



# NEW YEAR, SAME GOSPEL” (PART II)

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I CORINTHIANS 15:5-8 BIBLE STUDY

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## CONTEXT



- 1 Now I declare to you, brothers and sisters, the **gospel** I proclaimed to you, and which you accepted, and on which you have taken your stand, 2 and by which you are saved, if you hold firm to the word I proclaimed to you –unless you believed in vain. 3 For I passed on to you as of first importance that which I also received: that **Christ died for our sins** – according to the Scriptures – and that **He was buried**, and that **He was raised** on the third day – according to the Scriptures (1 Cor 15:1-4, AT)





## BELIEVE THESE WOMEN



- 1 After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, **Mary Magdalene** and the **other Mary** went to look at the tomb.
- 2 There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it.
- 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow.
- 4 The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. (Mt 28:1-4, NIV)





## BELIEVE THESE WOMEN



- 5 The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. 6 He is not here; **he has risen, just as he said.** Come and see the place where he lay. 7 Then go quickly and **tell his disciples:** ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.’ Now I have told you.” (Mt 28:5-7, NIV)



## BELIEVE THESE WOMEN



- But go, tell his disciples **and Peter**, ‘He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.’ ”  
(Mk 16:7, NIV)





## BELIEVE THESE WOMEN



- 8 So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and **ran to tell his disciples.**
- 9 Suddenly **Jesus met them.** “Greetings,” he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him.
- 10 Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. **Go and tell my brothers** to go to Galilee; there they will see me.” (Mt 28:8-10, NIV)





1 CORINTHIANS 15:5:  
CHRIST APPEARED



- and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve.  
(1 Cor 15:5, AT)





## I CORINTHIANS 15:5: CHRIST APPEARED



- 33 They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the **Eleven** and those with them, assembled together 34 and saying, “It is true! The **Lord has risen** and has **appeared** to **Simon**.” 35 Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread. (Lk 24:33-35, NIV)



I CORINTHIANS 15:5:  
CHRIST APPEARED



- While they were still talking about this, **Jesus himself stood among them** and said to them, “Peace be with you.” (Lk 24:36, NIV; cf. Jn 20:19ff)





I CORINTHIANS 15:6  
CHECK THE REFERENCES



- Then he appeared to more than 500 of the brothers and sisters at once, most of whom live to this day, though some have fallen asleep.  
(1 Cor 15:6, AT)





I CORINTHIANS 15:7  
JAMES AND 'NEM



- Then He appeared to James,  
then to all the apostles.  
(1 Cor 15:7, AT)





I CORINTHIANS 15:7  
JAMES AND 'NEM



- 1 It was about this time that King Herod arrested some who belonged to the church, intending to persecute them. 2 He had **James, the brother of John, put to death with the sword.** (Ac 12:1-2, NIV)





## I CORINTHIANS 15:7 JAMES AND 'NEM



- 3 Jesus' brothers said to him, "Leave Galilee and go to Judea, so that your disciples there may **see the works you do**. 4 No one who wants to become a **public figure** acts in **secret**. Since you are doing these things, show yourself to the world." 5 For even his **own brothers did not believe** in him. (Jn 7:3-5, NIV)





I CORINTHIANS 15:7  
JAMES AND 'NEM



- They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and **with his brothers.** (Ac 1:14, NIV)





I CORINTHIANS 15:7  
JAMES AND 'NEM



- 18 Then after three years, I went up to Jerusalem to get acquainted with **Cephas** and stayed with him fifteen days. 19 I saw none of the **other apostles**—**only James**, the Lord's brother. (Gal 1:18-19, NIV)





I CORINTHIANS 15:7  
JAMES AND 'NEM



- Greet **Andronicus** and **Junia**, my fellow Jews who have been in prison with me. They are outstanding **among the apostles**, and they were in Christ before I was. (Rom 16:7, NIV)





## I CORINTHIANS 15:7 JAMES AND 'NEM



- 14 But when **the apostles Barnabas and Paul** heard of this, they tore their clothes and rushed out into the crowd, shouting: 15 “Friends, why are you doing this? We too are only human, like you. We are bringing you **good news**, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heavens and the earth and the sea and everything in them. (Ac 14:14-15, NIV)





