

Any questions on historiography or resurrection studies?

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Who is the Secret Pagan in the Midst of FBC? BTW—What's Wrong with Easter Egg Hunts at Churches?



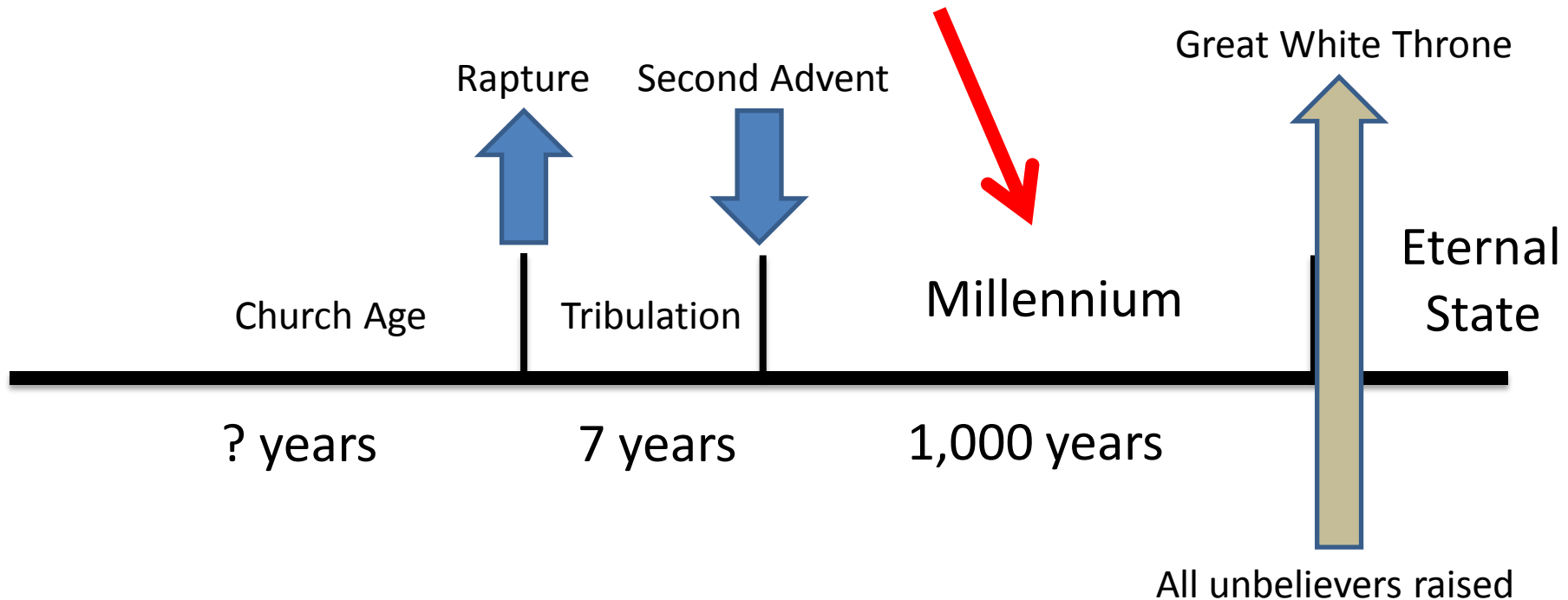
Error, indeed, is never set forth in its naked deformity, lest, being thus exposed, it should at once be detected. But it is craftily decked out in an attractive dress, so as by its outward form, to make it appear to the inexperienced . . . more true than truth itself—
Irenaeus, *Against Heresies*, 1.2

Doctrinal Foundations: Eschatology (7)

Premillennialism, Postmillennialism, Amillennialism, or Panmillennialism (Christians who are agnostic about the future)

PREMILLENNIALISM (P)

Note the 1,000 years – P is the only system which faithfully holds to the 1,000 years of Revelation 20:1-7 (6x)



Revelation 20:2-7 And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a **thousand years**,³ and threw him into the abyss, and shut *it* and sealed *it* over him, so that he should not deceive the nations any longer, until **the thousand years** were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time. And I *saw* the souls of those who had been beheaded . . . they came to life and reigned with Christ for a **thousand years**.⁵ The rest of the dead did not come to life until **the thousand years** were completed. This is the first resurrection.⁶ Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a **thousand years**. And when the **thousand years** are completed, Satan will be released from his prison,

