

CONVERSION OF PAUL

Multiple, Independent Sources

Paul's Suffering

CONVERSION OF PAUL

Witnesses to Paul's Suffering

²³ ...in far more labors, in far more imprisonments, beaten times without number, often in danger of death. ²⁴Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine lashes. ²⁵Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent in the deep. ²⁶I have been on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers among false brethren; ²⁷I have been in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.

2 Co 11:23-27.

CONVERSION OF PAUL

Multiple, Independent Sources

Paul's Suffering

CONVERSION OF PAUL

Witnesses to Paul's Suffering

Paul also obtained the reward of patient endurance, after being seven times thrown into captivity, compelled to flee, and stoned. After preaching both in the east and west, he gained the illustrious reputation due to his faith, having taught righteousness to the whole world, and come to the extreme limit of the west, and suffered martyrdom under the prefects. Thus was he removed from the world, and went into the holy place, having proved himself a striking example of patience.

CONVERSION OF PAUL

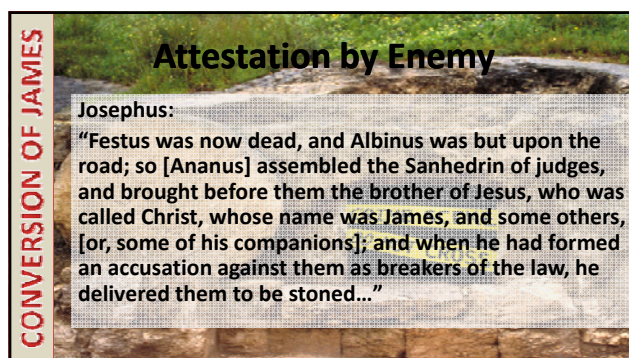
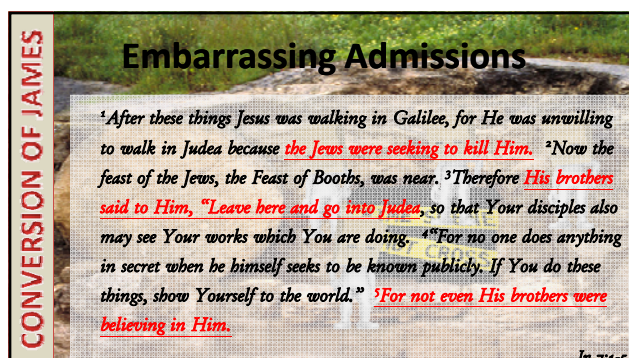
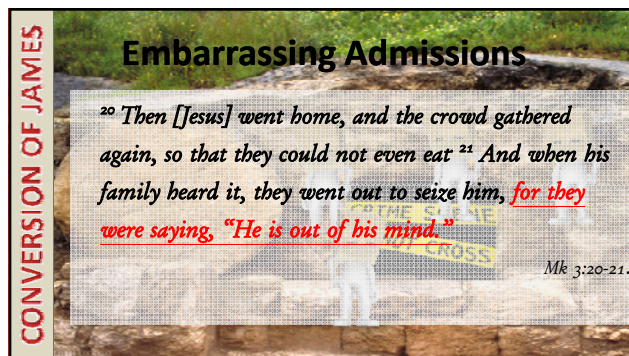
Multiple, Independent Sources