I CORINTHIANS 15:8  
PERSONAL TESTIMONY,  
LAST AND LEAST



- And last of all, as to one abnormally born, He appeared to me also. (1 Cor 15:8, AT)





I CORINTHIANS 15:8  
PERSONAL TESTIMONY,  
LAST AND LEAST



- For I am the **least of the apostles** and **do not even deserve** to be called an apostle, **because I persecuted the church of God.** (1 Cor 15:9, NIV)





## “MINIMAL FACTS”

- (1) Jesus died by crucifixion,
- (2) His disciples were convinced that Jesus appeared to them – in the flesh,
- (3) Paul, the former **persecutor**, became a Christian,
- (4) James, a former **skeptic**, became a Christian, and
- (5) the tomb was **empty**.





## ALTERNATIVES: HALLUCINATION THEORY?



- 37 They were startled and frightened, **thinking** they saw a **ghost**. 38 He said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? 39 Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; **a ghost does not have flesh and bones**, as you see I have.” 40 When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. 41 And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, “Do you have anything here to **eat**?” 42 They gave him a **piece of broiled fish**, 43 and he **took it and ate it** in their presence. (Lk 24:37-43, NIV; cf. Jn 20:26-29)



## ALTERNATIVES: SWOON THEORY?



- 42 “Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; **yet not my will, but yours be done.**” 43 An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. 44 And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and **his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground** (Lk 22:42-44, NIV)



## ALTERNATIVES: SWOON THEORY?



- Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had **Jesus flogged**, and handed him over to be **crucified**. (Mt 27:26, NIV cf. Mk 10:34, 15:15; Lk 18:33; Jn 19:1)





## ALTERNATIVES: SWOON THEORY?



- 27 Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. 28 They **stripped him** and put a scarlet robe on him, 29 and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand. Then they knelt in front of him and mocked him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said. 30 They **spit on him**, and took the **staff** and **struck him on the head again and again**. 31 After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away **to crucify him**. (Mt 27:27-31, NIV)



## ALTERNATIVES: SWOON THEORY?



- 32 As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and they **forced him to carry the cross**. 33 They came to a place called Golgotha (which means “the place of the **skull**”). (Mt 27:32-33, NIV)





## ALTERNATIVES: SWOON THEORY?



- Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and **take up their cross daily** and follow me (Lk 9:23, NIV)





## ALTERNATIVES: SWOON THEORY?



- 31 Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special **Sabbath**. Because the Jewish leaders did not want the bodies left on the crosses **during the Sabbath**, they asked Pilate to have the **legs broken** and the bodies taken down. 32 The soldiers therefore came and **broke the legs** of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. 33 But when they came to Jesus and found that **he was already dead**, they did **not break his legs**. 34 Instead, one of the soldiers **pierced Jesus' side with a spear**, bringing a sudden flow of **blood and water**.  
(Jn 19:31-34, NIV)





## ALTERNATIVES: SWOON THEORY?



- 39 He [Joseph of Arimathea] was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about **seventy-five pounds**. 40 Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish **burial customs**. (Jn 19:39-40, NIV)



## ALTERNATIVES: CONSPIRACY THEORY?

- 11 While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. 12 When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, 13 telling them, “You are to say, ‘**His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.**’ 14 If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble.” 15 So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. **And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day.** (Mt 28:11-15, NIV)





## ALTERNATIVES: CONSPIRACY THEORY?

- After Herod [Agrippa] had a thorough search made for him and did not find him, he **cross-examined the guards and ordered that they be executed.**  
(Ac 12:19a, NIV)





## ALTERNATIVES: CONSPIRACY THEORY?



- Having been awakened and seeing that the doors of the prison had been opened, the jailer drew his sword and **was about to execute himself**, assuming the prisoners had escaped (Ac 16:27, AT)





## ALTERNATIVES: SUBSTITUTION THEORY?

157. That they said (in boast), “We killed Christ Jesus the son of Mary, the Apostle of Allah”—but they **killed him not, nor crucified him**, but so **it was made to appear to them**, and those who differ therein are full of doubts, with no (certain) knowledge, but only conjecture to follow, for of a surety they killed him not—

158. Nay, Allah raised him up unto Himself; and Allah is Exalted in Power, Wise—  
(Sura 4:157-158)

Abdullah Yusuf Ali, trans., The Meaning of the Holy Qur’an, Electronic version., 2004.

