

Tickets for sale tonight
for Bengal Boxing Show

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
February 5, 1932

Benediction tonight
7:30 only

Those Questions. II.

2. Was not Jesus merely a very good man who led an exemplary life? What real proof have we that He actually performed miracles? Jesus was not on earth as man after His resurrection, but appeared as a spirit; who has ever seen a spirit? Did He really rise from the dead?

If the gospels are not true history, we have no true history. They tell an eye-witness story of the life of Christ, His death and resurrection; and their authors, to show their sincerity, gave their lives for the defense of what they wrote. They told their story while people were still living who could dispute the facts if they were not true; the facts were not disputed, although the authors were told not to say those things. The authors were hard-headed men, not easily fooled, as we can see by their own account. They were not deceived, and they could not have deceived their contemporaries.

To allege that the gospels were written centuries after the events recorded is to fly in the face of facts. The very language they use, Hellenistic Greek, died a natural death shortly after the time of Christ; the Jerusalem they describe minutely ceased to exist a generation after Christ, when Titus and Vespasian 'beat it flat to the ground,' in fulfillment of Christ's prophecy. And to allege that the gospels were changed during those early centuries is ludicrous, for the millions who gave their lives for the gospels during the first centuries, and the hundreds of apologists who fought heresy to keep the gospel free from corruption, are sufficient witness that doctoring the text would have been impossible.

Given, then, the fact that the gospels are true history, we have ample evidence that He performed miracles, that He really died, was buried, and rose from the dead, appearing in His own body. For miracles, read almost any page of the gospels where the public life of Christ is recorded. Read attentively, and see what evidence is offered - not in all cases but in many - that the prodigies recorded could have no possible natural explanation.

For the death and burial and resurrection of Christ, note that we have evidence from both friends and enemies: the soldiers, the centurion, the Jewish leaders, Pilate, the Apostles and the Blessed Virgin, Mary Magdalene, Nicodemus, Joseph of Arimathea, the holy women, five hundred disciples at one time. Are these enough witnesses? If not, call in the guards, who were paid to say what they could not know - that while they slept, the Apostles came and stole the body. For the physical nature of Christ's body after the resurrection, recall the times He ate with His Apostles, and recall the doubt of Thomas. As St. Augustine observed, the doubt of Thomas availed us more than the faith of the other Apostles, for he demanded the evidence of the dullest of the senses, touch. Christ Himself disposed of the argument that He was but a spirit: "A spirit hath not flesh and bones."

And now we can answer the first question above. Christ could not have been an exemplary man if He were a fool or a liar - and He was both if He was not God, for He said He was God, and He went to His death for that statement. No one will assert that He was either a fool or a liar; therefore, HE IS GOD.

PRAYERS: Julian Acers has left school on account of illness. The father of Edw. D. Kelly, '23, suffered a stroke this morning. An uncle of Bob Rohrbach died a few days ago. Mrs. C.J. Peterson, of South Bend, underwent an operation at Mayo's yesterday. An uncle of John Lang died yesterday. Rev. Paul Dillon, of South Haven, Mich., is ill. Mass tomorrow in the Sorin chapel at 6:25, for the speedy recovery of Frank Treiweiler - by request of the Spanish Club. Jas. Kearns's father is very ill. Four special intentions.