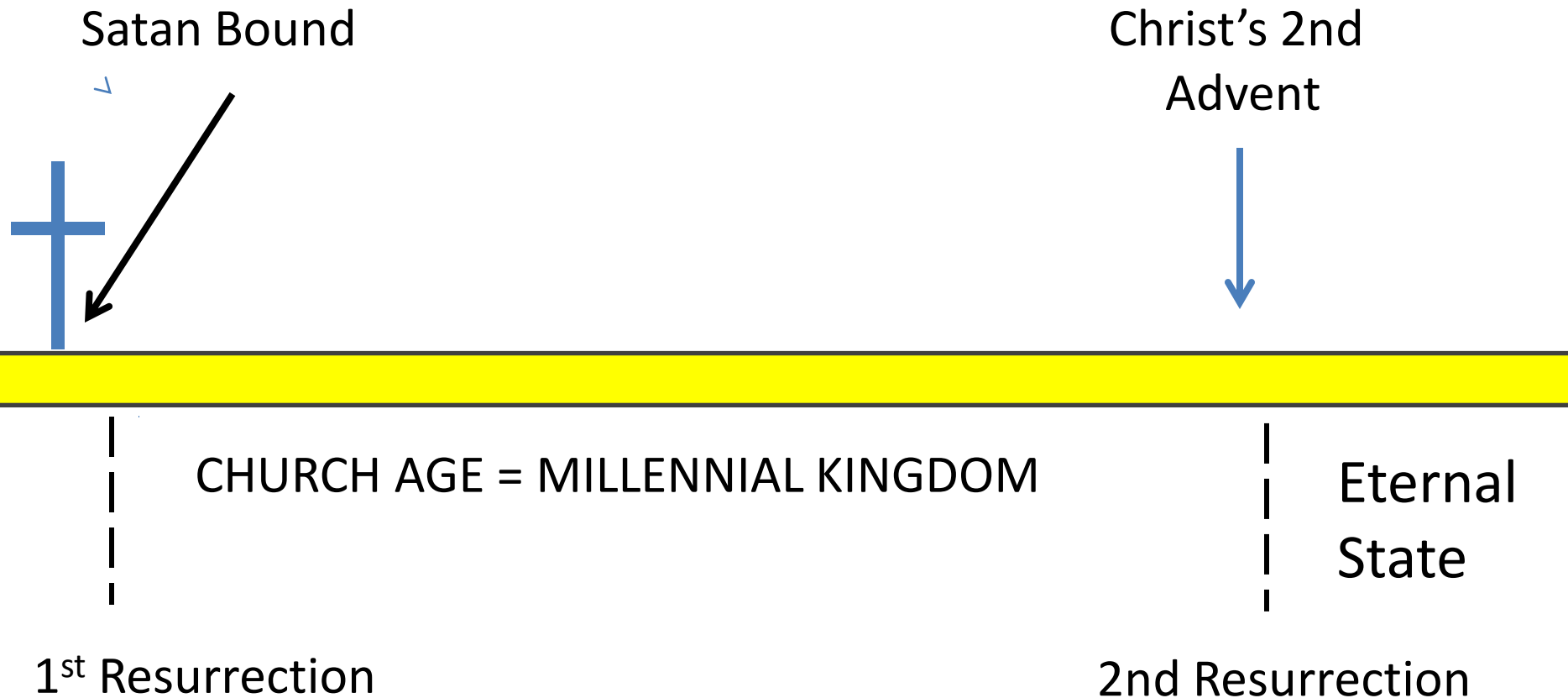
Amillennialism

Majority View: If all Christendom could be gathered together and a vote taken on which of the three millennial views was favored, amillennialism would easily win—about 70% (cf. RCSC, Greek Church, and large segment of Protestantism)

Description: Denial of a literal reign of Christ upon earth. Satan is conceived as bound at the first coming of Christ. The present age between the first and second comings is the millennium. There will never be any more millennium than there is now. At 2nd Advent the eternal state begins.

Amillennialism

The 1,000 years of Rev. 20:1-7 is effectively rejected



Postmillennialism

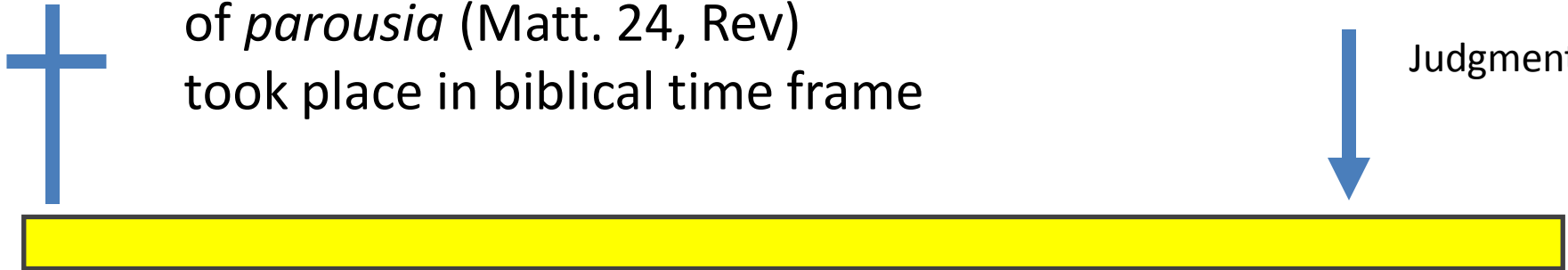
The 1,000 years of Rev. 20:1-7 is effectively rejected.

