

The Resurrection



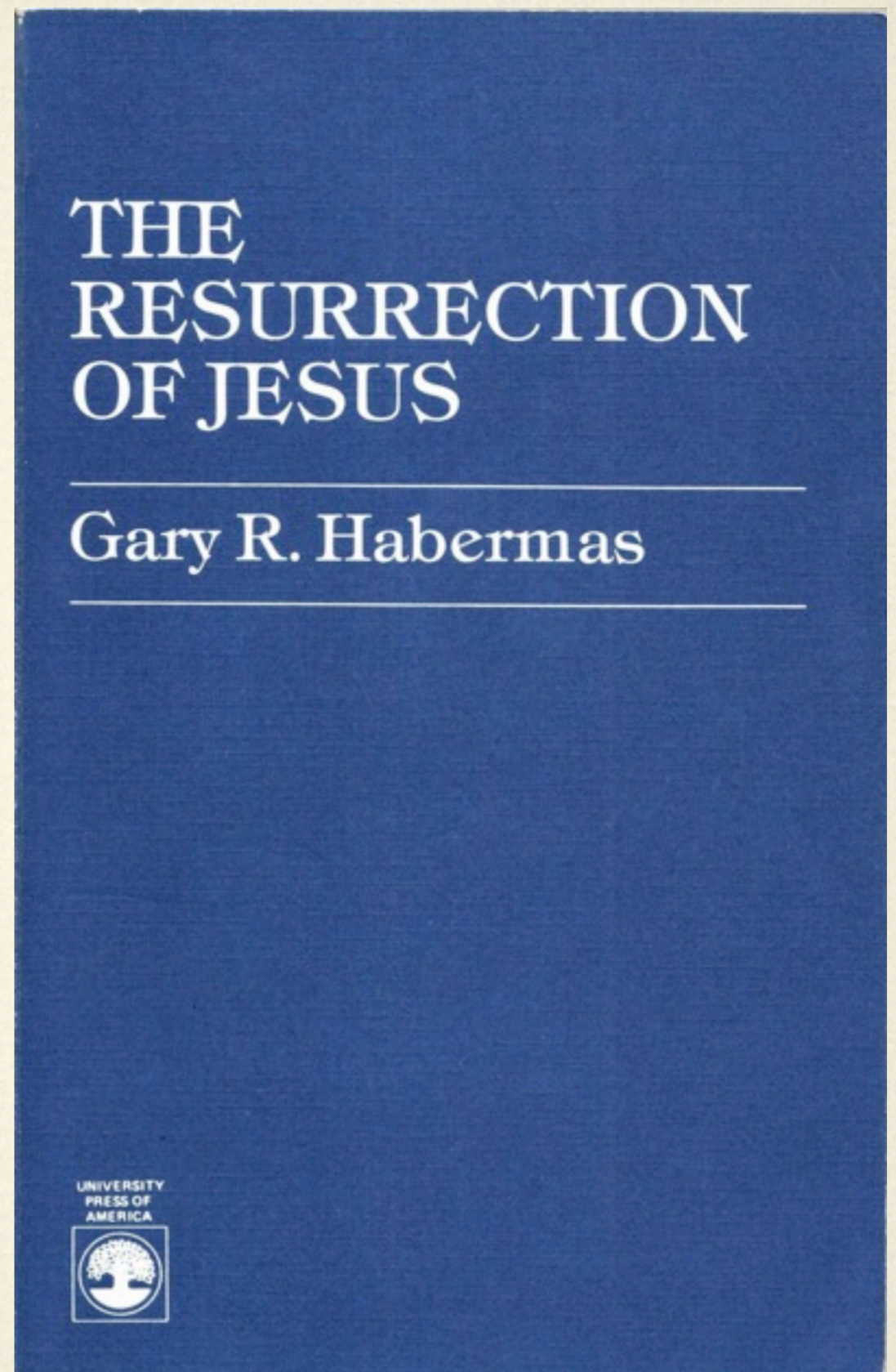
