

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We have examined almost all the theories that deny the Resurrection of the Lord.

There are a few others which are even more far-fetched than the ones we have already considered: some New Age followers say Jesus was a “special spirit person” who only appeared to have a physical body, and it was that appearance of a body that died on the cross, while Jesus himself really continued to live. The “appearance of a body” seemed pretty real to Jesus and everyone who watched him being tortured! This idea doesn’t stand up to any serious thought.

Some say the disciples went to the wrong tomb, found it empty and concluded that Jesus had risen from the dead. Were they really that stupid? Even if they made such a mistake, why would they jump to the conclusion that Jesus had risen from the dead? They were as surprised by his Resurrection as everyone else. Resurrection was not a solution they would have come up with. If they had gone to the wrong tomb, wouldn’t they just have said, “Whoops, wrong tomb. Where did they bury him anyway?”

Even if the disciples had been first of all so stupid, and secondly so imaginative, surely the others would have corrected them. Had Jesus been in another tomb all His enemies would have produced the body and pointed out the disciples’ foolish mistake.

Then we have the group hallucination theory. It goes like this: “Jesus died and was buried, but His disciples all wanted Him to still be alive, so they all had a hallucination that they saw Him.” So, five hundred people hallucinated the same hallucination over a forty day period at different times and places and all the hallucinations matched up? And we should believe in such a thing as mass hallucinations anyway? Is there any evidence that such things ever occur? Not that I know of.

Furthermore, these are very detailed hallucinations. The hallucination talks to them, invites them to put their finger in his wounds, eats and drinks, conducts a Bible study and has extended conversations with them? I don’t think so.

In fact, all the theories denying the Resurrection are more difficult to believe than the simple, supernatural fact that Jesus of Nazareth, who died on the cross rose again, and this fact of history changes human history--and if we allow--this amazing event changes my life and yours.

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Your Pastor,
Fr. Longenecker