

Did the apostles make up the accounts of Christ's resurrection?

First of all we have to ask ourselves if the apostles made it up. This is extremely unlikely. Of the twelve original apostles eleven were left after the death of the traitor Judas. He was replaced by a man named Matthias. St. Paul was also called an apostle. Of these thirteen men, twelve were executed for their Christian faith. The other, St. John the Apostle, is believed to have died while imprisoned on the island of Patmos off of the coast of Turkey. So of these thirteen men, the one who died on a prison island was the one who got the best deal for being a Christian.

These men were persecuted because their belief in the resurrection of Christ was seen by others as a threat to pre-existing religious beliefs, or as causing them to belong to a dangerous new group that was a political threat. They all could have saved themselves from imprisonment, torture, and death if they had said that they were making up. If they had said Jesus had not really risen from the dead, they had made it up, and they were willing to help those who were persecuting Christians they undoubtedly could have saved their lives. All of them suffered greatly rather than do this. So it is clear that they really believed in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. If they had made it up because they thought this was something that would in some way benefit them they would not have stuck to this story in the face of brutal persecution. It would have made absolutely no sense for them to do that.

Some people have suggested that as part of this fraud the followers of Jesus stole his body from the tomb and then claimed that he had risen from the dead. This would have been extremely difficult to do, and this possibility seems to be done away with by

the fact that if they had done this that they would have confessed to it in the face of torture and the threat of death.