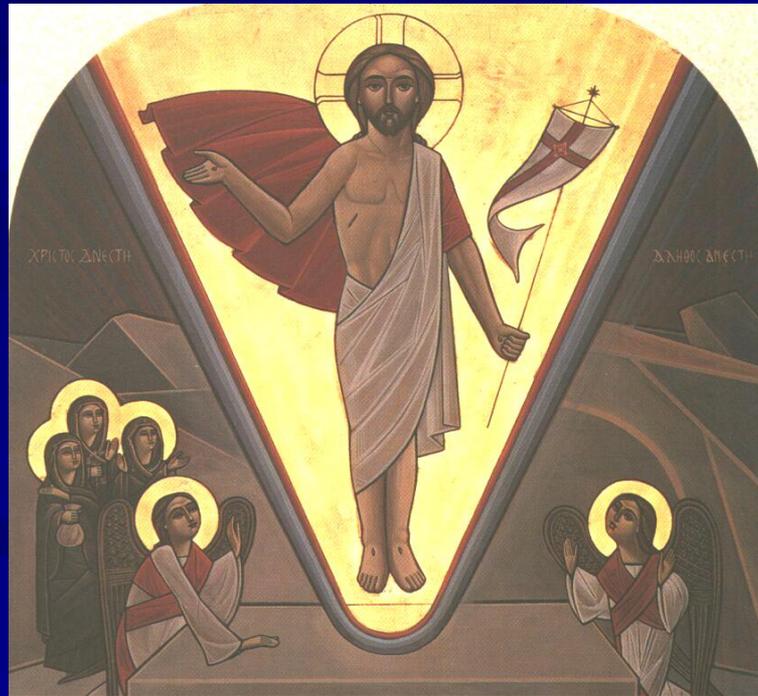


The Resurrection of our Lord & Saviour Jesus Christ

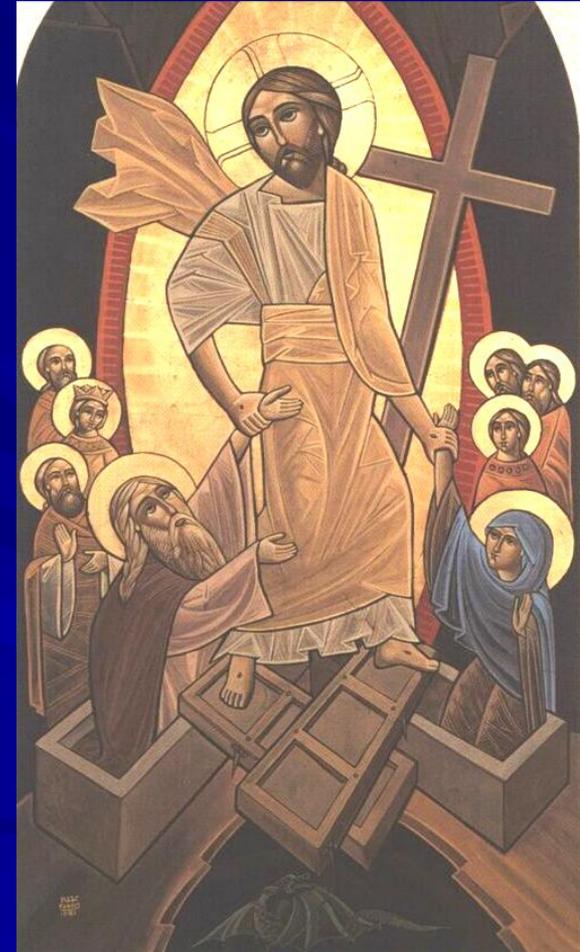
What if it's not True?



Introduction

Why is Resurrection so Important?

- It is the cornerstone of our Faith: *"and we look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen"*
- What would Christianity be like without the Resurrection?
- And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up... And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. 19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable. (1 Cor 15:14-19)



What if Christ did not resurrect?

