



Numerous efforts have been made over the centuries to negate the fact of Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead. However, none of them are logically consistent, nor even plausible. Because so many have “suffered shipwreck”¹ due to these destructive doctrines, I felt the need to expose them for the foolish and errant myths that they are. Indeed, with a basic knowledge of Scripture, and of logic, one can easily refute these heresies.

Among the most popular attempts to explain away the resurrection is “The Swoon Theory.” According to this hypothesis, Jesus never actually died on the cross, but instead he became unconscious due to blood loss. When the Roman soldiers took him down from the cross, they did not realize that he was not dead, they say. And so they proceeded in burying him, and posted a guard at his tomb according to Pilate's command (Matt. 27:65, 66).

There are numerous factors that this hypothesis disregards. For example, the beating with the cat-o-nine tails which Jesus endured in itself was often more that a man could endure, many dying just from this. After suffering significant blood loss from the whipping, they forced Him to carry a massive wooden cross of enormous weight. Due to a lack of strength, He was unable to complete this task. He was then nailed to the cross with three large spikes. Additionally, a crown of thorns was forced upon His head, resulting in even more blood loss. Finally, to make sure He was dead, the soldiers stabbed Him in the side, resulting in a flow of “water and blood” (John 19:33, 34). As if He could survive¹ all of those things, once they had taken Him down from the cross, they tightly wrapped his body with cloths, and then placed him in a moist, dark cave for three days.

According to the swoon theory, however, we're supposed to believe that, having “swooned,” Jesus awoke inside the tomb, and somehow peeled back all those grave-clothes, silently rolled back the massive stone that had sealed the entrance, somehow made it past the soldiers without alerting them, and made it back into the city where the disciples were hiding. Upon arriving where the disciples were, Jesus had to convince His disciples that He had “conquered death,” and the grave. As Baucham put it, “Imagine the look on the disciples' faces when Jesus gave them the Great Commission, declaring that 'all authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth' (Matt. 28:18), while someone held him up to keep him from falling from the effects of blood loss.”² This theory also discounts the fact that the inventors of such a hideous mode of execution as crucifixion, the professional Roman soldiers, would make so many crucial mistakes in the execution of one over whom they had been given charge.

Next, we have the “Conspiracy Theory,” which deviates even more from the scripture than the previous myth (if that's possible). This hypothesis postulates that Jesus was buried, but His disciples lied about Jesus Christ rising from the dead. In fact, those who hold to this myth claim that the reason the disciples “made up” the resurrection was so they could “continue to attract crowds.” However, for the disciples to successfully convince the crowds of their “resurrection lie,” they would have to make certain that *no one* had access to the body of Christ.

And to do that, they would have to crawl out of their hiding places, go to the tomb, either knock out, or kill, the guards, roll away the stone, and sneak away with the body without getting caught. All this from a group of cowards who, when Jesus was arrested, all abandoned Him in the Garden of Gethsemane, and remained in hiding “for fear of the Jews” (John 20:19) almost until Jesus' ascension. Besides these things, the fact that these cowards were transformed into men of great courage once they had encountered the resurrected Jesus testifies to the authenticity of the Biblical account. Indeed, these men became fearless, bold preachers, willing even to suffer imprisonment, beatings, even death, for the sake of the message that Jesus rose from the dead. Had it all been a knowingly made-up, they most certainly would not have given up so much for such a lie.

The third and final myth is “The Hallucination Theory.” Subscribers to this myth hold that the whole of the resurrection account can be explained away by the disciples merely *thinking* they saw Jesus after he had been buried. In other words, they hallucinated. However this hypothesis doesn't hold water either.

¹ See 1 Timothy 1:18 - 20

² Voddie T. Baucham, Jr., *The Ever-Loving Truth*, pg.169, copyright 2004, B&H Publishing

We're supposed to believe that the women who went to anoint His body hallucinated at the tomb, and came back and told Peter and John who then went and hallucinated. Then ten of the remaining eleven apostles were together in one room, and they all hallucinated. And then Thomas came and they all hallucinated once more. Finally, nearly five hundred disciples hallucinated together. Because the disciples "had already seen Jesus alive" through their hallucinations, they would not have thought to check the tomb. In fact, if they had indeed simply hallucinated, *anyone* wishing to disprove the disciples would only have to go to the tomb and see that the body of Jesus was still there. Needless to say, this hypothesis is patently absurd.

Though we have touched on but a few of the several "resurrection myths," know that they *all* have the intention of turning the resurrection of our Lord, and all of Christianity, into a non-supernatural "made-up" religion. Without the actual bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ, Christianity is relegated to being simply another religion. And Jesus Christ is reduced from being God the Son, to just another good teacher, a good man, and maybe even a prophet. Not anything more. Indeed as the apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 15,

"For if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable." (1 Corinthians 15:13-17, 19)

However, since the resurrection is actual, Jesus Christ is more, much more than a great teacher. He is God!