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Meeting Times:

Sunday:

Bible Study9:45 AM
Worship10:40 AM
Care, Inc. Service....2:30 PM
Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday:

Ladies Bible Class N/A
Bible Study..... 7:00 PM

Elders:

Gene Bannister..... Mike Bannister

Billy Chism... Johnny McCaghren

Deacons:

John Barnum..... Don Smith

Preacher:

Johnny McCaghren

Works We Support:

Cherokee Home for Children
Gospel Broadcast Network
Heart of Texas Bible Camp (Bangs)
Mission Printing
Rohan Jones, Africa
World Bible School

Resurrection Theories: How Skeptics Attempt to Refute Jesus' Resurrection

Biblical skeptics, including some liberal theologians, adamantly reject the resurrection of Jesus Christ. While they, in a very dubious way acknowledge the Gospel accounts of Jesus' life, they deny that He was ever raised from the dead. They endeavor to explain away His resurrection with a variety of theories. There are at least seven such theories, all of which lack any rationale.

They are merely fanciful, contrived ideas. What are these theories?

The Unconscious Theory. This theory says that though Jesus was crucified, He never actually died, He was merely unconscious. This is sometimes called the **swoon** theory—fainting or passing out, not dead, but just unconscious. Those holding to this view accept only those parts of the Gospel accounts they wish and discard the rest. For example, they accept the record of the Gospel that Jesus was crucified, but reject the same record stating that He died.

All four Gospel accounts clearly say Jesus was dead (Mt. 27:50; Mk. 15:37; Lk. 23:46; Jn. 19:30). And, at least two of the apostles, Matthew and John, were eyewitnesses of His death. Here we raise an obvious question. After suffering such a bloody and torturous crucifixion, how could Jesus have survived, unattended, in a tomb for several days? This makes no sense whatever.

The Spiritualistic Theory. It is claimed that only the spirit of Jesus was raised, not His body. Here is the picture: His body was still there, still dead, only His spirit was gone.

But what do the Scriptures actually say? The tomb was empty. The angel said, "*He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come see the place where the Lord lay*" (Mt. 28:6). There was nothing there. Jesus' body was gone. Matthew could not have made it clearer. Later, the apostles preached that His body was resurrected (Acts 2:27, 31; 1 Cor. 15:1-4, 35-40, 44). Here is another important factor. The only thing that can be raised is that which dies. However, the spirit does not die (Mt. 10:28).

The Vision Theory. Some teach that Jesus only appeared to the disciples in a vision. In other words it wasn't real at all, it was just visionary. However, this theory encounters an enormous problem. The disciples touched Jesus and ate with Him (Lk. 24:30; Jn. 20:27). If this was only a vision, how can this be explained?

It is ironic that skeptics want to create a miracle to remove a miracle, but this is exactly what they do. In attempting to circumvent a miracle, another equally obvious miracle is contrived.

The Mistaken Women Theory. It is claimed that the women went to the wrong tomb. So this view places the blame on the women! "They just made a mistake." Again, it is amazing the extent to which men will go to avoid plain Scriptures.

Here are a few important questions. Did the men also go to the wrong tomb? Were the angels present at the tomb also mistaken? Why didn't the enemies of Jesus expose this mistake and direct the authorities to the correct tomb? Common sense

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Let us know if you want to study
the Bible to know more about
Christ and His Church.

Was Jesus Perfect?

Misconceptions about Jesus are nothing new. They have been around since His earthly ministry. In the seventh chapter of John there are five different answers given to the question — “Who is Jesus?” They include: a good man (Jn. 7:12), a deceiver (v. 12), a demon possessed man (v. 21), the Christ (vs. 26, 41), and the Prophet (v. 40).

There are three primary reasons for this wide range of answers: ignorance of all the evidence, a lack of honesty with the evidence, and/or a lack of passion for the truth based upon the evidence.

On the evening of July 9th, CNN host **Don Lemon** made the following assertion: “Jesus Christ admittedly was not perfect when He was here on earth.” This statement is either true and tragic or false and blasphemous. Here are three significant pieces of evidence to consider in determining accurately and conclusively the nature of this statement.

