

## The Rising Parts # 1 - #4 Study Notes and Thoughts

*Hey friends here is an as is collection of passages and ideas from the series The Rising in case you want to look back through the ideas and Scriptures. They are not spell checked or formatted, just a collection of my idea notes. He has Risen! - Chuckk*

### I. Is the Resurrection of Jesus Important?

- A. If it's true it means everything if it's false it means nothing and should be abandoned
- B. 1 Corinthians 15: 13 If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. 14 And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.
- C. 1 Corinthians 15: 17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.
- D. Corinthians 15: 19 If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.
- E. 1 Corinthians 15:32b If the dead are not raised, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die."
- F. Corinthians 15: 20 But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead.

### II. The Communion Connection

- A. Communion as a celebration of a dead guy?
  - 1. With no resurrection, communion wouldn't have been celebrated by early Christians or us... Notice no one is having a ritual like this for any of the other 30,000 roman cross victims of Jesus day because they didn't rise...

### **III. Defined: A resurrection: doesn't mean an afterlife, or immortality it means a return in a BODY to life on Earth**

- A. Ancient world : some not all believed in immortality, almost no one believed in resurrection**
- B. Some 1<sup>st</sup> century Jews did believe in a future Rez but even they weren't looking for one right away as in Jesus case**
- C. Even the Disciples weren't looking for a Rez on Jesus part even though he kept talking about rising, they were confused**
  - 1. On Easter Sunday morning...
  - 2. John 20:6-9 Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, 7 as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen. 8 Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. 9 They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.

### **IV. Was The Resurrection A Legend?**

- A. 1 Cor 15:3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures**
  - 1. A Creed-this is a quotation of an early creed of the church
  - 2. This letter was in circulation when this was written by Paul... a mere 25 years after Jesus death, Christians always believed in the Rez of Jesus it wasn't a later legend or tradition based on myths over time, this is historically observable – the creed existed before its writing

3. Legends occur over long periods of time and storytelling, when no one can refute them, yet here and throughout the Nt we find references to the Rez, and to its centrality of the mssg of the first followers

4. Not centuries later an old story told , from the beginning the Rez was of “first importance”

**B. → VITAL: The Rez caused a huge stir that rattled the foundations of the Roman world and Jerusalem in particular from the start, The Roman and the Pharisees would have stopped this urban legend in it’s tracks by producing Jesus body immediately while the body could be identified as Jesus, End of story**

**C. Josephus – NOT a Christian was a Pharisee and a historian for the Roman Empire. He wrote several famous works: Antiquities of the Jews and the Wars of the Jews. Historians say Josephus was not a Christian.**

1. “Now, there was about this time Jesus, a wise man, if it be lawful to call him a man. For he was a doer of surprising feats - a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He drew over to him both many of the Jews and many of the Gentiles. He was [the] Christ; and when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men amongst us, had condemned him to the cross, those that loved him at the first did not forsake him, for he appeared to them alive again the third day, as the divine prophets had foretold these and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning him; and the tribe of Christians, so named from him, are not extinct to this day”.  
Written 90-95 a.d. - Antiquities of the Jews 18.3.3

**D. Virtually all modern historians will tell you that the Resurrection was the central teaching of the apostles and early church from the very beginning, it’s an historically observable fact even if the historian doesn’t believe that Jesus rose form the dead**

## **V. The Number & Length of Post Rez Appearances**

**A. I Corinthians 15:5 ... he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. 6 After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, 8 and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.**

**B. Acts 1:3 After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.**

1. Hundreds of eyewitnesses including not yet believers over a period of 40 days in the town where they killed him filled with people trying to disprove and stop this thing in its tracks

## **VI. The Changed Lives of the Disciples**

**A. John 20:19 On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"**

**B. Excerpts from Acts 4 -**

1. Verse 1-2 The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. 2 They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead.
2. Verse 3 They seized Peter and John, and because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day.
3. Verse 5-7 The next day the rulers, elders and teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and the other men of the high priest's family. They had Peter and John brought before

them and began to question them: “By what power or what name did you do this?”

4. Verse 10 then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed.

5. Verse 13 When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.

6. Verse 16-17 “What are we going to do with these men?” they asked. “Everybody living in Jerusalem knows they have done an outstanding miracle, and we cannot deny it. 17 But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn these men to speak no longer to anyone in this name.”

7. Verse 18-20 Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. 19 But Peter and John replied, “Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God’s sight to obey you rather than God. 20 For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.”

