

The Resurrection of Jesus II

By Greg Rangel

In our last article we focused on one of the main arguments that critics use against the resurrection of Jesus Christ. As we have seen, the 'disciples stole His body' argument was fabricated by the Jews themselves to try to disprove the events that took place.

Two of the last points against this argument was that if incase the disciples stole the body of Jesus, then why did they die for something they knew it was not true? Why dedicate their entire life for a lie? Why go through the heavy persecution and even see their own family members and even their children being burned at the stake or worst, being fed alive to hungry lions?

The final point that we made was that if incase Jesus did not rise from the dead, why was the body of Jesus never produced? Surely one of the disciples that stole the body of Jesus would have so easily confessed after suffering so much pain and would have produced the body of Jesus at some point? The body of Jesus was never produced even up to today.

Upon visiting the tomb of Jesus in Jerusalem today, one can peak in and see that it is empty. The tomb has been empty for almost two thousand years. And it will continue to be empty because Jesus arose from the dead. And once again, there were more that five hundred eyewitnesses to that fact.

But even though there has never been a body of Jesus, skeptics and critics continue to go at it. They continue to deny the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Another common argument that is used is the called the Swoon Theory. This argument states that Jesus did not really die while He was hanging on the cross. The disciples did witness the crucifixion and even though they saw that His body was totally destroyed they actually thought that Jesus died when he gave up the ghost. But in reality Jesus did not die, He only swooned away, that is, he half died and fainted put together. So when they took Jesus' body down from the cross, they wrapped Him up and then laid Him in the tomb. But while in the tomb and due to the coolness of the tomb, that had a strong reaction on the body of Jesus causing Jesus to awake from His semi-death experience.

This argument lacks logic and reasoning for many reasons. When one studies the crucifixion of Jesus in detail and the way the Roman soldiers would torture those that were going to get crucified, one can clearly see that it was impossible to actually live through a crucifixion.

The Roman soldiers would lash their victims thirty nine times with a whip called the cat of nine tails (see Matthew 27). With every lash the person received, a piece of his back would be torn off. One of the reasons that this torture method was so that the prisoner would confess his crimes. If incase the prisoner would make it out alive, the

soldiers would then take the person to be crucified. In Jesus' case though, He had nothing to confess so He took all thirty nine lashes.

According to the Scriptures, after He received His thirty nine lashed, Jesus was then led to be crucified. While He hung on the cross a Roman Soldier pierced His side with a sword and punctured His heart. This was done due to the Jewish holiday that was just a few hours away.

After suffering so much and loosing most of His blood from his head, back and side, and even after having His heart punctured, how would it be even possible to suffer being crucified for six hours? By the time the sixth hour was up, surely all of His blood would have already been spilled on the cross.

How would it be possible for Jesus to awake while He was in the tomb due to the coolness of it? And being in His condition, how could He have conjured up any strength whatsoever to unwrap Himself from the cloth that He was wrapped in? A healthy person would have such a difficult time unwrapping Himself, much less someone that lost all his blood.

There are a few more points that we must bring up against this argument. We will do this in our next article. But for now, take courage because Jesus arose from the dead! Praise the Lord!

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