

Resurrection – Myth or Miracle ?



A lawyer examines the evidence that Jesus rose from the grave



Common Ground

Friends and enemies normally agree that:

- **CHRIST REALLY LIVED** – He turned BC into AD
- **CHRIST WAS CRUCIFIED** – the city was packed with witnesses
- **HIS DEAD BODY WAS PUT IN ANOTHER'S TOMB**
- **THAT TOMB WAS FOUND EMPTY**
- **CHRIST'S BODY WAS NEVER FOUND** – corpse? remains? bones?
- **NO TRACE OF JESUS WAS FOUND AFTER** – was He at home? hiding? activities ?
- **MANY SAID 'WE SAW HIM'** some were persecuted / killed



Some theories

How some explain away the resurrection:

- **DELUSION / ILLUSION – mass hypnosis?**
 - but notice differences: people, situations, times
 - was everyone deluded in exactly the same way?
 - Why did it stop at the same time? Why?
- **FRAUD**
 - Who could? Who would? Why?
 - How did they disguise the battered body?
- **SWOON**
 - Does it really fit? Medically? Psychologically? Morally? Logically?



Some theories

How some explain away the resurrection:

- **MISTAKE**

- Were women really at wrong tomb?
- High profile tomb? Actual words
- Where did his body go afterwards?

- **MIX'N'MATCH – e.g. Judas**

- Jesus a liar? Judas patched up? Everyone fooled?
- Jesus was where? Where was Judas' corpse?
- Moral problem remains - lies



The Resurrection

Why not a miracle?

- **Need to be open and fair – like a jury?**
- **Christ was completely unique – expect a miracle:**
 - Prophecies, birth, life, teaching, miracles, death – everything about Jesus always was different
- **Witnesses: quality and quantity**
 - Good character – first hand and many – corroborated – no adverse motive – all wrong?
- **No argument at the time (Compare Princess Di's death)**
 - Why was it taken as fact? Why was it simply applied?
 - **Because everyone knew it had happened!**



The Resurrection

Why not a miracle?

- **Radically changed lives – then and still today**
 - What was their given reason? Why new bravery?
 - Would they lie then die?
 - **Jesus lives to change lives**
- **What happened to Jesus? High profile – disappears?**
 - Why no trace of Jesus? – corpse? Skeleton? Remains?
 - **False ‘resurrection’ could easily have been exposed**
- **Why did Christianity fly? It grew in opposition – why?**
- **Why Sabbath change? From day 7 to day 1?**
- **Why adopt baptism?**
 - Old method but new symbol – from death to life



The Resurrection – so what?

- **What does the resurrection mean?**

- What can it mean to me? –to others?

We can trust that what Jesus says is true!

- **The cross was history's greatest victory**
- **Jesus is fully God and fully man**
- **Eternal judgement is a fact**
- **The fear of death is gone**
- **Christian faith is founded on fact**
- **God is triune – 3 in 1 and 1 in 3**



The Resurrection – so what?

- **Christ will wrap up history**
- **Christian hope is never 'iffy'**
- **Christianity is distinctively different**
- **You can know the risen Lord personally**
- **Jesus Christ living within = New Lifestyle**
- **You gain a day**