

The Resurrection: True or False

Pastor Randy Stroming

Today we continue with our series of The Resurrection Tor F

The basic alternative challenge is called the naturalistic theory is an assertion something like this: "Jesus didn't rise from the dead. What really happened is (fill in the blank)." Tonight the Twin or substitute theory.

The basis is this---The Twin Substitution theory says Jesus had an identical twin brother who switched places with him and died in Jesus place or Jesus #1 died, his twin (that no one knew) took over. Two day later came out of hiding claiming that he had been resurrected from the dead.

One author (A. N. Wilson) suggests that this person was James, the brother of Jesus. The resemblance e would explain how James could represent his brother in the post-crucifixion appearances.

Frank Miosi offers a similar likeness view—what he terms the John the Baptist theory. Just as some though that Jesus was John the Baptist raised from the dead mark 6:14-16. Miosi thinks that early believers may have concluded that Jesus was raised when they saw someone else who reminded them of Jesus.

For the Twin/sub theory to work Jesus twin would have to follow Jesus around without being recognized and be willing to swap places with him just before being arrested so he could willingly die in Jesus place in order that Jesus could create the hoax of being resurrected from the dead. Who would willingly die for a hoax their brother wanted to play? Also this deception goes against everything we know about Jesus character and teaching.

Rejection of the Twin/sub theory

The Twin/sub theory like almost every other alternative theory runs into the problem of the empty tomb. If Jesus twin/sub brother was crucified and buried then the body would still be in the tomb and all the Romans or Jews would have to do to stop Christianity was open the tomb and show the body. And if the tomb was empty, then it still fails to make sense of the minimal facts because of the argument against the stolen body theory apply.

One of the interesting things about Luke's Gospel is that if you take out everything that is also reported in another Gospel then what is left is primarily the testimony of women or where women would have been the main witnesses. Luke's details about Jesus birth are an example of this. Some scholars believe Luke got his information about Jesus birth from Mary herself. (Tradition says both Mary and Luke lived in Ephesus. If Mary told Luke the story of Jesus birth, the fact that Jesus had a twin would be a very odd thing to leave out. It also means that Mary would not have recognized which son was on the cross even though mothers of identical twins usually are able to tell their twins apart.

PROBLEMS:

1. FAR FAR fetched
2. No historical account of a twin (which is rare anyway)
3. How could a twin convince the early followers of Jesus that he was Jesus (he would not know them, any details)

4. Ascension

5. WOUNDS---where are the wounds?

THE REFUTATION

1. The disciples were reluctant to believe in the resurrection, were doubtful and would have been hard to convince unless it was really Him, as was the case with Thomas.

2. It would have been impossible to impersonate Christ's wounds. This was Christ's proof to Thomas that it was really Him (cf. [John 20:24f](#)).

3. At times their inability to recognize Him was a phenomenon of His glorified body brought about by His own purposes as in [Luke 24:16](#), "But their eyes were restricted that they should not recognize Him."

4. These men had traveled with the Lord for three years and it is incredible that anyone could have gotten away with an impersonation particularly due to their reluctance to believe.

5. They were meeting in locked chambers in some instances, and He suddenly appeared in His glorified body. No one could impersonate such a miraculous act other than the resurrected Christ.

3 VALIDATIONS OF THE RESURRECTION:

1. It validated that Jesus was our sinless substitute whose sacrifice was accepted

- Jesus emerged ALIVE after His sacrifice

IF JESUS HAD NOT RISEN—that meant that His offering for our sins was not accepted, I Corinthians 15:17 "And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!"

2. It validated that He was Who He said He was --- God in the flesh

-Jesus said in John 10—*No one takes my life from Me, I have the power to lay it down, and the power to take it up again.*

THE RESURRECTION validates that He was God in the flesh, and therefore we should believe what he says.

3. It validates the believers own guaranteed resurrection.

Jesus said: *Because I live (am resurrected) you shall live also.*

We are to be more like Christ every day. That is what God is doing. Not as impersonators or substitutes but reflection of Christ to others

As a Pastor (little Jesus)not be Jesus but to be like Jesus so what people see is Jesus. Ephesians 4:13 CEV This will continue until we are . . . mature, just as Christ is, and we will be completely like him."

As Christians God is molding and making us to become more like Jesus character everyday. More of Jesus less of me. The power of the resurrection is that we walk in a HOPE of the one who is Messiah Stand strong in the Word and see the salvation of the Lord.

None of these natural theories adequately deals with the evidence of the known facts that surrounded the resurrection of our Lord. The evidence says He arose and this resurrection marks Him out as the Son of God, as the Savior of the world and the means of justification and peace with God through personal faith in Christ.