

CHRISTIANITY IN A WORLD OF RELIGIONS

CRAIG J. HAZEN, PH.D.

M.A. PROGRAM IN CHRISTIAN APOLOGETICS, BIOLA UNIVERSITY

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1. Christianity is _____ .

♦ 1 Cor 15:12-19

Upon careful investigation, the life, death and Resurrection of Jesus is found to be one of the best attested fact of ancient history.

2. In Christianity, salvation is a _____ .

♦ Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not the result of works, that no one should boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

3. With Christianity you get an amazing _____ .

♦ Psalm 119:159-160, Romans 1:20, Ps 19:1-4

The picture that Christian teaching paints of the world actually matches the way the world really is.

The sum of Thy word is truth, and every one of Thy righteous ordinances is everlasting. (Psalm 119:160)

“I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.” -- C.S. Lewis

4. You get to live a _____ life.

♦ Isaiah 1:18, Isaiah 41:21, John 1:1

The Law of Non-Contradiction: $A \neq \neg A$

Isaiah 1:18—come let us reason

Isaiah 41:21—come make your case, bring forth your persuasive arguments

John 1:1—Jesus is call the logos, the Word or the Reason of God

5. Christianity has _____ at the center.

♦ John 1:1-5, John 1:14

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)

For further study:

Hazen, *Five Sacred Crossings: A Novel* (Contend Publishing Group, 2012)

Strobel, Hazen *The Case for Grace* (Zondervan, 2015)

Hazen, *Fearless Prayer: Why We Don't Ask and Why We Should* (Harvest House, 2018)

THE CASE FOR CHRISTIANITY

- 1) On the basis of accepted principles of textual and historical analysis, the Gospel records are found to be trustworthy historical documents — primary source evidence concerning the life of Jesus of Nazareth.
- 2) In these records, Jesus exercises divine prerogatives and claims to be God in human flesh.
- 3) In all four Gospels, Christ's death and bodily resurrection are described in detail.
- 4) The explanation that best fits the accepted facts concerning these accounts is that Jesus really did rise from the dead.
- 5) His resurrection confirms the claims of Jesus, including his claim to be God.
- 6) If Jesus is God, whatever he says is true.
- 7) Jesus put his divine stamp of approval on the Old Testament and the soon-to-be-written, apostolic New Testament.
- 8) The New Testament and Old Testament 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 — choose to ignore them.

DR. CRAIG J. HAZEN
Professor Emeritus of Comparative Religion and Christian Apologetics
Founder and Director of the Graduate Program in Christian Apologetics and Science and Religion at Biola University
Chief Strategy Officer, Stand to Reason Ministries
1438 East 33rd St, Signal Hill, CA 90755
craig@str.org
str.org

Did Jesus Really Rise from the Dead?

A list of the bedrock facts surrounding the death, burial, and purported Resurrection of Jesus. Virtually all scholars in this field of study agree with the following:

- 1.** Jesus died by Roman crucifixion
- 2.** He was buried, most likely in a private tomb (the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea)
- 3.** Soon afterward, the disciples were discouraged, bereaved, and despondent, having lost hope
- 4.** Jesus' tomb was found empty very soon after his burial
- 5.** The disciples had experiences which they believed were actual appearances of the risen Jesus
- 6.** Due to these experiences, the disciples' lives were thoroughly transformed, to the point of being willing to die for this belief
- 7.** The Resurrection message was the center of preaching in the earliest churches
- 8.** This message was especially proclaimed in Jerusalem where Jesus died and was buried shortly before
- 9.** As a result of this preaching the Church was born and grew
- 10.** Sunday became the primary day of worship
- 11.** James, who had been a skeptic, was converted to the faith when he believed he saw the resurrected Jesus
- 12.** A few years later, Paul became a Christian believer due to an experience which he also believed was an appearance of the risen Jesus

What Theory Best Fits the Bedrock Facts about the Resurrection Claims?

The Tomb of Jesus

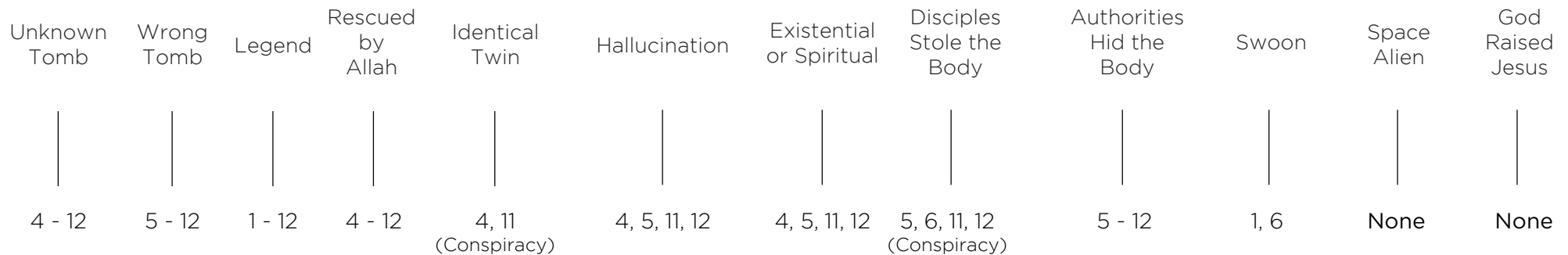
was either

Occupied

Empty

Natural

Supernatural



- Numbers correspond to the known bedrock facts that **DO NOT** fit the given theory -