

I Cor. 15:1- 8 Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand.... For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve.

After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.”

I. Could it be a lie?

1) Is this really conceivable?

1Cor. 15:14-15...if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting (*pseudomartus* = *bearing false witness to*) God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ... b) Where's the evidence?

I. Could it be a lie?

1) Is this really conceivable?

2) What's the motive?

3) Where are the dissenters?

4) Why do the accounts differ?

II. Could it be a legend?

- 1) Jews resisted legends – especially about “divine men”**
- 2) not nearly enough time for a legend**
- 3) counter-cultural message**
- 4) the original witnesses are the ones proclaiming the message**

III. Could it be a hallucination?

- 1) Too many people (disciples + women + more than 500)**
- 2) Too long a time (40 days)**
- 3) Not what they expected**
- 4) They describe it as a resurrection, not a “vision”**
- 5) What of the empty tomb? (J of Arimethia)**

IV. Other Evidence This is Eyewitness Testimony

Jn 20:1-8. Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark (I) Mary Magdalene (CP) went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved (I) and said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we (H) don’t know where they have put him!”

So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first (I). He bent over (HS) and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in(I). Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb (HS). He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head (I). The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen(I, CP). Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first(I), also went inside. He saw and believed.(I)

V. The Resurrection “Fits”