

Dead or Alive?

You can't have a relationship with a dead man. Yet millions of Christians claim to *know* Jesus, to talk to Him and hear Him talk to them.

That's impossible if the resurrection did not happen. Is there any evidence that it did? These are the arguments people put up to say *NO!*:

Gospel-Made-up Later

The Gospel stories were made up long after the time of Jesus by the apostles in later life. They wanted something amazing to give their teaching more oomph.

But the Bible isn't the only place where we can read about the resurrection. Jewish historians Josephus and Tacitus also record reports of the resurrection from dates very early on. So this theory falls.

Disciples Stole body

The Disciples stole the body of Jesus sometime before that Sunday morning, so that they could invent a story about resurrection and get lots of people to believe in them.

But that's almost impossible because: there was a heavy stone across the tomb **AND** the tomb was guarded by Roman soldiers

More than that, it would mean that the apostles were liars. Yet even non-Christians accept that the books and letters that these men wrote contain some of the most moral and good teaching we know. It is unlikely, almost impossible, that cheats and liars could write such material.

Also, lots of the apostles were eventually martyred (killed) for their preaching about then resurrection. Yet not one of them 'broke' under torture. None of them said 'we nicked the body, its buried at...'

Also, remember what Peter and the others were like at the crucifixion. Scared and frightened. *Something big* must have happened to make them bold and powerful preachers only a few weeks later. So this theory falls.

JESUS and ME

Authorities stole body

So perhaps the Jewish leaders or Romans moved the body. They knew that it was likely to become a scene of pilgrimage, a shrine; so maybe they moved it and destroyed it to get the whole Jesus movement killed quickly.

Neither did they argue with the apostles when they arrested them. They just said "Shut up, don't say any more about this to the people" (see the stories in Acts).
So this theory falls.

But if they did do that, they could easily have solved an even bigger problem that arose too. Within months of the crucifixion, Jerusalem was buzzing with stories of the resurrection. People claimed to have met Jesus, talked with Jesus, eaten with Jesus. Not just one or two, but hundreds claimed this. It even made the news (as I said, it was reported by Josephus and we still have his writings from the time). It would have been easy to kill this there and then. All they had to do was say "Rubbish, we moved his body and buried it at....." or "we destroyed his body, here's the official report about what we did". But they didn't.

Lawyer convinced

Several people have tried to disprove the resurrection. One, a British lawyer last century set out to write a book looking at all the evidence and showing it did not happen. Instead, he became convinced that it did and wrote a book saying so.

People know Jesus today because Jesus *is* alive!