

THOUGHTS ON THE RESURRECTION

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Many have tried to disprove the resurrection

Here are some failed theories:

- The swoon theory—Jesus didn't die but just went unconscious and then later revived.
- The stolen body theory—Jesus' disciples stole his body and claimed he was alive.
- The moved body theory—The Jews moved the body.
- The hallucination theory—All of his post-resurrection sightings were hallucinations, not real.
- The wrong tomb theory—The women and everyone else went to the wrong tomb.

They all have failed

People who set out to disprove the resurrection can't do it for a few reasons:

- The Resurrection event is well-documented in the four Gospels, by Paul, in the early church, in the public record and common knowledge of the time.
- The Resurrection was calmly predicted in advance.
- Many people saw Jesus after he arose, including these two men on the road to Emmaus. A number of them are named specifically, including, for example, Cleopas. They were sad but certainly not hallucinating.
- More than 2,000 years later, there is no accepted disproof.
- The changed lives of the people who were there shows the validity of what they say happened. All but one of the disciples died a violent, martyr's death, and none of them changed their story about the risen Christ.

It's the center

The Resurrection is the center of Christianity. Why? Because it validates Christ's claims; it validates Old Testament claims; it validates our confidence in God and his Word. If the Resurrection didn't happen, then our faith falls apart. Paul said, "If Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith" (1 Corinthians 15:14).

We should be shocked and not shocked at the resurrection. Seeing God defy death in the most beautiful way is stunning. But then again, should we ever be surprised at God's power?

The in-the-flesh resurrection and visual confirmation that Luke records is the foundation and center of our faith. Without resurrection we have no hope. (Paul speaks to this in Romans 1:4 and 1 Corinthians 15:14-20.)

In the first evangelistic sermon ever, Peter connects the dots of the Old Testament prophecy to the resurrection of Jesus (Acts 2:22-36).

It sets apart

The Resurrection sets Jesus apart from all other major religious leaders and the Christian faith from all other religions and sects. If Jesus is truly risen, then he has the greatest credibility to speak the truth about life, death, and eternal life. His resurrection makes all of his words worth knowing, studying, and obeying.