

# SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY





# LAST TIME

- The Work of Christ
  - Resurrection Theories



# HISTORICAL SURVEY OF THEORIES

- Resurrection Theories.
  - Literal Interpretation
  - Conspiracy Theory
  - Apparent Death Theory
  - Mythology Theory
  - Subjective Vision Theory
  - Objective Vision Theory
  - Interpretation Theory



# INTERPRETATION THEORY

- The idea that something dramatic did indeed happen to the disciples.
- We do not know what it was and they were not able to articulate what it was.
- They latch onto a resurrection narrative to explain it, but that is not what really happened.



# PROBLEMS WITH INTERPRETATION

## ➤ NT Wright

1. To say that a man rose from the dead was a very non-Jewish thing to say. They would not have invented anything like this.
2. There were other categories of things that could have used to explain a dramatic event.



# HISTORICITY OF THE RESURRECTION

- A look at the Literal View Theory
- Essentially two ways to know the resurrection.
  1. Faith and a true encounter with the risen Savior.
  2. Historical investigation.



# FACTS

- What are the facts?
- What is the best explanation of these facts?



# RESURRECTION FACTS

- Fact #1:
  - After his crucifixion, Jesus was buried in a tomb by a member of the Jewish Sanhedrin named Joseph of Arimathea.



# FACT #1-1

- Jesus' burial is attested in the very old tradition that is given to us by Paul in 1 Corinthians 15.
- This tradition goes back to at least AD 36 and possibly earlier.



For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:3-5

ESV



# FACT #1-2

- The story of the burial is part of very old material that Mark us to write his gospel.
- Most scholars date Mark prior to AD 66.



## FACT #1-3

- Since Joseph of Arimathea was a member of the Jewish Sanhedrin, which condemned Jesus to death, it is highly unlikely that would have been a Christian invention.



# FACT #1-4

➤ There is no competing burial story.



# FACT #1 CONCLUSION

- Majority of NT critics agree that Jesus was buried in a tomb by a member of the Sanhedrin named Joseph of Arimathea.
- Jesus burial is “one of the earliest and best-attested facts about Jesus.”



## FACT #2

- Sunday, immediately following his execution, a group of women found Jesus' tomb empty.



## FACT 2 – BART EHRMAN

... there are a couple of things that we can say for certain about Jesus after his death. We can say with relative certainty, for example, that he was buried. . . . . the accounts are fairly unanimous in saying (the earliest accounts we have are unanimous in saying) that Jesus was in fact buried by this fellow, Joseph of Arimathea, and so it's relatively reliable that that's what happened. We also have solid traditions to indicate that women found this tomb empty three days later. This is attested in all of our gospel sources, early and late, and so it appears to be a historical datum. And so I think we can say that after Jesus' death, with some (probably with some) certainty, that he was buried, possibly by this fellow Joseph of Arimathea, and that three days later he appeared not to have been in his tomb.



## FACT #2

- Using standard criteria that historians usually use, it is certainly plausible and firm enough to know that the tomb was empty.



## FACT #2-1

- The empty tomb narrative is a part of the old source material used by Mark.



## FACT #2-2

- The tradition quoted in 1 Corinthians 15:3-5 strongly implies an empty tomb.
- Also found in Acts.



<b>1 Corinthians 15:3-5</b>	<b>Acts 13:28-31</b>	<b>Mark 15:37-16:7</b>
Christ died . . .	Though they could charge him with nothing deserving death, yet they asked Pilate to have him killed.	And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last.
he was buried . . .	they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb	And he [Joseph] bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud and laid him in a tomb.
he was raised . . .	But God raised him from the dead . . .	“He has risen, he is not here; see the place where they laid him.”
he appeared . . .	. . . and for many days he appeared to those who came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are now his witnesses to the people.	“But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him.”



## FACT #2-3

- Mark's account of the discovery of the empty tomb is very simple and does not have any evidence of legend or myth.
- Simplest answers is usually the right one.



## FACT #2-4

- The fact that a woman's testimony was considered less reliable than a man's counts in favor of the fact that it was women that discovered the empty tomb.
- If you were going to make up this story, your testimony would certainly be from the "more reliable" men.



## FACT #2-5

- The earliest Jewish allegation was that Jesus' body was stolen, thus proving the tomb was empty.



## FACT #3

- On several occasions and through various circumstances, different people, and various groups of people experienced appears of Jesus alive after his death.



## FACT #3-1

- The list of eyewitnesses to the resurrected Christ found in 1 Corinthians 15.
- Peter, James, the Twelve, over 500 others.



## FACT #3-2

- The appearance narratives in the Gospels give multiple, independent attestation of those appearances.



# FACT #3-3

- Certain of these appearances have earmarks of historicity.
- James- no reason.



## FACT #4

- The disciples believed in the resurrection.



# FACT #4-1

➤ Their leader was dead.



## FACT #4-2

- According to Jewish law, Jesus was a heretic and cursed by God, as evidenced by his execution.



## FACT #4-3

- Jewish belief about the afterlife would preclude anyone rising and ascending to Heaven prior to the resurrection at the end times.



## FACT #4

- His believers would normally just preserved his bones and made his tomb a shrine.
- There is was nothing “normal” about a resurrection story.
- Especially one that they would be willing to die for.



# QUESTIONS

The background is a deep blue with a wavy, undulating texture that resembles water or a nebula. It is sparsely populated with small, bright white and light blue dots, giving it the appearance of a starry night sky or a distant galaxy. The overall effect is serene and cosmic.



# NEXT TIME

- Next Week
- Read:
  - Defenders 2-6- The Doctrine of Christ- Pages 155-188