

Neighborly Apologetics

The Royal Law
Love your neighbor

God has entrusted the primary work
of the Kingdom to the common
Christian family

with a priestly role in our neighborhoods

**Neighborly Apologetic
Categories:**

- 1. Evil and Suffering*
 - 2. Absolute Truth and Relativism*
 - 3. “Only One Way” and Religious Pluralism*
 - 4. Faith and Reason*
 - 5. Free Will and Sovereignty*
 - 6. God’s Existence and Nature*
 - 7. Goodness of Man, Judgment and Hell*
 - 8. Hypocrisy and Christian Crimes of the Past*
 - 9. The Claims of Jesus and the Resurrection*
 - 10. Miracles*
 - 11. Science and Evolution*
 - 12. The Veracity of the Bible and “Contradictions”*
- Plus: Burning Issues of our Day*

Who is Jesus?

The Question Pursued...

- + the promise and the prophecy
- + His life and words
- + His death and resurrection
- + the claim of deity
- + is Jesus the only way?
- + how to handle the questions



Christ's death and resurrection

The charge of contradictions in the timing and events and places of the resurrection account

Christ's resurrection



the heart and key of the Christian apologetic

BC or BCE

AD or CE

And *if Christ has not been raised*, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. 1 Corinthians 15:14

Christ's resurrection

BC or BCE

AD or CE

*...if Christ has not
been raised*, your
faith is futile and you
are still in your sins.

1 Corinthians 15:17

Christ's resurrection

Christ's death and resurrection

the importance of the early polemic and the creed

the polemic - point/counterpoint

the creed - a statement of belief that counters some challenge

Christ's death and resurrection

The charge of contradictions
in the
timing
events
places
numbers
of the resurrection account

contradictions timing events places numbers

Look, you can't trust the Resurrection accounts!

One account says the women left at dark, another says at dawn, another says the sun had risen

One account says there was one angel, another says there were two, and another says they were just young men

One account says the women told the disciples; another says they told no one

One account says Jesus told the disciples to go to Galilee; another says they stayed in Jerusalem

*One account says the women left at dark, another says at dawn,
another says the sun had risen*

when did the women go to the tomb?

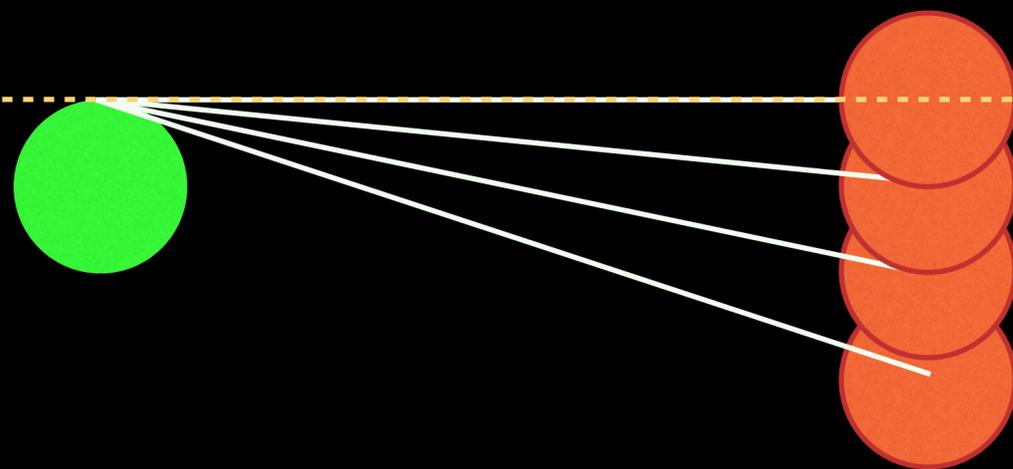
Matthew 28:1, the women came to look at the grave “as it began to dawn”

Mark 16:1-2, they came to the tomb “very early”; “when the sun had risen”

Luke 24:1, they came to the tomb “at early dawn”

