

THE CASE FOR FAITH

Was Jesus' death and resurrection a hoax?

Are there facts that support the resurrection?

What really happened to Jesus' body?

Was Jesus seen after His death on the cross?

Wasn't the Bible just written by men?

Can the stories of Jesus really be trusted?

Is archeology a friend of the Bible?



Presented by

Dr Thomas J Kindel

Founder & President of *Reasons for Faith Ministries, Inc.*

“Be ready to give an answer to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is within you” 1

Peter 3:15

The Resurrection of Christ

A
PROVEN
FACT OF
HISTORY!

THE CASE FOR CHRIST

*A Journalist's Personal Investigation
of the Evidence for Jesus*

LEE STROBEL

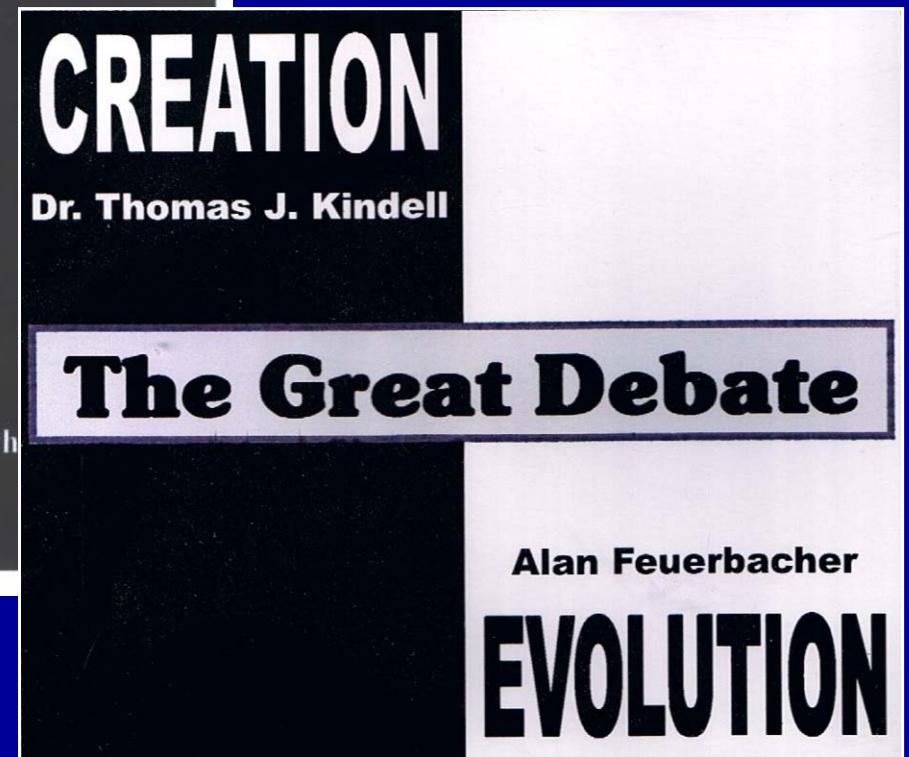
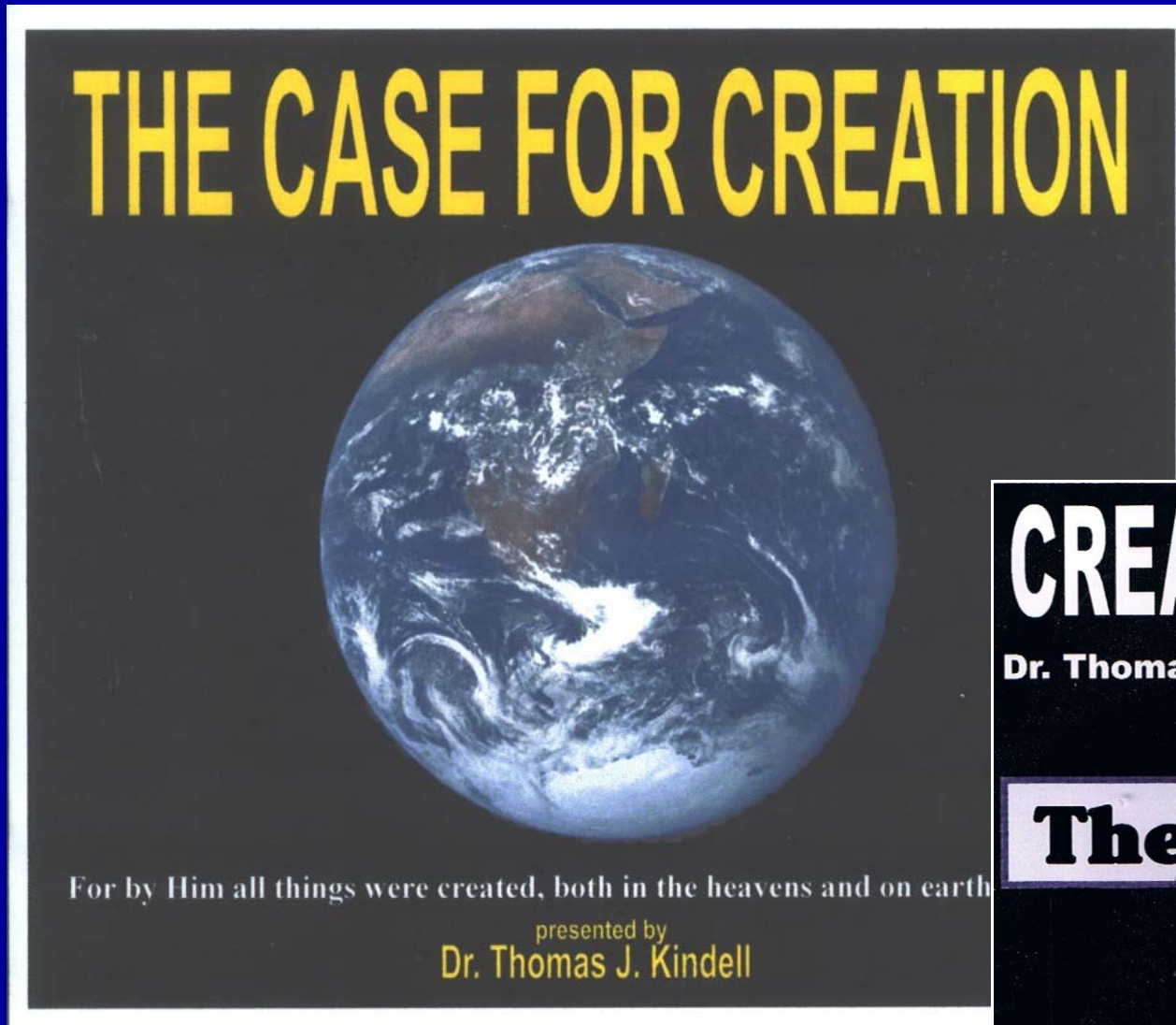
THE CASE FOR *faith*

