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### Week 10: Christians view of the Person of Jesus

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#### *Topic to be covered:*

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- Christians view of the Person of Jesus
- Christ's expectation of me

#### *What is the Best Explanation?*

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- We have seen that:
  - Christ was crucified on the cross on Friday and buried in the tomb that evening
  - Sunday morning the tomb that Christ was buried in was found empty
  - After the “crucifixion of Christ”, many claimed to have seen Christ
  - The Christian faith emerged in the community, even though Christ had been “crucified”
  - The proposed explanation should be: related (to all the events), realistic, and plausible

#### *Review of the Theories:*

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- Conspiracy theory: Summary: Disciples stole the body of Jesus
  - No historical documents that confirms this theory
  - Women discovered the tomb
  - What benefit would the disciples get from this “fictional” story
  - No explanation of the actual resurrection story taking place
  - The main problem with this theory is that it is improbable
- Conspiracy theory: summary: Christ survived the crucifixion!
  - No known historical documents

- Since Christ would appear to be weak, they would never follow Him and claim He is God
  - HIGHLY improbable to survive a crucifixion
- Displaced Body Theory: Summary: Joseph of Arimathea placed the body of Christ *temporarily* in the tomb.
  - Silent regarding the Postmortem Appearances and the origin for the Christian faith (ie. a resurrected Christ)
  - The disciples claims (ie. Christ's resurrection) were never corrected.
  - The criminals' graveyard was 50-600 yards away.
- Hallucination theory: Summary: the disciples entered a state of psychosis making them believe that they saw Christ.
  - offers no explanation for both the empty tomb and the emergence of the Christian Faith.
  - The diversity of these Post-Mortem appearances make this theory unrealistic.
  - How can over 500 people experience the SAME hallucination?
  - the Jewish community had no prior knowledge of a resurrection like that

#### Resurrection Story:

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- Summary: Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit
  - **Ex: being grateful**
  - they became subject to the law of the devil
    - the devil became their new king
  - Adam and Eve, repented and asked God to forgive them

- God gave them a **COVENANT and told them He would come and save them**
  - From that point on, through the prophets of the Old Testament, God reminded His people about the Covenant.

Rejoice, O people of Zion! Shout in triumph, O people of Jerusalem! Look, your king is coming to you. He is righteous and victorious, yet he is humble, riding on a donkey— riding on a donkey's colt. **Zechariah 9:9**

- The people of Israel were earnestly waiting for a **Messiah to come and save them.**
- As promised Christ came to this world to save us.
- He fulfilled all the prophecies written in the Old Testament.

They brought the donkey and the colt to him and threw their garments over the colt, and he sat on it, Most of the crowd spread their garments on the road ahead of him, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup> Jesus was in the center of the procession, and the people all around him were shouting, “Praise God<sup>dl</sup> for the Son of David! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the LORD! Praise God in highest heaven!” The entire city of Jerusalem was in an uproar as he entered. “Who is this?” they asked. And the crowds replied, “It’s Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.” **Matthew 21:1-11**

- After His Triumphal entry, they arrested Christ and crucified Him on the cross.
  - He died the death that we deserved
  - Through His death he was able to defeat death

- He took the souls of all the people who were in Hades and took them in the Garden of Eden.
- He resurrected and showed Himself to His disciples
  - He instructed them to preach and teach about the Gospel (good news).
- This story explains:
  - The empty tomb
  - Post-Mortem appearances
  - Origin of Christian Faith
- The resurrection is realistic
  - Since the prophecies, written hundreds of years before the coming of Christ, accurately describe Christ's resurrection, it is realistic
- It is possible for an **omnipotent God to raise Himself from the dead.**

### Life After Resurrection

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- Christ instituted One Church
  - “Why I hate religion, but Love Christ”
- People kept spreading false teachings about Jesus
  - Some claimed He did not die
  - Some claimed He was not divine
  - Some claimed he was a ghost
- Eventually church fathers came together and addressed all of the questions people about Christ

- Most of their teachings can be found in ‘The Faith of the Fathers’ (ሃይማኖተ አበጦ)
- These fathers went through great length to preserve these teachings
  - Council of Chalcedon, 451 AD
    - You will not hear many things about our church
      - *The forgotten council*

#### Christ's Expectation:

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- Remember the sacrifice that He has made
- Keep His teachings and lessons
- Spread the Gospel