

**REVIEW – Some of the claims of the Bible seem “Unbelievable” but upon further investigation, we realize the claims are quite “Believable”**

- **Creator God** – Naturalism vs Intelligent Design
  - Fine tuning of the universe, biological complexity and engineering, human consciousness, etc
- **The Reliability of the Bible** – “the bible has been changed over the years” vs “MAPS”
  - The evidence for a reliable bible is discovered through MAPS (Manuscripts, Archeology, Prophecy, Statistical Probability)

**PREVIEW – Today – The biggest claim and hinge-point of Christianity, the Resurrection of Jesus Christ**

- The **Biblical claim** – that Jesus raised from the dead
- The **Opposing Theories** of the missing body
- The **Confidence** to move forward on **mission** with God

## Unbelievable: The Resurrection of Jesus Christ

### 1. The Biblical Claim – Matthew 27:45-28:20

- **He died** (27:50), was **Buried** (27:59-60), they sealed and protected the tomb (27:62-66), He **rises again** (28:1-7), **Conspiracies** begin (28:11-15), He **appears** to the disciples (28:16-17), He sends them out to **make disciples** (28:18-20).
- Actually dead. A true burial tomb. Seen by others. Enemies conspire. Worship & Doubts. Still Commissioned – this account tested by time – MAPS – reliable historical document

**The Challenge** – If Jesus truly rose from the dead—just as He said He would (Matt 17:22–23; Jn 2:19–21)—then all of His other claims must also be true:

That He is the **Son of God**, the **Messiah**, the **Lord and Savior of the world**.

That reality leaves us with a **choice**: we can no longer dismiss or ignore Him. We must take seriously **who He is, what He taught, how He lived, and how He calls us to live as His disciples**.

### 2. The Opposing Theories

Theory	Summary	Main Problems
<b>Christian View (Resurrection)</b>	Jesus physically and supernaturally rose from the dead.	Supported by multiple witnesses, empty tomb, transformed disciples.
<b>Swoon Theory</b>	Jesus didn't die, only passed out, and later revived.	Medical evidence of crucifixion death; unlikely to survive and escape.
<b>Stolen Body Theory</b>	Disciples stole Jesus' body and fabricated the resurrection story.	Unlikely disciples would die for a known lie; authorities could investigate.
<b>Hallucination Theory</b>	Resurrection appearances were grief-induced hallucinations.	Hallucinations are individual; 500+ people had the same experience.
<b>Wrong Tomb Theory</b>	Followers went to the wrong tomb and assumed resurrection.	Authorities could have pointed to correct tomb; doesn't explain appearances.
<b>Legend Theory</b>	Resurrection story is a myth that developed over time.	Early writings confirm belief in resurrection; not a later myth.
<b>Spiritual Resurrection Theory</b>	Jesus rose spiritually, not physically; His spirit lived on.	New Testament emphasizes bodily resurrection and empty tomb.

### 3. Undisputed Facts from NonChristians

**FACT #1—The Death of Jesus by Crucifixion**

- “Christus, from whom the name [Christian] had its origin, suffered **the extreme penalty** during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus...” **Tacitus** (c. 56–120 AD) — Roman Historian, source: *Annals* 15.44
- Clears up the Swoon Theory - that Jesus Didn't Really Die

#### **FACT #2—The Empty Tomb**

- Enemies of Jesus didn't argue that the tomb wasn't empty – just blamed disciples, but who would die for a lie – what did they gain from the “hoax”

#### **FACT #3—The Post Resurrection Appearances**

- 1 Corinthians 15:5-8 – seen by many that are still alive (not like the telephone game)

#### **FACT #4—FAITH The Origin of the Christian Faith**

- Some claim Jesus is just a copy of pagan myths, but the historical evidence shows those stories came **after** Jesus—not before.

For further reading on this subject: <https://crossexamined.org/the-minimal-facts-of-the-resurrection/>

## **4. The Confidence to move forward on mission with God**

**1 Corinthians 15:58** So, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless. NLT

- Jesus rose from the dead. He has conquered sin and death. What He says is true. Trust Him.
- Be a disciple and make disciples. Live for His eternal purposes. (Matt 28:16-20)
- One day, we'll get our own resurrected bodies! (1 Corinthians 15:3-58)

### **Next Steps**

1. What's keeping you from fully trusting what Jesus says?
2. Who in your life needs to hear the hope of the resurrection?
3. What's one step you can take this week to stay faithful to Jesus' call to be and make disciples?
4. How does the promise of a resurrected body give you hope in what you're facing right now?



Sample Small Group Questions  
<https://bit.ly/GroupDiscussionQuestions>



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