Postmills believe that the Millennium will be brought in by the preaching of the gospel. The millennium is spreading now through the gospel.

Preterism: a coming of Christ occurred in A.D. 70 – most or all prophecy of *parousia* (Matt. 24, Rev) took place in biblical time frame

2nd Advent of JC

Judgments



Church Age → The Golden Age (“millennium”)

Any questions?

Preparation for Bible Class

Foundations for the Spiritual life

#1- Salvation. Positional Truth. The believer's perfect *standing* in Christ regardless of his temporal status. Note the licentious, immoral, heretical, reversionistic Corinthians.

1 Corinthians 3:1 And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to babes **in Christ** (ἐν Χριστῷ). ² I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able *to receive it*. Indeed, even now you are not yet able, ³ for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men? ⁴ For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I am of Apollos," are you not *mere* men?

Preparation for Bible Class

Foundations for the Spiritual Life

#2: Daily spiritual life – the need for the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:16 But I say, [πνεύματι περιπατεῖτε] in the Spirit keep on walking, and [οὐ μὴ τελέσητε] you will not fulfill the lust of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you wish (θέλητε)

- ✓ Spiritually speaking--no man can rule himself (cf. from Adam through human history) regardless of culture or education (regardless of what Beck says). Man lives under OSN or God.
- ✓ Spiritual Life is all about fellowship and empowerment by the HS (rather than living in and being ruled by our OSHGEN).

Preparation for Bible Class

Foundations for the Spiritual Life

#3 - Spiritual maturity—the only way to avoid from spiritual failure.

2 Peter 3:17 You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard lest, being carried away by the error of unprincipled men, you fall from your own steadfastness, ¹⁸ but keep on growing (Αὐξάνετε δὲ) in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him *be* the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

Historiography on Jesus Christ and Resurrection

- 1. What are the benefits of historiography of Christ?**
- 2. What would be some “Christian objections” to such a study? What is anti-intellectualism? Why do anti-intellectuals get so upset about being viewed as anti-intellectuals?**
- 3. Have you ever heard about the non-scriptural historical proof of the resurrection of Jesus Christ?**

- 4. Why the dichotomy between doctrinal believers w/o apologetics and apologists w/o doctrine? Fideists versus apologists? What about our doctrinal children and the increasing antagonism and ridicule they face as Christians? Any place for apologetics?**

- 5. Scope of this study from historiography to the resurrection accounts. After historiography we will move into the various resurrection accounts and deal with issues of death, life, the interim body, and the nature of the resurrection body.**

Resurrection – 7 – Historiography – Unpacking the Quintet

1. **There are two definitions or uses of the term “proof.”**
 - a. Non-technical subjective sense, “you need to prove it according to my [subjective, volitional?] satisfaction.”
 - b. Technical sense in doing history (cf. law, CSI): “the evidence is so overwhelming and certain that it constitutes proof.”

2. **Consider Acts 1:3**, To these He also presented Himself alive, after His suffering, by many convincing proofs (τεκμηρίοις= convincing decisive proofs), appearing to them over *a period of* forty days, and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God.

- 3. The resurrection of Jesus Christ can indeed be proven in the biblical and technical sense—and proven by merely marshaling the evidence that critical historians (unbelievers, agnostics, Jews, naturalists) accept.**

- 4. This historical proof consists of a quintet of facts (4 minimal + 1 vast majority) that are accepted by virtually all professional ancient historians. These facts are the results of 35 years of study with over 1,4000 sources (in English, German, and French) catalogues of recognized scholars of ancient history in the world.**

- 5. Ramifications: The proof of the resurrection of Christ defeats naturalism, atheism, Islam, and Judaism.**

- 6. Does evidence ever come into play when you share the gospel? If so, what kind of evidence?**

7. The quintet: the 4 minimal +1 overwhelming fact.

#1 – Jesus' Died by Crucifixion

#2 – Disciples' Beliefs that Jesus Appeared

#3 – Conversion of Church Persecutor Paul

#4 – Conversion of the Skeptic James

+ 1 - Overwhelming = #5 – Empty Tomb (about 75%).