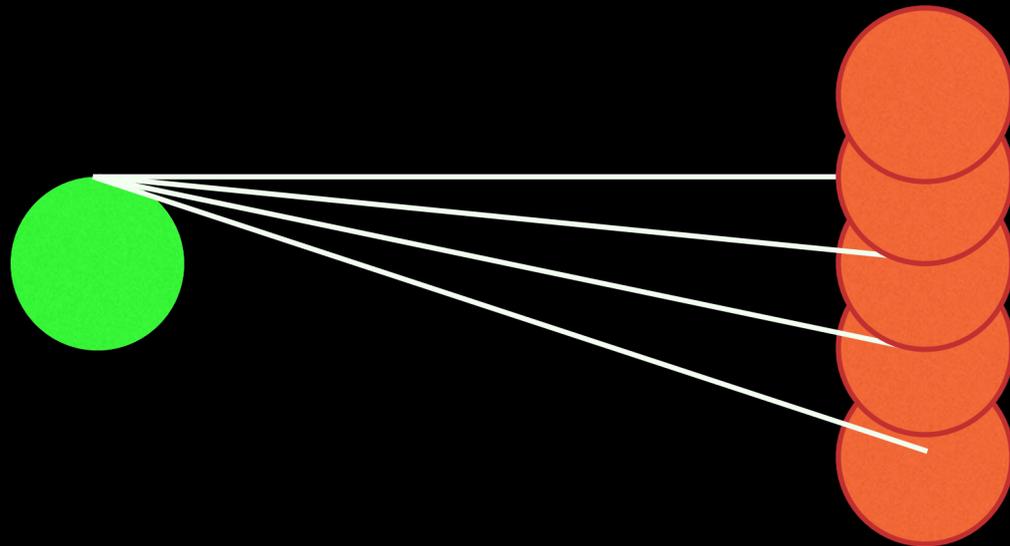
John 20:1, Magdalene came “early to the tomb, while it was still dark”

Inerrancy



- twilight**
- “civil”: sun is 0 - 6 degrees below horizon
 - “nautical”: sun is 6 - 12 degrees below horizon
 - “astronomical”: sun is 12 - 18 degrees below horizon
- “dark”: sun is > 18 degrees below horizon

