

The Bible on trial:
A Historical Work?

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The Resurrection

The effect of this claim:

- This date in time would not be known as 2016
- Most of us would never have heard of Jesus
- Names like Peter, John, James and Paul would be rare
- The cross would be an archaic footnote in Roman history
- The best selling book of all time would not have been written
- You would not be here for this lecture
- Christianity would not exist

The Bible on trial: **A historical work?**

Minimal Facts:

- 1) Death by crucifixion
- 2) The empty tomb
- 3) Early eyewitnesses
- 4) Genuine eyewitnesses

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- 1) Death by crucifixion

Fact # 1

Death by crucifixion

Roman writing:

- Tacitus, b. 56 A.D.

“Nero ... inflicted the most exquisite tortures on a class ... called Christians by the populace. Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilate”

(Tacitus Annals XV, 44)

Fact # 1

Death by crucifixion

Greek writing:

- Lucian of Samosata, b. 125 A.D.

“The Christians, you know, worship a man to this day-the distinguished personage who introduced their novel rites, and was crucified on that account.”

(The Death of Peregrine, 11-13)

Fact # 1

Death by crucifixion

Jewish writing:

- Josephus, b. 37 A.D.

“Pilate, at the suggestion of the principled men amongst us, had condemned him to the cross.”

(Antiquities of the Jews, XVIII, 3.3.)

Fact # 1

Death by crucifixion

Jewish writing:

- The Talmud, 70-200 A.D.

“...on the eve of the Passover Yeshu was hanged..”

(Yeshu=Joshua/Jesus)

Fact # 1

Death by crucifixion

The ancients view and purpose of crucifixion:

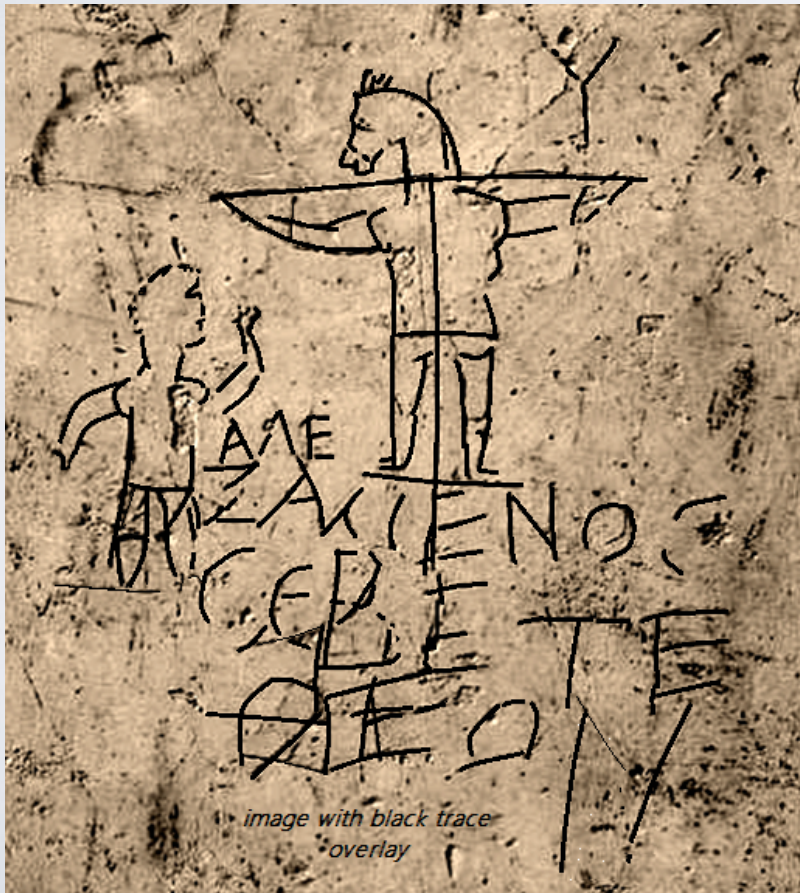
“Whenever we crucify the guilty, the most crowded roads are chosen, where most people can see and be moved by this fear. For penalties relate not so much for retribution, but to their exemplary effect.” -Quintilian, Roman rhetorician

“The executioner... and the very word ‘cross,’ let them all be far removed from not only the bodies of Roman citizens but even from their thoughts, their eyes, and their ears... the mere mention of them are unworthy of a Roman citizen and a free man.” -Cicero, Roman philosopher

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Death by crucifixion

The ancients view and purpose of crucifixion:



“Alexamenos worships his God.”

