

# The Resurrection: Did It Really Happen?

April 5, 2026

The resurrection is, without a doubt, the most important event for all of Christianity. The resurrection served not only as the climax of much of Old Testament prophecy but also stands as the definitive proof of Jesus claim of being God in the flesh as well as the promised messiah. In fact, Paul would go as far to as to say in **1 Corinthians 15:14-17**:

“...and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation is in vain, and so is your faith. Moreover, we are found to be false witnesses about God, because we have testified wrongly about God that he raised up Christ — whom he did not raise up, if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.”

Without the resurrection, our faith falls apart. If the resurrection did truly happen, then it stands as one of (if not the greatest) evidence for Christianity to be true. Knowing this, there are those who would seek to disprove that the resurrection really happened the way the Bible claims.

Today, we will be exploring multiple theories about the resurrection and discussing why these theories, in reality, don't actually work. You will be presented with each theory and then given space to refute it. If applicable, use Scripture, though there will also be times where you simply need to use logical/historical evidence.

**Theory #1: The Swoon/Coma Theory: This theory states that Jesus didn't *actually* die on the cross. Rather, he fainted or went into a coma and simply woke up in the tomb.**

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**Theory #2: The Hallucination Theory: The disciples were in a state of incredible angst, sorrow, and grief. In this vulnerable mental state, they truly believed they saw Jesus! However, he was merely a hallucination and not actually risen from the dead.**

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**Theory #3: The Stolen Body Theory:** Jesus never actually rose, the disciples simply stole his body from the tomb and then *claimed* he was risen from the dead. Then, they used someone who merely looked like Jesus to claim that he was risen from the dead. (Full disclosure: this is actually a combination of two separate theories, but still a valid question!)

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**Theory #4: The Legend/Myth Theory:** The story of the resurrection developed gradually over time. As time went on, the stories about Jesus began to become bigger and more embellished, with the story of the resurrection being one of the results.

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**Theory #5: The Conspiracy Theory:** This one is straightforward: the disciples lied! They desired to keep the movement Jesus had started going despite his death, so they fabricated a coordinated lie about his resurrection.

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**Bonus Question:** Aside from the evidence mentioned above, is there any other evidence you can think of (whether scripturally or historically) that supports the resurrection as a legitimate historical event?

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