

Endorsements

S. Ross Hickling. *An Evidentiary Analysis of Doctor Richard Carrier's Objections to the Resurrection of Jesus Christ*. *Christliche Philosophie heute – Christian Philosophy Today – Quomodo Philosophia Christianorum Hodie Estimatur* (ISSN 1612-1171), Volume 20. VKW (Culture and Science Publisher): Bonn, 2018. Pb. 380 pp. 23.00 €. ISBN 978-3-86269-159-3.

“There have been many attempts to refute objections to the factual, historical resurrection of Jesus Christ since these first gained prominence in the 18th-century, so-called Enlightenment. Ross Hickling offers a new analysis, relying especially on the canons of evidence applicable to factual determinations in general. His book should be read by skeptics, if only to discourage them from repeating Richard Carrier's errors. Christian apologists should also study Hickling's book carefully, thereby increasing the sophistication of their defense of the key piece of miracle evidence in support of the truth of the Christian religion.”

Dr. John Warwick Montgomery, Ph.D., D.Théol., LL.D., Professor Emeritus of Law and Humanities, University of Bedfordshire, England/UK; Professor-at-Large, 1517: The Legacy Project, Irvine, CA, USA; Director, International Academy of Apologetics, Evangelism and Human Rights, Strasbourg, France

“This book should find a place on the shelf of every Christian apologist. Hickling is not only a fine scholar whose writing is pithy and easy to understand, he comes to the task as an experienced criminal investigator. It's about time the exaggerated claims of an atheist 'scholar' were put under the microscope of the laws of evidence with respect to documents and eyewitness testimony. Hickling does this superbly proving the reliability of the gospel narratives and the admissibility of the resurrection evidence. He also tackles and refutes the alleged dependence upon pagan dying and rising god myths. A succinct apologetic that truly will aid those committed to defending and advocating the claims of the risen Christ. Dr. Ross Clifford, A.M., Principal, Morling Theological College, Sydney, Australia, Author of John Warwick Montgomery's *Legal Apologetic: An Apologetic for All Seasons and Leading Lawyer's Case for the Resurrection*.

If we could bring Richard Carrier's famously sceptical view of Jesus' resurrection into a courtroom, what would the verdict on its plausibility be? In this helpful book Ross Hickling does three things: he enables us to listen carefully and critically to the case presented by Carrier and others; he presents the counterarguments from a wide range of other scholars, and finally as someone who is experienced in legal matters he suggests how we should weigh the evidence in a fair-minded and rigorous way.”

Dr. David Wenham, M.A., Ph.D., Trinity College, Bristol, U.K.

“Because of his experience in handling evidence throughout his career, Hickling's insight into evidentiary principles coming from long established federal criminal rules of evidence/jury instructions is of great use as he brings it to bear on a prominent skeptic's claims against the resurrection. After mining Carrier's views from his writings, Hickling compares them with pertinent scholarly material and the aforementioned evidentiary principles. In his apologetic refutations of Carrier's objections, Hickling deals, in a meaningful way, with important questions in the ongoing resurrection debate to include:

‘Did the disciples hallucinate the risen Jesus Christ?’

‘Was the resurrection of Jesus Christ developed from pre-existing pagan myths?’

‘Do the resurrection accounts in the various Gospels contradict each other?’
It was a privilege to experience the precision of Hickling’s scholarly research as it progressed through its various stages. I sincerely recommend it.”

Dr. Henk G. Stoker, Ph.D., School of Theology, North-West University, Potchefstroom, South Africa

“This remarkably thorough volume makes an invaluable contribution to legal apologetics by taking on a contemporary challenger to the resurrection of Jesus Christ and applying the federal rules of evidence in a trial court setting to a host of objections. The result, while stunning, has a long and prestigious pedigree of those who have also applied the common law rules of evidence to the central factual claim of Christianity and vindicated that claim that God was indeed ‘in Christ Jesus reconciling the world unto Himself’ as is verified by the resurrection (see works by Simon Greenleaf, Sir Norman Anderson, and John Warwick Montgomery). Ross Hickling’s work is sure to become a classic in the long line of works establishing the facticity of the resurrection as presented by the reliable testimony of a ‘cloud of witnesses.’

Dr. Craig Parton, J.D., Trial Lawyer and Partner with Price, Postel & Parma LLP of Santa Barbara, California and former Chairman of the Litigation Section of the Santa Barbara County Bar Association, Author of The Defense Never Rests and Religion on Trial.

Richard Carrier has raised some common criticisms against the historical case for the resurrection of Jesus: Did the apostles hallucinate? Was the resurrection borrowed from pagan myths? Do contradictions discount the reliability of the Gospels? In this book ‘An evidentiary analysis of doctor Richard Carrier’s objections to the resurrection of Jesus Christ’, Ross Hickling responds to each of these critiques with careful research based upon the Federal Rules of Evidence. Hickling has done a tremendous amount of research and has helped advance the case for the resurrection.

Dr. Sean McDowell, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Apologetics, Biola University, Author or co-author of over 18 books including Evidence that Demands A Verdict.

“Virtually every scholar in the world in the relevant fields rejects the hypothesis that Jesus never existed. According to Richard Carrier, the leading proponent of that hypothesis, there are only eight scholars in the world holding this view. And that’s including himself! Nevertheless, that has not stopped Internet bloggers from propagating it. In this book, Ross Hickling provides a unique approach to addressing Carrier’s arguments. Combining historical scholarship with his expertise as a former law enforcement investigator, Hickling carefully dissects Carrier’s arguments and reveals their weaknesses.”

Dr. Michael R. Licona, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Theology, Houston Baptist University.

“Anyone can concoct theories that assert the New Testament writers were mistaken about the Resurrection of Jesus. However, it’s another thing completely to provide evidence for your concocted theory. Ross Hickling devastates the theories of skeptical scholar Richard Carrier by revealing how devoid of evidence — and accepted rules of evidence — Carrier’s positions are. Hickling not only exposes Carrier’s errors, but answers Carrier’s objections with evidence that affirms the historicity of the New Testament documents and the Resurrection of Christ. Highly recommended!

Dr. Frank Turek, Ph.D., President, Cross-Examined.org, Charlotte, NC, Author of four books to include *Stealing from God: Why Atheists Need God to Make their Case* and *I Don't Have Enough Faith to be an Atheist*.

Dr. Richard Carrier has been one of the more vocal of the recent parade of skeptics calling into question the historicity of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Dr. Ross Hickling has done a great service to the Christian community in amassing an astounding amount of data surrounding this most important event of history. Assessing this data not only with his skills as a researcher but also as a retired senior inspector with the U.S. Marshals Service, Dr. Hickling applies the Federal Rules of Evidence to deftly refute Carrier's skepticism, showing that there can be no reasonable doubt that Jesus Christ was indeed raised from the dead."

*Dr. Richard G. Howe, Ph.D., Emeritus Professor of Philosophy and Apologetics,
Southern Evangelical Seminary, Past President, International Society of Christian Apologetics*