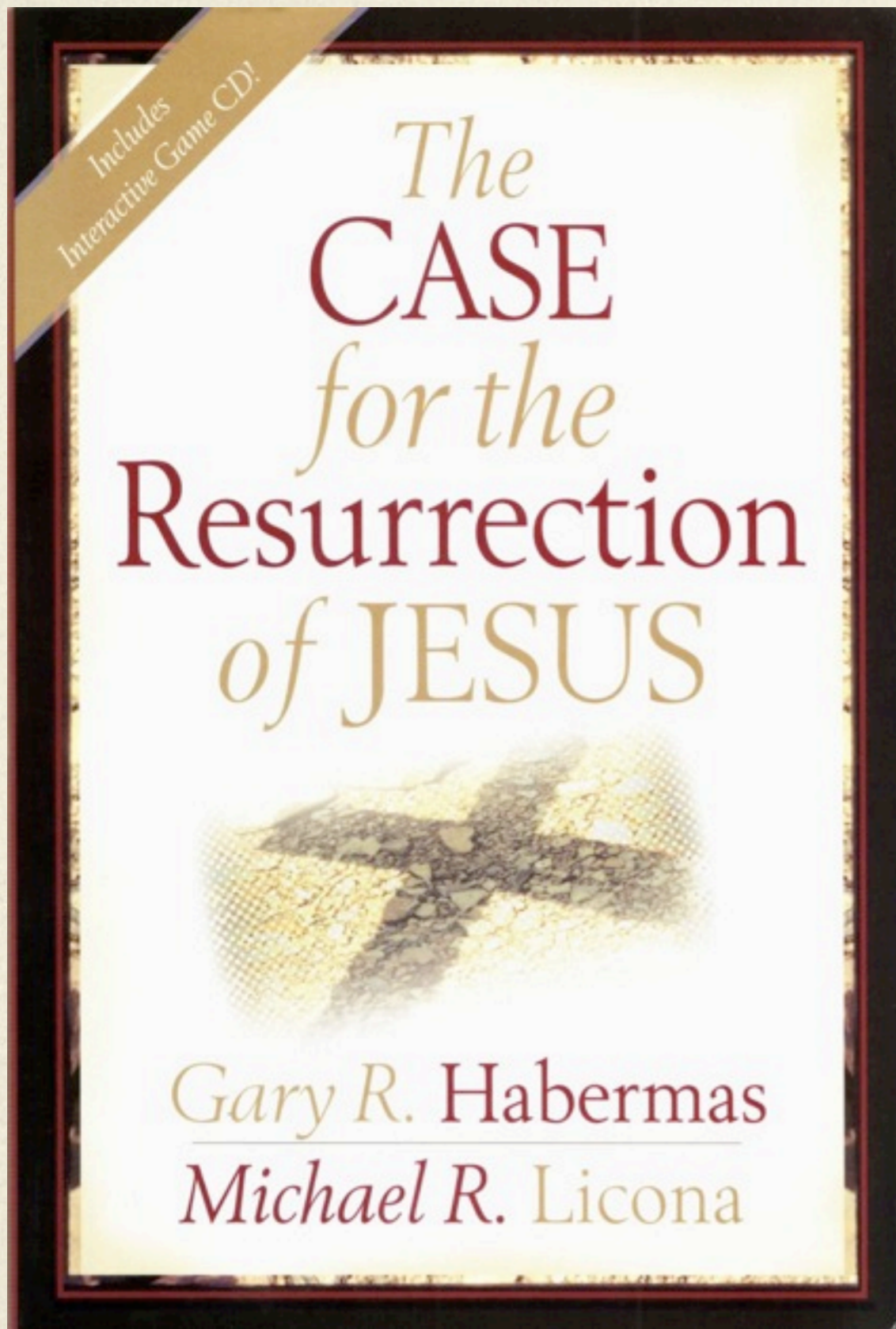
Of Jesus Christ