Resurrection False

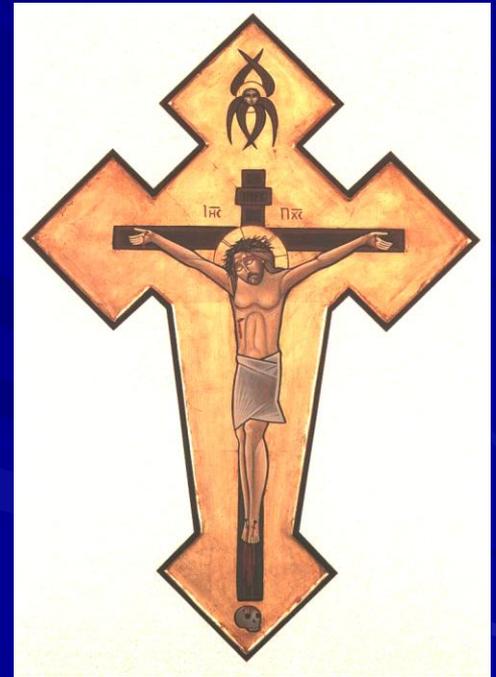
- Christ is a liar
- Christ has no power over death
- The Bible is untrue
- The disciples died for a lie
- There is no hope of heaven as the dead do not rise & have perished
- Life is miserable. Death is scary
- There are no saints in heaven.
- We should not be baptised, have Holy Communion, repent & confess, get married or fast & pray
- We are wasting our time at church
- Sin is ok for there is no Christ or heaven to lose
- Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die! (1 cor 15:32)

Resurrection True

- Christ defeated death
- We have hope in heaven.
- This world has little significance compared with eternity.
- We look forward to seeing our family in heaven
- We will be united with the saints
- Death is no longer scary
- We will have power over sin.
- We will lead a life of hope & joy
- O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory? The sting of death is sin (1 Cor 15:55-56)
- "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live." (John 11:25)

Some Theories

- He was not crucified
 - Replaced with someone else
- He was crucified but he fainted and was presumed dead
- He was crucified. He died. He was buried. But the disciples stole the body and said He resurrected.



He was not crucified - Replaced with someone else

Witnesses to the crucifixion:

■ Three Roman Trials, Three Jewish Trials

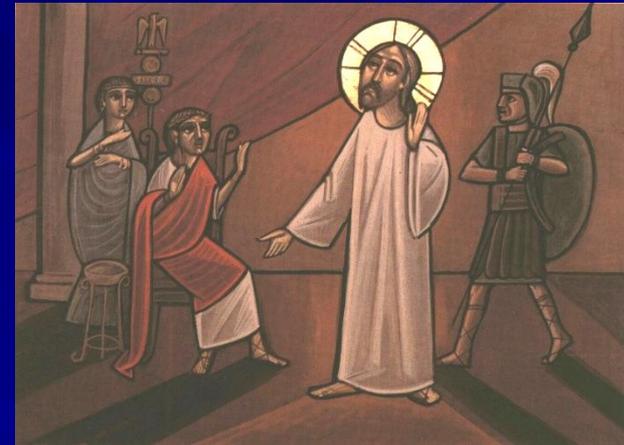
- Before Annas the high priest (Jn. 18:13)
- Before Caiaphas (Mt. 26:57)
- Before the Sanhedrin (Mt. 26:59)
- Before Pontius Pilate (Mt. 27:2)
- Before Herod (Lk. 23:7)
- Back Before Pilate (Lk. 23:11-25)

■ He carried the cross the streets of Jerusalem

■ The public witnessed the crucifixion: those who passed by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads and saying, You who destroy the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross. (Mat 27:39-40)

■ The Chief Priests witnessed the crucifixion: Likewise the chief priests also, mocking with the scribes and elders, said, He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He is the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him. He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now if He will have Him; for He said, 'I am the Son of God.' (Mat 27:41-43)

