



The Resurrection

Fact or Myth?

Blind Faith

Are Christians supposed to have blind faith?

“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts; and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asks you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear” (1 Peter 3:15).

The Early Creed

I Corinthians 15

I Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, **2** by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. **3** For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, **4** and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, **5** and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. **6** After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. **7** After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. **8** Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time.

(I Corinthians 15:1-8)

Evidence for Christ's Death and Resurrection

1. The Torture Before the Cross
2. The Agony of the Cross
3. The Cause of Death
4. The Burial in the Tomb
5. The Empty Tomb
6. The Appearances

Definition

Resurrection (*noun*): the restoration of a dead person to life

Resurrection Prerequisite

In order for someone to be **resurrected**, they must first have been **dead**.

Swoon Theories

(Our Lord) Jesus did not die on the cross and his later appearances were a resuscitation, not a resurrection.

1. (Our Lord) Jesus only fainted from exhaustion.
2. (Our Lord) Jesus was drugged and was revived in the cool air of the tomb in the same mortal body.
3. Pilate was bribed to take (Our Lord) Jesus down from the cross early.

The Quran

That they said (in boast) “We killed Christ Jesus the son of Mary, the Apostle of Allah”;- but they killed him not, nor crucified him, but so it was made to appear to them, and those who differ therein are full of doubts, with no (certain) knowledge, but only conjecture to follow, for of a surety they killed him not:- (Surah 4:156)



The Torture Before the Cross

Garden of Gethsemane

41 And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and prayed, **42** saying, "Father if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done." **43** Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. **44** And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. **(Luke 22:41-44)**

Garden of Gethsemane

Hematidrosis: (also called hematohidrosis) is a very rare condition in which a human sweats blood. It may occur when a person is suffering extreme levels of stress, for example, facing his or her own death.

It can make the skin very fragile and sensitive.

Flogging

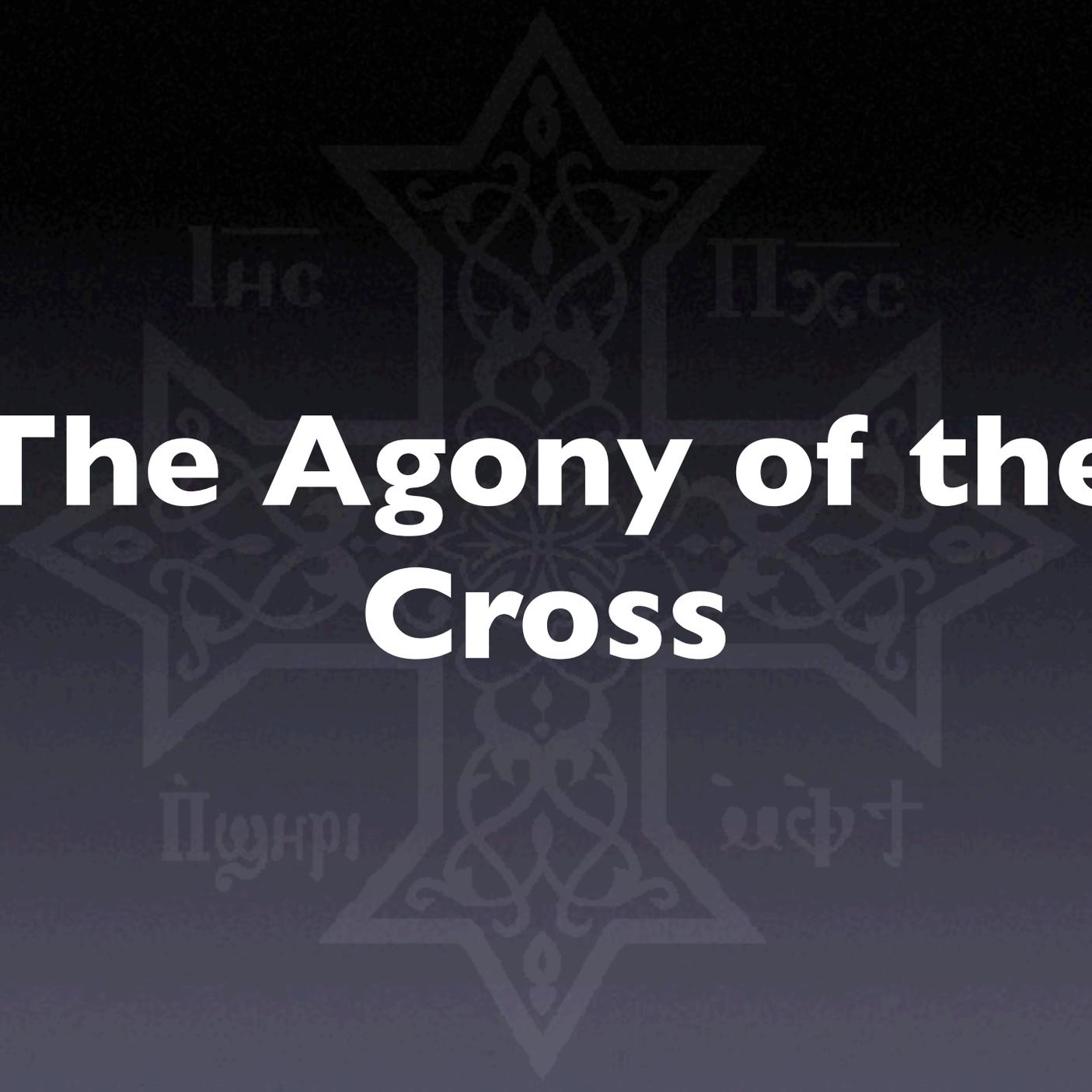
Roman floggings were historically very brutal.