Rev. 1.0

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ (with notes).

Revision 1.

The approach used in this slide presentation to establish the historicity of Christ's resurrection from the dead was developed by Gary R. Habermas in his book titled, "The Resurrection of Jesus" and Gary R. Habermas and Michael R. Licona in their book entitled, "The CASE for the Resurrection of JESUS."



The Case for the Resurrection of Jesus
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The Resurrection of Jesus
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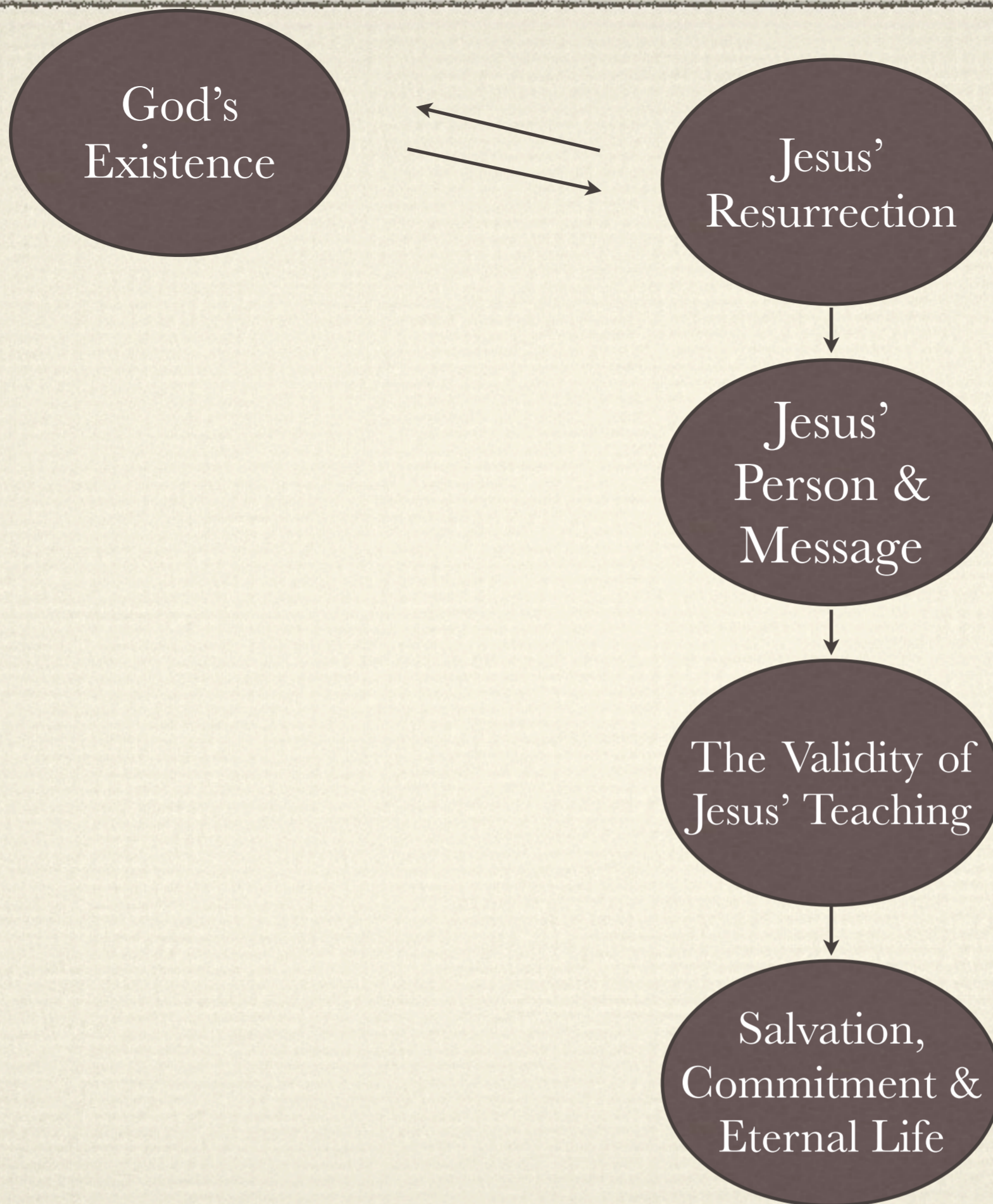
History 101

Five Historical Principles Speak to Resurrection

1. Multiple, independent sources support historical claims.
2. Attestation by an enemy supports historical claims.
3. Embarrassing admissions support historical claims.
4. Eyewitness testimony supports historical claims.
5. Early testimony supports historical claims.