Minimal Fact #1: Jesus died by crucifixion

The evidence is so overwhelming for the death of JC by crucifixion that there is consensus on this fact among all scholars (liberals, atheistic). They admit that the death of Jesus Christ is as sure as anything historical can be. Some of the evidence they use:

- ✓ **“Oral tradition”** behind the 4 gospels and epistles.
- ✓ **Josephus**, “And when Pilate had condemned him to the cross on his impeachment by the chief men among us, those who had loved him at first did not cease: and even now the tribe of Christians, so named after him, has not yet died out” (Ant. 18.3.3)

- ✓ **Tacitus (56-120)**, “To suppress this rumor, Nero fabricated scapegoats—and punished with every refinement the notoriously depraved Christians (as they were popularly called). Their originator, Christ, has been executed in Tiberius reign by the governor of Judaea, Pontius Pilatus. But in spite of this temporary setback the deadly superstition had broken out afresh, not only in Judea (where the mischief had started) but even in Rome.”

- ✓ **Lucian of Samosata**, “The Christians, you know, worship a man to this day—the distinguished personage who introduced their novel rites, and was crucified on that account.”
- ✓ **Mara Bar-Serapion (A.D. 73)**, “Or the Jews [by killing] their wise king, because their kingdom was taken away at that very time.”

- ✓ **Thallus (A.D. 55)**, an ancient historian, speaks of the darkness on the earth (which occurred at the crucifixion) which he ascribed to an eclipse of the sun.
- ✓ **Celsus (A.D. 177-180)**, mentions the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- ✓ **Talmud**, “It was taught: On the day before the Passover they hanged Jesus . . . he practiced magic.”

Minimal Fact #2

Jesus' disciples believed that He rose and appeared to them.

- ✓ There is a virtually consensus among scholars who study Jesus' resurrection that, subsequent to Jesus' death by crucifixion, his disciples really believed that He appeared to them risen from the dead.
- They claimed that the risen Jesus had appeared to them.

- Subsequent to Jesus' death by crucifixion, His disciples were radically transformed from fearful, cowering individuals who denied and abandoned Him at His arrest and execution into bold proclaimers of the gospel of the risen Lord. They remained steadfast in the face of imprisonment, torture, martyrdom. It is very clear that they sincerely believed that Jesus rose from the dead.

We have several early and independent sources of Jesus disciples claiming that He had risen from the dead and appeared to them. They can be placed in three categories – POW!

- ✓ **Category #1: The testimony of Paul.** Corinthians; Galatians (accepted as Pauline literature by nearly every scholar)

- ✓ **Category #2: The oral tradition that passed through the early church.**
 - These writings predate Paul and the writing of the Gospels (1 Cor 15:3-5)
 - The Gospels as literature are well within the 1st century, and each attests to the resurrection of JC.

- ✓ **Category #3: The written tradition that passed through the early church.**

**There are 9 independent sources on the disciples believing
JC appeared to them risen from the dead.**

#1 – Paul – his own writings – 1 Corinthians & Galatians

#2 – Oral tradition – Creeds (1 Cor 15; Acts 2)

#3- Written tradition in Matthew

#4 -- Written tradition in Mark

#5 – Written tradition in Luke

#6 – Written tradition in John

#7 --Written tradition in Acts

#8 – Written tradition of Clement

#9 – Written tradition of Polycarp

N.B. This is overwhelming evidence. This is why there is virtually unanimous consensus among scholars.

We also have 7 sources for the transformation of the disciples to the point where they endured persecution & martyrdom for their belief that Jesus rose from the dead.

1. Acts. All one has to do is read Acts as literature.
2. Clement of Rome. Paul & Peter's martyrdom.
3. Polycarp. Suffering and death of Paul and Peter.
4. Ignatius. "Disciples disregarded death."
5. Dionysius of Corinth-the martyrdoms of Peter & Paul.
6. Tertullian. "Paul is beheaded . . . Peter crucified."
7. Origen. "Disciples had no fear of death."

* Remember they are dying not for 2nd hand evidence, but 1st hand evidence – what they know! Further, there is no recantation! Not one!

More on Clement of Rome (c. 30-100)

- ✓ Most likely the Clement Paul refers to in Philip 4:3. He knew both Paul and Peter and fellowshipped with them both. Clement was ordained by Peter.
 - He wrote 1 Clement (A.D. 64)

- ✓ Clement wrote in letter to Corinthians, “Therefore, having received orders and **complete certainty caused by the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ** and believing the Word of God, they went with the Holy Spirit’s certainty, preaching to good news that the kingdom of God is about to come.”
- ✓ Clement knew them well and was in a good position to give this report.

