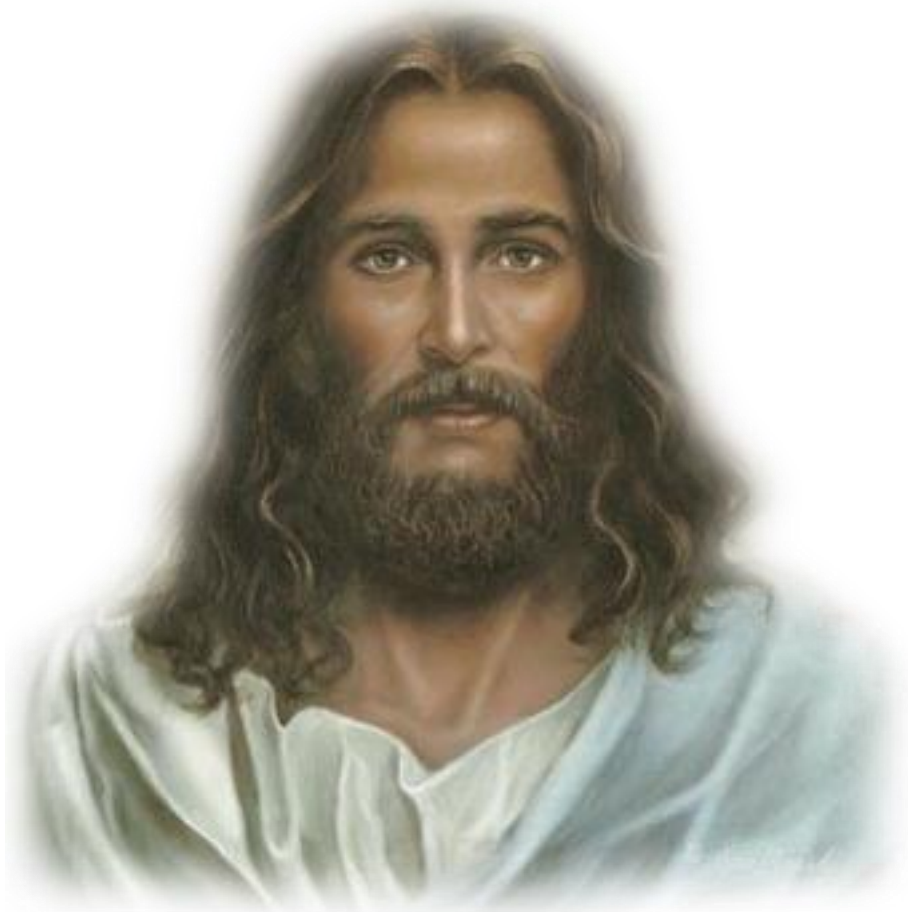


A n s w e r i n g

<sup>The</sup> Objections  
<sup>To</sup> Resurrection



# S W O O N

As the name suggests this theory is based upon the accusation that Jesus did not die but rather he merely revived later within the tomb.

This thought is fairly easy to debunk for it does not take into account the skill and ferocity of the Roman execution.

The Legionaries in charge of Christ's crucifixion were experts at inflicting pain & punishment that provided the customary example of; "this is what happens to anyone whom opposes Rome."

The soldiers punishment for failing to complete their task were severe, they included such things as flogging, stoning, being buried alive, or even being put inside a large canvas bag with venomous snakes or vicious animals and cast into a river and if he escaped- he lived to fight another day.

So it is needless to say that no one came down off of a Roman cross alive because the consequences of surviving crucifixion for the soldiers in charge of the execution were far to dire.

Another aspect we neglect is that the Lord's enemies the Pharisee's themselves petitioned the Roman Governor Pontius Pilate to speed His death and the death of the two criminals one on each side of Christ by quoting the book of Deuteronomy 21:23. It was a curse to leave a dead body upon a cross overnight & at dusk it would officially be a Jewish holiday. Meaning no one legally under Mosaic Law would be able to labor with their deceased bodies thusly violating the special Sabbath.

What we miss here is there was an official Roman procedure to speed death for those upon a cross. The term was called "Cruifragium" this meant that the legs of the victim were broken by using heavy timbers and large hammers resulting in extreme agony and the loss of the ability to push down with ones nailed feet in order to raise up and draw a breath. The Romans felt this was each a cheat that shortened ones suffering but also it was extremely brutal even for them, so after a few terrible moments mercy was extended in the form of a lethal dispatch by blade or spear.