God's Existence



1. Of late it has been common to defend the Christian faith by attempting to prove the Genesis account of creation, a young Earth, and the Flood. However, because early Christian evangelism typically began with an assertion of Christ's resurrection and no mention of Creation, and also because the ongoing Intelligent Design versus Big Bang controversy has stiffened opposition to Creationism and a literal interpretation of Genesis, a more effective strategy is to show the historical evidence of Jesus' resurrection.
2. There are ten good evidences of Jesus' resurrection.
3. They can be found in "The Resurrection of Jesus," pages 33 – 38.
4. However, for simplicity's sake, another approach has been found to be very effective.
5. Thus, the starting point should be Jesus' resurrection, which powerfully argues for the existence of God, which will then lead to a presentation of the Gospel.

A Quintet of Facts (4+1)

The First Two

- ❖ *The First Fact:* Jesus died by crucifixion.
- ❖ *The Second Fact:* Jesus' disciples believed He rose and appeared to them.

Jesus Died Due to Crucifixion

(non-Christian sources)

- ❖ Josephus
- ❖ Tacitus
- ❖ Lucian
- ❖ Mara Bar-Serapion
- ❖ Talmud

1. Simon Greenleaf, the founder of the Harvard Law School, in his book “The TESTIMONY of the EVANGELISTS: The Gospels Examined by the Rules of Evidence Administered in Courts of Justice,” Kregel Classics, writes, “In the absence of circumstances which generates suspicion, every witness is to be presumed credible, until the contrary is shown; the burden of impeaching his credibility lying on the objector,” page 29.
2. Thus, it is a rule of evidence that the statements from the above mentioned sources are to be assumed accurate.
3. Jesus Seminar critic, John Dominic Crossan: “That He was crucified is as sure as anything historical can ever be,” The Case for the Resurrection of Jesus, page 49.
4. Everyone who studies subject accepts the crucifixion of Jesus as true.

Jesus' Disciples Sincerely Believed He Rose from the Dead and Appeared to Them

- ❖ They Claimed It
- ❖ They Believed It

(next)

Jesus' Disciples Sincerely Believed He Rose from the Dead and Appeared to Them

- ❖ They Claimed It (POW!)
 - ❖ Paul
 - ❖ Oral Tradition
 - ❖ Creeds (e.g., 1Cor. 15:3-7)
 - ❖ Sermon Summaries (e.g., Acts 2)

(next)

1. At this point we are concerned with Paul's verification of the original disciples' claims, people he knew.
2. The Creeds are believed to have originated within five years of the resurrection.
3. The Sermon Summaries report statements made within weeks of the resurrection.

Jesus' Disciples Sincerely Believed He Rose from the Dead and Appeared to Them (Continued)

❖ Written Tradition

❖ Gospels

❖ Matthew

❖ Mark

❖ Luke-Acts

❖ John

❖ Apostolic Fathers

❖ Clement

❖ Polycarp

(next)

Jesus' Disciples Sincerely Believed He Rose from the Dead and Appeared to Them (Continued)

❖ They Believed It, Evidenced by Their Willingness to Suffer.

❖ Acts

❖ Polycarp

❖ Tertullian

❖ Clement of Rome

❖ Ignatius

❖ Origen

❖ Dionysius of Corinth (E)

(next)

1. (E) signifies the quotation is found in Eusebius.

Jesus' Disciples Sincerely Believed He Rose from the Dead and Appeared to Them (Continued)

- ❖ They Claimed It

- ❖ Paul

- ❖ Oral Tradition

- ❖ Creeds

- ❖ Sermon Summaries

- ❖ Written Tradition

- ❖ Gospels

- ❖ Apostolic Fathers

- ❖ They Believed It

- ❖ 7 Ancient Sources Attest to their Willingness to Suffer and Die for their Claim

A Quintet of Facts (4+1)

The Last Three

- ❖ *The Third Fact:* The church persecutor Paul was suddenly changed.

Conversion of the Church Persecutor Paul

❖ Conversion

- ❖ Paul
- ❖ Acts
- ❖ Known by Early Christians in Judea (Galatians)

❖ Suffering & Martyrdom

- ❖ Paul
- ❖ Luke
- ❖ Clement of Rome
- ❖ Polycarp
- ❖ Tertullian
- ❖ Dionysius of Corinth (E)
- ❖ Origen (E)

1. Paul (1Cor 15:9–10; Gal 1:12–16, 22–23; Phil 3:6–7)
2. Acts 9, 22, 26.

A Quintet of Facts (4+1)

The Last Three

- ❖ *The Fourth Fact:* The skeptic James, brother of Jesus, was suddenly changed.