Jerusalem:
31.77 degrees N; 35.21 degrees E



sunrise: 6:20am

5:56am-6:20am

5:27am-5:56am

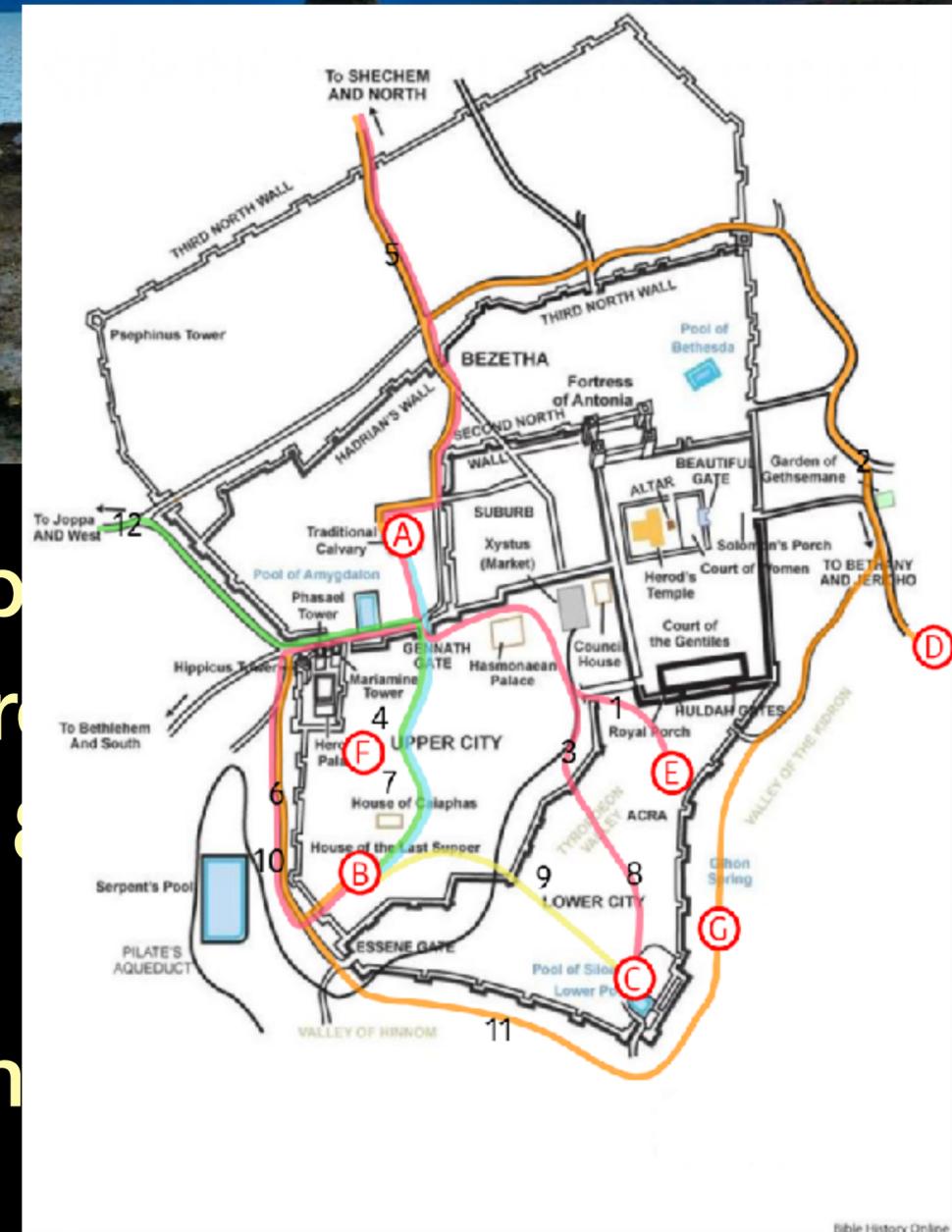
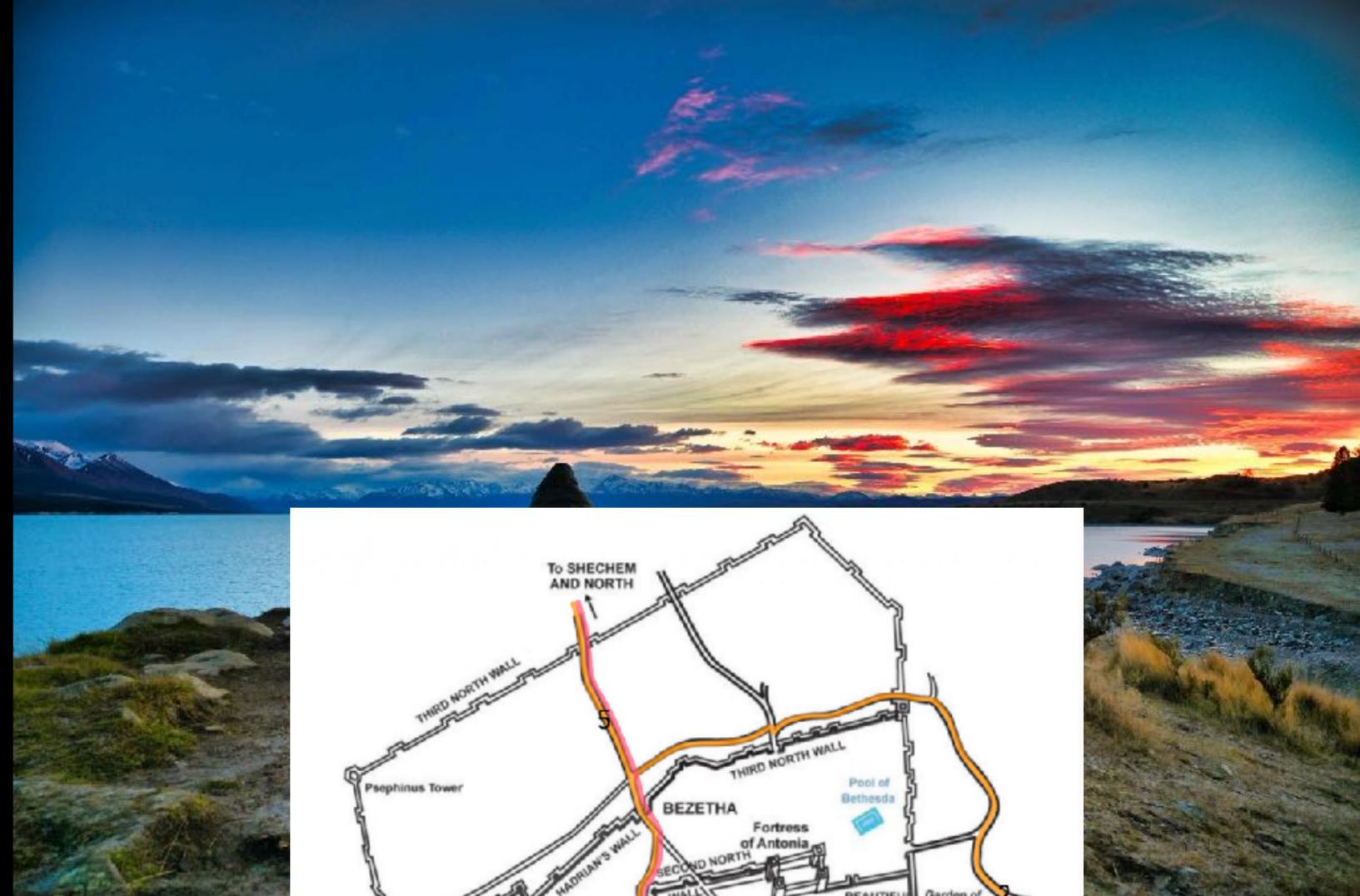
4:56am-5:27am

