

# LINES OF EVIDENCE FOR JESUS' RESURRECTION



# RECAP

**Two kinds of evidence:  
DIRECT & INDIRECT**

**NT is good source of  
evidence**

**NT DIRECT: Jesus crucified → Buried in  
a known tomb → Empty tomb →  
disciples believed He was raised &  
appeared → Conversion of skeptics  
James & Paul.**

**NT INDIRECT: Changed lives →  
changed customs → Changed  
theology → Survival of early Jesus  
mvmt → Persecuted/killed for belief.**



# **ABDUCTIVE REASONING**



**Using the evidence to reason to the best conclusion.**



# SKEPTICAL RESPONSES



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**Conspiracy theories**

**Hallucination theories**

**Legendary theory**

**Pagan myth theory**



**SKEPTICAL  
RESPONSES:  
*CONSPIRACY  
THEORIES***

**Stolen Body**

**Jesus didn't  
really die.**



**RESPONSES**  
**TO**  
***STOLEN***  
***BODY***  
***THEORY***

**Getting past the guards**

**Change life, be  
persecuted, & die...**

**...FOR A LIE?**



**RESPONSES**  
**TO**  
***APPARENT***  
***DEATH***  
***THEORY***

**How could Jesus survive injuries?**

**How could mangled Jesus inspire disciples?**





**SKEPTICAL  
RESPONSES:  
*HALLUCINATIONS?***

**Grief**

**Religious  
ecstasy**



# RESPONSES TO *HALLUCINATION THEORY*

Same sudden mental illness at the same time?

The exact same hallucinations?

Hallucination literature

Expectations

James & Paul (SKEPTICS)



**SKEPTICAL  
RESPONSES:  
*LEGEND THEORY***

**Gradual  
embellishment  
of the Rez story**



# RESPONSES TO *LEGEND THEORY*

**NOT ENOUGH TIME!**

**Apostolic/church  
control of Jesus story.**

**Rez stories: Too plain  
with loose ends.**

**Develop the wrong way**

**Would James & Paul fall  
for it?**



**SKEPTICAL  
RESPONSES:  
*PAGAN MYTH  
THEORY***

**Christians stole  
Rez story from  
pagan myths.**



# RESPONSES TO

# *PAGAN MYTH THEORY*

**Earliest Christians were  
uber-Jewish.**

**Pagan myths don't  
match.**

**Why steal pagan  
stories...you've got  
Jewish ones!**

**Who were they trying to  
impress?**



**GOD RAISED  
JESUS FROM  
THE DEAD**

**Most  
reasonable  
explanation of  
all the data.**



**BEST  
EXPLANATION  
OF DIRECT  
EVIDENCE:**

***GOD RAISED  
JESUS FROM  
THE DEAD***

- ⇒ **Jesus crucified**
- ⇒ **Buried in a known tomb**
- ⇒ **Tomb was empty**
- ⇒ **Disciples believed He was raised & appeared**
- ⇒ **Conversion of skeptics James & Paul.**





**BEST  
EXPLANATION  
OF INDIRECT  
EVIDENCE:**

***GOD RAISED  
JESUS FROM  
THE DEAD***

- ⇒ **Changed lives**
- ⇒ **Changed customs**
- ⇒ **Changed theology**
- ⇒ **Survival of early Jesus mvmt**
- ⇒ **Disciples persecuted, killed for belief.**



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