Conversion of the Skeptic James

❖ Conversion

- ❖ (Before) Gospels Report Jesus' Brothers Were Unbelievers Prior to Resurrection
- ❖ Early Creed Reports Appearance of Risen Jesus to James
- ❖ (After) Paul & Acts Identify James as a Leader in the Church

❖ Martyrdom

- ❖ Josephus
- ❖ Hegesippus (E)
- ❖ Clement of Alexandria (E)

1. Matthew 13:55–56; Mark 3:21, 31; 6:3–4; John 7:5
2. 1 Corinthians 15:3–7

A Quintet of Facts (4+1)

The First Four

- ❖ *The First Fact:* Jesus died by crucifixion.
- ❖ *The Second Fact:* Jesus' disciples believed He rose and appeared to them.
- ❖ *The Third Fact:* The church persecutor Paul was suddenly changed.
- ❖ *The Fourth Fact:* The skeptic James, brother of Jesus, was suddenly changed.

A Quintet of Facts (4+1)

The Last Three

❖ *The Fifth Fact:* The tomb was empty.



Golgatha (Mt. Calvary)



The Garden Tomb

Note: This is almost NOT the place Jesus was buried. The original burial site is very likely to be where the Church of the Holy Sepulchre is located, though most evangelicals prefer the peaceful setting of the Garden Tomb.



Looking Into the Empty Tomb



Empty Tomb

Empty Tomb (JET)

- ❖ Jerusalem Factor
- ❖ Enemy Attested
- ❖ Testimony of Women

1. Difficult to perpetrate a fraud in the city where the event occurred. Unrecognizable body claim dispelled by arid climate and any corpse would hurt.
2. Jesus disciples accused of stealing body (Matthew 28:12–13; Justin Martyr's conversation with Trypho; Tertullian)
3. Testimony of Women, The Case of the Testimony of Jesus, page 72–73.

Five Facts (4 + 1)

- ❖ Jesus' Death by Crucifixion
- ❖ Disciples' Beliefs that Jesus Appeared
- ❖ Conversion of the Church Persecutor Paul
- ❖ Conversion of the Skeptic James
- ❖ Empty Tomb

These five facts accomplish two things:

1. They provide compelling evidence for Jesus' resurrection, and,
2. They stand as data that must be accounted for by any opposing theory

Legend

❖ Embellishments

- ❖ Original Disciples claimed resurrection from beginning
- ❖ Paul claimed to have seen Jesus
- ❖ James claimed to have seen Jesus
- ❖ Critics need evidence for assertions

❖ Non-Historical Genre

- ❖ Empty Tomb
- ❖ Conversion of the church persecutor Paul
- ❖ Conversion of the skeptic James
- ❖ Critics need evidence for assertions
- ❖ Resurrection is historical genre
- ❖ Ancient critics attempted to refute an historical resurrection*

* Scriptural accounts of the resurrection must be treated as historical genre because even the enemies of Christianity treated the claims of Jesus' resurrection by Christians as history!

Resurrections in Other Religions

❖ Accounts are unclear

- ❖ Not considered parallels by today's standards
- ❖ First clear parallel account is 100+ years after Jesus
- ❖ Questionable whether resurrection was reported in earliest version of account

❖ Accounts lack evidence and can easily be accounted for by opposing theories

- ❖ Accounts cannot explain the evidence that exists for Jesus' resurrection

Five Facts (4 + 1)

- ❖ Jesus' Death by Crucifixion
- ❖ Disciples' Beliefs that Jesus Appeared (POW!)
- ❖ Conversion of the Church Persecutor Paul
- ❖ Conversion of the Skeptic James
- ❖ Empty Tomb (JET)

Fraud

❖ Fraud 1 (Disciples Lied/Stole Body)*

- ❖ Disciples really believed resurrection
- ❖ Conversion of the church persecutor Paul based on appearance
- ❖ Conversion of the skeptic James based on appearance

❖ Fraud 2 (Someone Else Stole Body)

- ❖ Conversion of the church persecutor Paul based on appearance
- ❖ Conversion of the skeptic James based on appearance
- ❖ Beliefs of the Disciples based on appearance
- ❖ At best, only questions cause of empty tomb

Fraud theories assume the resurrection accounts to be deception.

