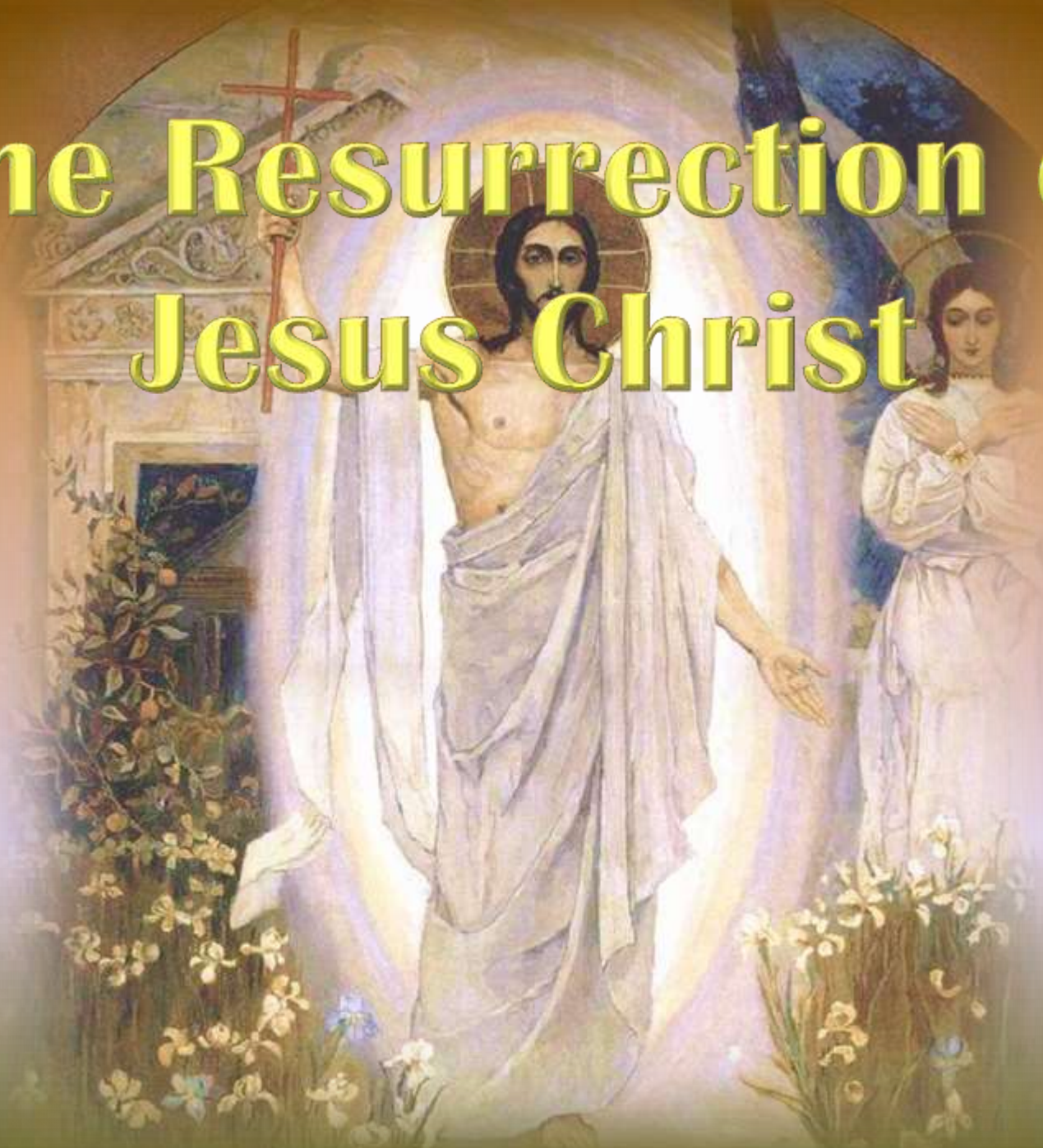


# The Resurrection of Jesus Christ



# What is Resurrection?

*Key Scriptures about resurrection:*

John 6:39-40

Romans 1:4; 4:23-25; 6:4-10

1 Corinthians 15

# What is Resurrection?

*Key ideas about resurrection:*

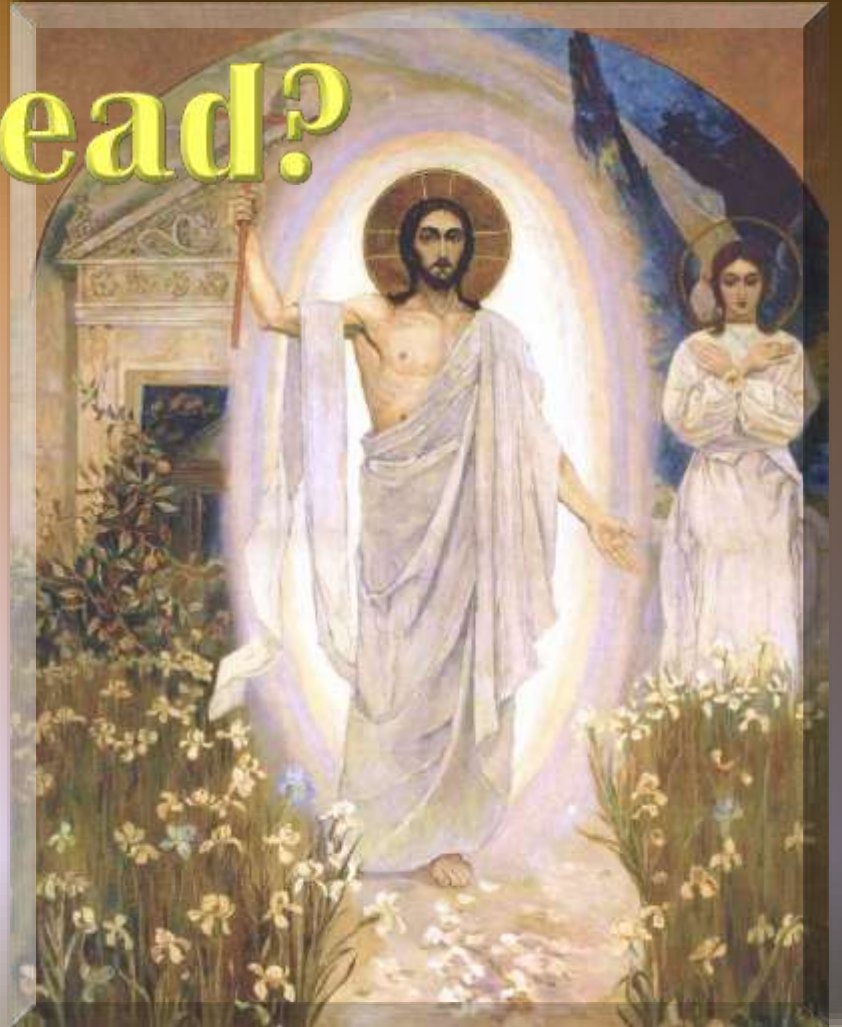
1. Resurrection from the dead is not *resuscitation*. Resuscitation is a body being brought back to the same life as before death; still subject to hunger, sickness, and eventual death—again. Resurrection is bodily, but involves a new life beyond corruption, disease, or death.

# What is Resurrection?

*Key ideas about resurrection:*

2. Jesus' resurrection is the *forerunner* and promise of our future resurrection.
3. Jesus' resurrection is a *vindication* of his life, teaching, and claims.
4. Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection accomplishes our *justification*—the *forgiveness of sins and reconciliation with God*.

# Was Jesus Raised From the Dead?



**Many, perhaps most, secular historians would agree on the following facts surrounding the claim that Jesus was raised from the dead:**

**AD 33**

**Crucifixion of Jesus Christ**  
**Reports of the Empty Tomb**

**Claims of appearances of the risen Jesus**  
**The Earliest Belief of the Church**  
**The conversion of the Apostles Paul & James**  
**The Martyrdom of the Apostles**

# What event in history best explains these facts?



AD 33

Crucifixion of Jesus Christ  
Reports of the Empty Tomb

Claims of appearances of the risen Jesus  
The Earliest Belief of the Church  
The conversion of the Apostles Paul & James  
The Martyrdom of the Apostles

**What event in history best  
explains these facts?**

**Alternative theories  
to the Resurrection**



# The Disciples Stole the Body

This is the oldest, and the original, alternate theory. The Jewish priests and leaders who turned Jesus over to Pilate instructed the guards from Jesus' tomb to say that "His disciples came during the night and stole him away" (Matt. 28:11-15).

# The Disciples Stole the Body

The primary problem with this theory is that it attributes a clever and bold act of conspiracy to a group of disciples who were completely confused by the trial and crucifixion of the man they believed was the Messiah, and were terrified that they themselves might be arrested.

