

9. The _____ of Paul

- Objection: Paul's letters, some of the earliest New Testament writings, provide little detail about the empty tomb or Jesus' physical appearances, focusing instead on spiritual resurrection.
- Skeptics' Reasoning: This could indicate that the resurrection story was less developed in early Christian thought.

Answering Skeptic's Objections

Learning to understand the difference between "a priori" versus "a posteriori" objections.

An "a priori" objection is based on pure reason and logic, independent of experience, while an "a posteriori" objection relies on empirical evidence gathered from the world through observation, meaning it is based on experience and data to refute a claim; essentially, an a priori objection argues against something based on inherent concepts and reasoning alone, whereas an a posteriori objection argues against something by pointing to real-world observations that contradict it.

We will be utilizing Gary Habermas' "Minimal Facts Approach" to address questions about the resurrection.

This approach uses facts that are supported by strong, independent arguments.

The facts must be agreed upon by the majority of scholars, even skeptical ones.

This approach can be shared with people of different religions and worldviews.

This approach can be used to establish the resurrection without assuming the Bible is supernatural.

Why It Matters
The Unique Cornerstone
Of Our Unique Faith
1 Cor 15:17-18

REVIEW

This is not the *ONLY* apologetic, and in many cases, not the best.

Common Questions/objections

1. Is resurrection (*the dynamic specialized event on which we base our faith*) even possible? (Kalam, Teleological, Moral)
2. Why would a resurrection matter?
Location, Location, Location
Jesus' speaking of His resurrection prior to it as the "sign" gives the needed context to the *dynamic specialized event*.
3. Can you prove there was a resurrection?

This Week:

"Can you prove there was a resurrection?"

Skeptic's Most Common _____ to the Resurrection

The historicity of Jesus' resurrection is one of the most debated topics in historical theology and apologetics. Here are some of the strongest objections skeptics raise, along with brief explanations of their reasoning:

1. Lack of Contemporary Evidence
 - Objection: The resurrection accounts are not supported by contemporary, non-Christian historical records. The primary sources for the resurrection are the New

Testament writings, which were penned decades after the events.

- Skeptics' Reasoning: The absence of corroboration in independent historical documents raises doubts about the reliability of the resurrection narratives.

2. _____ in the Gospel Accounts

- Objection: The resurrection accounts in the Gospels (e.g., Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) differ significantly in details such as the number of women at the tomb, the presence and role of angels, and Jesus' post-resurrection appearances.

- Skeptics' Reasoning: These inconsistencies suggest the narratives were not based on reliable eyewitness testimony but evolved over time.

3. _____ Development

- Objection: The resurrection story may have evolved as a legend over decades, influenced by religious and cultural expectations.

- Skeptics' Reasoning: Myths and legends about dying and rising gods were prevalent in ancient cultures, possibly influencing early Christian claims.

4. _____ Explanations

- Objection: The post-resurrection appearances of Jesus could be explained as grief-induced hallucinations or visions experienced by his followers.

- Skeptics' Reasoning: Emotional distress and the disciples' intense hope for Jesus' return might have triggered subjective experiences interpreted as encounters with the risen Jesus.

5. The _____ Theory

- Objection: Jesus did not actually die on the cross but merely fell unconscious ("swooned") and later revived in the tomb.

- Skeptics' Reasoning: If Jesus survived the crucifixion, his later appearances could be explained naturally, without invoking a miraculous resurrection.

6. _____ Theory

- Objection: Jesus' body was stolen from the tomb by his disciples or others, giving rise to the empty tomb narrative.

- Skeptics' Reasoning: The empty tomb does not necessarily require a resurrection; it could have been the result of human actions.

7. The Role of _____

- Objection: The resurrection accounts were written by followers of Jesus who had a vested interest in promoting the belief that he rose from the dead.

- Skeptics' Reasoning: This bias might have influenced the writers to embellish or fabricate the resurrection stories to strengthen their religious movement.

8. _____ Explanations for the Empty Tomb

- Objection: Natural events, such as grave robbing or relocation of the body by authorities, could explain the empty tomb.

- Skeptics' Reasoning: These explanations do not require the assumption of a supernatural event.