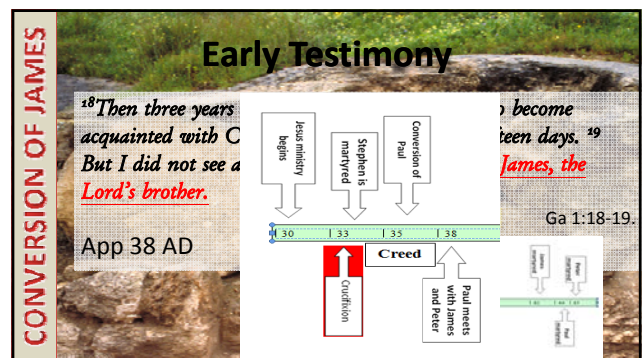
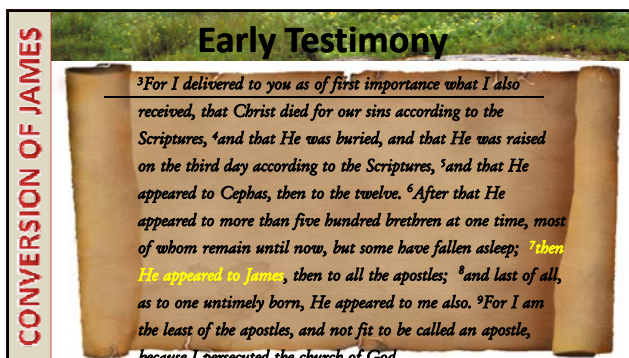
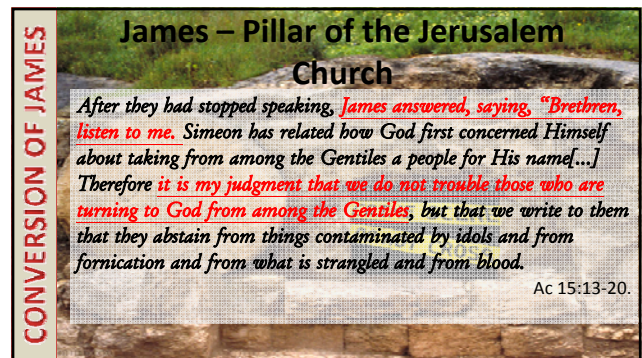
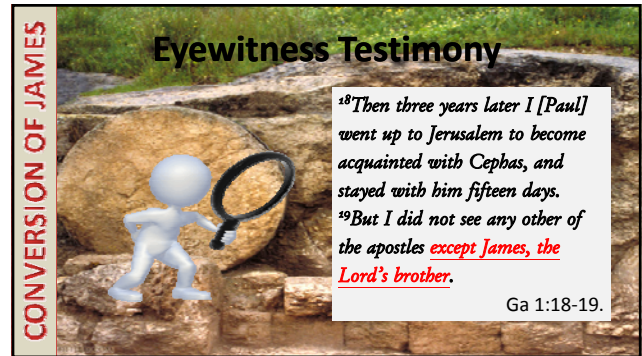
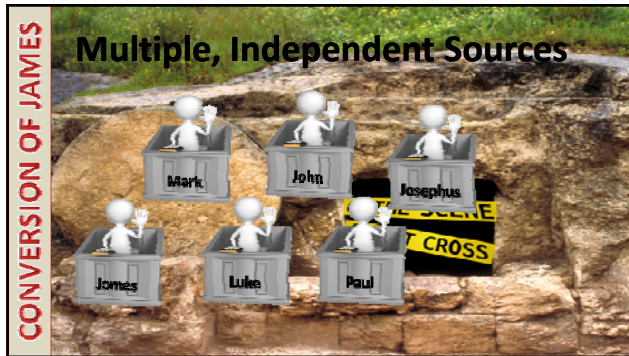
Paul's Suffering

