

The RESURRECTION: EVERYBODY* BELIEVES SOMETHING ABOUT IT!

* (Everybody who has heard anything about it... which would include all of us.)

"Believing" in the resurrection:

- You can believe what the Bible says: You can accept the facts about what happened to Jesus.
 - Here, "believing" means: "Admitting the truth about historical events that have occurred."
- You can make up your own "beliefs": You can invent something that has no factual basis.
 - Here, "believing" means: "Make-believe" or "pretend."

Jesus' disciples: They accepted the truth about the resurrection.



- Even the guards knew it was true.
They were later bribed to lie about it! (Mat. 28:11-15)

Jesus' disciples: They "believed" in the resurrection.

IN OTHER WORDS...

- They accepted the historical facts about what happened to Jesus.
- BUT SOMETIMES IT TOOK A WHILE ...
- There were several aspects to the resurrection ... and each part needed to be accepted.

"Believing" involved a transition to full acceptance.

- At first, they might accept some things, but not others.
- Eventually, they would accept all that happened.

EXAMPLES OF TEMPORARY DOUBT:

When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted.

Matthew 28:17 (NIV)

[Jesus to Thomas:] "Stop doubting and believe."
John 20:27b (NIV)

EXAMPLES of facts they needed to accept.

1. The body wasn't there.
2. The body was gone because Jesus rose from the dead.
3. His resurrection was physical. (It wasn't just a "spiritual" resurrection.)
4. When Jesus appeared to them, it was in a physical body. (He wasn't a ghost.)

Another potential hindrance to accepting the facts:

- For some, it may have just seemed "too good to be true"!



The world: It invents its own "beliefs" about the resurrection.

A LITTLE "HOCUS POCUS," AND WE CAN INVENT ANYTHING!



The world also "believes" something about the resurrection:

IN OTHER WORDS...

- Since most are unwilling to accept the historical facts about the resurrection...
- They tend to invent excuses or stories they can "believe," to cover-up the facts.
- Their "make believe" pretensions are often quite stupid... but they have to "believe" something!

EXAMPLES of world's stupid "make-believe" explanations.

- CREAK!** HEY! WATCH WHERE YOU STEP!
SNAP! CAREFUL WITH THAT STONE!
THUNK!
- The guards decided it was naptime ... The terrified disciples suddenly became brave, courageously tiptoed past the guards, pushed away the huge stone boulder, and stole the body. The guards slept right through all the commotion!

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WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WITH A STINKING CORPSE?

EXAMPLES of world's stupid "make-believe" explanations.

- The disciples forgot where they buried Jesus. After hunting around, they found an empty tomb (apparently with no guards standing in front of it). Since it was empty, they decided that Jesus must have risen from the dead.

DUH-H-H!!! WHERE'D WE PUT THE BODY??

I THOUGHT YOU WROTE DOWN THE ADDRESS!

HERE'S AN EMPTY TOMB... LET'S JUST SAY HE ROSE FROM THE DEAD!

EXAMPLES of world's stupid "make-believe" explanations.

- Jesus didn't really die. He just fainted on the cross. In spite of severe beatings, massive blood loss, and hypothermia in the cold tomb, he suddenly revived, squirmed out of the tight linen strips that wrapped him, and burst forth from the tomb! He also found some clean clothes.



It's SUPER-JESUS!

Some modern-day **stupid** ideas invented by apostates.*

- Claim it's all "figurative language."
- OR -
- Redefine the words, so you can "say" that Jesus rose from the dead, yet mean something entirely different!



* (An "apostate" – Someone who may claim to be Christian, but who has departed from the truth. This term is especially applicable to false teachers and preachers.)

Another modern-day **stupid** idea invented by apostates.

THAT'S
REALLY
CONFUSING!

- Some apostates claim that there are two types of "history":
 - 1) A "visible history" that involves facts and reality (things that happen in the "real world").
 - 2) An "invisible history" that involves religion and speculation (anything that they claim is not a part of facts and reality).
- This way, they can "believe" in the resurrection (as "religious history"), even though it never really happened (as "factual" history)!

WHY all the **stupid** ideas?

- Accepting the truth would require them to admit:
 - their sins, and
 - their need to repent and trust Jesus for salvation.



Some may choose to live in denial of the whole issue...



RESURRECTION?
IT'S JUST A STORY
CHRISTIANS INVENTED
CENTURIES AFTER
JESUS' DEATH!

- But the day is coming when they will bow down before Jesus and confess that he is Lord over all.

- On that day, denial won't seem such a smart choice.

God has exalted him to the highest place and given him the name of honor that is greater than any other name, so that at the name of Jesus, everyone will kneel – everyone in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth. And everyone will acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glorious praise of God the Father.

Philippians 2:9-11 (DHT)

**You must choose.
You must decide.**

- You can accept the foundation of God's Word...

God's solid foundation stands firm, ...

2 Tim. 2:19a (NIV)

- Or you can go your own way.

But the way of the wicked is like deep darkness; they do not know what makes them stumble.

Proverbs 4:19 (NIV)

- It's so much easier to just accept the truth!



Credits (1)

SCRIPTURE

- Philippians 2:9-11 – my translation.
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