The soldiers viciously broke the legs of each of the thieves but when they came to Christ they saw that he was already dead. Thusly fulfilling the Biblical prophecy that none of His bones would be broken as in an unblemished sacrifice to GOD for our Sin. As an insurance per Roman custom a soldier thrust his spear which resembled a javelin and was called a "Pilum" deep into Jesus side. The metal tip of a Roman spear was longer than we realize at 60 centimeters or 24 inches.

Scripture records that Blood and Water flowed from Jesus side in what medical experts refer to as "Serum & Cruor." In short this means that each Jesus lungs and His heart were pierced and that He was already dead. Now from a symbolically Spiritual aspect at this exact moment it was the Jewish 9<sup>th</sup> hour or what we would call 3 P.M. At this time on Passover the Temple gates were closed signifying the conclusion of the sacrifice. Water was then pumped up from deep within the Temple mount pouring out across the floor cleansing it. Get that? At the end of the sacrifice for Sin in the Temple water and blood flowed. Jesus's human body was indeed His Temple as the living Son of GOD and His Blood and Water flowed at the conclusion of His sacrifice for our Sin.

The Gospels contain a famous recording of Jesus raising His friend Lazarus from the dead. The point here is when Jesus did this the tombstone had to be removed from the outside and the Lord had to instruct the bewildered witnesses to remove Lazarus's grave clothes because he could not do that for himself. Likewise if Jesus would have revived alive in the tomb Roman soldiers were on guard duty while Christ's body was broken and helpless. He was bound in grave clothes that set up hard like shellac and He would have still been beneath a Roman death sentence.

# Stolen

To say that the Apostles broke into Christ's tomb at night and stole His body is perhaps the easiest of the false claims for us to disdain.

Matthew chapter 27 explains that the Pharisees remembered these Words of Jesus our Christ; "Destroy this Temple and in three days I will raise it up." John 2:19  
Of course the religious elite of Israel initially took the Lord's Words to be a reference to the Temple itself, while those who believed in Jesus correctly interpreted this prediction to mean His body. So after Jesus was placed in the tomb the Pharisee's made a request of the Roman Governor Pontius Pilate that the Tomb be sealed and guarded for three days. For this was a common belief that no body was capable of life again after three days. Which is precisely why Jesus arose after those three days being it was deemed to be impossible even for Deity to restore life to that body because it was thought to be corrupted beyond repair.

Pilate granted their request and Jesus's tomb was each sealed and a Roman guard was posted. The official process of sealing a tomb was far more elaborate than we realize today. This was more common during Jesus time to prevent grave robbers from plundering newly interned bodies of the famous, infamous, or the wealthy from being scavenged for souvenirs or outright kidnapping in order to hold their bodies for a ransom from their families or officials.

What we miss here is the actual procedure involved in the sealing of a tomb at this time. According to the Talmudic Oral Law of the Sanhedrin 47b, a second smaller stone known as a "Dopheq" stone was placed in front of the actual tomb stone which was called a "Golel" stone.

Then the "Dopheq" stone was sealed by the Romans meaning it was covered with a large X of ribbon & a wax or clay seal was placed in the middle where the X crossed. Upon this seal was an imprint of Pontius Pilates Governor ring. Also a mixture of clay was placed around the edges of the smaller stone as it rested against the larger meaning any tampering movement whatsoever of either stone would clearly be evident and those doing so were automatically an enemy of Rome.

The Roman guard itself consisted of 18 legionnaires with 2 of them on watch at all times while the others rested or prepared meals at their leisure. The commanding Centurion of the guard made rounds every night at unknown times to the guards and if he found any of the on duty men sleeping the customary response was to light their clothes on fire and when they awoke to strike them with his sword on the spot. If they survived the rest of the company of the guard were required to beat that man or men without mercy or remorse until the Centurion was satisfied that they were dead. Yes the penalty for a Roman guard caught sleeping while on the job was death.

When the empty tomb of Jesus was no doubt examined by each the Jewish elite and the Romans they too saw the impossibly empty shell of Jesus's grave clothes & knew that His body had passed right through them. So the cover story of the Pharisees was that the Apostles (hiding in fear) had come and removed the two heavy stones in the presence of 18 soldiers and had taken His body while the Roman guards slept. This would be for them an admission worthy of a death sentence.

