

CHAPTER EIGHT THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS

I. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

1. What was the dilemma posed by the traditional apologetic for Jesus' resurrection? What further argument did the traditional apologetic offer on behalf of Jesus' resurrection?
2. How did Strauss undercut the traditional dilemma?
3. Describe the recent change in scholarly opinion concerning the historicity of Jesus' resurrection.

II. ASSESSMENT

4. A historical case for Jesus' resurrection will comprise what two steps?
5. How should we respond to Bart Ehrman's claim that there can in principle be no historical evidence for Jesus' resurrection?
6. Why are John Meier's reservations about a historical case for Jesus' resurrection misconceived?
7. Why are Dale Allison's doubts about Jesus' physical resurrection unfounded?
8. What are the inductive grounds for inferring Jesus' resurrection? State the three facts to be explained.
9. Which of the lines of evidence supporting the fact of Jesus' empty tomb do you find the most convincing? Explain it.
10. Using McCullagh's criteria for justifying historical hypotheses, assess one of the naturalistic hypotheses offered to explain the fact of the empty tomb.
11. Explain how the post-mortem appearances of Jesus are multiply attested.
12. Defend the physicality of Jesus' post-mortem appearances.

13. Using McCullagh's criteria for justifying historical hypotheses, assess the Hallucination Hypothesis as an attempt to explain the post-mortem appearances of Jesus.

14. How can the traditional argument based on the origin of Christianity be effectively recast?

15. Why can the origin of the disciples' belief that God had raised Jesus from the dead not be plausibly explained in terms of pagan influences? Of Jewish influences?

16. Using McCullagh's criteria for justifying historical hypotheses, assess the Resurrection Hypothesis.

17. How can the theological significance of the fact of Jesus' resurrection be accurately discerned?