Usually 39 lashes (Deut.) with a whip of braided leather thongs with metal balls and sharp bone.

Causes deep bruises, ripping of flesh, sometimes revealing the underlying muscles and spine.

From the shoulders, down the back, buttocks, and back of legs.

Would put a man into hypovolemic shock (i.e., low blood), or even kill him.



The Agony of the Cross

What Happened at the Cross?

He was laid down with his hands nailed on the patibulum (horizontal beam), separate from the vertical beam.

Nails were 5-7” long, driven through the wrists, through the main nerve going to the hand, causing extreme pain.

Pain was so severe, they invented a new term to describe it: **excruciating**, or literally, “out of the cross”. No existing word could accurately describe the intense anguish

What Happened at the Cross?

Crossbar was then attached to the vertical beam in the ground.

Nails were driven into the feet, causing similar pain as with the hands.

Both shoulders dislocated (Psalm 22:14)



The Cause of Death

Crucifixion:

What is Cause of Death?

Agonizingly slow death by asphyxiation (i.e., suffocation).

Stress on the muscles causes the chest to inhale.

While on the cross, in order to exhale, one must push up on his feet.

Person would then relax, forcing another breath in.

Repeating this until complete exhaustion.

“Blood and Water”

Rapid heart rate would cause *pericardial effusion* (an abnormal accumulation of fluid around the heart) and *pleural effusion* (buildup of fluid between the layers of tissue that line the lungs and chest cavity).

“But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out” (**John 19:34**).

Confirmation of Death

Hypovolemic Shock: massive blood loss.

Can't fake inability to breathe for long time.

Spear through the heart would confirm death.

Soldiers broke the legs of the two criminals, but not with Jesus (Psalm 34:20), as He was already dead.

Romans were experts in murdering human beings. A soldier would be killed if he allowed a crucified victim to escape.



The Burial

Joseph of Arimathea

A member of the Sanhedrin that condemned Jesus to death.

Named in all four gospels.

50 Now behold, there was a man named Joseph, a council member, a good and just man. **51** He had not consented to their decision and deed. He was from Arimathea, a city of the Jews, who himself was also waiting for the kingdom of God. **52** This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.

(Luke 23:50-52)



The Empty Tomb

Tomb Security

Large disk
rolled down
to seal the
tomb.

Easy to close,
very difficult
to open.

Guards were
present.



No Denial it was Empty

Christians: “Jesus is risen!”

Jews: “The disciples stole the body.”

Christians: “There were guards at the tomb.”

Jews: “The guards fell asleep”.

Christians: “The Jews bribed the guards to say they were asleep.” (Matthew 28:11-15)

The Witnesses

The women spread the news of the empty tomb.
Can we trust the testimony of the women at the tomb?

In the 1st century, women's testimony was regarded as worthless.

A fictitious account probably would have used men as the witnesses.



The Appearances

Was Our Lord Jesus Seen After His Death?

St. Paul writes in his creed:

5 and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. **6** After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. **7** After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. **8** Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time. (I Corinthians 15:5-8)

Authentic

St. Paul's Creed could have been verified as he mentions people who were still alive.

St. Paul basically invites his readers to verify his facts.

Hallucinations?

Hallucinations are subjective and individual. No two people have the same experience.

It's internal, not external, meaning an external factor does not trigger a hallucination. It's triggered from within.

One person cannot induce a hallucination on someone else.

Hallucinations are rare. Usually caused by drugs or body deprivation.

Gospel Accounts of Appearances

to Mary Magdalene in John 20:10-18

to the other women in Matthew 28:8-10

to Cleopas and the other disciple on the road to Emmaus in Luke 24:13-32

to eleven disciples and others in Luke 24:33-49

to ten apostles and others (without Thomas) in John 20:19-23

to Thomas and the other disciples in John 20:26-30

to seven apostles in John 21:1-14

to the disciples in Matthew 28:16-20

to the apostles on the Mount of Olives before the Ascension in Luke 24:50-52 and Acts 1:4-9

Other Accounts in Acts

“This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses” (Acts 2:32).

“and killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses” (Acts 3:15).

“not to all the people, but to witnesses chosen before by God, even to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead” (Acts 10:41).

“He was seen for many days by those who came up with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are His witnesses to the people” (Acts 13:31).

Is it Just a Legend?

St. Mark, the first gospel written, doesn't mention many appearances, St. Matthew mentions a bit more, St. Luke a bit more, and St. John the most.

Didn't the legend just grow over time?

No. Remember, St. Paul was the earliest source, so his creed predates all of the gospels.



Contemplation

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If Jesus swooned, what kind of physical state would He be in to motivate the disciples to become martyrs?

The apostles were willing to die for something they actually witnessed.

They were skeptics before His death and fanatics after--a complete 180. i.e., St. Paul.

Tens of thousands abandoned their hardfast Jewish social structure for no human or social gain.

Others die for the stories they hear. The apostles died for what they actually experienced.



**Glory be to God
Forever. Amen.**