“civil”: sun is 0 - 6 degrees below horizon

“nautical”: sun is 6 - 12 degrees below horizon

“astronomical”: sun is 12 - 18 degrees below horizon

“dark”: sun is > 18 degrees below horizon



Matthew 28:1, the women came to look at the grave “as it began to dawn”

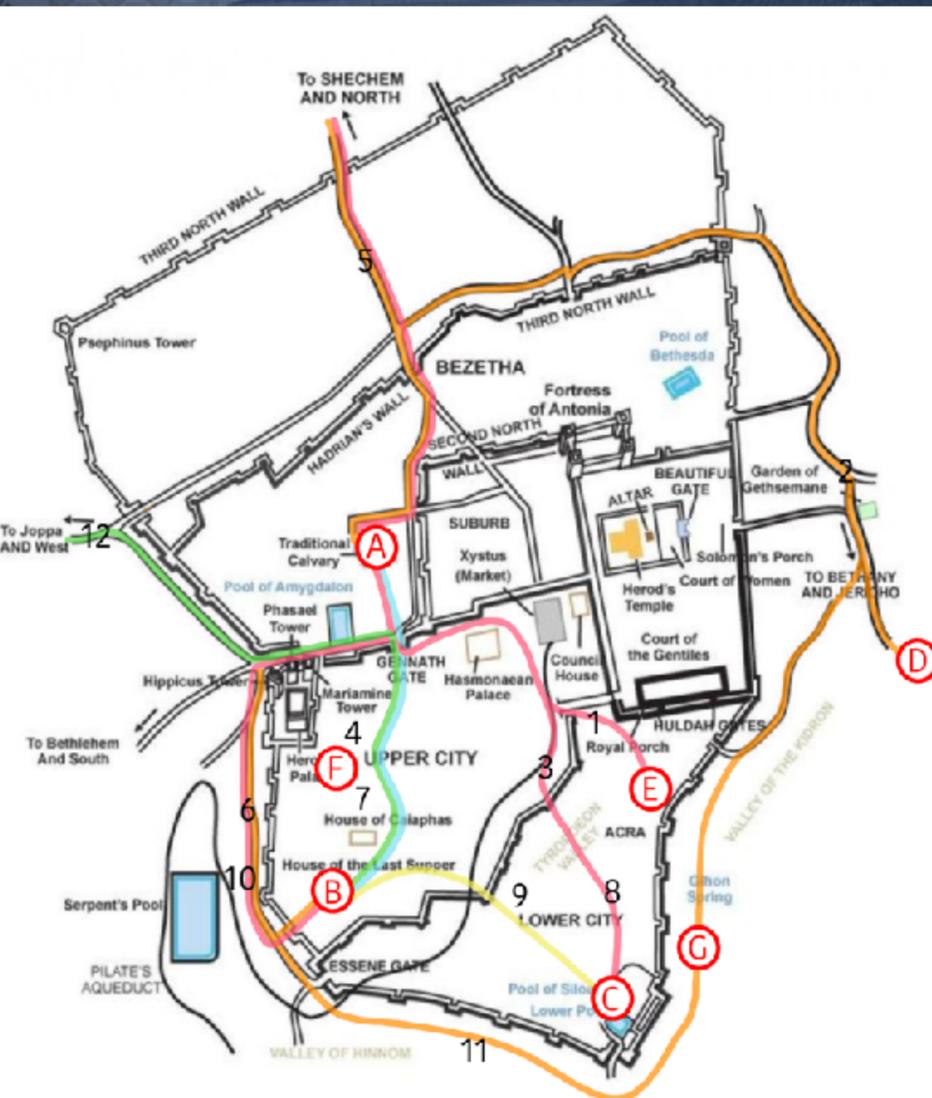
Luke 24:1, they came to the tomb “at early dawn”

John 20:1, Magdalene came (is coming) early to the tomb, “while it was still dark”



when did the women go to the tomb?