*A Journalist Investigates the
Toughest Objections to Christianity*

LEE STROBEL

Author of The Case for Christ

Audio CD Albums



THE RESURRECTION IS:

**The most outlandish and
heartless
hoax of history**

OR

**The most significant and
meaningful fact of history.**

THE **ULTIMATE PROOF** OF CHRIST'S CLAIMS

John 2:19 – Destroy this temple...I will raise it up

Matt. 12:39 – The sign of the prophet Jonah

Isa. 53 & Dan. 9 – The “Anointed One” would be killed

Psalms 16:10 – The “Holy One” would not corrupt in
the grave

Rom. 1:4 – Christ was, “declared to be the Son of
God with power...by His resurrection
from the dead

OBJECTION:

The resurrection of Christ is not worthy of consideration because it can't be **proved scientifically**.

ANSWER:

The scientific method has limited applications and **cannot** be used to prove **any** facts of **history**.

FACTS OF HISTORY ARE PROVEN NOT BY THE SCIENTIFIC METHOD BUT BY THE LEGAL – HISTORICAL METHOD

**The legal historical method depends on
three types of testimony:**

- 1. Oral testimony**
- 2. Written testimony**
- 3. Exhibits**

**Could you prove you were at your job last
Wednesday?**

WHAT MUST ONE DO TO REFUTE CHRISTIANITY?

Legitimately refute the historical evidence for the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

If only more people would accept the challenge to refute the historical evidence of Christ's resurrection – there would be a lot more converts to Christianity.

**SOME OF THE WORLD'S
GREATEST EXPERTS IN
LAW AND HISTORY
ACCEPTED THE
CHALLENGE TO REFUTE
THE RESURRECTION OF
CHRIST – *AND FAILED!***

1. Lord Littleton & Dr. Benjamin Gilbert West

The book: *The Observation of the Evidence Regarding the Resurrection of Christ*

From the flyleaf: Reject not until you have examined the evidence

2. Frank Morrison – Lawyer & Rationalist

The book: *Who Moved the Stone?*

Title of Chapter 1: The Book that Refused to be Written

3. Thomas Arnold - Historian

Qualifications

Professor Arnold was for 14 years the Headmaster of Rugby, author of the three-volume History of Rome, and holder of the chair of modern history at Oxford University. He was certainly well acquainted with the value of evidence in determining historical facts.

Professor Arnold testified:

“I have been used for many years to study the histories of other times, and to examine and weigh the evidence of those who have written about them, and I know of no one fact in the history of mankind which is proved by better and fuller evidence of every sort, to the understanding of a fair inquirer, than the great sign which God hath given us that Christ died and rose again from the dead.”

4. Lord Lindhurst – Attorney General

Qualifications

Lindhurst was a Solicitor-General of the British government, Attorney General of Great Britain, three times High Chancellor of England and elected as High Steward of the University of Cambridge. Thus, he held in one lifetime the highest offices ever conferred upon a judge in the history of Great Britain.

Lord Lindhurst testified:

**“I know pretty well what
evidence is; and I tell you,
such evidence as
that for the resurrection
has never
broken down yet.”**

5. Dr. Simon Greenleaf – Professor of Law, Harvard

Qualifications

Dr. Greenleaf authored a three-volume set entitled ***A Treatise on the Law of Evidence***, (1842) which was so excellent that it is still considered by many to be the **greatest single authority on evidence in the entire history of legal procedure.**

Dr. Simon Greenleaf was challenged by his Christian law students to try to refute the eyewitness testimony of the New Testament evangelists.

Dr. Simon Greenleaf became a zealous Christian!

To explain why the testimony of the Gospel accounts was irrefutable from the standpoint of legally admissible evidence, Dr. Greenleaf authored a book entitled:

An Examination of the Testimony of the Four Evangelists by the Rules of Evidence Administered in Courts of Justice

THE FIVE TESTS OF EYEWITNESSES

“The credit due to the testimony of witnesses depends upon, **first**, their honesty; **secondly**, their ability; **thirdly**, their number and the consistency of their testimony; **fourthly**, the conformity of their testimony with experience, and **fifthly**, the coincidence of their testimony with collateral circumstances.”

“Let the evangelists be tried by these tests!”

In applying the five tests of witnesses Greenleaf found he **could not resolve** the key issues involved **unless** the testimony of Christ's resurrection **was true.**

GREENLEAF'S THREE MAJOR IRRECONCILABLE ISSUES

- 1. No motive to lie – whether good or bad men.**

- 2. The number of witnesses and the consistency of their testimony.**
 - a. 1 Corinthians 15:6 – Over five hundred witnesses, most still living.**

GREENLEAF'S THREE MAJOR IRRECONCILABLE ISSUES

b. 6 minutes of testimony equals over 50 hours of direct eyewitness confirmation.

c. Consistency of the Apostles testimony never failed despite lifelong persecution & martyrdom.