No Roman soldiers were put to death for failing to protect the tomb of Jesus. But He was gone! Meaning as wild as their claims were that an Angel had come and opened the Tomb, not to get or let Jesus out, but to show that Jesus was already gone- were creditable, believable, and acceptable. This be to each their commanding Centurion & for Pilate himself. Otherwise the reprisals against the Apostles would have been immediate. Yet Peter and the Lord's Disciples publicly preached in Jerusalem & throughout Galilee within days while having no fear of a Roman warrant or bounty.

# V i s i o n

You might be surprised to learn that the official modern explanation from Jesus enemies as to Christ's appearing after His death is that He only appeared as a vision or apparition.

Such a libel be historically and certainly theologically comparable to painting oneself into an intellectual corner and thusly making this simple single fact impossible to explain away:

Once Jesus appeared to as many as 500.

It was when the Apostles did as the Lord had instructed them to do.

They had returned to Capernaum in Galilee, of the Fisherton area.

The story goes like this;

The Apostles were teaching and preaching on the very same mount where Christ had fed a crowd of thousands using one small boys lunch and also it was where Jesus had previously given His most beautiful and ever popular sermon known as the "Beatitudes."

Historians call this sermon by Jesus the greatest speech of all time. ( Matthew chapters 5-7 )

On this secluded spot which was well known to those who had previously seen and heard Jesus.

At the return of Peter (local business owner) and the rest of the Apostles, the crowds had once again gathered to hear the astounding account of Jesus- that our Christ had indeed risen from the dead.

This is exactly when and where the Apostle Paul mentions that a crowd of 500 had seen the risen Lord Jesus. These people present at this time had come to hear the Apostles speak of Jesus and His miraculous rising because the word was now spreading that Jesus was alive. It was during this occasion that those who were fortunate enough to have already seen the risen Lord were now giving their testimony of and for Him. For by now several believers individually and twice collectively the Apostles had been visited by our Lord Jesus. ( 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:6 )

Suddenly during these proceedings Jesus appeared again in person before this large crowd.

History does not deny this event because their were just too many there who had previously seen Jesus for themselves. Meaning they had known Jesus before His death so their recognition of Him was certainly creditable.

With so many eye witnesses at this appearing it was impossible even to try and deny it. It was just like the Lord's many other miracles in which He preformed in public often within the Temple itself. Meaning Jesus's miracles are recorded in the records of the Sanhedrin and in the Babylonian Talmud albeit they are hostile references however they are still an admission of proof of His Deity. Christ's miracles are not disputed by the Jewish religious elite even unto this day.

Likewise the Apostle Thomas had this very same concern.

Tom could not accept Christ was real until that moment in which he too saw Jesus for himself and then scripture indeed records that he believed. ( John 20:19-29 )

Today the modern view of Jesus enemies is not that His body was "Stolen" from the Tomb, nor that He was not yet dead as in He had "Swooned" For the common knowledge of Rome & its automatic reprisals make each of those scenarios laughable. But rather Jesus had appeared to so many, at so many different times and locations during those 40 days in which the Lord had showed Himself, that He was merely a vision, a spirit, or a phantom because He-Jesus has demonic powers.

Simply put if Jesus was a vision, an apparition, a ghost story, then the sightings of Him like modern You Tube speculation would have been endless & should have continued long after His ascension into Glory. History records the appearances of Christ abruptly stopped right when the Scriptures say Jesus returned to Heaven and calling Jesus evil & rejecting Him is the only unforgivable Sin.

# N o t

Today there is a new challenge to the Biblical narrative concerning Jesus's Resurrection. Simply put some of the opponents of Christ now astoundingly say that He did not even exist at all. This denial of course is ludicrous solely dependent upon a persons inability to defend against it. So;

Josephus : Flavius, was a 1<sup>st</sup> century Jewish historian, priest, & military commander.

Tacitus : Gaius Cornelius, also 1<sup>st</sup> century & is considered to be the greatest of all Roman historians.

Tertullian : Quintus, 2<sup>nd</sup> century was a famous author born Phoenician and resided in Carthage.

Suetonius : Gaius Tranquillus, a 1<sup>st</sup> century Roman Imperial (Caesar or Emperor) Historian.

Pliny : The Younger, The famous powerful lawyer, author, and magistrate of 1<sup>st</sup> century Rome.

Roman : Official 1<sup>st</sup> century correspondences and rulings against Christians surviving to this day.

The Jerusalem Sanhedrin : Several legal transcripts remain of their trials and rulings against Jesus.

The Babylonian Talmud : Official court records & Law commentary recording charges against Jesus.

These are all early as in during or near the time of Jesus and are each historical non-Biblical evidences of the Life of Jesus Christ. Now as to Jesus our Christ never and not existing at all- these few listed above historians and historical records were off the top of my head,... enough said.