-Alexamenos Graffito image

public domain image: wikipedia

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- 2) The empty tomb

Fact #2

The empty Tomb

Enemy attestation:

“And said, ‘You are to say, “His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.”’ ...And they took the money and did as they had been instructed; and this story was widely spread among the Jews and is to this day.”

-Matthew 28:13,15

- These two groups agree on one thing; the empty tomb.

Fact #2

The empty Tomb

Place of origin of empty tomb claim:

- Jerusalem; the very place his body was buried
- Why not start this myth in Rome or Greece?

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- 3) Early eyewitnesses

Fact #3

Early eyewitnesses

“For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also.”

-Paul, I Corinthians 15.3-8

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Early eyewitnesses

“...nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went away to Arabia, and returned once more to Damascus. Then three years later I went up to Jerusalem to become acquainted with Cephas, and stayed with him fifteen days. But I did not see any other of the apostles except James, the Lord’s brother.”

Paul, Galatians 1.17-19

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Genuine eyewitnesses

Verifiable witness list

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First empty tomb and resurrection witnesses:

- Woman

“Any evidence which a woman [gives] is not valid...A robber is qualified to give the same evidence as a woman.”

-Talmud, Rosh Hashannah 1.8

“Let not the testimony of a woman be admitted... it is probable they may not speak the truth, either out of hope of gain, or fear of punishment.”

-Josephus, Antiquities 4.8.15

Fact #4

Genuine eyewitnesses

The suffering and martyrdom of resurrection witnesses:

- Loss of income, job, career
- Abandoned national religion
- High moral code
- Rejected by own people
- Imprisoned
- Beaten
- Martyred

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Death by crucifixion

Fact #2
The empty tomb



The resurrection of Jesus!

Fact #3
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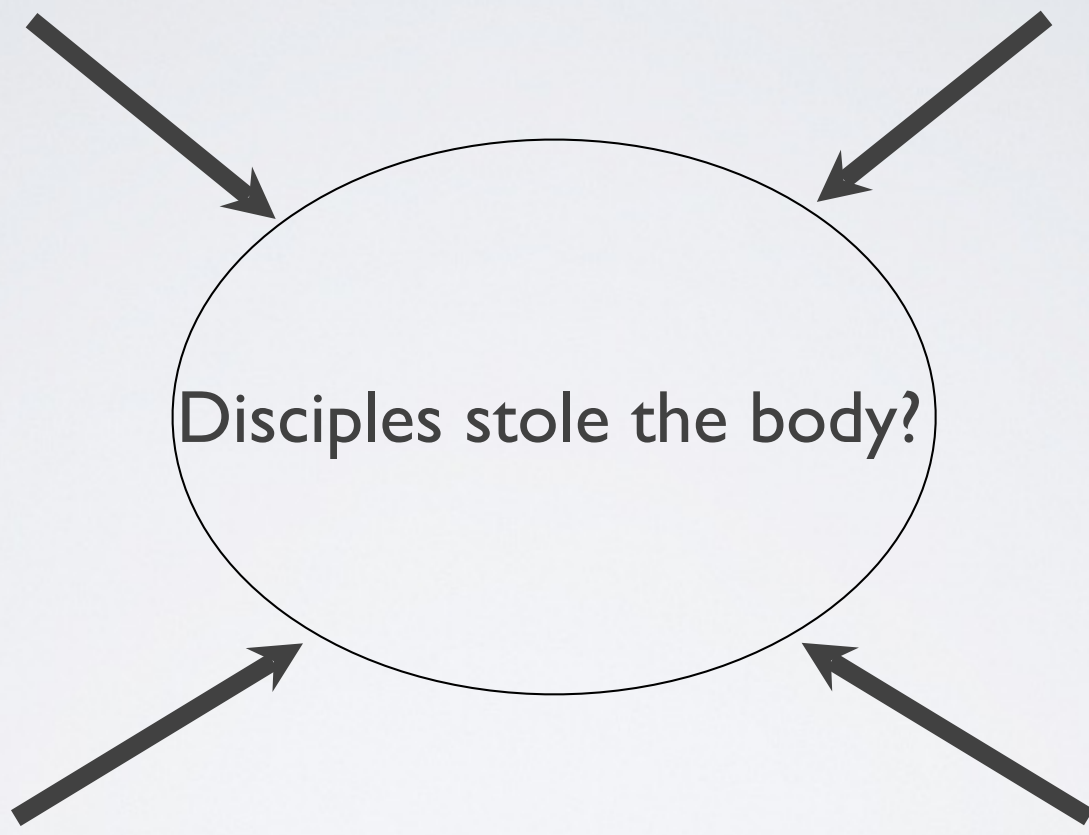
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Death by crucifixion