3. Consistency of the testimony with collateral circumstances.

COLLATERAL CIRCUMSTANCES

- 1. Buried according to the burial custom of the Jews.**
 - a. 100 lbs of spices used.**
 - b. 115 lb body cast.**

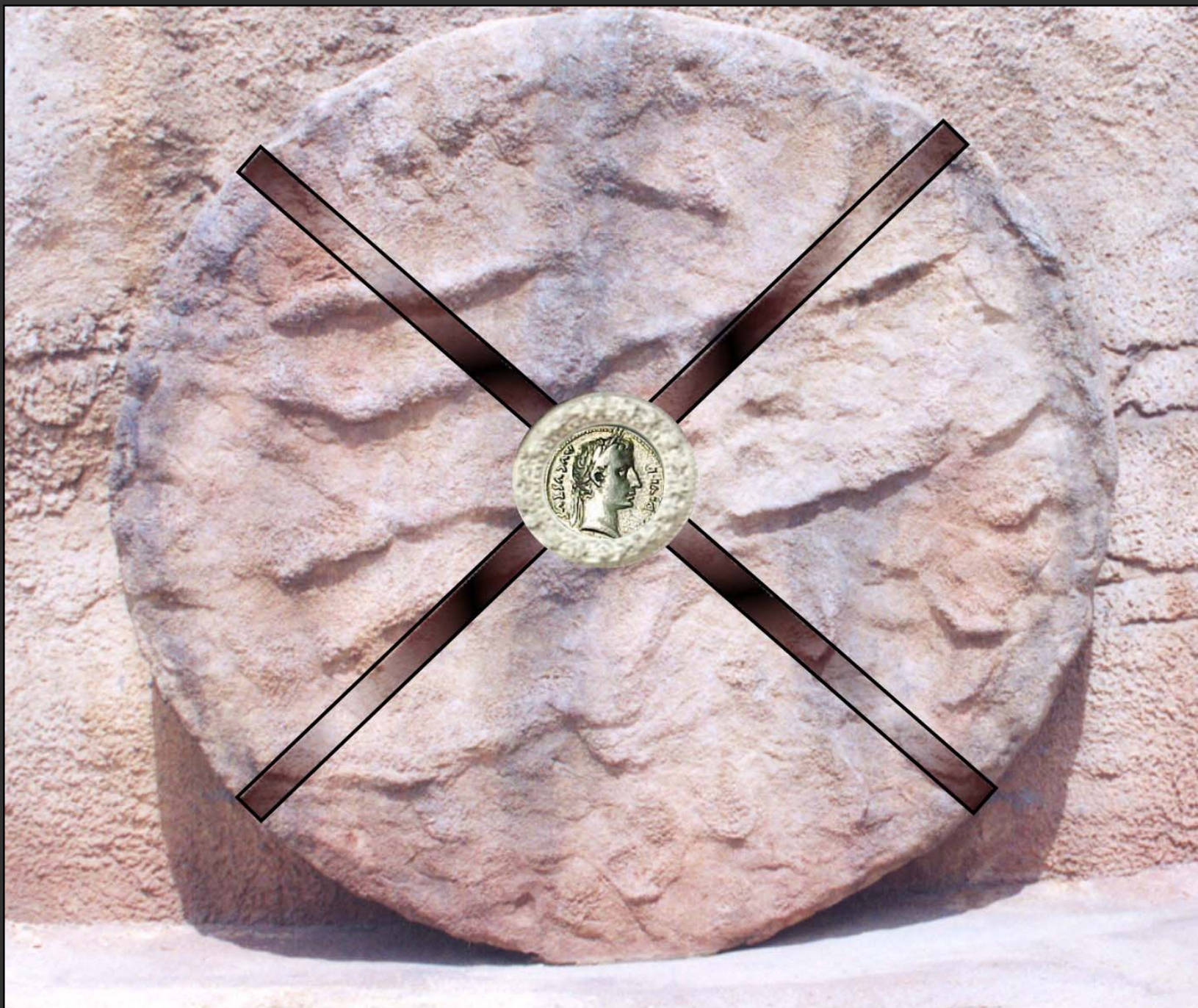
- 2. A very large stone covered the tomb.**
 - a. Parentheses – 20 men could not move the stone.**
 - b. Two Georgia Tech engineers – 1½ to 2 tons.**