Mark 16:1-2: When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might come and anoint Him. And **very early** on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb **when the sun had risen.**



contradictions timing events places numbers

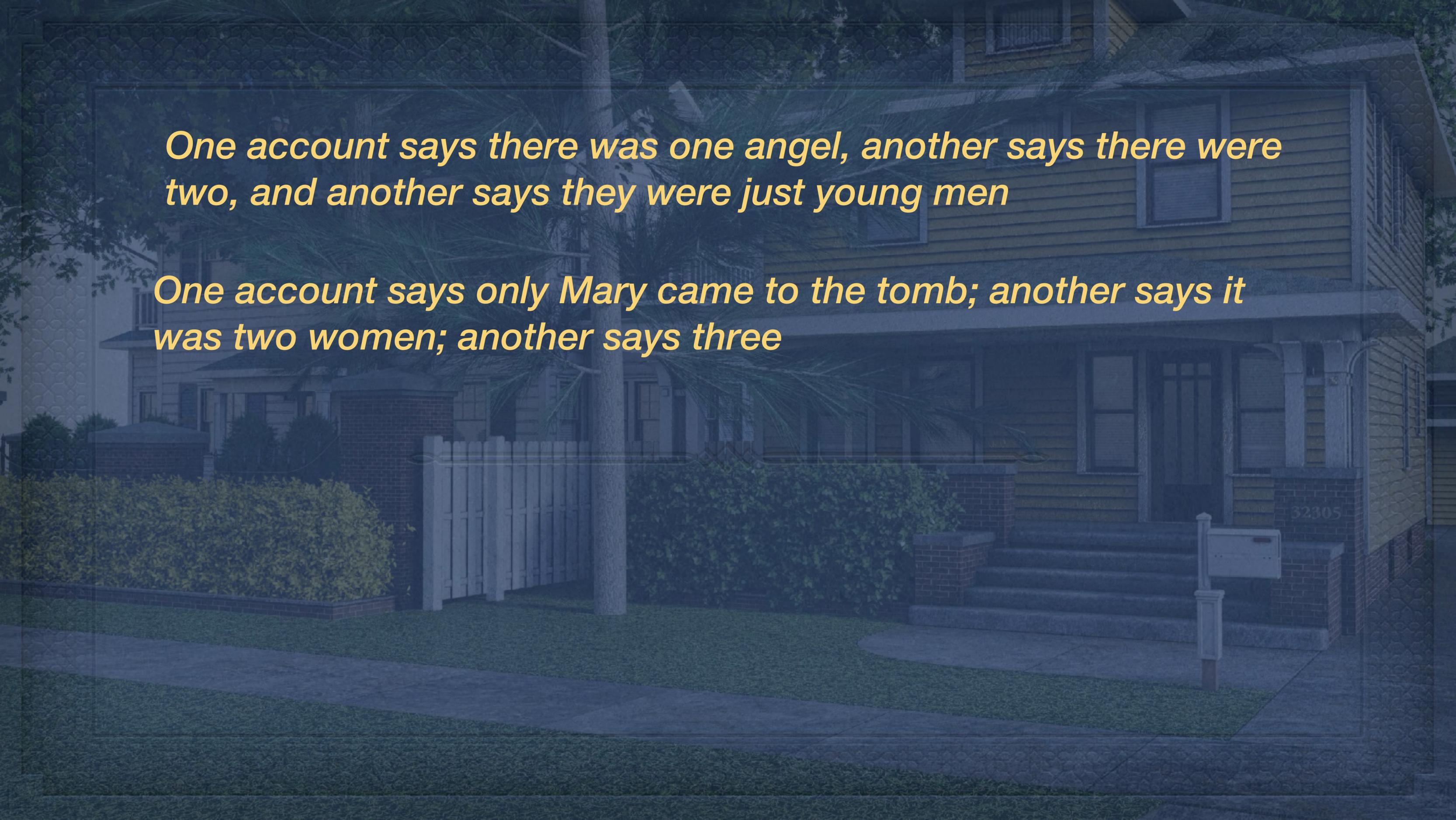
Look, you can't trust the Resurrection accounts!