**C. What changed Peter and the others was this, they saw the risen Jesus over and over**

1. Historians agree that the Apostles totally believed Jesus rose from the grave and it changed their lives and set Christianity on it’s historic course

## **VII. Die For A Lie That you KNOW is a Lie?**

**A. If they made it all up and knew it was a hoax would all of them die terrible deaths proclaiming it true?**

## **VIII. Thomas Arnold Professor of History at Rugby University and Oxford University 1859**

### **A. Author of the: History of Rome, Lectures on Modern History**

1. “I know of no one fact in the history of mankind which is proved by better, fuller evidence of every sort, to the understanding of a fair enquirer, than the great sign which God hath given us that Christ died and rose again from the dead”

## **IX. The Tomb**

**A. Matthew 27:62 The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. 63 “Sir,” they said, “we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, ‘After three days I will rise again.’ 64 So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first.” 65 “Take a guard,” Pilate answered. “Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how.” 66 So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard.**

1. FACT: The tomb was empty, no one denied it , not even the opponents who killed Jesus, they said the disciples stole the body

## **X. The Stolen body Theory / Accusation**

**A. Matthew 24:12 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.**

**B. Why would the Disciples steal the body? What would be the motive or gain?**

**C. They were afraid, thought it was all over**

1. These guys were scared to death not going o barge a roman guard to steal a body for some reason
2. Passage from last week shows on screens -no comment on it
3. ...John 20:19 On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews...

**D. Pay off the guards?**

1. no money to pay the guards off, poor
2. How much money would the guards need to break that seal, and face death
3. Again they thought it over and were on the run

**E. Sleeping guards**

1. ? all sleeping...
2. Noise of the rock,
3. They carefully unwrapped the 75+ pounds of sticky grave clothes and left them there

**F. Die for a lie? Again-If they stole the body somehow, they would know it was hoax, die for that?**

1. Even the critics say that the disciples thought they saw Jesus because they lived and later died for it

**G. Doesn't explain the Post Rez appearances**

## **XI. The Hallucination Theory / Accusation**

**A. Hallucinations happen when people are looking for them, they were looking for a Rising in any way**

1. “ They were just seeing what they believed they’d see, it was all hallucinations”.
2. They weren’t looking for a Rez
  - a) (Reprise on screen )John 20:8 Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. 9 They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.

**B. too many occurrences, too many individuals**

1. Also sight, sound, hundreds different people over 40 days
2. rare in occurrence

**C.  Where is the body, why didn’t the Sanhedrin bring out the body. The tomb was still empty.**

## **XII. The Wrong Tomb Theory / Accusation**

- A. Would your forget where your loved one was buried?**
- B. There weren’t a lot of tombs there, not a modern graveyard**
- C. Doesn’t explain his appearances**
- D. Doesn’t explain the empty tomb**
- E. The opposition would have just produced a body, it would have been the end of the whole mess for them.**

## **XIII. The Swoon Theory / Accusation**

- A. Impossible Jesus was dead as a doornail**
  1. Scourging often produced death he was near death

already pre cross

2. Guards knew when Dead- professionals
3. Spear thrust to heart
4. People don't survive cross

**B. Escape?**

1. Weak, a 1-2 ton slab of rock... inside with hands on rock...
2. Overpowered or sneaked past the Roman guards?

**C. Convinced them that he was totally okay after a cross**

1. 3 days no food, no water in a cave.. after a near death beating and crucifixion... a spear wound to the chest.. WALKING ON FEET that had been pierced though with a rusty spike and now would have been filled with infection

**D. The Emmaus walk - Luke 24:13 - 24**

## **XIV. Changed Lives - A Non Believing brother, James**

**A. Conversion of Jesus' half brother James**

1. James didn't believe
2. John 7:3 Jesus' brothers said to him, "You ought to leave here and go to Judea, so that your disciples may see the miracles 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.
3. Mark 3:20 Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, so that he and his disciples were not even able to eat. 21 When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, "He is out of his mind."

4. What changed James' mind?
  - a) 1 Corinthians 15:7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles...
  - b) James didn't believe in Jesus... until he saw him resurrected from the dead
  - c) James the key leader pastor of the Jerusalem church
  - d) James died by the hand of the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem like his brother did because he was a Christian...
  
5. Josephus the non Christian historian tells us that he was stoned to death by
  - a) "Ananus, who as we said, received the High Priesthood...assembled a council of judges and brought before it the brother of Jesus, the so called Christ, whose name was James, along with some others... he delivered them over to be stoned. Josephus :Antiquities XX 9;1

## **XV. The Copy Cat Accusation / theory**

### **A. Currently popular : books and internet films**

### **B. Copycat resurrection**

1. Theory = Christianity borrows the idea of Jesus dying and resurrecting ( and other elements in Jesus life) from ancient religions.

