

**XXIII. Why Do Christians Believe a Supernatural Resurrection Best Explains the Facts?**

279. "We can lay out "\_\_\_\_\_ historical facts" that nearly everyone \_\_\_\_\_ on (chapter 21) and establish that competing theories about what happened fail to explain those facts (chapter 22), but many people will never \_\_\_\_\_ consider the idea that Jesus came back to life because we know \_\_\_\_\_ people don't come back to \_\_\_\_\_."
280. "We do all know that dead people don't come back to life... \_\_\_\_\_. But if God exists, He \_\_\_\_\_ supernaturally \_\_\_\_\_ events to happen that we know could \_\_\_\_\_ happen naturally. Christians and nonbelievers \_\_\_\_\_ on that!"
281. What are Michael Licona's four key criteria used by historians to weigh hypotheses?
- a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_
282. The hypothesis that accounts for the \_\_\_\_\_ facts has the greatest explanatory scope. ... From the historian's perspective, the \_\_\_\_\_ facts a theory accounts for, the \_\_\_\_\_ the theory is.
283. A supernatural resurrection easily \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ of the facts: ...
284. What's the difference between explanatory scope and explanatory power?
- a. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
285. "The hypothesis that Jesus was supernaturally resurrected has extremely strong explanatory \_\_\_\_\_."
286. The plausibility criterion considers how \_\_\_\_\_ hypotheses account for a wide variety of accepted truths or background knowledge. ... if God exists, the resurrection \_\_\_\_\_ happen; it's a \_\_\_\_\_ hypothesis.
287. That said, it's important to note that even if we believe God exists, it doesn't mean we should accept every \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ as true. Some miracle claims are more \_\_\_\_\_ than others ..."

288. "Hypotheses are 'less ad hoc' when they rely on fewer \_\_\_\_\_. The resurrection hypothesis requires only \_\_\_\_\_ additional \_\_\_\_\_ beyond the evidence from the four minimal historical facts: that God exists. ... [however] if you already believe in God, that's not an additional assumption at all."
289. Extra credit: What's a presupposition?  
a. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
290. Extra credit: What's a hypothesis?  
a. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
291. Extra credit: What's a theory?  
a. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
292. "Using established criteria for evaluating historical \_\_\_\_\_, a supernatural resurrection undoubtedly best fits the facts."
293. So, why do many people reject the resurrection without consideration of the evidence?  
a. \_\_\_\_\_
294. It's important to understand that this rejection isn't based on \_\_\_\_\_ evidence, but rather on a \_\_\_\_\_ commitment to an \_\_\_\_\_.

**XXIV. How can Christians believe miracles are even possible?**

295. Crain writes, "... basing your faith on or not you've experienced a modern-day miracle misses the boat completely." Do agree? Why or why not?
- a. For Christians:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- b. For atheists:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

296. “ ... If God exists, miracles are \_\_\_\_\_. If God doesn't exist, miracles are \_\_\_\_\_.”
297. John Lennox said that it's very \_\_\_\_\_ “that ... scientists resent the idea that some God could 'arbitrarily \_\_\_\_\_ and alter, suspend, reverse or otherwise \_\_\_\_\_ these \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ ...”
298. But Lennox went on to explain that God created an \_\_\_\_\_ universe, complete \_\_\_\_\_ laws of nature, but that “God is not a \_\_\_\_\_ of the laws of nature... Unless you have \_\_\_\_\_ that the system is totally \_\_\_\_\_, you cannot argue against the \_\_\_\_\_ of miracles.”
299. “Christians need to \_\_\_\_\_ examine miracle claims like we would anything else. If we don't, we're as \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ as skeptics often make us out to be.”
300. “If you read the Bible carefully, however, you'll notice that throughout \_\_\_\_\_ of years of history, there were actually just \_\_\_\_\_ relatively brief but prominent \_\_\_\_\_ of miracles, separated by centuries of no recorded miracles. Most importantly, those periods served a very specific \_\_\_\_\_ leading up to and through \_\_\_\_\_ life.”
301. What are the three relatively brief but prominent periods of Biblical miracles?
- a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_
302. \_\_\_\_\_ “The biggest of these miracles was Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_. ... It's in this extensive context [of Jesus' promise to be resurrected and of the entire O.T. pattern of sacrifices, prophecies and foreshadowing] that “we can look at the historical \_\_\_\_\_ for the resurrection ... and conclude that it's \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ a miracle took place.”
303. The possibility of miracles boils right down to what considerations?
- a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_

