle of human suffering and death the delight of all classes, had spread their brutalizing influence wherever the Roman name was known, had rendered millions absolutely indifferent to the sight of human suffering, had produced in many, in the very centre of an advanced civilization, a relish and a passion for torture, a rapture and an exultation in watching the spasms of extreme agony.... The most horrible recorded instances of torture were usually inflicted, either by the populace, or in their presence, in the

arena. We read of Christians bound in chains of red-hot iron, while the stench of their half-consumed flesh rose in a suffocating cloud to Heaven; of others who were torn to the very bone by shells, or hooks of iron; of holy virgins given over to the lust of gladiator or to the mercies of the pander; of two hundred and twenty-seven converts sent on one occasion to the mines, each with the sinews of one leg severed by a red-hot iron, and with an eye scooped from its socket; of fires so slow that the victims writhed

for hours in their agonies; of bodies torn limb from limb, or sprinkled with burning lead; or mingled salt and vinegar poured over the flesh that was bleeding from the rack; of tortures prolonged and varied through entire days. For the love of their Divine Master, for the cause they believed to be true, men, and even weak girls, endured these things without flinching, when one word would have freed them from their sufferings....”

Jesus Lives!