Polycarp (69-155)

- ✓ He was taught by the apostles, and conversed with many who had seen Christ, and was later appointed bishop of the church of Smyrna. He was a disciple of John. He suffered martyrdom in 155 at 86
 - Polycarp mentions the resurrection of JC 5x in his letter to the church in Philippi.
 - His statements concerning Jesus' resurrection can be linked to these apostles.

Fact #3: The church persecutor Paul was suddenly changed.

1. Paul changed from being skeptic who believed it was God's will to persecute the church to becoming one of its most influential messengers.
2. Paul's notorious pre-Christian activities and conversion are multiply attested (Acts 7:58; 8:1-3; 9:1-19; 22:1-19; 26:4-5; 9-23; **26:10**; 26:9-23; .1 Cor. 15:9-10; Gal 1:12-16, 22-23; Philip. 3:6-7; Church Fathers).

3. He went from being a “Judaistic” enemy of Christianity to embracing it after seeing the risen Lord. He was not of a bent to leave “Judaism,” given his view in Gal 1:13.
4. His willingness to suffer continuously for the sake of the gospel, even to the point of martyrdom is well documented with first hand early multiple testimony (Paul, Luke, Clement, Polycarp, Tertullian, Dionysius of Corinth, Origen).
5. Paul’s conversion was based on primary evidence: the risen Jesus appeared directly to him.

4th Fact: the skeptic James, the half brother of Jesus, was suddenly changed.

- ✓ Jesus has at least four brothers: James, Joseph, Judas, and Simon, plus unnamed sisters.
- ✓ Josephus mentions James as the brother of Jesus who was called the Christ.
- ✓ James was a pious Jewish believer who after conversion became the leader of the first church council at Jerusalem.

- ✓ The Gospels report that Jesus' brothers including James, were unbelievers during his ministry (Mark 3:21, 31; 6:3-4; John 7:5).
- ✓ Appearance of JC to James, 1 Cor 15:3-7.
- ✓ Subsequent to the alleged event of Jesus resurrection, James is identified as a leader of the Jerusalem church (Acts 15:13-21; Gal 1:19). We are not appealing to divine inspiration here. Strictly only history. What caused the change?

- ✓ Not only did James convert to Christianity, his beliefs in Jesus and his resurrection were so strong that he died as a martyr because of them.
- ✓ James' martyrdom is attested by Josephus, Hegesippus, and Clement of Alexandria. Hence, his martyrdom is attested by both Christian and non-Christian sources.

Fact #5 – The Empty Tomb

- ✓ *Only 75%* of critical scholars accept this – so technically this does not qualify as minimal facts.
- ✓ The tomb was empty. The JET,
 - The Jerusalem factor. Jesus was publically crucified in Jerusalem and Christianity would not have gotten off the ground if the body had still been in the tomb. All the Jews or Romans would have to do is exhume the body. Enemies had every reason. None of the critics of Christianity cite a corpse (cf. Celsus)

- Enemy attestation. The empty tomb is attested not only by Christian sources. Jesus' enemies admitted it as well. Early critics accused Jesus' disciples of stealing the body (Matt. 28:12-13). No need if the body was in the tomb. The earliest Jewish claim is an indirect admission that the body was unavailable for public display. The only opposing theory we know was offered by Jesus' enemies.

- The testimony of women. If someone concocted a story in an attempt to deceive others, we presume that they would not knowingly invent data that could hurt the credibility of their story. When we come to the account of the empty tomb, women are listed at the primary witnesses. They are not only the first witnesses mentioned. They are also mentioned in all 4 gospels. This would be an odd invention since in both Jewish and Roman cultures women were lowly esteemed and their testimony was regarded as questionable, certainly not as credible as men's.

- Even disciples were influenced by this culture (Luke 24:10-11). If concocted then the writers would have chosen men. Yet the women are the primary first witnesses of the resurrection. This is why vast majority of historians accept this as historically credible.

Luke 24:10 Now they were Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the *mother* of James; also the other women with them were telling these things to the apostles. ¹¹ And these words appeared to them as nonsense (λῆρος), and they would not believe them (ἠπίστουν αὐταῖς).

What is the quintet? The 4 minimal facts and the one that enjoys a vast majority of acceptance?

+ 1

The First Resurrection Appearance

➤ The very first words of the risen Christ.

John 20:17 Jesus said to her, "Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brethren, and say to them, 'I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.'"