



CHURCH COMMUNICATION NETWORK  
SPECIAL SUNDAY SEMINAR APRIL 13, 2003

# “Why Believe the Resurrection?”

Featuring Hank Hanegraaff, Lee Strobel, and Mark Mittelberg

## About the Speakers:

### **Hank Hanegraaff**, *Author and Host, Bible Answer Man*

Hank Hanegraaff serves as president and chairman of the board for the California-based Christian Research Institute International (CRI). He also hosts CRI's Bible Answer Man radio program, which is broadcast daily across the United States and Canada.

He is the author of several best-sellers, including The Prayer of Jesus and Resurrection, which, along with his book Christianity in Crisis, won the Gold Medallion for excellence in Christian Literature. His most recent work is a sequel to The Prayer of Jesus entitled The Covering.

Hank is a regular contributor to “The Christian Research Journal” and “The Plain Truth.” His recent media appearances include TV interviews with Peter Jennings and Larry King. A popular conference speaker, he addresses churches, schools, and businesses worldwide.

### **Lee Strobel**, *Author and Board Member, Willow Creek Association*

A favorite CCN speaker, Lee Strobel received his journalism degree from the University of Missouri and a Master of Studies in Law degree from Yale Law School. He spent most of his 13-year journalism career at “The Chicago Tribune,” where he was the legal affairs editor. He has been a teaching pastor at two of America’s largest churches.

Lee is the author of several best-selling books, three of which have been awarded Gold Medallions for excellence. His book The Case for Christ has sold more than a million copies in eight languages since it was published in 1998, and its sequel, The Case for Faith, is currently among the top-selling Christian books in America. His latest book, Surviving a Spiritual Mismatch in Marriage, is a collaborative effort with his wife, Leslie. He is also an active board member of the Willow Creek Association

### **Mark Mittelberg**, *Author and Executive Director of Evangelism, Willow Creek Association*

Mark Mittelberg is a frequent teacher on CCN broadcasts and he, together with his ministry partner, Lee Strobel, leads the CCN evangelism track. Mark is the Executive Director of Evangelism for the Willow Creek Association. He is the author of the book Building a Contagious Church, primary author of the best-selling Becoming a Contagious Christian curriculum, and contributing editor of The Journey, an NIV Bible with notes designed for spiritual seekers.

## **I. Mythologies**

- A. *Swoon hypothesis* – Jesus was crucified but he did not actually die
- B. *Twin hypothesis* – An unknown identical twin brother pretended to be Jesus after his death
- C. *Muslim hypothesis* – A substitute was crucified in Jesus' place
- D. *Watchtower hypothesis* – Jesus was not physically resurrected

## **II. Fatal Torment**

- A. *Medical Facts* – Roman crucifixion produced maximum torture
- B. *Medical Verdict* – Jesus suffered fatal torment
- C. *Major Swoon Flaws* – Had he survived, his pitiful state could not have inspired hope in resurrection

## **III. Empty Tomb**

- A. *Fictional Pharisee Fallacy* – Joseph of Arimathea is unlikely to be a Christian fiction
- B. *Female Factor* – First-century Jews would not fictionalize women as discoverers of empty tomb
- C. *First Response* – Initial Jewish response that the disciples stole the body presupposes the empty tomb

## IV. **A**ppearances of Christ

- A. *Earliest Christian Creed* – 1 Corinthians 15:3-7 is traced to within eight years after the crucifixion
- B. *Eyewitnesses* – Christ appeared to hundreds of eyewitnesses who were available for cross-examination
- C. *Extreme Measures*:

**-Hallucination Hypothesis** – Hallucinations are subjective, private and unsharable experiences

**-Hypnosis Hypothesis / Hypersuggestibility Hypothesis** – Neither of these hypotheses explains or is consistent with the known facts, as all the evidence indicates that at the injunction of Scripture and well-established Jewish practice the disciples critically and thoroughly investigated every teaching and practice, requiring attestation from Scripture and multiple witnesses and lines of evidence before they would believe

## V. **T**ransformation

- A. *Twelve* – The cowering disciples were transformed into fearless defenders of the Resurrection
- B. *Traditions*:
  - Sabbath – Pattern of worship shifted from the seventh to the first day of the week
  - Sacrifices – Jewish believers suddenly stopped sacrificing animals for atonement
  - Sacraments – Passover became the Lord's Supper and all were baptized in Jesus' name
- C. *Today* – The risen Christ continues to transform people from every nation and language

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Submit questions to CCN's presenters by

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Email: [questions@ccnonline.net](mailto:questions@ccnonline.net)

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## **VI. Resurrection of Believers**

- A. *Savior* – As Christ rose in the same physical body in which he died, so will we
- B. *Seed* – The plan for our resurrected bodies is in the bodies we now possess
- C. *Spiritual Body* – Our bodies will be physical yet supernatural, Spirit dominated, and sin free

## **VII. “Resurrection” of Cosmos**

- A. *Continuity* – God will redeem and renew *this* world, not another in its place
- B. *Conquest* – As Christ’s conquest over the Devil, sin and death ensures our bodily resurrection, so too his conquest ensures the restoration of this cosmos
- C. *Childbirth* – this metaphor expresses the longing of creation for Christ’s consummation

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## **Additional Resources On This Subject**

### **The Third Day**

By Hank Hanegraaff

### **Resurrection**

By Hank Hanegraaff

**To purchase the above books visit [www.equip.org](http://www.equip.org) and go to the “eEquip Store” in the menu. Then click on “Hank Hanegraaff Products” in the store’s menu.  
Or call 888-7000-CRI.**

### **The Case For Christ**

By Lee Strobel

### **The Case For Faith**

By Lee Strobel

**To purchase the above books visit [www.ccnonline.net](http://www.ccnonline.net) and click on “Store” in the menu at the top of the page.**

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