* While the disciples of Jesus maintained their claims of having witnessed Jesus' resurrection for years and even unto martyrdom, it is interesting to note that the Watergate coverup, which involved a conspiracy by well educated and trained professionals, completely unravelled after only two weeks.

Wrong Tomb

Six Major Problems Beset the “Wrong Tomb” Theory:

1. Does Not Account for Appearances to Disciples
2. Followers Not Convinced by Empty Tomb, But by Appearances
3. Paul Not Convinced by Empty Tomb, But by Appearance
4. James Not Convinced by Empty Tomb, But by Appearance
5. No Sources Suggest Wrong Tomb
6. Burial by Joseph Indicates Tomb’s Location Known



ROSA M. PEREZ

OCT. 24, 1980 - DEC. 3, 2008

CONVERTED BY GOD'S GRACE

ON MARCH 9, 2003

ALONE IN THE DARK, WITHOUT ANY LIGHT
THAT'S HOW IT IS WITHOUT JESUS IN YOUR LIFE.

Apparent Death Theory

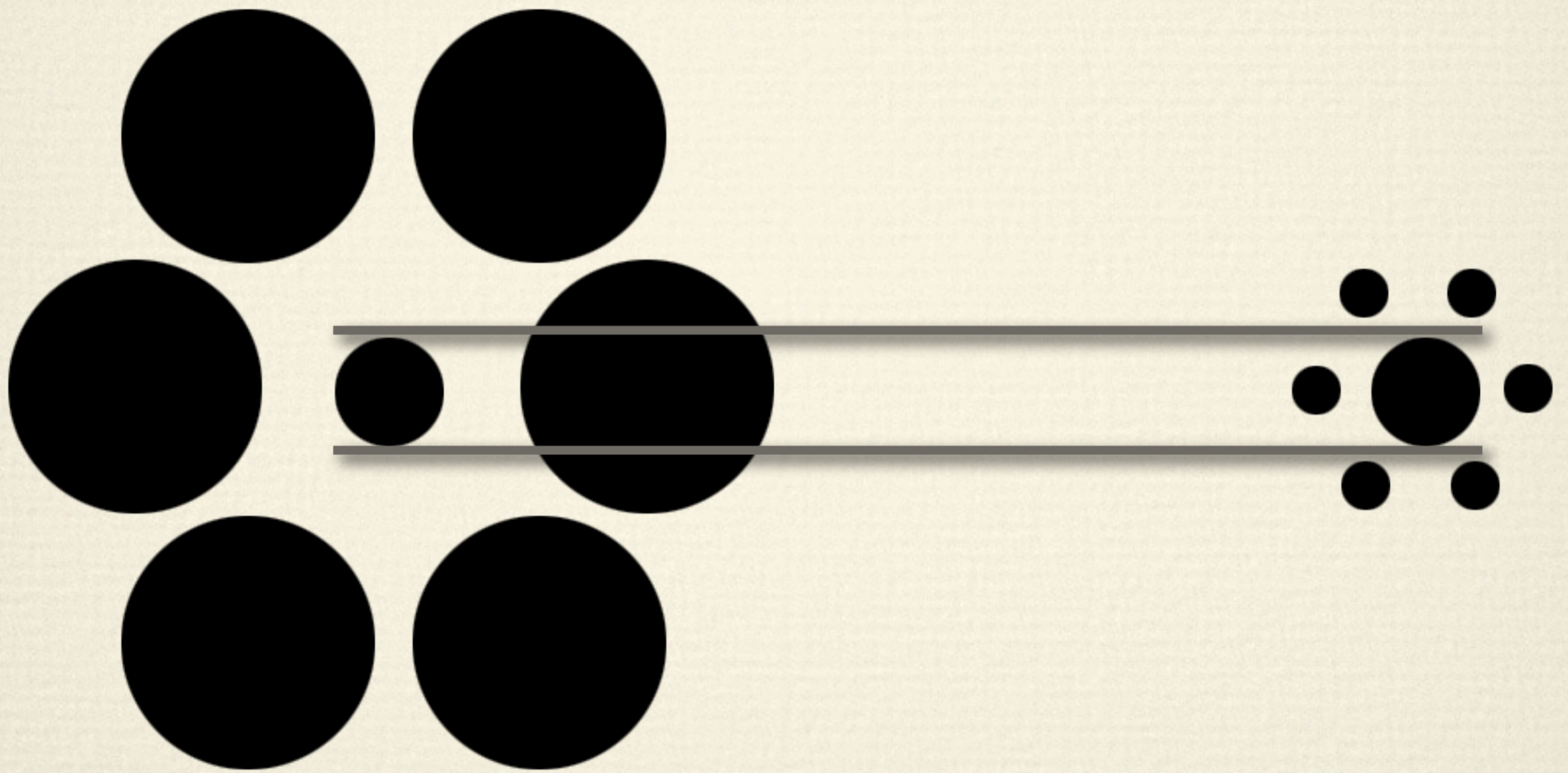
- ❖ JAMA (Journal of the American Medical Association)*
- ❖ Asphyxiation
- ❖ Spear Wound†
- ❖ Strauss' Critique††
- ❖ Paul Experienced “Glorious” Appearance