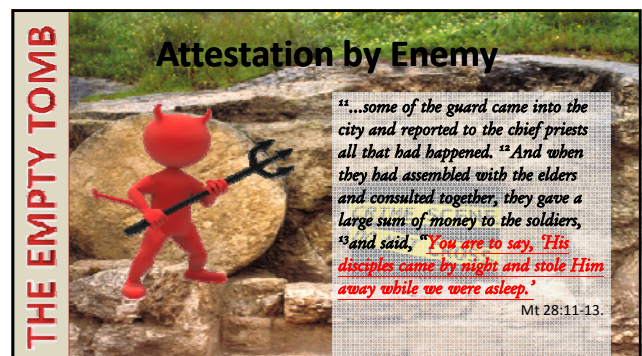
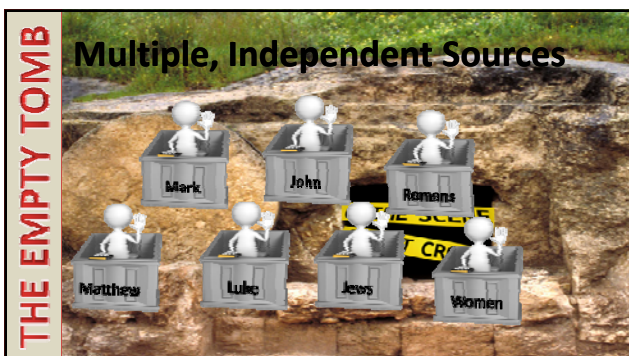
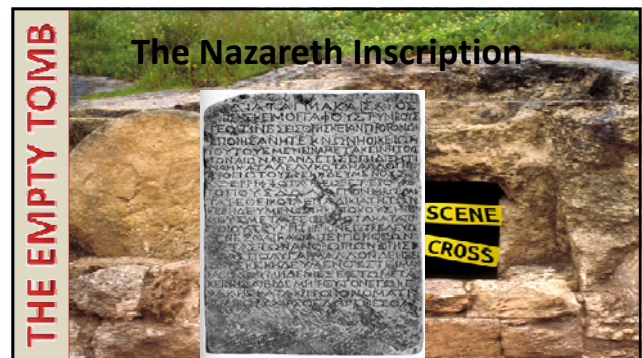
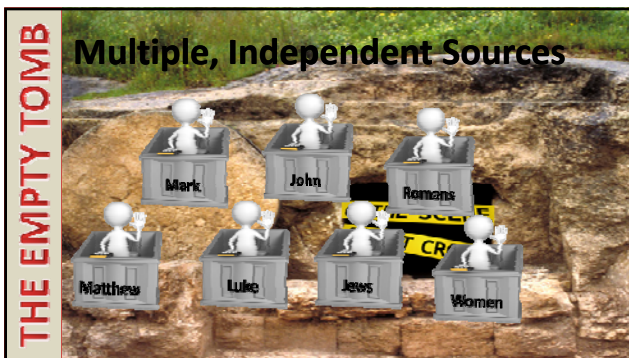
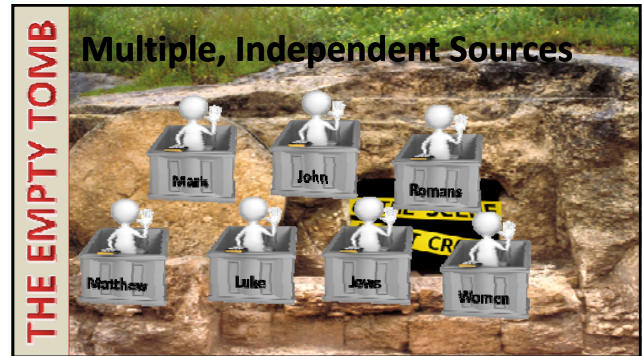
CONVERSION OF PAUL

Witnesses to Paul's Suffering

Dionysius of Corinth:
 "You have thus by such an admonition bound together the planting of Peter and of Paul at Rome and Corinth. For both of them planted and likewise taught us in our Corinth. And they taught together in like manner in Italy, and suffered martyrdom at the same time."







THE EMPTY TOMB

Justin Martyr

"...you have sent chosen and ordained men throughout all the world to proclaim that a godless and lawless heresy had sprung from one Jesus, a Galilaean deceiver, whom we crucified, but his disciples stole him by night from the tomb, where he was laid when unfastened from the cross..."

Dialogue of Justin With Trypho, a Jew
AD 150

THE EMPTY TOMB

Tertullian

This is He whom you purchased from Judas! This is He whom you struck with reed and fist, whom you contemptuously spat upon, to whom you gave gall and vinegar to drink! This is He whom His disciples secretly stole away.

De Spectaculis
Ca. AD 200

THE EMPTY TOMB

Toledot Yeshu

On Sunday, his supporters told the queen that he was not in his grave, he had ascended to heaven as he prophesied. They had searched in vain, because a gardener had removed him from his grave. The gardener confessed he had taken the body to prevent followers of Yeshu to rob him and pretend he had ascended to heaven.