COLLATERAL CIRCUMSTANCES

3. Roman Security Guard

- a. Pilate gave a *koustodia* – 16 men, 5 weapons each.
- b. Roman Military Law – Death penalty.
 - I. Sleeping while on duty.
 - II. Leaving post without authorization.

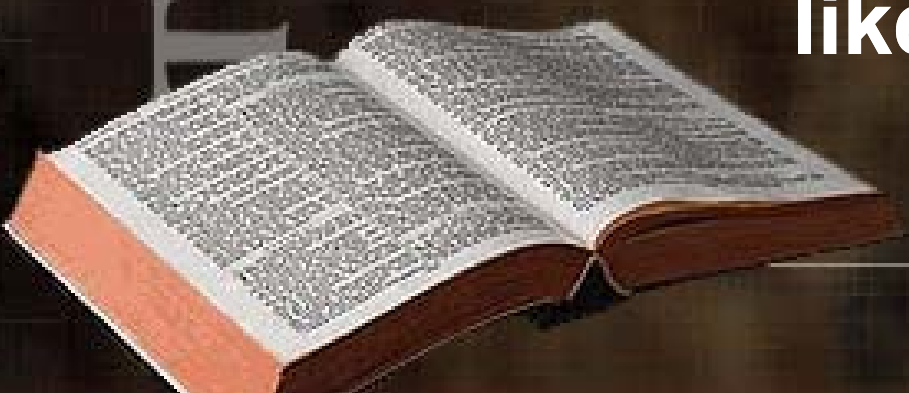
4. The Roman Seal was placed over the tombstone.



THE TRUTH

And behold there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from Heaven and came and rolled back the stone, and sat upon it. His appearance was like lightening and his clothing white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men.

Matthew 28.2-4



Something happened three days after Christ's burial resulting in three facts that must be reasonably explained:

1. The empty tomb

2. The appearances of Christ

3. The permanently transformed lives of the Apostles

If you **examine every theory** advanced to explain away the three **critical facts, your conviction of the truth of the resurrection of Christ will grow stronger than ever.**

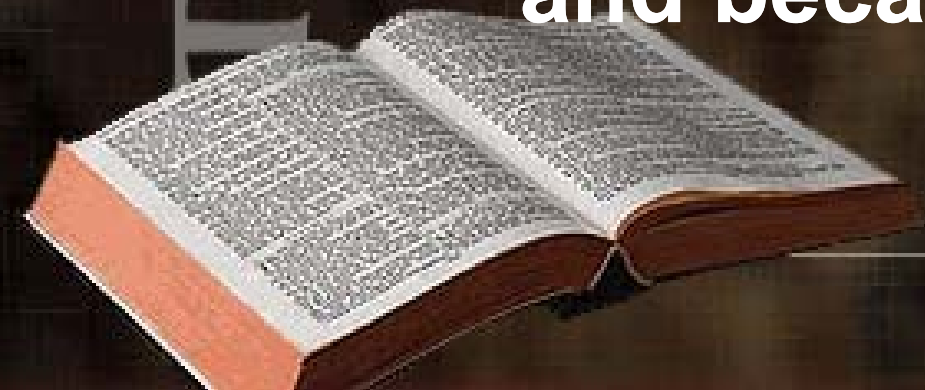
THEORIES ADVANCED TO REFUTE THE SUPERNATURAL RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST

1. The disciples removed the body while the guards slept.

THE TRUTH

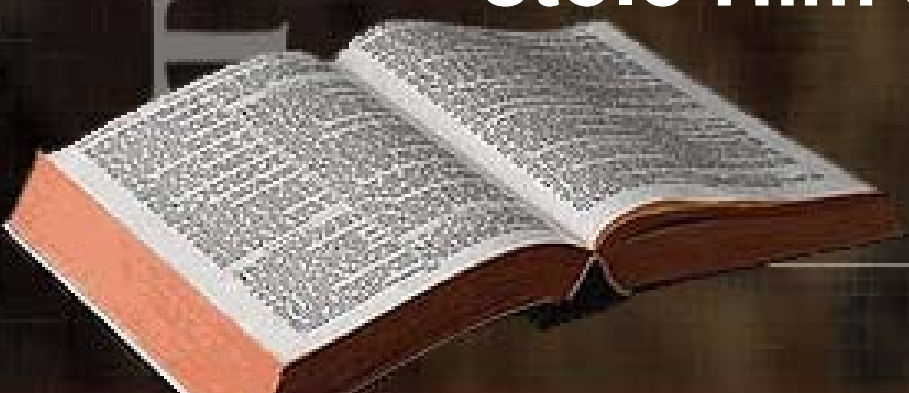
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Matthew 28:2-4



THE TRUTH

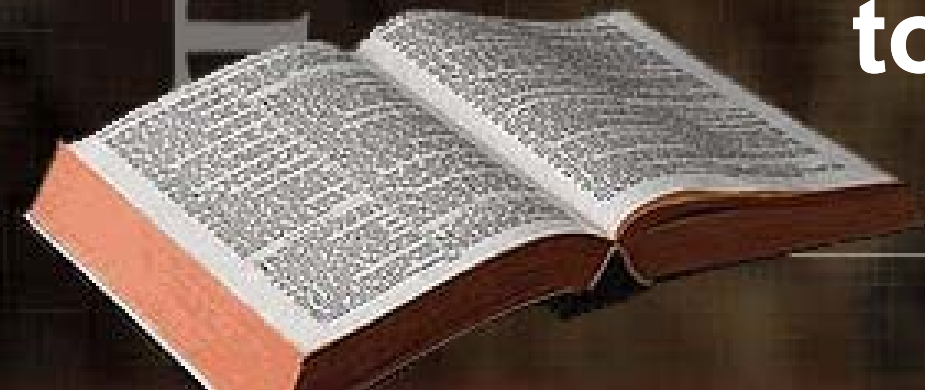
While they were going, behold, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests all that had taken place. And when they had assembled with the elders and taken council, they gave a sum of money to the soldiers and said, “tell people His disciples came by night and stole Him away while we were asleep...



THE TRUTH

...And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." So they took the money and did as they were directed; and this story has been spread among the Jews to this day.

Matthew 28:11-15



THEORIES ADVANCED TO REFUTE THE SUPERNATURAL RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST

- 1. The disciples removed the body while the guards slept.**
 - a. No one can testify about events that happened while they slept.
 - b. The guards slept despite the death penalty?
 - c. The rolling stone failed to wake the guard?
 - d. Motive Dilemma
- 2. The authorities moved the body for safe keeping.**





© HEY, SHUT THOSE GUYS UP!

YEAH, SHUT THEM UP.

JUST SHOW THEM THE BODY.

YES, SHOW THEM THE BODY.

DO YOU HAVE THE BODY?

NO, WE DON'T HAVE THE BODY.

DOES ANYONE HAVE THE BODY?