Consider the monikers used by the Bible for itself. Within its pages, the Bible self-identifies with the following terms: “*Your truth*” (Jn. 17:17), “*the word of God*” (1 Thess. 2:13), “*the Holy Scriptures*” (2 Tim. 3:15), “*the perfect law of liberty*” (Jas. 1:25).

For something to be genuinely true, there must not be any falsehood advocated by it or any inaccuracies in its recording of events. For something to be genuinely holy, there cannot be any impurities in it. The synonyms used in the Bible to describe its contents point to a book free from any falsehood.

If the Bible’s claim to be genuinely holy and wholly true is accurate, then its clear declarations of Jesus’ sinlessness (such as 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Pet. 2:22) must be true. The holiness and truthfulness of the Bible’s contents are inseparably linked to the sinlessness of Jesus’ life. They stand or fall together.

The Holy Scriptures teach that Jesus Christ was perfect when He was here on earth (1 Pet. 1:18-19; 2:21-22).

Consider the impartiality found in the Bible. As an example, every person lauded for his/her heroic faith in Hebrews 11 also had a dark side of spiritual and moral failure. Noah got drunk and indecent. Abraham lied about his wife — twice. Sarah laughed aloud at God’s promise. Moses murdered a man. God is no respecter of persons (Rom. 2:11) and the Bible clearly documents this truth by its brutally honest record of its characters. Yet, it has no record of a single imperfection in Jesus.

Based upon the Bible’s impartial testimony, Jesus was perfect when He was here on earth (2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 4:15; 7:26-27; 9:14,28; 1 Jn. 3:5).

Consider the audacious challenge given by Jesus. During the final two years of His ministry, Jesus had constant critics scrutinizing His every word and action — they sought to destroy Him (Mk. 3:6). Amid this intense hostility and microscopic surveillance, Jesus asked His enemies the following question: “*Which of you convicts Me of sin*” (Jn. 8:46)? No one came forth.

The Lamb of God underwent months of hostile examination, yet not a single imperfection could be found in Him. In the end, His enemies had to resort to false witnesses against Him and ignore the fact their testimony did not agree (Mk. 14:55-59). Three times Pilate’s legal verdict was “Not guilty” (Lk. 23:22). Because of His complete innocence, the omniscient God (who knows the thought and intents of every heart) resurrected Him on the third day and declared Him to be the Son of God with power (Rom. 1:4). “*Let God be true, but every man a liar*” (Rom. 3:4).

Even the enemies of Jesus testify He was perfect when He was here on earth. “*So when the centurion and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God*” (Mt. 27:54; Mk. 15:39). To believe otherwise is false and blasphemous.

John Chowning (Seek The Old Paths, Sept. 2021)

Television

In Search of the Lord’s Way (Phil Sanders)

Sunday @ 7:30am on KTAB

Life In The Light (Chris McCurley)

Sunday @ 10:00am on KTAB

Radio

Preaching the Word (Michael Light)

Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3

Internet

TheGospelRadioNetwork.org
Gospel Broadcasting Network (Gbnv.org)

God’s Plan for Redeeming Man

Hear Learn the saving message of Christ’s sacrifice (1 Cor. 1:18; Rom. 10:17).

Believe Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24)

Confess Jesus as your Lord, Lawgiver, and King (Rom. 10:9-10; Matt. 10:32-33)

Repent of your sinful conduct (Luke 13:3,5)
Complete your initial obedience to the gospel by being **baptized** for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)

Live faithfully (Rev. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:7-8)

Bible Reading Schedule

video.wvbs.org/access/interactive-bible-reading-plan/

Oct. 31 **Isaiah 63-66; Psalm 120**
Nov. 1 **Jeremiah 1-3; Ps. 121 (video)**
Nov. 2 **Jeremiah 4-6; Psalm 122**
Nov. 3 **Jeremiah 7-9; Psalm 123**
Nov. 4 **Jeremiah 10-12; Psalm 124**
Nov. 5 **Jeremiah 13-15; Psalm 125**
Nov. 6 **Jeremiah 16-18; Psalm 126**
Nov. 7 **Jer. 19-21; Psalm 127 (video)**

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

(2 Timothy 2:15)



Visitation Meeting

- ◆ Last week **41** contacts were made.

