

studying. He said, I can't believe in the virgin birth. That just doesn't seem possible. He said, The story of Jesus' feeding the 5000, I can't believe that. I said, Do you believe in the bodily resurrection? He looked at me. He said, If a real man was really dead and then was raised up to real life again, what's the use of even talking about a miracle, he said. Any miracles, he said.

But the unbelievers who attack Christianity do not usually say much about the resurrection. They don't usually attack it at that very vital point, though through the years there have been those who have taken one point after another to question.

Mohammed, for instance, when he wrote the Koran, said that Jesus Christ was born of a virgin. He said presented wonderful parables, and performed wonderful miracles. But he said, when he was arrested, he was snatched away and an angel took his place. So this angel ~~went~~ went through ~~of~~ the form ~~of~~ of being crucified but he never was actually crucified. He never was raised from the dead. Of course that is what Muslims still believe to this day.

There have been many attacks on the belief in the resurrection. The first was when they said the disciples had stolen His body. Even recently within the last 20 years, a book came out called THE PASSOVER PLOT, a book which had considerable acclaim from many in this country. It claimed that Jesus Christ studied the OT and ~~saw~~ saw what Messiah was supposed to be, and ~~saw~~ saw that he was to be raised from the dead and so personally arranged it with the hope that he could make the disciples think he had been raised from the dead. So when they lifted up the vinegar to give him to drink it actually had a drug in it that made him seem to die, much earlier than one would naturally die, and ~~so~~ they put him in a tomb and Joseph of Aramitheia was in the plot and took his body out, but of course he did die shortly after that and others who were in on the plot managed to convince the disciples that He had actually been raised. It really was a pretty weak presentation. (Laughter)

It is very well presented and had quite a vogue about 20 years ago. There were these many attempts to prove that it did not actually happen, occur. The idea that the disciples just had a vision has been suggested. Well somebody who was a little psychologically queer might have any kind of a vision. But that 500 at once would have the same vision, that of course is impossible to believe.

So the various suggestions that have been made: the suggestion that it was a fraud, the suggestion that it was a vision, the suggestion that he simply swooned--none of these can stand up. The greatest evidence that it really is true, aside from the fact, of course, we accept the Bible as God's truth in == and everything in it is dependable aside from that, the greatest natural proof of it is one that has led some to say, The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the most thoroughly authenticated fact in history. That is the change it made in the disciples.

Here were the disciples. Their leader had been taken and put through many indignities and then had been crucified. The disciples fled when he was taken. They were filled with fear. They were not highly educated, and in any case they were not highly trained men except ~~that~~ for the training that He had given them. But filled with fear, and fearing persecution, Peter followed close was so frightened that he denied him. How could these men then have so changed that they could go out and preach that He was raised from the dead and would preach that with such great