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Disciples stole the body?

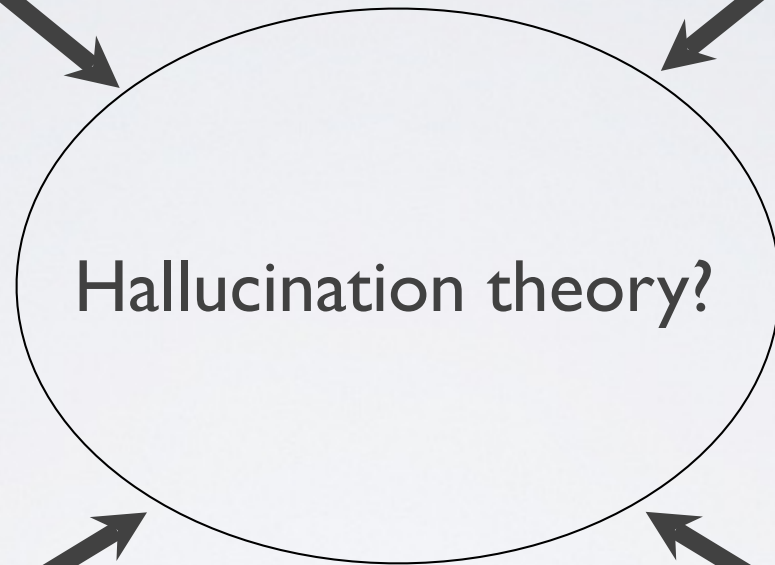
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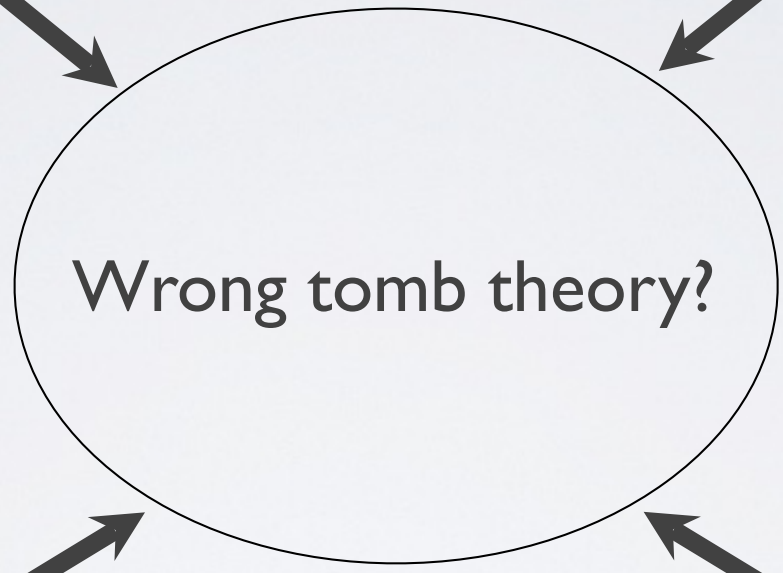