* Page 100 of “The CASE for the Resurrection of JESUS.”

† Blood and water coming from chest wound proves death beyond all doubt

†† Essentially, Strauss' criticized the notion that anyone scourged and crucified would be able to revive in the cool tomb, would then be able to roll back a stone weighing thousands of pounds using wounded hands and walk on nail-pierced feet, then convincing His disciples that He had risen from the dead and should be worshiped and obeyed as the Lord of life. Preposterous!!

Mind Games



Which center dot is bigger? Some who deny the resurrection claim honest people were merely tricked into believing something that didn't really happen.

Hallucinations

- ❖ Not Group Occurrences
- ❖ Empty Tomb
- ❖ Conversion of the Church Persecutor Paul
- ❖ Conversion of the Skeptic James
- ❖ Too Many Personal Variances

Hallucinations break down as an explanation for the claims of Jesus' resurrection in five ways:

Delusions

- ❖ Conversion of the Church Persecutor Paul
- ❖ Conversion of the Skeptic James
- ❖ Empty Tomb

Delusions cannot account for three things:

Visions

- ❖ “Visions” is Vague Term; Define
 - ❖ If Vision Genre = See Legend
 - ❖ If Objective = Risen Christ
 - ❖ If Subjective = Hallucination/Delusion
- ❖ Empty Tomb
- ❖ Bodily Nature of Appearances

Combination Theories

- ❖ Combinations of Theories Generally Lead to Higher *Improbabilities*
- ❖ Many of the Same Problems Still Exist as When Considered Individually
- ❖ Number of Additional Explanations Needed Appears *Ad Hoc*
- ❖ Must Show Other Explanations Are True

Discrepancies in the Gospels Concerning Resurrection

- ❖ At most, calls inerrancy into question, not resurrection
- ❖ Historical conclusions are not made this way
- ❖ Differences may indicate Gospels are independent accounts of resurrection, and, therefore, provide multiple attestation
- ❖ Many, if not all, tensions in accounts can be answered

Biased Testimony

- ❖ Paul Unbiased
- ❖ James Unbiased
- ❖ Eliminates Virtually All History
- ❖ Bias Does Not Require Distortion
- ❖ Genetic Fallacy*
- ❖ *Ad Hominem* Fallacy†

If bias disqualifies historical accounts then there was no Armenian genocide and no Holocaust.

* This refers to an attempt to discredit a historical event because the event was wrongly attributed to an erroneous source, e.g. the Romans attributing a great victory to Jupiter does not negate the reality of the great victory.

† Focusing on the person making the argument rather than dealing with the legitimate claims of the argument itself.

