

TRUTH AND THE RESURRECTION

Postmodernism

All is relative

Dr. Ravi Zacharias

TRUTH AND THE RESURRECTION

“I believe this surrender of truth is the benchmark of our culture’s greatest crisis, for it restricts meaningful dialogue on questions of the soul. Those who castigate truth go further. They label anyone who holds to the possibility of truth as one who **‘believes’**, implying thereby that the content that is held to be true is **‘mere belief’**. At the same time, they themselves can end up believing anything at all, and that belief is considered plausible merely because it is hostile to truth.”

TRUTH AND THE RESURRECTION

In 1965, Hugh Schonfield published a 287-page volume titled *The Passover Plot*.

Jesus 'deliberately plotted' his crucifixion and subsequent resurrection.

Contrived His arrest, nailed to the cross, taken down before the Sabbath in accordance with Jewish Law, survived the agony of three hours on the cross, not suffering fatal torment, He merely swooned.

TRUTH AND THE RESURRECTION

Swoon Theory: Jesus never really died on the cross, instead, he merely fainted and was later revived. Another theory by Donovan Joyce (1972) suggested that Jesus was revived by a doctor who had been planted in the tomb ahead of time. The doctor was assisted by none other than Jesus' uncle, Joseph of Arimathea. Jesus ends up being an 80-year-old defender of Masada. He is married to Mary Magdalene, again, a revolutionary zealot who wars with the Romans and in the end retires as a monk at Qumran.

TRUTH AND THE RESURRECTION

Barbara Thiering: Thiering's mind-boggling tale is that Jesus is crucified along with Simon Magus and Judas at Qumran, imbibes snake poison to fake his death, upon recovering marries Mary Magdalene and later falls in love with Lydia of Philippi. Despite the fact that Thiering's revolting reconstruction is devoid of rhyme or reason, it has received rave reviews.

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The Twin Theory: Jesus had an identical twin brother whose name was **Hurome**. **Hurome** is separated from Jesus at birth and does not see him again until the time of the crucifixion. Seeing Jesus on the cross he sees his mirror image and realizes that Jesus of Nazareth is his identical twin brother. He then concocts a messianic mission for Christ and carries it out by stealing the body and pretending to be the resurrected Christ.

THE RESURRECTION: GOD'S GREATEST FEAT

I would like to submit to you today that:

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is 'the' greatest FEAT in the annals of recorded history.

The basis of the Christian Faith is the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Without the Resurrection, there would be no Christianity.

THE RESURRECTION: GOD'S GREATEST FEAT

Apologist Hank Hanegraaff states:

It is 'the' singular doctrine that elevates Christianity above all other World Religions. Through the resurrection, Christ demonstrated that He does not stand in a line of peers with Abraham, Buddha, or Confucius. He is utterly unique!

THE RESURRECTION: GOD'S GREATEST FEAT

Jesus himself states (John 11:25-26):

I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.

THE RESURRECTION: GOD'S GREATEST FEAT

The Apostle Paul in 1 Cor. 15 states:

(14) If Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless (empty) and so is your faith.

(17) If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.

(20) But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead!!

THE RESURRECTION: GOD'S GREATEST FEAT

F - Fatal Torment

Jesus 'suffered', 'died' and was 'buried'.

E - Empty Tomb

Jesus' tomb was indeed empty.

A - Appearances of Christ

He appeared to the women, the disciples, and more than 500 others.

T - Transformation

People and the World were transformed.

THE RESURRECTION: GOD'S GREATEST FEAT

F - Fatal Torment

The Gospels record the fact that Jesus 'suffered' fatal torment.

From the **Garden of Gethsemane** to **death on the cross** and **burial in a tomb** Christ suffered:

- sweating of blood
- being battered
- being mocked
- being bruised
- being beaten
- bleeding

THE RESURRECTION: GOD'S GREATEST FEAT

F - Fatal Torment

Jesus was subject to Roman flogging.

He was subjected to the ultimate physical torture:

The Cross

He breathed His last – gave up His spirit – He died!!

After this, John's Gospel tells us a spear from a Roman Guard was thrust into His side. (Jn. 19:30,33-34)

He was dead!!

THE RESURRECTION: GOD'S GREATEST FEAT

E - Empty Tomb

Jesus' tomb was empty.

Luke 24:1-12

(3) "They did not find the body of the Lord Jesus"

(6) "He is not here"

(7) "The Son of Man **MUST** be delivered" (rise again)

(12) Peter – nothing but burial strips (linen cloths)

No body – the tomb was empty!!

THE RESURRECTION: GOD'S GREATEST FEAT

A - Appearances of Christ

Luke 24:13-45

Emmaus Road (15-32) Jesus came up, walked, talked, and broke bread. They recognised His nail-scarred hands (30-31).

Jerusalem (33-45) "Look at My hands and feet; touch Me. He has flesh and bones. He ate food!!

He explained and opened their minds to what the Scriptures said about Him!!

THE RESURRECTION: GOD'S GREATEST FEAT

A - Appearances of Christ

The Apostle Paul - 1 Cor. 15:3-8

Creedal Form

He appeared to the women, the disciples, and more than 500 others.

- Eyewitness experience & testimonies
- Early proclamation of the resurrection
- Transformation into bold witnesses (willing to die)

THE RESURRECTION: GOD'S GREATEST FEAT

T - Transformation

Luke 24:46-53

(47) This message 'will be preached' to all.

(49) They will be 'clothed with power' from on high.

They were radically changed and the result was:

People and the World were transformed!!

Peter

Paul

THE RESURRECTION: GOD'S GREATEST FEAT

The **Reality of the Resurrection** will affect all of us!!

- The power of the Resurrection can and will change your life.
- Being 'clothed' with 'power from on high' is crucial!!

Christ accomplished the greatest **FEAT** in history.

All for you and I.