

Pitiful?

Easter 2023

I. What we believe about the physical bodily resurrection of Jesus.

I Corinthians 15:

15 Now I want to make clear for you, brothers and sisters, the gospel I preached to you, which you received, on which you have taken your stand ² and by which you are being saved, if you hold to the message I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. ³ For I passed on to you as most important what I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve. ⁶ Then he appeared to over five hundred brothers and sisters at one time; most of them are still alive, but some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸ Last of all, as to one born at the wrong time,^[a] he also appeared to me.

There have been many attempts to discredit the physical bodily resurrection of Jesus.

From: crossexamined.org

---Stolen Body Theory

---Hallucination Theory

---Group Think

---The Swoon Theory

---The Wrong Tomb Theory

II. What if there was no physical bodily resurrection of Jesus?

A. I Corinthians 15:

¹³ If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised;

¹⁴ and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation is in vain, and so is your faith.^[b]

If there is no resurrection

--Preaching Jesus would be useless and a waste of time

--Faith in Jesus would be useless

B. ¹⁵ Moreover, we are found to be false witnesses about God, because we have testified wrongly about God that he raised up Christ—whom he did not raise up, if in fact the dead are not raised.

If there is no resurrection

--People would be liars for talking Jesus to others.

C. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised.

If there is no resurrection

--Jesus is.....dead.

D. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.

If there is no resurrection

--No one will ever be saved from sin

E. ¹⁸ Those, then, who have fallen asleep in Christ have also perished.

If there is no resurrection

--All deceased believers will not be in heaven

F. ¹⁹ If we have put our hope in Christ for this life only, we should be pitied more than anyone.

If there is no resurrection

Believers would bePITIFUL!

III. BUT there was a physical bodily resurrection of Jesus!

I Corinthians 15:

²⁰ But as it is, Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead also comes through a man. ²² For just as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.

A. We believe in the physical bodily resurrection of Jesus because we trust God and his word.

John 3:16 For God loved the world in this way:^[a] He gave^[a] his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

B. We believe in the physical bodily resurrection of Jesus because there is overwhelming logical evidence!

Remember.....

-----There is no logical reason to invent the story of Jesus resurrection.

“Why would the apostles lie? If they lied what was their motive, what did they get out of it? What they got out of it was misunderstanding, rejection, persecution, torture, and martyrdom. Hardly a list of perks! Peter Kreeft

From.....“I don’t have enough faith to be an atheist” by Frank Turek/Norman Geisler

1. At the time and place, and in the manner predicted by the Old Testament, Jesus arrives in Jerusalem and claims to be the Messiah.
2. Once-cowardly and unbelieving eyewitnesses suddenly begin to boldly proclaim Jesus' resurrection in the face of persecution and death.
3. In the very city of Jesus' death and tomb, a new movement (the church) is born and quickly spreads by peaceful means on the belief that Jesus has risen from the dead.
4. Thousands of Jerusalem Jews, including Pharisee priests, abandon five of their most treasured beliefs and practices and adopt strange new ones after converting to Christianity.
5. Saul, the most ardent enemy of the new church, is suddenly converted and becomes its most prolific proponent.
6. James, the skeptical brother of Jesus, suddenly becomes convinced that his brother is the Son of God, and then becomes the leader of the church in Jerusalem.
7. The Jewish enemies of Christianity don't deny the evidence but offer faulty naturalistic explanations to account for it.

Close:

“For I passed on to you as most important what I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures” Paul of Tarsus