THE EMPTY TOMB

Multiple, Independent Sources

THE EMPTY TOMB

Embarrassing Admissions

THE EMPTY TOMB

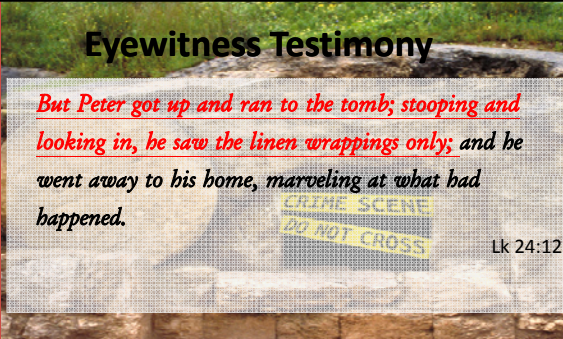
Multiple, Independent Sources

THE EMPTY TOMB

Eyewitness Testimony


But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen wrappings only; and he went away to his home, marveling at what had happened.

Lk 24:12.



THE EMPTY TOMB

Multiple, Independent Sources

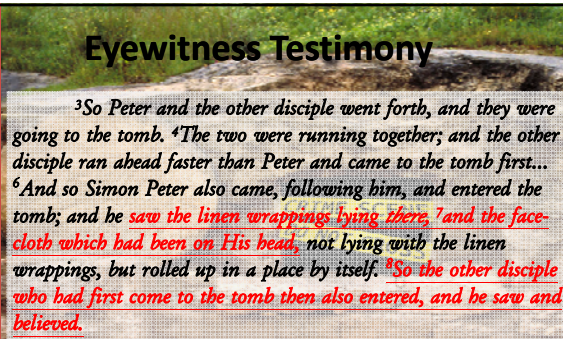


THE EMPTY TOMB

Eyewitness Testimony

³So Peter and the other disciple went forth, and they were going to the tomb. ⁴The two were running together; and the other disciple ran ahead faster than Peter and came to the tomb first... ⁶And so Simon Peter also came, following him, and entered the tomb; and he saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷and the face-cloth which had been on His head, not lying with the linen wrappings, but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸So the other disciple who had first come to the tomb then also entered, and he saw and believed.

Jn 20:3-8.



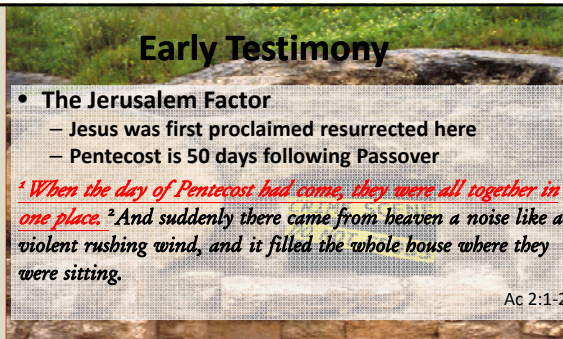
THE EMPTY TOMB

Early Testimony

- The Jerusalem Factor
 - Jesus was first proclaimed resurrected here
 - Pentecost is 50 days following Passover

¹When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

Ac 2:1-2.



THE EMPTY TOMB


Producing Jesus' Body Would Stop Christianity



THE EMPTY TOMB

Which Explanation is Best?

- Which has better explanatory scope?
 - What best explains the greatest number of facts?
- Which has better explanatory power?
 - What cause is the higher quality for explaining the facts?
- Which is most plausible?
 - Does the explanation seem reasonable?



Which Explanation is Best?

- Which explanation is less ad hoc?
 - Which explanation does not rely upon ideas not supported by evidence?
- Which provides illumination on other questions?
 - Bonus! Does the explanation also shed light on some other question without confusing what is already known?