■ The Centurion & his Guards witnessed the crucifixion: So when the centurion and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God! (Mat 27:54)



He was crucified but he fainted and was presumed dead

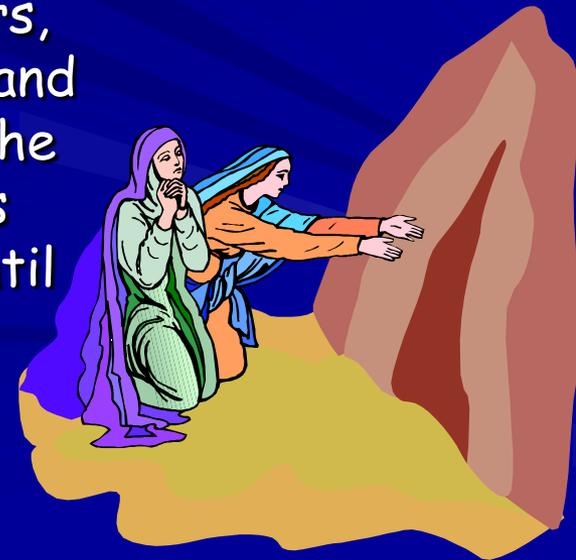
■ HE WAS ALREADY DEAD!

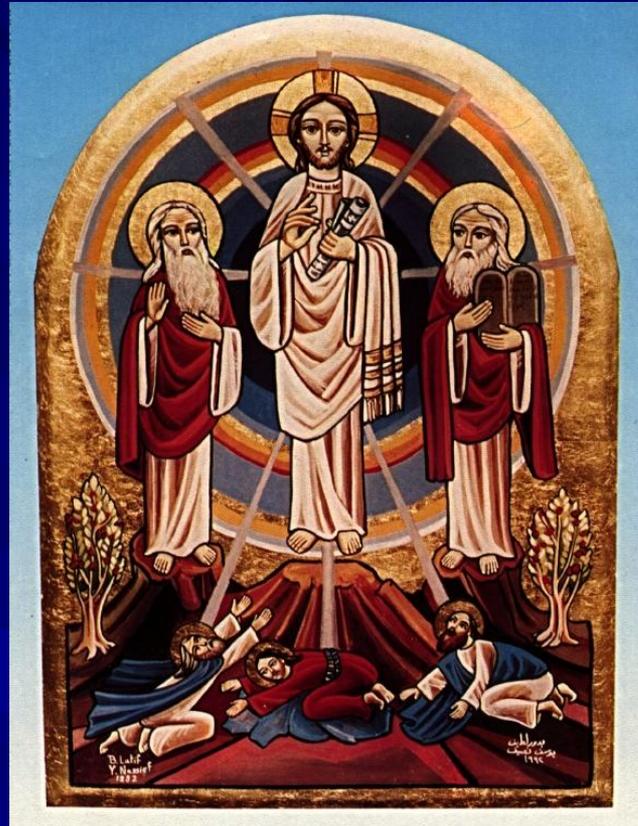
- Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who was crucified with Him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. (John 19:32-33)
- ...the chief priests and Pharisees gathered together to Pilate, saying, Sir, we remember, while He was still alive, how that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise.' Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day, lest His disciples come by night and steal Him away, and say to the people, 'He has risen from the dead.' So the last deception will be worse than the first. Pilate said to them, You have a guard; go your way, make it as secure as you know how. So they went and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting the guard. (Mat 27:62-66)



His disciples stole the body and said He resurrected

- He was seen by Cephas
- then by the twelve.
- After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. (1 Cor 15:5-6)
- Appeared to two disciples on the way to Emmaus
- "...they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers, saying, 'Tell them, 'His disciples came at night and stole Him away while we slept.' ...So they took the money and did as they were instructed; and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.'" (Mat 28:11-15)





Glory be to God
Forever & Ever. Amen.