

## THE CASE FOR CHRISTIANITY

- 1) On the basis of accepted principles of textual and historical analysis, the Gospel records are found to be trustworthy historical documents — primary source evidence concerning the life of Jesus of Nazareth.
- 2) In these records Jesus exercises divine prerogatives and claims to be God in human flesh.
- 3) In all four Gospels, Christ's death and bodily resurrection are described in detail.
- 4) The explanation that best fits the accepted facts concerning these accounts is that Jesus really did rise from the dead.
- 5) His resurrection confirms the claims of Jesus, including his claim to be God.
- 6) If Jesus is God, whatever he says is true.
- 7) Jesus put his divine stamp of approval on the Old Testament and the soon-to-be-written, apostolic New Testament.
- 8) The New Testament and Old Testament contain religious, philosophical, and ethical absolutes; these thus take on the character of divine or “higher” law, and remain valid even if vast numbers of human beings — or entire societies — choose to ignore them.

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## TWELVE KNOWN HISTORICAL FACTS CONCERNING THE RESURRECTION EVENTS

- 1) Jesus died by crucifixion [\*\*\* core fact #2]
- 2) He was buried
- 3) Jesus' death caused the disciples to despair and lose hope, believing that his life was ended
- 4) The tomb was discovered to be empty just a few days later
- 5) The disciples had experiences which they believed were literal appearances of the risen Jesus [\*\*\* core fact #3]
- 6) The disciples were transformed from doubters who were afraid to identify themselves with Jesus to bold proclaimers of his death and resurrection [\*\*\* core fact #1]
- 7) This message was the center of preaching in the early church
- 8) This message was especially proclaimed in Jerusalem, where Jesus died and was buried shortly before
- 9) As a result of this preaching the church was born and grew
- 10) Sunday became the primary day of worship
- 11) James, who had been a skeptic, was converted to the faith when he also believed he saw the resurrected Jesus
- 12) A few years later, Paul was also converted by an experience which he, likewise, believed to be an appearance of the risen Jesus [\*\*\*core fact #4]

# WHICH THEORY BEST FITS THE DATA ABOUT THE RESURRECTION CLAIMS?

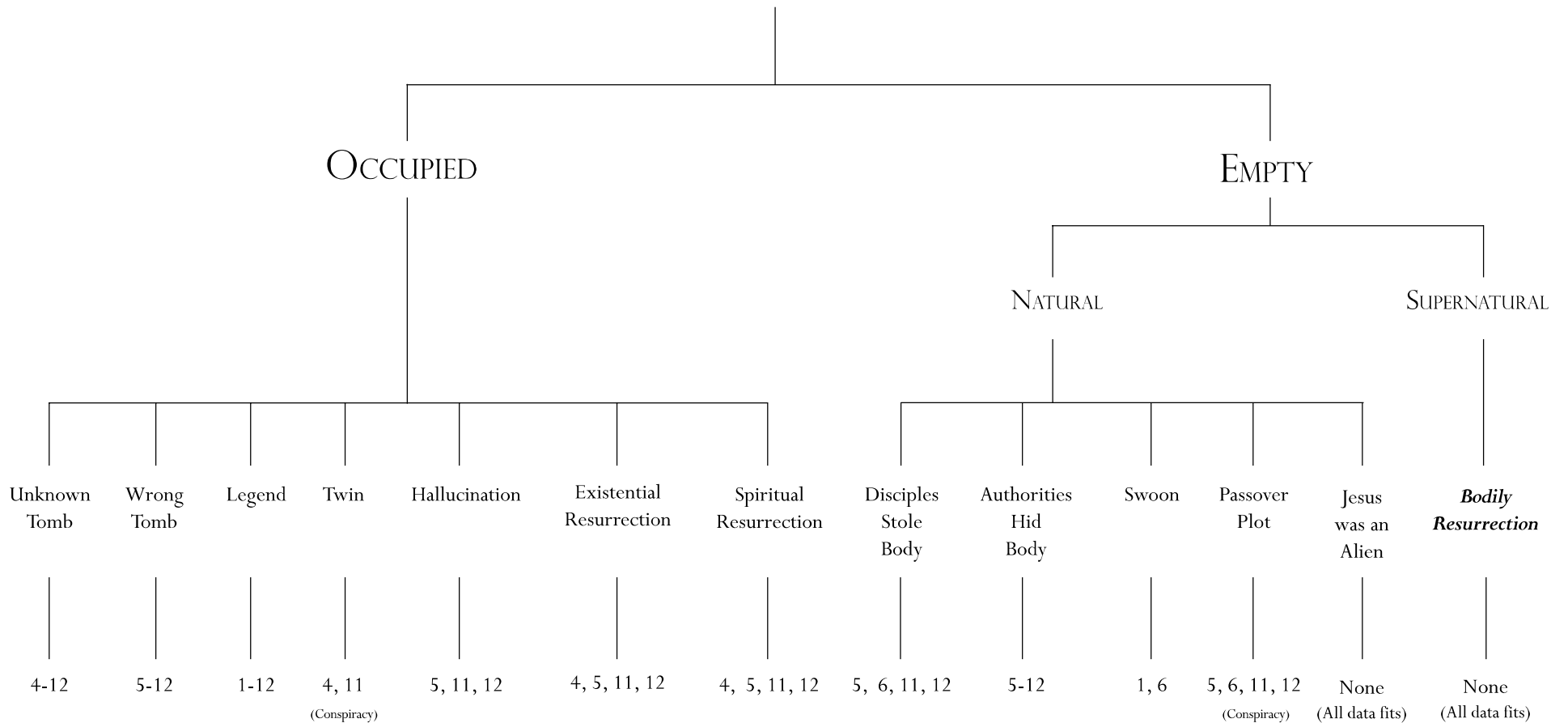
## THE TOMB OF JESUS

*was either*

Not enough data to make a judgement?



Then throw out most of what we know about classical antiquity.



..... NUMBERS CORRESPOND TO THE KNOWN HISTORICAL FACTS THAT **DO NOT** FIT THE THEORY .....