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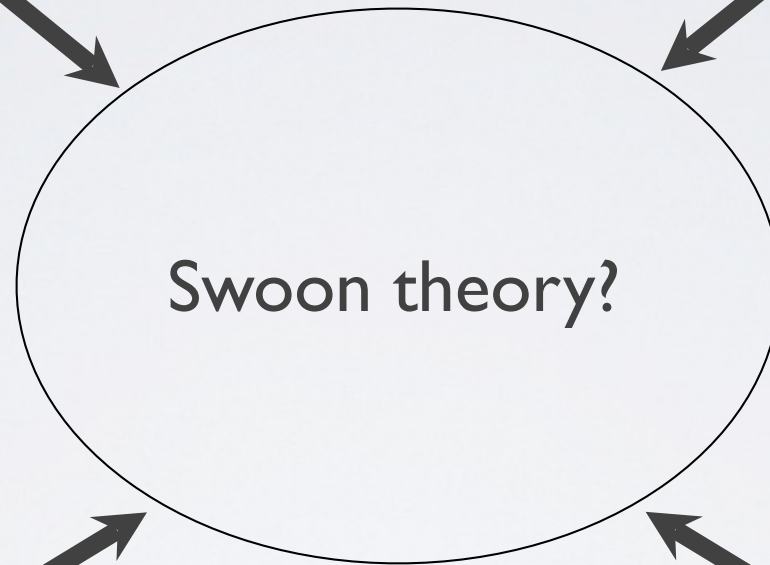


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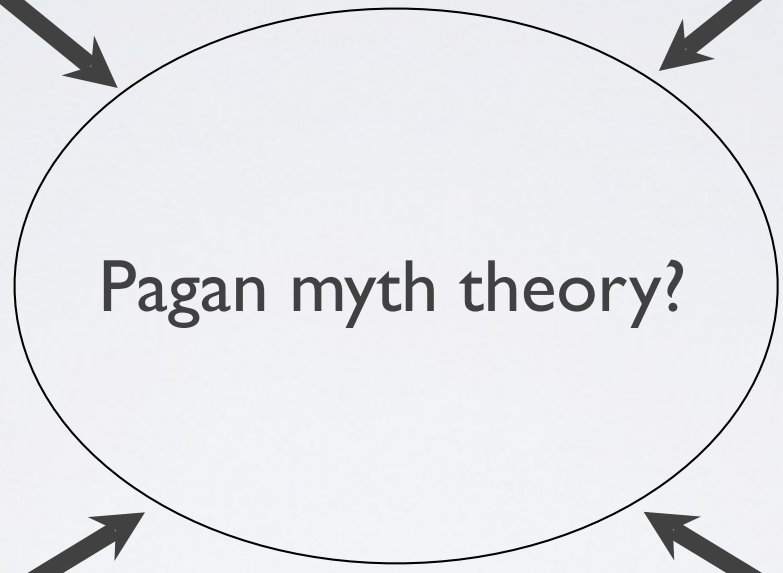


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Pagan myth theory?

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The resurrection of Jesus!

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“For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty

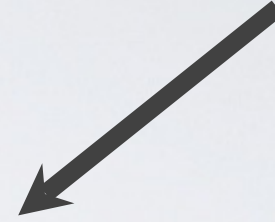
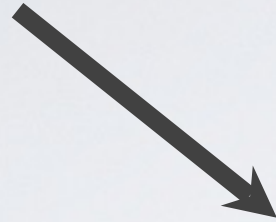
-Peter



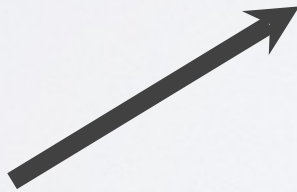
MINIMAL FACTS METHOD

Fact

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Explanation



Fact

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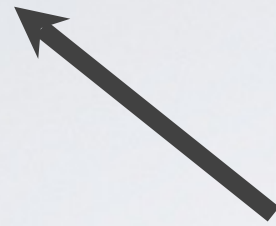
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