

Lk 1:1-4. Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us. Just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

Background

1. The Author
2. The Date
3. The Audience

**“...*so that* you may know the certainty
of the things you have been taught.”**

1 Pet 3:15: “...in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.”

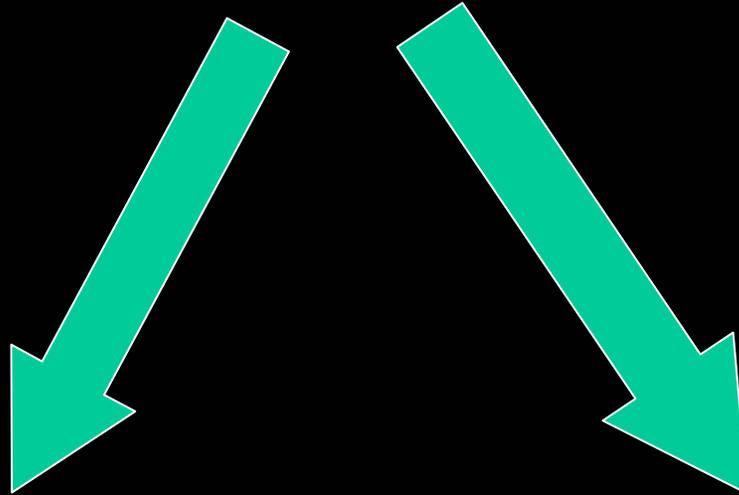


Some Old Fashion Logic

True

OR

False



Intentional
Conspiracy Theory

Unintentional
Legendary Theory

1. No Evidence

2. No Motive

3. No Deserters

**4. The Counter-Cultural Dimension of
Their Gospel**

**5. If Lying, Their Message Could Be
Easily Falsified**

Watergate involved a conspiracy to cover up, perpetuated by the closest aides to the President of the United States – the most powerful men in America, who were intensely loyal to their president. But one of them, John Dean, turned state's evidence, that is, testified against Nixon, as he put it, “to save his own skin” – and he did so only two weeks after informing the president about what was really going on – two weeks!

The real cover-up, the lie, could only be held together for two weeks, and then everybody else jumped ship in order to save themselves.

Now, the fact is that all that those around the President were facing was embarrassment, maybe prison. Nobody's life was at stake. But what about the disciples? Twelve powerless men, peasants really, were facing not just embarrassment or political disgrace, but beatings, stoning, execution. Every single one of the disciples insisted, to their dying breaths, that they had physically seen Jesus bodily raised from the dead.

Don't you think that one of those apostles would have cracked before being beheaded or stoned. That one of them would have made a deal with the authorities? None did. (C. Colson, "An Unholy Hoax? The Authenticity of Christ," *BreakPoint*, syndicated column 020329 (March, 29, 2002).

Acts 2:22 People of Israel, listen to this:
Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited
by God to you by miracles, wonders
and signs, which God did among you
through him, as you yourselves know.