

# the rack

## the RESURRECTION! FACT OR FICTION?

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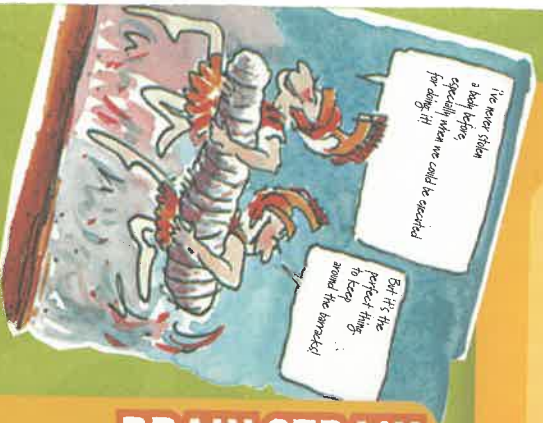
A lot of people have tried really hard to explain away the empty tomb. They'd like nothing better than to shoot down the idea of Jesus' resurrection. After straining their brains, here are some of the arguments they came up with.

## FACT OR FICTION?

### BRAIN STRAIN

#### 1 The disciples stole the body.

**THINK AGAIN.** Matthew 28:11-15 reveals a plan in which the guards were paid huge sums of money to say that while they were asleep the disciples stole the body. If they were asleep, how could they know if this happened? Also, if the disciples deliberately spread a lie, would they be willing to be tortured and killed for it? The disciples weren't exactly the bravest lot. They all deserted Christ during His trial. What major event changed them into fiery preachers in the very city where Christ had died? The Resurrection was that major thing.



### BRAIN STRAIN

#### 2 The Jewish leaders removed the body.

**THINK AGAIN.** If this were true, why did the Jewish leaders let Peter preach so boldly (Acts 4)? If they had Christ's body, why didn't they parade it through the streets and discredit everything Peter was saying about the Resurrection?

### BRAIN STRAIN

#### 3 The women went to the wrong tomb. The empty tomb they saw wasn't Christ's.

**THINK AGAIN.** Why didn't the enemies of Jesus go to the right one and produce the body? Also, would the disciples who came later have made the same mistake? Joseph of Arimathea wouldn't—he owned the tomb.

There are all kinds of theories explaining away the empty tomb. But think again: which is harder to believe? These answers, or the idea of an actual resurrection?

### BRAIN STRAIN

#### 4 Jesus just passed out on the cross and they assumed He was dead. Later, He revived.

**THINK AGAIN.** Without going into gory details, Roman soldiers knew how to crucify a person. After hanging on a cross and lying in a damp tomb for three days, would Jesus have had enough strength to take off the carefully wrapped grave clothes, move the stone, overpower the guards, and walk miles on bloodied, wounded feet? And still give the impression He was a strong conqueror over death? Think about it.



# The Indiscoverable Event

Christianity makes some pretty amazing claims. Perhaps the most amazing claim of all is that Jesus rose from the dead. A resurrection? You've got to be kidding. What proof could there possibly be for such an idea? Check out the proof in 1 Corinthians 15:3-7.

## 1 Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-7. What proofs for Jesus' resurrection does Paul give there?

## 2 Read the article on pages 2-3 of this paper. What evidences for Jesus' resurrection are given there?

Christ has risen! And someday it will happen to us! "For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive" (1 Cor. 15:22).

**Read 1 Corinthians 15:51-58 and answer these questions.**

This is what Jesus' tomb may have looked



## TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

1 CORINTHIANS 15:3-7, 51-58

**Bible Study**

<sup>3</sup>For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup>that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup>and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. <sup>6</sup>After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup>Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.

<sup>51</sup>I listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—<sup>52</sup>in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. <sup>53</sup>For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. <sup>54</sup>When the perishable has been clothed with the

imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory."

<sup>55</sup>Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"

<sup>56</sup>The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. <sup>57</sup>But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>58</sup>Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

## 3 Describe three things that will happen at our resurrection according to verse 52.

## 4 How will we be "changed" according to verse 53?

## 5 Reread Paul's victory song in verses 54-57. What's he so excited about? What kind of music would you set this victory song to?

## 6 Reread verse 58. What's Paul's conclusion about how we can live life? Design a mini-poster to illustrate it.

Bible Art: © Sergio Carrillo





**In God's heavenly kingdom, what kind of body-chassis\* will I have? Do you ever wonder about that question? In the life beyond this life, what does the Bible tell us our bodies will be like? Like a good Sherlock Holmes mystery, the Bible gives us four solid clues about what our bodies-to-be will be like.**



### I'LL BE CHANGED

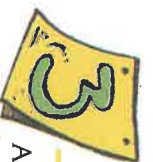
Imagine being instantly changed! This is foundational fact number one about a Christian's body-to-be in the beyond: "we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye" (1 Cor. 15:51-52). Faster than you can blink—every Christian will be changed.



