

The Resurrection of Jesus

Lesson 2

Biblical Testimony Compared To Man's Theories

The Resurrection of Jesus

The biblical testimony

Biblical testimony compared to man's theories

If the resurrection is true or false, then...

God's transforming power in the resurrection and gospel

2

The Biblical Testimony

Historical nature of the biblical testimony

Trustworthy nature of the biblical testimony

Importance of Jesus' death, burial and resurrection

Biblical testimony of Jesus' death, burial and resurrection

3

Introduction

- If Jesus' resurrection is true, then His identity as the Son of God is confirmed
- Also, the Scriptures being the Word of God is confirmed
- Biblical testimony is based on eyewitness evidence confirmed by prophecies
- Testimony designed to lead any reasonable and humble individual to believe that Jesus died and was raised on the third day

4

Introduction

- Rather than believing the Biblical testimony, many have denied it and sought to provide their own "theories" as to what actually occurred
- Lesson designed to explore the most popular theories and compare them to the plain consistent biblical testimony

5

Biblical Testimony Compared To Man's Theories

Unreached goals of man's theories

Most popular theories

Theft theory

Swoon theory

Hallucination theory

Wrong tomb theory

6

Unreached Goals Of Man's Theories

- If biblical testimony is to be denied, then two major facts must be explained
- Jesus' tomb found empty on the third day after His death
- Apostles and others testified that they saw and had social interaction with Jesus after His death
- All theories fail to explain both facts reasonably

7

Theft Theory

- Most prominent of all theories
- Seeks to explain primarily Jesus' empty tomb
- Simply stated – someone stole the body?
- Fails to provide clear answer as to who was guilty of theft
- Most likely culprits, Jesus' apostles

8

Theft Theory

- Proving commission of any crime relates to the suspect's motive and opportunity
- Possible suspects
 - Jews
 - Roman guards
 - Apostles

9

Problem With Theft Theory

- No suspect group had both the opportunity and motive to steal Jesus' body
- Therefore, accusations against them unreasonable to believe

10

Jews – Opportunity But No Motive

Mat 27:62 Now on the next day, the day after the preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered together with Pilate,
Mat 27:63 and said, "Sir, we remember that when He was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I *am to* rise again.'

11

Jews – Opportunity But No Motive

Mat 27:64 "Therefore, give orders for the grave to be made secure until the third day, otherwise His disciples may come and steal Him away and say to the people, 'He has risen from the dead,' and the last deception will be worse than the first."

Mat 27:65 Pilate said to them, "You have a guard; go, make it as secure as you know how."

12

Jews – Opportunity But No Motive

Mat 27:66 And they went and made the grave secure, and along with the guard they set a seal on the stone.

13

Jews – Opportunity But No Motive

- Made every effort to secure Jesus' body in the tomb
- If successful, could easily discredit the apostles' claim that He was raised from the dead by producing His body
- What could they gain from an empty tomb?

14

Roman Guards – Opportunity But No Motive

Mat 28:11 Now while they were on their way, some of the guard came into the city and reported to the chief priests all that had happened.

Mat 28:12 And when they had assembled with the elders and consulted together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers,

Mat 28:13 and said, "You are to say, 'His disciples came by night and stole Him away while we were asleep.'"

15

Roman Guards – Opportunity But No Motive

Mat 28:14 "And if this should come to the governor's ears, we will win him over and keep you out of trouble."

Mat 28:15 And they took the money and did as they had been instructed; and this story was widely spread among the Jews, *and is to this day.*

16

Roman Guards – Opportunity But No Motive

- Romans were professional soldiers
- Abandoning their duty resulted in their death
- Why would they want to steal Jesus' body although they had greatest opportunity?

17

Apostles – No Opportunity

- Even if they had desired to steal His body, no opportunity provided
- Too many obstacles to be overcome
 - Guards
 - Large stone

18

Apostles – No Opportunity

Mat 27:66 And they went and made the grave secure, and along with the guard they set a seal on the stone.

Mar 16:2 Very early on the first day of the week, they *came to the tomb when the sun had risen.

19

Apostles – No Opportunity

Mar 16:3 They were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?"

Mar 16:4 Looking up, they *saw that the stone had been rolled away, although it was extremely large.

20

Apostles – No Motive

- Before Jesus died, they did not believe He would be crucified and be raised
- After Jesus' death, they did not believe He would be raised

21

Apostles – No Motive

Luk 18:31 Then He took the twelve aside and said to them, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all things which are written through the prophets about the Son of Man will be accomplished.

Luk 18:32 "For He will be handed over to the Gentiles, and will be mocked and mistreated and spit upon,

22

Apostles – No Motive

Luk 18:33 and after they have scourged Him, they will kill Him; and the third day He will rise again."

Luk 18:34 But the disciples understood none of these things, and *the meaning of* this statement was hidden from them, and they did not comprehend the things that were said.

23

Apostles – No Motive

Mat 26:31 Then Jesus *said to them, "You will all fall away because of Me this night, for it is written, 'I WILL STRIKE DOWN THE SHEPHERD, AND THE SHEEP OF THE FLOCK SHALL BE SCATTERED.'

Mat 26:32 "But after I have been raised, I will go ahead of you to Galilee."

24

Apostles – No Motive

Luk 24:11 But these words appeared to them as nonsense, and they would not believe them.

Joh 20:8 So the other disciple who had first come to the tomb then also entered, and he saw and believed.

25

Apostles – No Motive

Joh 20:9 For as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead.

