

Scriptural basis for such a view. However, the Scriptures have been decidedly twisted.

The tomb was empty because of the removal of the body of Jesus. Reimarus claimed that the body of Jesus was removed from the tomb by His disciples. That act was really impossible. For one thing the Gospels bear witness to the fact that the disciples did not expect Jesus to rise again from the dead. With this expectation absent how could they have taken any interest in such a project as the removal of the body of Jesus. The main reason why this theory of fraud is so incredible is that if the disciples had removed the body, they could not have believed in the resurrection of Jesus.

We have previously summarized the swoon theory which was Paulus' way of explaining away the resurrection. Paulus recognized that the Scriptural accounts are a narration of real events, but claimed that the writers placed a supernaturalistic interpretation upon these events.

After the resurrection the disciples did really see Jesus alive again. He was alive and appeared as One who had recovered from a swoon caused by pain and exhaustion. This swoon theory is contrary to the teaching of the New Testament. The clear testimony of the Gospels is an affirmation of the fact that Jesus was actually dead. To be more specific at this point we notice the statement of the Fourth Gospel that the side of Jesus was pierced by the Roman soldier. From the pierced side of Jesus there came forth blood and water. Some eminent authorities regard this fact as proof that Jesus died literally of a broken heart.

This theory surely fails to account for the moral effect on the disciples. We may ask how a person in such a weakened physical condition could have impressed the disciples and caused them to have the