

## **Apologetics 101**

### **Defending The Death and Resurrection of Jesus**

1 Corinthians 15:1-8

There are many historical or popular objections to the fundamental assertion of the Bible that Jesus died, was buried, and rose from the dead on the third day. Today we will be examining some of these arguments and some fundamental objections that are most common.

1. Jesus Really Died.
  - A. Historically there have been many suggestions and theories about the crucifixion which surmised that Jesus didn't actually die.
  - B. Other contemporary historical documents, specifically Josephus and Tacitus, make mention of Jesus and His crucifixion.
2. The Tomb Was Empty
  - A. There is large historical agreement that the credal statement found in 1 Cor. 15:3-7 goes back to before the New Testament writings, and within two or three years of the crucifixion.
  - B. The details given in the gospels surrounding the tomb itself, if untrue, were specific and detailed enough to have been falsified by witnesses while the New Testament was being written.
3. The Eye-Witnesses of the Resurrected Jesus
  - A. The gospels and Acts include specific lists of eye-witnesses to the empty tomb and to seeing the resurrected Jesus.
  - B. Another key factor which favors the reality of the resurrection is the complete change seen in the disciples themselves: going from fleeing and hiding from authorities to boldly speaking and accepting suffering and martyrdom.
4. False Theories Supposing Jesus didn't die and rise again
  - A. The Swoon Theory:
  - B. The Hallucination Theory
  - C. The Impersonator Theory
  - D. The Spiritual Resurrection Theory
  - E. The Theft Theory
  - F. The Mistaken (or Unknown) Tomb Theory