

The Reality of the Resurrection

I Corinthians 15: 1 - 8

Some Minimal facts about the Resurrection:

1. Jesus died by crucifixion
2. His death caused the disciples to despair and lose hope
3. The tomb was empty
4. The disciples believed they had seen the risen Jesus
5. The disciples were transformed
6. These 2 unlikely people were converted: James and Paul

Some Skeptic theories

1. Jesus did not die
2. The disciples stole the body
3. The Jews or Romans (or somebody else) stole the body
4. The early church hallucinated about the resurrection appearances
5. The resurrection account was embellished over time
6. Jesus had a twin brother
7. The disciples and women went to the wrong tomb
8. There is not enough evidence for an extraordinary claim

The Resurrection of Jesus is foundational to Christianity.

1. It proved that Jesus was God (Rom 1:4, Matt 12:39,40, Matt 16:21)
2. It proved Jesus power to forgive sins (I Cor 15:17)
3. It revealed Jesus power over death (Rom 6:8-9)
4. It provided a Living hope (I Peter 1:3)

Paul's Conclusions (I Cor 15:58)

1. Stand firm in your faith
2. Be ready to defend and explain the gospel
3. Don't let worldly philosophies pull you away from the truth
4. Devote yourself to the Lord's work

Examples of Early Christian Creeds (I Cor 15: 3-8, I Tim 3:16, II Tim 2: 11-13, I Cor 11: 23-26, Phil 2:6-22, Rom 10:9)