### I'LL BE ME

You don't become an angel in the afterlife. You don't float in the clouds. Just as a watermelon seed becomes a watermelon, so you'll turn into the future, final you someday

(see 1 Cor. 15:37-41). You'll have your own glorified genes, so to speak. People will still recognize you, just as Peter recognized Moses and Elijah at Christ's transfiguration (Matt. 17:3).



### I'LL BE DIFFERENT

After this life, you'll still be you, but you'll be a different you. In God's body shop, your chassis will get all spiffed up, overhauled. "There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain" (Rev. 21:4).

Just like shiny new cars on display in the showroom, God will even put us on display before the universe. Ephesians 2:7 says God



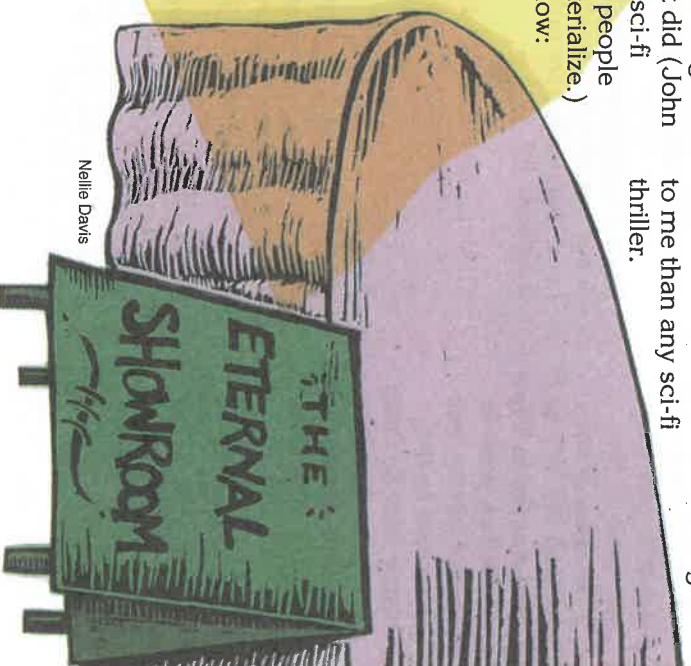
### I'LL BE LIKE CHRIST

The one surefire thing is "we know that when he [Christ] appears [at His second coming], we shall be like him" (1 John 3:2). Does that mean we'll be able to go right through doors as the risen Christ did (John 20:19)? (It's a bit like a sci-fi movie where you watch people dematerialize and rematerialize.) Who knows? This we know: God "will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his

[Christ's] glorious body" (Phil. 3:21). This is no out-of-body experience, but a real in-the-(new)-body experience when believers in Jesus enter fully and finally into eternal life. Sounds more exciting to me than any sci-fi thriller.

**"You've probably heard the word 'chassis' (pronounced CHAS-ee) used for the frame of a car or airplane, but you may not have seen it spelled."**

Nellie Davis



# every day deves

## GUARANTEED

**B**ut Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

1 Corinthians 15:20

**J**esus not only died for our sins, but also rose from the dead as the guarantee of our eternal life. It's as if God wanted to triple underline, print in capital letters, and announce to the world that He loves us and makes it possible for us to live forever with Him.

MONDAY

Read 1 Corinthians 15:20. Another way to define "firstfruits" is "guarantee." What is the purpose of a guarantee? Write your ideas, and then compare them to Christ as our "guarantee" of eternal life.

TUESDAY

First Thessalonians 4:13-18 is a beautiful account of Christ's resurrection and second coming. Draw a picture (for your eyes only!) of verses 16 and 17.

WEDNESDAY

Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-19. Why is Jesus' resurrection so important to your faith? Thank God for raising Jesus from the dead.

THURSDAY

Christ is often described as our hope. Look up the word "hope" online or in a dictionary; then write your own definition of Christ as our hope.

FRIDAY

Read 1 Corinthians 15:57. Celebrate Christ's victory over death. Use the words to a hymn as a prayer to God, or compose your own song of praise.

SATURDAY

Think about it: Christ lived, died, and was resurrected for *you*. Make it a point to thank God, not just once, but several times during the day, for sending His Son to die for you.

