

Resurrection Facts

Con (conspiracy theories)

1. Jesus did not die on the cross.
2. Victim was someone else.
3. He died later under other circumstances.
4. One cannot trust the documents/witnesses.
5. Disciples mistook someone else for Jesus.
6. Disciples had mystical vision.
7. Disciples suffered from collective hallucination.
8. Disciples stole the body.
9. Unnamed persons stole the body.
10. Jesus rose "spiritually," not physically.
11. Miracles just don't happen; people who die stay dead.
12. Any natural explanation is preferable to a supernatural, miraculous explanation.
13. Jesus was lying or lacking in self-knowledge/knowledge of the true explanation of his resurrection.

20 key facts for the resurrection.

1. All events related to Christ's death and resurrection were reported by eyewitnesses or associates of eyewitnesses.
2. Jesus is said by these witnesses to have been born miraculously and performed numerous impressive miracles, including the raising of Lazarus, during the public ministry.
3. On several occasions, Jesus predicted his resurrection.
4. Jesus was tried publicly by Jewish and by Roman leaders, given a death sentence, and executed by crucifixion.
5. On the cross, a sword was driven into this side to assure the soldiers in charge that he was indeed dead.
6. Jesus' crucifixion occurred publicly in Jerusalem at the high season of the Jewish religious year.
7. Jesus' body was then placed in a well-known tomb belonging to a prominent Jewish religious personality.
8. Efforts were made by the Jewish religious leaders to prevent a stealing of Jesus' body and to suppress any rumors of resurrection.
9. On the first Easter morning, Jesus' disciples encountered a Jesus who was alive.
10. Jesus appeared subsequently to his followers over a 40-day period, followed by his public ascension into heaven.
11. Jesus' disciples did not believe that he would rise prior to the event having occurred-as evidenced, for example, by "doubting Thomas."
12. Jesus' resurrection appearances were physical in nature (Jesus eating fish, Thomas able to touch wounds in Jesus' hands and side).
13. Paul testified to having seen and spoken to the risen Christ on the Damascus road.
14. Paul proved a list of named witnesses to rise Christ and claimed that over 500 were still alive to testify to it in AD 56 (1 Cor. 15) – as well as claimed when on trial before the Roman governor that Christ's death and resurrection were "not done in a corner" (Acts 26:26).

15. Absence of motive to steal Jesus' body on the part of the Romans or the Jewish religious leaders, and every reason on their part not to do so.
16. Irrationalism of any argument that Jesus' disciples or followers would have stolen his body and then claimed he rose from the dead – thus inviting persecution and death.
17. Irrationality of any unnamed third parties stealing the body or inviting such a story.
18. No contemporary refutations or attempted refutations of the fact of the resurrection by those with means, motive, and opportunity to do so.
19. Explanations of the event other than that by Jesus and the firsthand witnesses have no merit/weight and should be rejected.
20. Jesus claimed to be God incarnate, raised up by his Father, and the unique Savior through his death and resurrection.