3. The women went to the wrong tomb.

- a. The disciples went to the wrong tomb.**
- b. The Jews went to the wrong tomb.**
- c. The Romans went to the wrong tomb.**
- d. Joseph of Aramathea went to the wrong tomb.**

4. The Passover Plot

- a. The disciples had little money for bribery.**
- b. The guard would keep the money and kill the disciples.**

5. Christ's Spirit rose but not His body.

- a. Even enemies did not dispute the empty tomb.**
- b. Jesus lied? – “Destroy this temple...” John 2:19**

c. Jesus said, “...handle me, and see for a spirit has not flesh and bones as you see that I have.” Luke 24:39

6. The witnesses all had the same hallucinations.

a. Hallucinations are highly subjective.

b. Hallucinations do not persist for only forty days.

c. Hallucinations cannot be touched – Thomas.

7. An identical twin deceived the disciples.

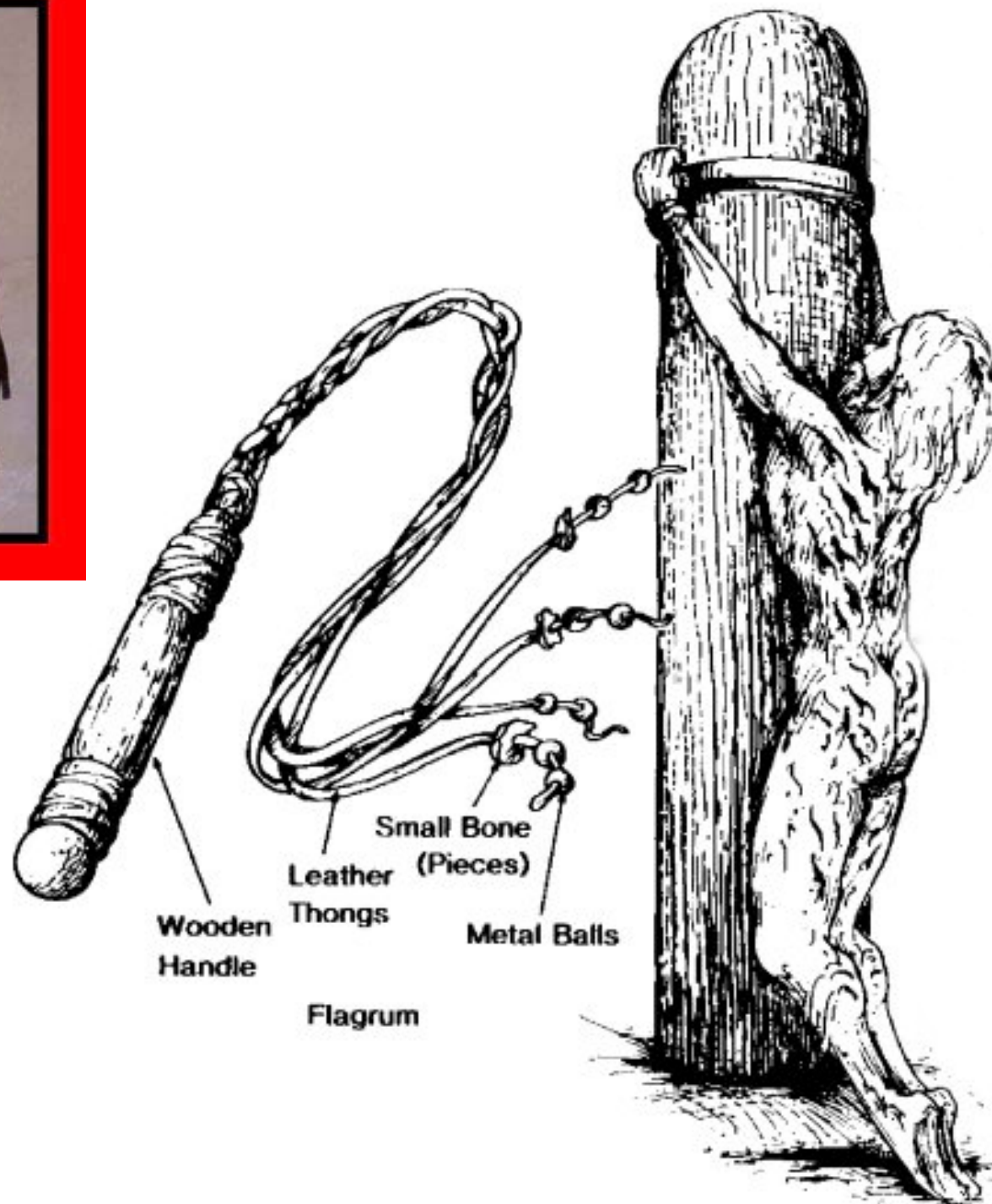
- a. Where did the twin come from?**
- b. The marks of crucifixion? – Thomas**
- c. No knowledge of previous experiences.**
- d. No ability to do miracles.**

