

thought was the one in which they had seen the Lord buried. They expected to find a closed tomb but they found an open one; and a young man, who was in the entrance, guessing their errand, tried to tell them that they had made a mistake in the place. 'He is not here,' said he; 'see the place where they laid Him,' and probably pointed to the next tomb. But the women were frightened at the detection of their error, and fled, only imperfectly, or not at all, understanding what they heard. It was only later on, when they knew that the Lord had risen (from visions of the disciples in Galilee), and-on their view-that His tomb must be empty, that they came to believe that the young man was something more than they had seen; that he was not telling them of their mistake, but announcing the resurrection and that his intention was to give them a message for the disciples." ("The Historical Evidence for the Resurrection of Jesus Christ" - pp. 251,252) We will examine this view a bit later to see how it squares with the New Testament accounts.

If the New Testament clearly teaches the bodily resurrection of Jesus, these explanations just presented are contrary to it. The New Testament teaches a supernatural view that Jesus actually arose from the grave. This view is in striking contrast to the naturalistic view which explains away the miracle.

Next let us ^{note} ~~consider~~ certain questions of interpretation in connection with the resurrection of Jesus. What was the character of the appearances of Jesus? Did He simply appear momentarily in a flash or did He hold extended intercourse with His followers and friends? What was the number of the appearances between the resurrection and the ascension? What was the form of the Lord after His resurrection? Did He actually have a body or was He simply a spirit? In what place or places did Jesus first appear? Did the first appear-