Just for reference;

The number of surviving copies of the life of Julius Caesar : One.

The number of surviving copies of the original William Shakespeare : None.

The number of surviving Greek, Latin, & various New Testament manuscripts :

Greek 5800, Latin 10K, Various languages such as Syrian or Coptic 9300.

The New Testament just like the Old is the most well preserved and verified document of all time.

The "Survival of the Bible" is an astounding miracle.

The Romans are infamous for persecuting Christians just before and after the fall of Jerusalem.

Israel and the Temple along with the lessor temple in Alexandria were indeed the bank of the Roman Empire. The Jewish religious elite condemned Christianity and Nero used this to cover his misdeeds.

The Emperor Nero is well known for his persecution of GOD'S people due to his eccentric behavior & vile methods of murdering Christians. However it was the Emperor Diocletian who was the most effective in oppressing Christians. No single complete New Testament manuscript exists prior to his reign. No single Pastor/Preacher/Priest/Teacher who was known as Christian survived Diocletian. From the Eastern Mediterranean unto the British Isles every Christian Church was razed or blazed.

So how did so many copies of the completely authentic and verified New Testament survive?

What the Believers of Jesus did during this awful "Great Diocletian Persecution" was that every household was responsible to hide away and save one single page of the Greek New Testament text.

Then Diocletian finally retired and when Constantine legalized Christianity all the pages in hiding were brought back together. There are exactly 250 pages of the New Testament in the original Greek. When the pages were returned and collated it was found that there were thousands of copies of the complete New Testament as we know it today. In fact each and every page had dozens of copies in order to compare them to be sure that no changes were made.

When the demonic, satan, and mankind do their worst GOD is always at His very best.

# Conclusion

When someone has totally committed & convinced themselves not to accept or believe in Jesus, no matter what the evidence of His truth and existence may be- It is not only pointless but even harmful to argue with them. All we can do is Pray for someone with such a mindset who is predisposed to reject any fact or reasoning about Christ whatsoever.

Please,... if this is you consider this:

Do not be like Judas Iscariot dying in shame never repenting and spending eternity by his choice forever apart from Holy GOD in Hells flame. (the only place set aside from GOD'S presence)

If your g\*d is mankind's science then consider this:

Science has proven that the human body alone of all life losses exactly 21.3 grams at the instant of death. This has been verified by many fields of medical study and it does take into account the final breath of air escaping our lungs. No other creature or plant life does this only human beings alone. It is when our GOD given Living Soul, our essence, our inner being departs.

And just as it is appointed for mortals to die once, and after that the judgement,<sup>28</sup> so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him. Hebrews 9:27-28 NRSVA

Jesus Emmanuel GOD with us, is our Creator the creative element of the Holy Trinity for John chapter 1 explains this. Jesus is our Christ, our Kingman Redeemer, our Advocate, our King, our Lord, our High Priest, & our Messiah. Meaning Savior our living sacrifice for our Sin. People often say how can a loving GOD permit this or that while the simple truth is GOD does not. For all Sin is and will be atoned for. Either by Christ or for those in damnation by their own choice unable to pay. Jesus Christ is the Deity of GOD born into human flesh He is either your Savior or your Judge.

Two final thoughts;

1<sup>st</sup> did you know History records that Pontius Pilate was rewarded with a cushy assignment to Gaul (France) and He was so tormented by what he allowed to happen to Jesus he confessed his Sin and Faith publicly. Then privately to redeem himself the customary Roman way, he took his own life by falling upon his sword Yes it is possible the Roman Governor Pontius Pilate is Saved.

Now bringing us to the one last item from Christ's Tomb as of yet unmentioned to be examined; The Gospel of John chapter 20 and verse 7 mentions that not only were the grave clothes of Jesus undisturbed. As in they were set up hard like shellac and that the Lord's body had passed right through them at His Resurrection, thusly leaving an empty shell. John also details for us that the linen napkin which had covered Jesus's face was found setting slightly apart and neatly folded.

In Jesus day during mealtime it was custom that if anyone for whatever reason had to excuse themselves from table, if they crumpled their napkin and placed it upon their plate it meant they were done as in not returning. Likewise if the napkin was neatly folded and set beside their plate the message was clear. I Am not finished!!

Remember,

The peace of Christ will fill your days if you let Jesus guide your ways.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16 KJV

Heavenly Father,

In all that we do- let it be for Christ, who alone ever remains true. Amen.