Announcements

- ◆ **Time change next Sunday**—fall back an hour.
- ◆ If you would like a jump drive with the audio and notes from the gospel meeting, or a hard copy of the notes, see Johnny.

Upcoming Events at 4th & Stewart

- ◆ March 13-16—**Spring Gospel Meeting** w/ Jon McCormack.

Upcoming Area Events

- ◆ Nov. 5-7—**Colleyville Lectures**. “They Will Know We Are Christians By Our Love.” See flyer on bulletin board.
- ◆ Mar. 3-6—PTP Spark @ Round Rock.

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says this is exactly what they would have done, which would have put an end to the resurrection story.

The last three theories are all alike in that they claim Jesus’ body was simply removed. The assumption is that His body was just taken away and hidden.

The Joseph Theory. The assumption is made that Joseph moved Jesus’ body to a different location. Now this may sound plausible, however, it faces several serious problems. How did Joseph convince the guards to let him take Jesus’ body? Remember, the Roman guards were under threat of severe punishment if the tomb was disturbed (Mt. 27:62-66). Also, if skeptics accept the Biblical record that Joseph was a real person, why not accept what it says about his character? He was an “*honorable*” man (Mk. 15:43). Would such a man intentionally deceive others?

This theory suffers from a failure to make sense. Like the others, it accepts from the Gospel records what it chooses, discarding the rest.

The Disciples Theory. This theory says the Lord’s disciples removed the body of Jesus. However, this view is easily exposed. First, if the disciples removed the body, why did the soldiers have to be bribed to say the body was stolen while they were asleep (Mt. 28:11-15)? Second, if the soldiers were asleep, how could they have known the disciples removed the body? Third, if the disciples removed Jesus’ body, this means they lied about His resurrection. Yet, these men endangered their lives teaching the resurrection. Question: Would men give their lives preaching something they knew to be a lie?

The Enemy Theory. This theory claims that the enemies of Jesus removed His body. For the following reasons this theory is seriously flawed. A sensible question would be, why would they have done this? What purpose would it have served? By stealing the body they would have only enhanced the disciples’ claim that Jesus was raised from the dead. Also, if Jesus’ enemies did steal His body, to refute His resurrection all they needed to do was simply produce the body as evidence.

An Added Note. Not only must skeptics deal with the Gospel accounts, they must also face the New Testament epistles which testify to Jesus’ resurrection, especially those of the apostle Paul, for he explicitly states that many people witnessed the resurrected Lord (1 Cor. 15:5-8).

Jon Gary Williams (Seek The Old Paths, Sept. 2021)

Celebrate

“Rejoice with those who rejoice...” (Romans 12:15)

Records

	Oct. 17, 2021	Oct. 24, 2021
Bible Class	42	46
AM Worship	50	56 + [10]
PM Worship	41	39 + [6]
Wednesday PM	39	32 + [7]
Contribution	\$1,911	\$1,961



Privileged To Serve

"...be ready to every good work," (Titus 3:1)

	This Week: 10/31/21	Next Week: 11/7/21			
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	October 2021 Make Announcements: Don Smith Prepare Communion: Bannister Clean Building: Bannister November 2021 Make Announcements: Ken Maninger Prepare Communion: Barnum Clean Building: Reed		
Greeters	_____	_____			
Opening Prayer	Dex Dennard	James Fuller			
Communion	Randy Huckaby*, Coyce Reed Don Smith, Daniel Edwards	John Barnum, Ryan Settles Chase Churchwell, Kyle Duaine			
Closing Prayer	Tom Wilcox	Ken Maninger			
Attendance Cards	_____	_____			
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Ken Maninger	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox			
Opening Prayer	John Barnum	Mike Bannister			
Scripture Reading	_____	_____			
Communion	Randy Huckaby	John Barnum			
Closing Prayer	Chase Churchwell	Don Smith			
Wednesday Devotionals:	November 3 Prayer Night	November 10 James Fuller	November 17 Dex Dennard	November 24 Don Smith	