One account says the women left at dark, another says at dawn, another says the sun had risen

One account says there was one angel, another says there were two, and another says they were just young men

One account says the women told the disciples; another says they told no one

One account says Jesus told the disciples to go to Galilee; another says they stayed in Jerusalem



One account says there was one angel, another says there were two, and another says they were just young men

One account says only Mary came to the tomb; another says it was two women; another says three

numbers

One account says only Mary came to the tomb; another says it was two women; another says three

Matthew: two women came to the tomb

(Magdalene and Aunt Mary)

Mark: three women came to the tomb

(Magdalene, Mary mother of James [Aunt Mary], Salome)

Luke: at least five women came to the tomb

(Magdalene, Mary mother of James [Aunt Mary], Joanna, and the other women)

John: Magdalene came to the tomb

numbers

Hermeneutics: Rule 9

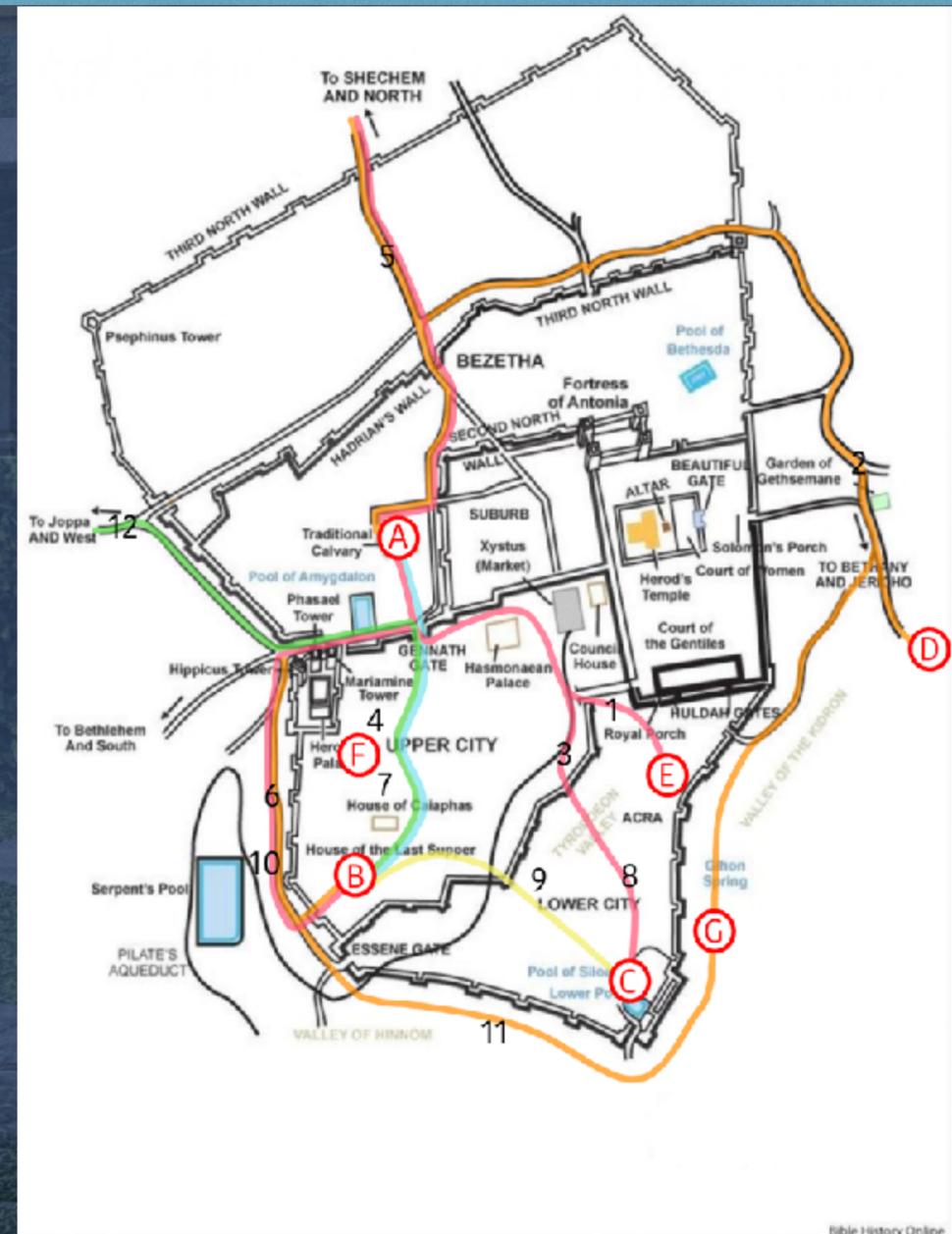
Historical narratives are always only a partial account. A partial historical record is not a false record

Matthew: two women came to the tomb
(Magdalene and Aunt Mary)

Mark: three women came to the tomb
(Magdalene, Mary mother of James [Aunt Mary], Salome)

Luke: at least five women came to the tomb
(Magdalene, Mary mother of James [Aunt Mary], Joanna, and the other women)

John: Magdalene came to the tomb



numbers

Hermeneutics Rule 9

One account says there was one angel, another says there were two, and another says they were just young men

Matthew 28:2-7: “one angel...garments white as snow”

Mark 16:5-7: “young man...white robe” in the tomb

Luke 24:4: “two men...dazzling apparel” in the tomb

John 20:12: “while two angels in white” in the tomb

And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, then behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them, and they said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? Acts 1:10-11

contradictions timing events places numbers

Look, you can't trust the Resurrection accounts!

