

April 27 & 28, 2019

REASONS to BELIEVE

General Themes in Conspiracy Theories

1. Jesus was convinced He was the expected Messiah.

He was from the line of David.

He was born in Bethlehem.

2. Jesus set out to intentionally “fit” other prophecies.

Jesus intentionally spoke in parables.

Psalm 78:1-2 O my people, hear my teaching; listen to the words of my mouth. 2 I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter hidden things, things from of old —

Jesus applied prophecy to Himself.

Isaiah 61:1

Luke 4:21 . . . “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

Jesus staged His triumphal entry.

Zechariah 9:9 . . . See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey . . .

3. Jesus was charismatic and drew huge crowds.
4. Jesus performed miracles.

5. Jesus built a network of co-conspirators.

- a. Jesus
- b. The disciples
- c. Nicodemus
- d. Joseph of Arimathea
- e. Mary Magdalene and other women
- f. The disciple whom Jesus loved

6. Jesus was crucified.

7. Jesus took a drink laced with a narcotic creating a near death coma.

8. The conspirators “revived” Jesus.

Mark 15:42-47

- a. The drug created a death like coma.
- b. Joseph requested the body.
- c. Pilate confirmed Jesus was dead.
- d. Joseph secured the body.
- e. The two Mary’s joined the resuscitation team.
- f. Nicodemus supplied myrrh and aloes.

9. Jesus made several “post resurrection” appearances.

The Conspiracy Collapse

1. No one could survive what Jesus had suffered.

Just to review:

- a. Sleep deprived
- b. Scourged with “cat of nine tails”
- c. Blood lost
- d. Crown of thorns forced on His head
- e. Slapped around by the guards
- f. He was forced to carry the cross to Golgotha.
- g. Nailed to the cross for 6 hours

2. Professional executioners pronounced Jesus dead.

3. Modern doctors have said the piercing of the pericardium alone was a mortal wound.

4. Jesus was in no condition to move the stone.

5. Jesus could not have overcome the guards.

6. This tortured man would never pass for a Messiah.

The Difference the Resurrection Makes

1. There are reasons to believe.

2 Peter 1:16 *We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord*

Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. 17 For he received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." 18 We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.

Luke 1:1 *Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, 2 just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. 3 Therefore, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, it seemed good also to me to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, 4 so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.*

THEORY	COLLUSION	CONSPIRACY
author		
the body		
explanation		
Jesus		
intention		

2. There are reasons for hope.