On pages 127–128 of “The Case for the Resurrection of Jesus,” the authors point out at least forty-two, nine of them secular, mentioned Jesus within 150 years of his death. By comparison, Julius Caesar, one of Rome’s most prominent figures being very well known for his military conquests, nevertheless has his military conquests reported by only five sources. In the 150 after His death, more non-Christian authors alone comment on Jesus than all of the sources who mention Julius Caesar’s great military conquests within 150 of his death.

Something Happened, But Don't Know What

- ❖ Rejects Conclusion Not Evidence
- ❖ What We Know Counts Heavily
 - ❖ Evidence points to resurrection
 - ❖ Opposing theories fail
- ❖ Religio-Historical Context Increases Likelihood of Resurrection*
 - ❖ Jesus claimed divinity
 - ❖ Jesus performed miraculous deeds
 - ❖ There is other evidence for God's existence

*Christ's claims of divinity, the great variety of miracles that He performed, and the other evidences for God's existence, provides a context in which the resurrection seems certain.

Naturalism

1. Only What Science Proves is True

- a. Science is limited*
- b. Self-refuting, since this position can't prove itself
- c. Self-refuting, since scientific method can't prove itself
- d. Historian can deal with non-supernatural elements of resurrection data†

(next)

* Most people are so unconsciously biased in favor of science that they do not realize how limited science is as a tool to investigate the truth, being restricted to that which can be observed and that which can be experimented upon (repeating events).

† The reach of history is far broader than the reach of science, because history can address non-repeatable events and occurrences not witnessed by the historian.

Naturalism (continued)

2. Science Proves that People Don't Come Back to Life

- a. Science proves that people don't rise by natural causes
- b. Jesus' life and claims provide a context where His resurrection was right at home*

(next)

* Nothing is more appealing to the Christian than the certainty that Christ's resurrection could not possibly have occurred by natural means.

Naturalism (continued)

3. Science Can Explain Everything. We Don't Need a God

- a. Former “God of the gaps” explanations no more undermine current arguments for God than discarded scientific theories undermine today’s science
- b. Genetic fallacy*
- c. Not what we don’t know, but what we do know
- d. Unjustified leap to proclaim we’ll find a scientific answer for Resurrection

(next)

* The error that the origin of a belief necessarily speaks to the legitimacy of the belief. That the Romans credited a military victory to the intercession of Jupiter does not negate the reality of the military victory.

Naturalism (continued)

4. If God Exists, He Cannot Intervene in the Laws of Nature*

- a. How does skeptic who claims God cannot be known scientifically know what God can and cannot do?
- b. What would prohibit God from suspending the laws He created?
- c. Jesus' resurrection would show that God *could* and *did* act in our world

(next)

* The phrase "Laws of Nature" is an unfortunate choice of words if it leads to the erroneous conclusion that God's actions are limited by these "Laws."

Naturalism (continued)

5. Science Must Assume a Naturalistic Explanation for Everything

- a. Should not deny supernatural explanation, when evidence points that way, religio-historical context exists, and no plausible natural explanations.
- b. Question is whether there is a God who may have superseded nature
- c. Certain miracles have characteristics that show they are actual interferences with the laws of nature
- d. Arguing in a circle, since it assumes naturalism

(next)

Naturalism (continued)

6. Even if a Miracle Occurred, We Could Never Know it Was a Miracle
 - a. If God exists, we have reason to consider a divine cause
 - b. Religio-historical context can identify an act as a miracle
 - c. Expanding laws of nature to eliminate miraculous nature of data creates more problems

(next)

Naturalism (continued)

7. Miracles in Other Religions Count Against Christian Miracle Claims

- a. Genuine miracles could happen among unbelievers and be entirely compatible with Christian belief
- b. Poorly evidenced miracles cannot rule out well-evidenced ones
- c. Usually always dismissed by plausible opposing theories, whereas these fall for Jesus' resurrection

(next)

Naturalism (continued)

8. Huge Mountain of Probability Against Event Ever Being an Act of God
 - a. If God exists, there is no reason to reject possibility of miracles
 - b. Claiming we should deny Jesus' resurrection, no matter how strong the evidence, *a priori* rules out possibility that this data may overthrow naturalism
 - c. We learn about the nature of this world by experiences. Only one legitimate miracle claim overthrows naturalism
 - d. Answered prayer & NDEs significantly challenge a naturalistic interpretation of this world