Theory # 1 THE LEGEND THEORY

Problems

1. Resurrection account traced to real experiences of original apostles
2. Adversary Paul believed he saw the risen Jesus
3. No evidence offered to support assertion

THE LEGEND THEORY

Theory # 2 RESURRECTIONS IN OTHER RELIGIONS

Problems

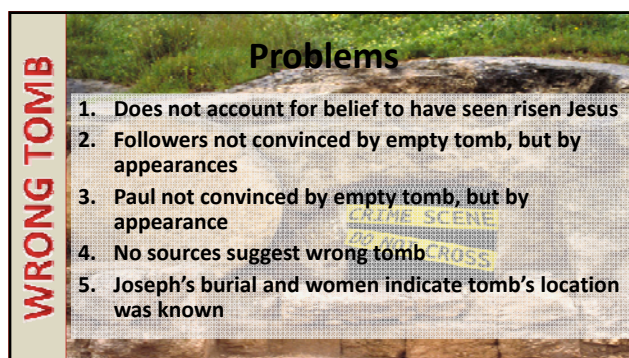
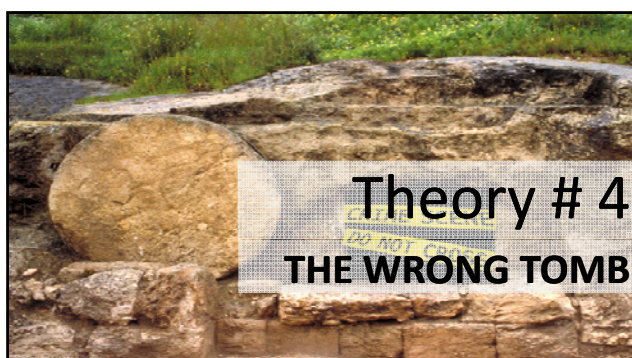
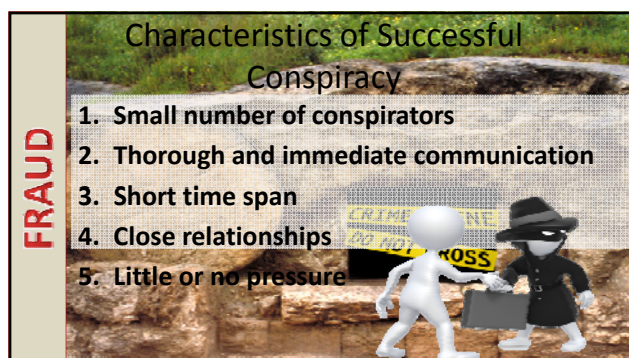
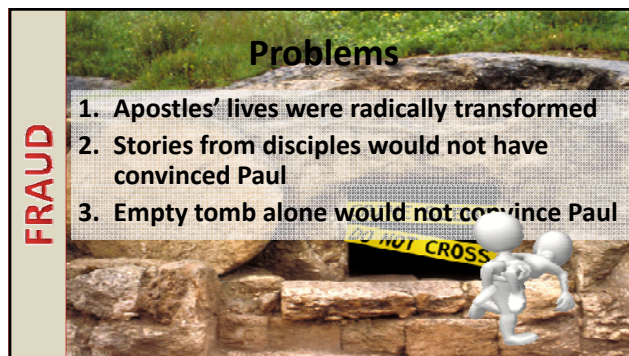
1. Accounts in other religions are unclear

