







Pocket Guide to the Resurrection

Is Jesus risen?

<p>Does it matter if Jesus' resurrection was a historical fact?</p>	<p>The apostle Paul's answer is unequivocal.</p> 	<p><u>Yes</u></p> <p>"If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins...if in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied."</p> <p>1 Corinthians 15:17-19</p>
<p>Is it true that Jesus rose from the dead?</p>	<p>How to prove a resurrection...</p> 	<p><u>Only two requirements:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The person in question must be truly dead.2. The same person must then be alive again.
<p>Does Jesus meet these requirements?</p>	<p>Four, well-attested historical facts confirm He does.</p> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Jesus died on a cross and was buried in a tomb on Friday.2. His tomb was empty Sunday morning.3. There are many eyewitness testimonies of the risen Jesus.4. Skeptics and enemies of Jesus believed he rose again.

What best explains these four facts?

(Over)

<p>Three theories are commonly offered to explain these four facts:</p>		<p>1. The Swoon Theory 2. The Stolen Body Theory 3. The Hallucination Theory</p>
<p><u>Explanation of the Swoon Theory</u></p> <p>Jesus survived the cross. If He never died, then He never could have risen.</p>	<p>Is this probable, plausible, or even possible?</p> <p></p>	<p><u>Problems with This Theory</u></p> <p>1. His injuries were far too severe to survive. He had been beaten, whipped, crucified, exposed, speared in the side, embalmed, and sealed in a cold crypt.</p> <p>2. If He never died, where did He go? The tomb was still empty, after all.</p>
<p><u>Explanation of the Stolen Body Theory</u></p> <p>Jesus' body was stolen by the disciples to create the appearance of a resurrection.</p>	<p>Is this probable, plausible, or even possible?</p> <p></p>	<p><u>Problems with This Theory</u></p> <p>1. It requires the disciples to overpower Roman guards.</p> <p>2. The disciples had to hide the body from an entire city looking for it.</p> <p>3. The disciples suffered brutal martyrdom rather than admit they stole the body. Liars make poor martyrs.</p> <p>4. The skeptics and enemies of Jesus likely would not have believed in him without seeing the body.</p>
<p><u>Explanation of the Hallucination Theory</u></p> <p>The witnesses who testified of Jesus' resurrection were mistaken. What they thought they experienced were only hallucinations.</p>	<p>Is this probable, plausible, or even possible?</p> <p></p>	<p><u>Problems with This Theory</u></p> <p>1. This requires that each witness simultaneously experience the same hallucination on multiple occasions.</p> <p>2. Even if the witnesses did hallucinate, it does not explain the empty tomb.</p>
<p>Conclusion: <u>Only</u> the resurrection accounts for all the facts.</p>		

*Adapted from G. Koukl and Impact 360 presentations by J. Bowlus, ed. D. Griz Visit iknox.org/resurrection for a digital copy.