8. Christ only swooned (fainted) on the cross.

a. Christ didn't die?

- I. He sweat great drops of blood.**
- II. Endured a sleepless night.**
- III. He was beaten with fists.**
- IV. A crown of thorns was beaten into His head.**
- V. Scourged with the Roman flagellum.**





...and having
scourged
Jesus,
delivered Him
to be
crucified.

Matthew 27:26

VI. He couldn't carry His cross.

VII. He was crucified with iron spikes.

VIII. A spear was thrust into His heart.

IX. Four professional executioners signed His death certificate.

X. His body was wrapped like a mummy.



MAYBE JESUS DIDN'T DIE. MAYBE HE JUST PASSED OUT ON THE CROSS, THEN WOKE UP IN THE TOMB, PUSHED OVER THE TWO-TON STONE, OVERPOWERED THE ROMAN SOLDIERS, AND ESCAPED.

A CRITICAL QUESTION

Would eleven men die for a lie if they **knew** it was a lie?

Blaise Pascal:

They went through the test of death to determine their veracity.

Dr. Simon Greenleaf concluded:

“If they believed in a future state of retribution, a heaven and a hell thereafter, they took the most certain course, if false witnesses, to secure the latter for their portion. And if, still being bad men, they did not believe in future punishment, how came they to invent falsehoods, the direct and certain...

Dr. Simon Greenleaf concluded:

...tendency of which was to destroy all their prospects of worldly honor and happiness and to insure their misery in this life? From these absurdities there is no escape but in the perfect confidence and admission that they were good men, testifying to that which they had carefully observed and considered and well knew to be true.”

Lord Darling, Former Chief Justice of Great Britain concluded:

“There exists such overwhelming evidence, positive and negative, factual and circumstantial, that no intelligent jury in the world could fail to bring in a verdict that the resurrection story is true!”

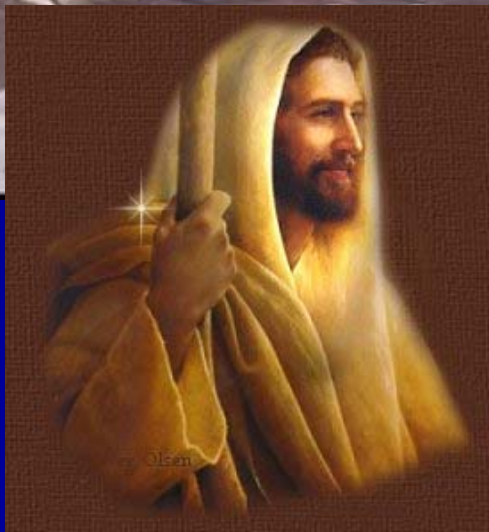
WHAT IS YOUR VERDICT?

What reasonable explanation do you have for:

The empty tomb.

The hundreds of eye witnesses.

The permanently transformed lives of the Apostles.



**WHAT
WILL YOU
DO WITH
JESUS
CHRIST?**