# Jesus Fainted on the Cross and Revived in the Tomb (the “Swoon” Theory)

The problem with this theory is the manner of Jesus' torture and crucifixion. Many victims of a Roman scourging died from the scourging alone. Crucifixion was designed to prolong agony, but inevitably ended in death. Though popular with some liberal thinkers in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, this theory is so implausible that even few skeptics believe it today.

# The Disciples All

# Hallucinated the Risen Jesus

The problem with this theory is the nature of hallucinations. Hallucinations are entirely the product of the mind of the individual having the hallucination. Groups of people cannot “share” a hallucination. Nor can a hallucination “appear” to different people on separate occasions. This theory also doesn't explain the empty tomb.

# The Disciples Went to the Wrong Tomb

The problem with this theory is that the location of the tomb was well known. The women who discovered the tomb empty had previously seen Jesus buried there (Mark 15:42-47). Jesus' tomb would also be indicated by the presence of the Roman guard (Matthew 27:62-66). This theory also doesn't explain the empty tomb.

# The Story of Jesus' Resurrection Was a Legend

There are two major related problems with this theory: 1) There are numerous historical details recorded in the gospels that could have been investigated and exposed if untrue; 2) The time between Jesus' death and the writing of the gospels was too short for a legend to have developed.

# Why we should conclude that Jesus was raised from the dead:

1. The historical reliability of the New Testament is well-established.
2. The gospels contain corroborating eyewitness accounts of Jesus' resurrection.
3. None of the alternate theories to the resurrection makes sense or explains the facts.

Why we should conclude that Jesus was raised from the dead:

4. The resurrection of Jesus is the only explanation that makes sense of all the facts surrounding the death of Jesus, and makes sense of the testimony of the disciples and the early Church that Jesus was raised from the dead.