**XXV. How were the books in the Bible selected?**

304. "The old and new testaments have very different \_\_\_\_\_ histories.
305. The popular skeptics' argument is that the NT canon is the collection of 27 of the books that " \_\_\_\_\_ because they found \_\_\_\_\_ favor at the time" [more than \_\_\_\_\_ years after Jesus' death].
306. "it's true that there were many books written about Christianity in the first centuries after Jesus. We know of at least \_\_\_\_\_! It's also **true** that our 27 New Testament books weren't \_\_\_\_\_ recognized as the canon until **AD 393**. But the **heart of the matter**, regardless of the number of books written and when the canon was officially recognized, is this: \_\_\_\_\_ of all these writings **tell us the \_\_\_\_\_ about the faith that was \_\_\_\_\_ by the \_\_\_\_\_** — the people who actually knew Jesus?
307. What evidence do we find in the NT itself? (1 Tim 5:18; 2 Peter 3:15-16; Col 4:16; Rev 1:3)
- a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_
308. "The apostolic church fathers ... \_\_\_\_\_ extensively from and \_\_\_\_\_ to almost all of our NT books in their \_\_\_\_\_. This is effectively a stamp of \_\_\_\_\_ from those who \_\_\_\_\_ had \_\_\_\_\_ with the \_\_\_\_\_ or lived just after them ..."
309. Why didn't the early church fathers compile a formal list of accepted books?
- a. \_\_\_\_\_
310. Extra credit: What were the primary reasons that canonization became necessary over the next 200 years?
- a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_
311. The evidence is clear that 20 of our 27 books "were accepted as Scripture from the \_\_\_\_\_ and were \_\_\_\_\_ in dispute".

312. F. F. Bruce wrote:
- a. "One thing must be emphatically stated. The New Testament books did not become \_\_\_\_\_ for the Church \_\_\_\_\_ they were \_\_\_\_\_ included in a canonical list;
  - b. on the contrary, the Church included them in her canon \_\_\_\_\_ she \_\_\_\_\_ regarded them as \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_ their \_\_\_\_\_ worth and generally apostolic \_\_\_\_\_, direct or indirect."

**XXVI. Why were books left out of the Bible?**

313. "...the number of books accepted by a \_\_\_\_\_ but ultimately rejected from the canon was \_\_\_\_\_. The number of books rejected by \_\_\_\_\_ is much \_\_\_\_\_.
314. "This includes books that were obvious \_\_\_\_\_, books that were knowingly written too \_\_\_\_\_ to be associated with the apostles, and books that clearly did not \_\_\_\_\_ to the teachings of the books already known to be \_\_\_\_\_.
315. "We shouldn't be concerned that our Bible is " \_\_\_\_\_ " these books because we have no reason to believe they were \_\_\_\_\_ with the \_\_\_\_\_.
316. Gnosticism typically involved what ideas?
- a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_
317. "Generally speaking, ... a least 30 writings are recognized as \_\_\_\_\_, and sometimes more than 50, ... [including] the so-called Gospel of \_\_\_\_\_, Gospel of \_\_\_\_\_, Gospel of \_\_\_\_\_, Gospel of \_\_\_\_\_, and Gospel of the \_\_\_\_\_."
318. Why is "the historian's task of untangling Gnostic roots difficult"?
- a. "...the writings already known by early church fathers to be authentically connected with the apostles served as a theological \_\_\_\_\_. As we saw from our brief look at Gnosticism, Gnostic beliefs \_\_\_\_\_ significantly from the

\_\_\_\_\_ taught by the writings \_\_\_\_\_ to be connected with the apostles ... . There was good reason for the early church fathers to not just \_\_\_\_\_ these works, but to actively \_\_\_\_\_ against them.

319. "What matters is whether any of those writings can \_\_\_\_\_ claim \_\_\_\_\_ authority by way of \_\_\_\_\_ to Jesus and His apostles. \_\_\_\_\_ of the books that were ultimately rejected from the canon have an \_\_\_\_\_ connection on par with the writings of the New Testament.