Joh 20:10 So the disciples went away again to their own homes.

26

Biblical Testimony Compared To Man's Theories

Unreached goals of man's theories

Most popular theories

Theft theory

Swoon theory

Hallucination theory

Wrong tomb theory

27

Unreached Goals Of Man's Theories

- If biblical testimony is to be denied, then two major facts must be explained
- Jesus' tomb found empty on the third day after His death
- Apostles and others testified that they saw and had social interaction with Jesus after His death
- All theories fail to explain both facts reasonably

28

Swoon Theory

- This theory says Jesus did not die on the cross but swooned or fainted
- Romans falsely believed He was dead and turn His body over to Joseph who buried Him in his tomb
- Jesus revived in the tomb, untied grave clothes, moved the stone, overcame the guards and escaped
- Lived in obscurity until His death

29

Problem With Swoon Theory

- Too many obstacles to be overcome
 - Scourging
 - Crucifixion
 - Spear
 - Grave clothes
 - Stone
 - Guards

30

Jesus Proved Dead Beyond Doubt

Joh 19:32 So the soldiers came, and broke the legs of the first man and of the other who was crucified with Him;

Joh 19:33 but coming to Jesus, when they saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs.

Joh 19:34 But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.

31

Jesus Proved Dead Beyond Doubt

Mar 15:44 Pilate wondered if He was dead by this time, and summoning the centurion, he questioned him as to whether He was already dead.

Mar 15:45 And ascertaining this from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph.

32

Jesus Bound In Grave Clothes

Joh 19:39 Nicodemus, who had first come to Him by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds *weight*.

Joh 19:40 So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen wrappings with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews.

33

Jesus Bound In Grave Clothes

Joh 11:43 When He had said these things, He cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth."

Joh 11:44 The man who had died came forth, bound hand and foot with wrappings, and his face was wrapped around with a cloth. Jesus *said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

34

Stone Too Large To Be Moved By Any One Person

Mar 16:3 They were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?"

Mar 16:4 Looking up, they *saw that the stone had been rolled away, although it was extremely large.

35

Hallucination Theory

- Jesus did not rise from the dead
- Those who claimed to see Him after His death were hallucinating, they imagined they saw and spoke with Him
- Theory does not even attempt to explain Jesus' empty tomb

36

Problem With Hallucination Theory

- Hallucinations dependent on expectations of event occurring
- Disciples did not expect Jesus' resurrection either before or after His death
- Also, Jesus appears to individuals, small and large groups
- Did all have the same hallucination?

37

No Expectation of Jesus' Resurrection

Luk 18:33 and after they have scourged Him, they will kill Him; and the third day He will rise again."

Luk 18:34 But the disciples understood none of these things, and *the meaning of* this statement was hidden from them, and they did not comprehend the things that were said.

38

No Expectation of Jesus' Resurrection

Luk 24:9 and returned from the tomb and reported all these things to the eleven and to all the rest.

Luk 24:10 Now they were Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the *mother* of James; also the other women with them were telling these things to the apostles.

39

No Expectation of Jesus' Resurrection

Luk 24:11 But these words appeared to them as nonsense, and they would not believe them.

Luk 24:12 But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he **saw* the linen wrappings only; and he went away to his home, marveling at what had happened.

40

No Expectation of Jesus' Resurrection

Luk 24:21 "But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, it is the third day since these things happened.

Luk 24:22 "But also some women among us amazed us. When they were at the tomb early in the morning,

41

No Expectation of Jesus' Resurrection

Luk 24:23 and did not find His body, they came, saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said that He was alive.

Luk 24:24 "Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just exactly as the women also had said; but Him they did not see."

42

Jesus Appeared To Individuals and Groups

1Co 15:5 and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

1Co 15:6 After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep;

43

Jesus Appeared To Individuals and Groups

1Co 15:7 then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles;

1Co 15:8 and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also.

44

Wrong Tomb Theory

- Women and disciples find tomb empty because they went to the wrong tomb
- Jesus' body was in another tomb

45

Problems With Wrong Tomb Theory

- Joseph's tomb was unique
- The women had carefully observed the location of the tomb
- Did Peter and John make the same mistake of the women by going to the wrong tomb?
- Jews and Romans should have easily exposed this wrong tomb idea by pointing out the right tomb and Jesus' body

46

Joseph's Tomb Unique

Mat 27:59 And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth,

Mat 27:60 and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the entrance of the tomb and went away.

47

The Women Carefully Noted Location of Joseph's Tomb

Mat 27:61 And Mary Magdalene was there, and the other Mary, sitting opposite the grave.

Luk 23:55 Now the women who had come with Him out of Galilee followed, and saw the tomb and how His body was laid.

Luk 23:56 Then they returned and prepared spices and perfumes. And on the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

48

The Women and The Disciples Going To The Wrong Tomb?

Luk 24:1 But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared.

Luk 24:2 And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb,

Luk 24:3 but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

49

The Women and The Disciples Going To The Wrong Tomb?

Luk 24:11 But these words appeared to them as nonsense, and they would not believe them.

Luk 24:12 But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he *saw the linen wrappings only; and he went away to his home, marveling at what had happened.

50

Biblical Testimony Compared To Man's Theories

Unreached goals of man's theories

Most popular theories

Theft theory

Swoon theory

Hallucination theory

Wrong tomb theory

51

The Resurrection of Jesus

The biblical testimony

Biblical testimony compared to man's theories

If the resurrection is true or false, then...

God's transforming power in the resurrection and gospel

52