

Peer Review

Review of: "The Current Impasse in Scholarship on the Resurrection of Jesus: An Attempt to Clear the Undergrowth"

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This was a very informative read. It put things into perspective and allowed for a deeper analysis of the available scenarios for interpreting the resurrection of Jesus. The arguments were logically constructed, the description of each side was clear and coherent, and the conclusions seemed to derive from the premises.

First, the author presents the issue that he is addressing and argues that both evangelicals and rationalists do not take into account the available data, as scarce as it is, but rather choose to work with presuppositional biases.

Second, the author discusses the methodological challenges of addressing the issue of the resurrection from a historical perspective, which, being empirical, would reject any supernatural interventions. The author also critiques the evangelical argument that since there were miracle reports, they must have been true and the resurrection did happen.

Third, on the rationalist side, there are several explanations that must be addressed. The first would be the deception hypothesis, which the author rejects on the grounds of the later willingness of disciples to suffer persecution. The second would be the resuscitation hypothesis, which could be theoretically possible but is highly unlikely. The third hypothesis is that of hallucination and collective delusion, which the author finds to be the most plausible explanation.

Fourth, the author argues that some of the followers of Jesus, like Peter, had experienced bereavement of Jesus, which is similar to modern psychological studies. Psychology is of great importance to the author of the article. Considering the way the mind works, the author suggests that such experiences could have influenced the early Christian community, leading to collective experiences.

Fifth, the author relies on the collective delusion phenomenon, which he distinguishes from hallucinations. If such an event had happened during the disciples' gatherings, they might have shared this psychological event.

The article is well-structured, and there is no need to improve on any of the arguments, since they are well explained and sufficiently debated.

The article was a great read, although I am an evangelical and do not agree with the conclusion, arguing that there was a divine intervention. However, because of the quality of the argument, I would encourage theology students to analyze the article. In other words: it's that good.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.