Search the Scriptures

Be like the Bereans who "received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." (Acts 17:11)

Studies for the week of October 31, 2021

Sunday Class 2 Corinthians 1:2
 Wed. Class Leviticus 27:1

<u>The Case for the Inspiration of the Bible</u> (Part 1)	<u>Before Abraham Was, I AM</u> (John 8:31-59)
<p><i>Knowledge and truth are precious commodities. Knowledge frees from the shackles of ignorance; truth frees from the shackles of error.</i></p> <p>In most matters, a man likely will insist upon complete <i>objectivity</i>. Yet when it comes to religion in general, and Christianity in particular, <i>subjectivity</i> rules the day. Apparently, some have forgotten, or never understood, the proper concept of truth. Jesus said, "And you shall know <u>the truth</u>, and <u>the truth shall make you free</u>" (Jn. 8:32). The apostle John wrote, "These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may <u>know</u> that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God" (1 Jn. 5:13). A person not only can know something, but he can know that he knows it.</p> <p>I. The Need for Revelation from God.</p> <p>A. With the existence of God established, it becomes reasonable to think that such a Creator-God would wish to communicate with His creation.</p> <p>B. Some form of revelation from the Creator would be needed in order to instruct mankind in certain areas, such as the following.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Character of God. 2. The Origin of Evil. 3. Mankind's Origin. 4. Mankind's Purpose. 5. Mankind's Destiny. <p>C. Is there any evidence that mankind possesses such a revelation?</p> <p>II. What Does the Bible Contain?</p> <p>A. Known facts – information known to the people of that time and place.</p> <p>B. Revelation – the unveiling of facts and truths to man by God – facts and truths that man, on his own, otherwise could not have known.</p> <p>III. The Two Types of Revelation.</p> <p>A. General Revelation – comes to man through nature.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At no time in history has God left Himself without a witness of Himself. 2. General revelation simply is not enough. <p>B. Special Revelation – God has disclosed Himself and His will in at least three different ways: <i>theophanies, direct communications, and miracles.</i></p> <p>God's revelation was progressive and unfolding in character – dim at first, then gradually increasing in light until its fullness finally arrived.</p>	<p>This section continues Jesus' discourse on Light and Darkness (8:12-59), part of the additional teaching He did after the Feast of Booths was over (7:53 – 10:21). Jesus' audience is divided, with some determined to kill Him and others beginning to believe in Him.</p> <p>Jesus stressed that faith in Him was not to be a secret, but should be demonstrated. "If you abide in [continue in] My word, you are My disciples indeed" (31). It is not enough to talk the talk, they must walk the walk, even in the face of the opposition.</p> <p>Jesus showed that most of the Jewish leaders lacked both knowledge (14) and understanding (43). The chapter contains many examples of their failure to comprehend.</p> <p>Jesus offers them spiritual freedom from the bondage of sin (32, 36), but, once again, they can only think in the physical.</p> <p>The Jews claimed Abraham as their father (39), but Jesus showed there is a difference between being "Abraham's descendants" (37) and being "Abraham's children" (39). They could trace their genealogy back to Abraham, but their father, the one they listened to and obeyed, was the devil. If they were truly Abraham's children, they would show a faith like Abraham showed (40). Instead, they are trying to kill Jesus. By seeking to kill Him, they are trying to destroy the very thing that Abraham was looking for – the key to all of Abraham's life and calling – the promised Messiah.</p> <p>In v. 44, we find one of the most concise statements in the Bible about the devil and his work: "He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks of his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it."</p> <p>When Jesus asked, "Which of you convicts Me of sin? And if I tell the truth, why do you not believe Me?" (46), it was designed to destroy their faulty philosophy by inviting them to identify any moral flaw in Him. They have nothing to say. They asked, "Are You greater than our father Abraham?" (53). Yes, Jesus is greater than Abraham (cf. Jn. 5:18; 10:33; 19:7). Jesus answered: "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad" (56), and "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM" (58).</p> <p>Understanding the implications of Jesus words (a claim to Deity), "they took up stones to throw at Him" (59).</p>