

Twelve Known Historical Facts Surrounding Jesus' Resurrection in History

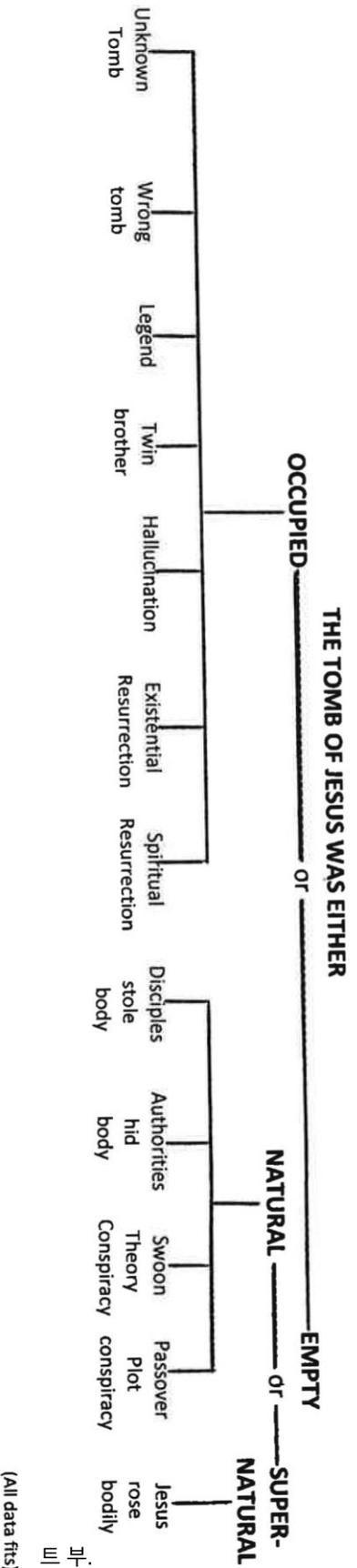
that even the harshest critics agree are historically sound

Compiled by historian Gary Habermas, Ph.D. (Gary Habermas and Antony Flew. Did Jesus Rise From the Dead? (Harper and Row, 1987), p.19,20).

1. Jesus died due to the rigors of crucifixion
2. Jesus was buried
3. Jesus' death caused the disciples to despair and lose hope
4. The tomb was discovered to be empty just a few days later
5. The disciples had experiences which they believed were literal appearances of the risen Jesus
6. The disciples were transformed from doubters who were afraid to identify themselves with Jesus, into bold proclaimers of his death, even being willing to die for this belief.
7. This message was the center of preaching in the early church
8. This message was especially proclaimed in Jerusalem, where Jesus died and was buried shortly before
9. As a result of their preaching the church was born and grew
10. Sunday became the primary day of worship
11. James, Jesus brother, who had earlier been a skeptic, was converted to the faith when he also believed he saw the resurrected Jesus.
12. A few years later, Paul the persecutor of Christians, was also converted by an experience which he, likewise, believed to be an appearance of the risen Jesus.

Considering Alternative Explanations to the Claim of the Empty Tomb

(Compiled by Craig Hazen, Ph.D., Professor of Comparative Religions and Apologetics at Biola University, La Mirada, California)



The above numbers refer to the list of historical facts (from top of page) that conflict with the respective alternative theories. Not enough data to make a judgment? Then throw out most of what we know from classical antiquity.



THE CASE FOR CHRISTIANITY

- A. "On the basis of accepted principles of textual and historical analysis, the Gospel records are found to be trustworthy historical documents—primary source evidence concerning the life of Jesus of Nazareth.
- B. In these records Jesus exercises divine prerogatives and claims to be God in human flesh.
- C. In all four Gospels, Christ's death and bodily resurrection are described in detail.
- D. The explanation that best fits the accepted facts concerning these accounts is that Jesus really did rise from the dead.
- E. His resurrection confirms the claims of Jesus, including his claim to be God.
- F. Since Jesus is God, whatever he says is true.
- G. Jesus put his divine stamp of approval on the Old Testament and soon-to-be-written, apostolic New Testament.
- H. The New Testament and Old Testaments contain religious, philosophical, and ethical absolutes; these thus take on the character of divine or "higher" law, and remain valid even if vast numbers of human beings—or entire societies—chose to ignore them."

Dr. Craig J. Hazen
Professor of Comparative Religion and Christian Apologetics
Biola University