One account says the women left at dark, another says at dawn, another says the sun had risen

One account says there was one angel, another says there were two, and another says they were just young men

One account says the women told the disciples; another says they told no one

One account says Jesus told the disciples to go to Galilee; another says they stayed in Jerusalem

One account says the women told the disciples; another says they told no one

Matthew: “And they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to report to His disciples.” (28:8)

Luke: “...and returned from the tomb and reported all these things to the eleven, and to all the rest.” (24:9)

John: “Mary Magdalene came and announced to the disciples, ‘I have seen the Lord,’ and that He had said these things to her.” (20:18)

Mark: “And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had gripped them; and they said **nothing** to anyone, for they were afraid.” (16:8)

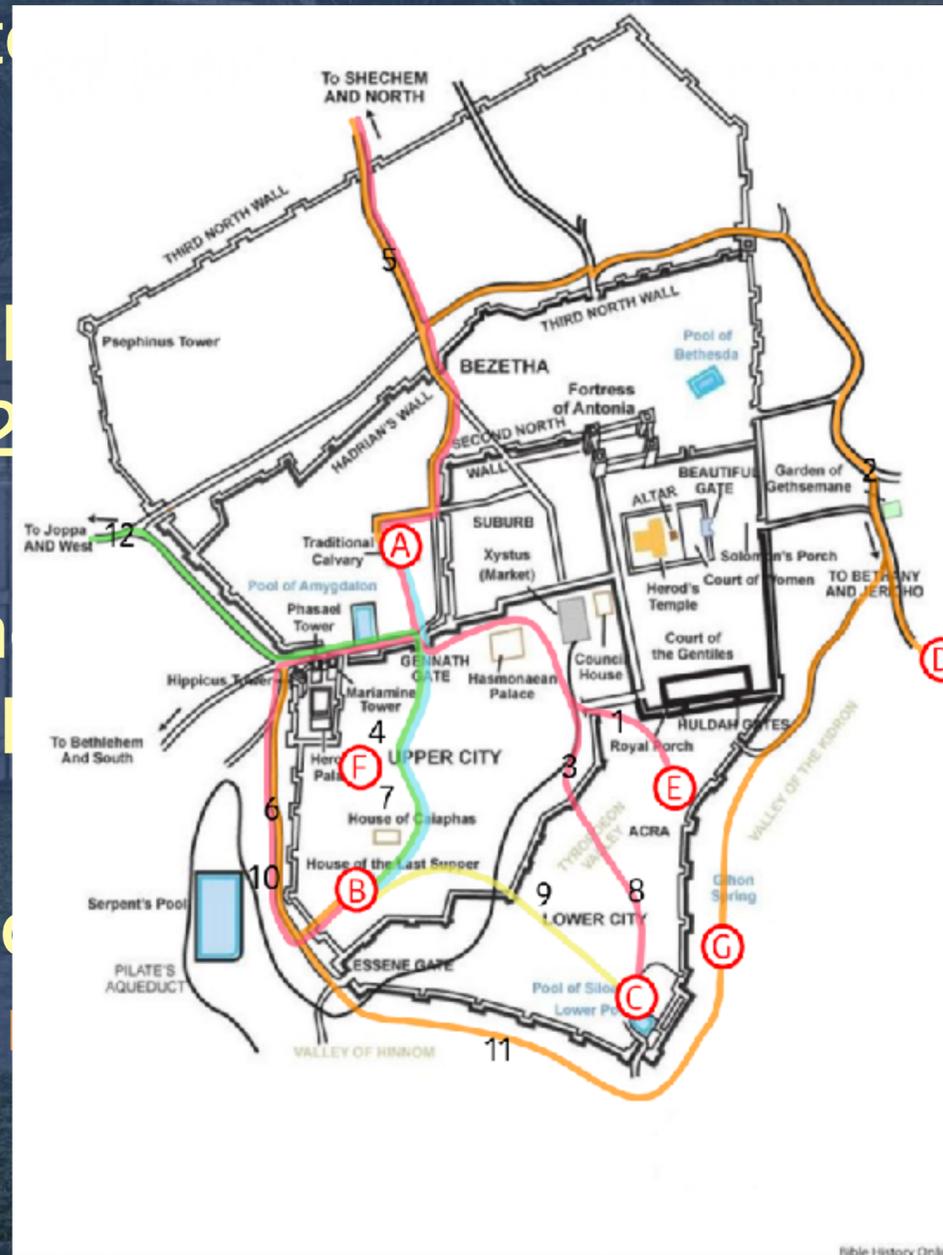
One account says the women told the disciples; another says they told no one