### **C. Horus? And Jesus?**

1. December 25<sup>th</sup>
  - a) The Jesus doesn't say what day Jesus was born on
  - b) 270 years later some people chose that day because it was the "birthday" of some mythological

characters and the winter solstice

c) Horus born on Dec 25 no evidence for this and the Egyptians didn't use the Julian calendar...

2. Virgin Born

a) From Hieroglyphics?

b) The film states "from Hieroglyphics we know much"

(1) Pictures not words example the virgin birth of Horus... a single pictograph of a bird presenting his mother Isis hovering over the phallus of his dead father Osiris

(2) Not a virgin birth

3. The 3 Kings?

a) Matthew 2: 1 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem 2 and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."

b) How many kings were there visiting baby Jesus in the manger?

(1) Magi are not "kings"

(2) Not Three of them no number given in the scripture

(3) the authors screwed it up thinking there were 3 guys,

(a) from a song We 3 kings written in 1857 not from the Bible

4. **Teacher at 12** unknown to Egyptologists and history scholars

5. **Baptism @ 30** unknown to Egyptologists and history scholars, but there is a story of him falling or being thrown into water
6. **12 disciples** unknown to Egyptologists and history scholars
  - a) 4 & 16 blacksmiths in some accounts nowhere 12
7. **Miracles** – he’s a god that does what they do, so what is the big parallel?
8. **Lamb of God and good shepherd** as a name -unknown to Egyptologists and history scholars
9. **Crucified** – nope various accounts closest is he is tied to a tree and dies of exposure
10. **Dead 3 days** and resurrected unknown to Egyptologists and history scholars
11. **Resurrection?** unknown to Egyptologists and history scholars
  - a) loose use of Christian terms like “resurrection”
  - b) Using Christian terms to describe things and creating a false connection
  - c) An afterlife in the underground world after death isn’t resurrection

#### **D. The other Dying rising Gods**

1. Mentioned also Dec 25<sup>th</sup> and the other parallels disappear with study
2. Superficial connections
3. Non Christian author **J. Z. Smith** wrote an important article for Mircea Eliade's '**Encyclopedia of Religion**' (New York 1987) in which he *took every alleged example of a “dying-rising god” and showed that none of them actually fit the category of*

*having a resurrection.*

4. Sites for study of dying and rising gods
  - a) <http://www.christian-thinktank.com/copycat.html>
  - b) <http://www.tektonics.org/copycat/copycathub.html>
  - c) <http://tektonics.org/copycat/osy.html>

## **XVI. Examining the 'facts'**

### **A. Truth claims not all equal**

### **B. Credentials of the writers ???**

1. Some key authors Atheists and occultists, not exactly unbiased
2. Not historians, archeologists and scholars
3. Pop authors making money
4. Conspiracy theorists
5. Much of this relates back to a writer Named Gerrald Massey ( died 1907)
  - a) Gerald Massey in the late 19th and early 20th century. Massey was not a trained Egyptologist and his work was never recognized in the field of Egyptology, and his ideas were seen as fringe theories that lacked critical support. Self taught Egyptologist. Massey was also an occultist, druid and anti Christian
  - b) His writings are the source material noted by more modern pop writers on the subject of Jesus the vegetative myth like the movie Zeitgeist.

### **C. Check source materials of wild claims, first hand not on web sites**

## **XVII. Changed Life of Paul an Enemy**

**A. Paul -An enemy not just a NON believer –**

**B. Acts 9:1 Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord’s disciples. He went to the high priest 2 and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem.**

1. Saul – as Dog the bounty hunter

**C. Acts 9:3 As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. 4 He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” 5 “Who are you, Lord?” Saul asked. “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,” he replied. 6 “Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”**

**D. Phil 3: 8 I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ**

1. His testimony years after his first interaction with the Risen Jesus

2. What happened to CHANGE Saul / Paul’s whole life? He saw the risen Jesus

## **XVIII. Our Rez**

**A. 1 Corinthians 15:20 But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. 22 For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.**

1. The first fruits” meant the whole harvest belonged to God and blessed the whole harvest, we’re the harvest

2. Because he lived and died and lived again it PROVES all his claims, no other religious leader did this

3. Hi claim is to be life itself and if we ask we too get eternal life and become part of that harvest.