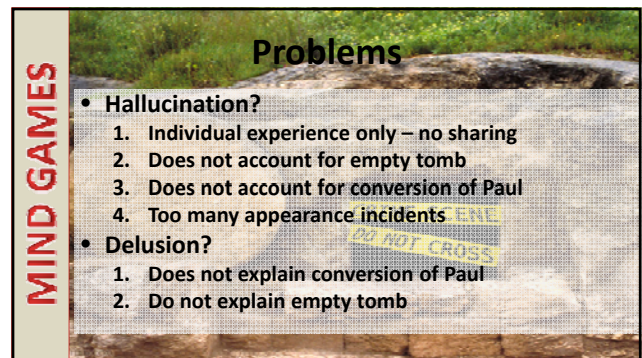
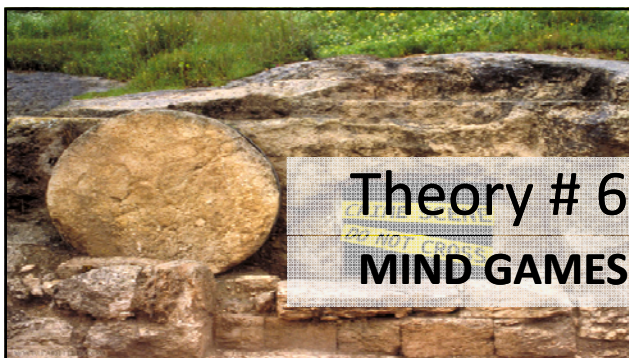
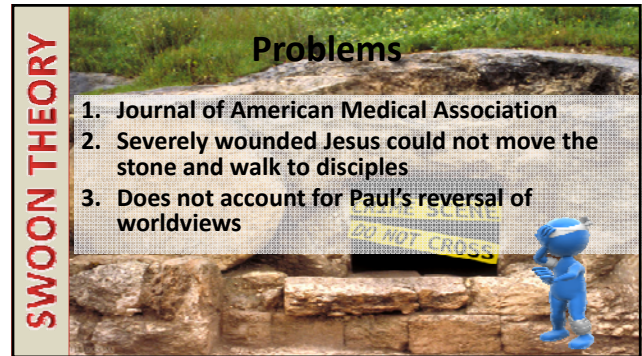
OTHER RELIGIONS

Problems

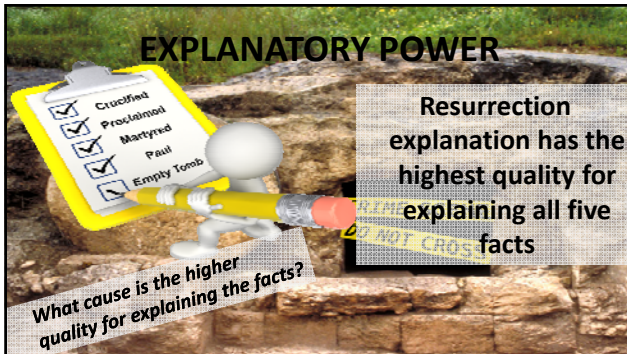
1. Accounts in other religions are unclear
2. Accounts in other religions lack evidence and can easily be accounted for by opposing theories
3. Claims of resurrections in other religions do not explain evidence that exists for Jesus' resurrection

OTHER RELIGIONS





EXPLANATORY POWER



Resurrection explanation has the highest quality for explaining all five facts

What cause is the higher quality for explaining the facts?


PLAUSIBILITY



Resurrection would reasonably explain all five facts

Does the explanation seem reasonable?

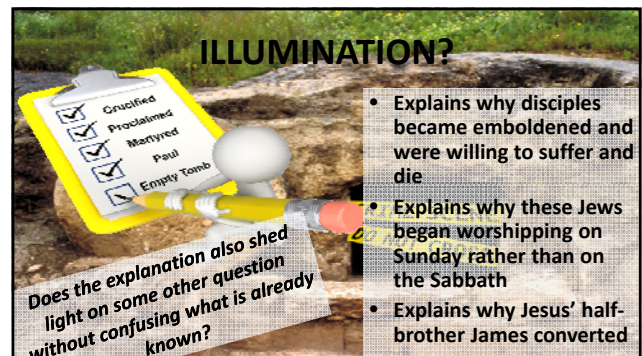
LESS AD HOC?



If Miracles are possible, resurrection is possible

Which explanation does not rely upon ideas not supported by evidence?

ILLUMINATION?



- Explains why disciples became emboldened and were willing to suffer and die
- Explains why these Jews began worshipping on Sunday rather than on the Sabbath
- Explains why Jesus' half-brother James converted

Does the explanation also shed light on some other question without confusing what is already known?