Matthew: “And they left the tomb with great joy, and ran to report to His disciples.” (28:8)

Luke: “...and returned from the tomb to the eleven, and to all the rest.” (24:9)

John: “Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples, ‘I have seen the Lord,’ and that He had said to her...” (20:18)

Mark: “And they went out and fled, for they were gripped with fear and astonishment, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.” (16:8)



great joy, and ran to report

these things to the

disciples, ‘I have seen the

sembling and astonishment had
y were afraid.” (16:8)

contradictions timing events places numbers

Look, you can't trust the Resurrection accounts!

One account says the women left at dark, another says at dawn, another says the sun had risen

One account says there was one angel, another says there were two, and another says they were just young men

One account says the women told the disciples; another says they told no one

One account says Jesus told the disciples to go to Galilee; another says they stayed in Jerusalem

*One account says Jesus told the disciples to go to Galilee;
another says they stayed in Jerusalem*

Matthew seems to say that both the angels and Jesus told the women to tell the disciples to go to Galilee where Jesus would meet them. The disciples seem to immediately do so and Jesus appears to them there and delivers the Great Commission.

Mark tells us the angels indeed told the women to tell the disciples to go to Galilee, but they were afraid and didn't tell anyone.

*One account says Jesus told the disciples to go to Galilee;
another says they stayed in Jerusalem*

Luke, instead, appears to tell us that everything from the resurrection to the ascension happened all in one day, and all in Jerusalem. Even worse, Luke says that Jesus charged the disciples not to leave Jerusalem until Pentecost, nearly fifty days hence, so they would have never gone to Galilee at all.

And behold, I am sending the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.” Luke 24:49

*One account says Jesus told the disciples to go to Galilee;
another says they stayed in Jerusalem*

John, completely different, implies that Jesus ascended first after seeing Magdalene, then appeared to the disciples that evening, in Jerusalem, sans Thomas. Eight days later He appears to them again, with Thomas, still in Jerusalem. Then Jesus appears to seven disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, where they had gone back to fishing. John says this was the third time Jesus appeared to the disciples, whereas Matthew has only one; Mark has none; and Luke, if you stretch it, has two.

One account says Jesus told the disciples to go to Galilee; another says they stayed in Jerusalem

Luke, instead, appears to tell us that everything from the resurrection to the ascension happened all in one day, and all in Jerusalem. Even worse, Luke says that Jesus charged the disciples not to leave Jerusalem until Pentecost, nearly fifty days hence, so they would have never gone to Galilee at all.

Acts: To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking of things regarding the kingdom of God. (1:3)

Luke

Acts

Luke “telescoped” events in what “appears” to be one day, but it wasn’t. He makes that clear in Acts.

*One account says Jesus told the disciples to go to Galilee;
another says they stayed in Jerusalem*

Hermeneutics Rule 9

Apparent timeline:

- Resurrection
- Jesus appears to disciples that night in Jerusalem
- Jesus appears to disciples eight days later, in Jerusalem
- Disciples travel to Galilee, where Jesus meets with them over 40 days
 - Jesus meets with them on the shore, then with 500
 - Jesus tells them to return to Jerusalem (not recorded)
- In Jerusalem, Jesus meets with them, tells them to remain until Pentecost
- Jesus leads them to Bethany, to Olivet, Jesus ascends into heaven

Why did the disciples stay in Jerusalem in the beginning?

Didn't the angels and Jesus tell the women to tell the disciples to Galilee and He would meet them there?

Why did they hang around Jerusalem for a week first?

Feast of Unleavened Bread - lasted one week

Neighborly Apologetics

The Claims of Jesus and the Resurrection
the Importance of the Early Polemic and Creed

Next: a harmonized account of the Resurrection times, places and events

