

The Resurrection of Jesus

One of the greatest arguments for and proof of Christianity is **the resurrection of Jesus**. Jesus prophesied His death and then rose again from the dead fulfilling His Word (Matthew 12:40; John 2:18-19). **The resurrection is the most crucial aspect of the deity and life of Jesus.**

- A. Many people that claimed deity (Mohammed, Buddha, Krishna and many more are still dead, but Jesus rose again from the dead.
- B. No other religion or belief system boasts of their leader's resurrection, but Christianity. This is one attribute of Christianity that separates and distinguishes it from any other religion.
- C. Anyone with power over death deserves:
 - a) Our attention
 - b) Deserves to be heard
- D. Jesus was not an average man. He was God. He is God. That is why His death, burial, and resurrection are such a big deal.
 - a) He was born to die.

Matthew 28:1-9 In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first *day* of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulcher. And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead *men*. And the angel

answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you. And they departed quickly from the sepulcher with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word. And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshiped him.

- a) These two Marys looked, but did not see a body. He was gone—RISEN, indeed.
- b) Jesus is alive! Hallelujah. God is NOT dead.
- c) Because He is alive, there is hope for your situation. You can experience life and the resurrection power of God in every area of your life. This can be your personal life, your health, marriage, business, job, the list goes on and on.

Empty Tomb

“Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead.”—Galatians 1:1

- a) This is the most amazing event in all human history. No other religion has an empty tomb.
- b) The enemies of Jesus could have easily stopped all talk of the resurrection by producing His dead, decaying body, but there was no dead body for them to produce! The tomb in which He was buried was empty to date!

Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate, Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again. Command therefore that the sepulcher be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first. Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way, make it as sure as ye can. So they went, and made the sepulcher sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch.

—Matthew 27:62-66

- a) Some of the reasoning that was given for the absence of Jesus' body was that the disciples have stolen His body. However, to prevent such from happening, the chief priests and Pharisees went to Pilate to have this tomb sealed and guarded by soldiers.
- b) On a side note, to their credit, they remembered the prophecies about His resurrection and did all the preparation to stop it. It's quite sad that the believers did not.
- c) I don't believe any of the disciples was that trained and skillful to take on these armed Roman soldiers. These same men had fled in fear when He was being taken by the soldiers and then crucified.
- d) A "watch" was a total of four men according to Acts 12:4 and they were fixed and armed at the tomb with a three-hour rotation. Even more, the sealing of this tomb was in such a way that one could tell when the stone was moved because the seal would have been broken. It is said that a clay seal was placed at the tomb of Jesus.
- e) Actually, **the sealing of the tomb only provided as one of the greatest proofs that the Lord Jesus resurrected.** They made sure that no one could still His body, which they did, yet he resurrected anyway. They were witnesses to such a history changer.

And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave large money unto the soldiers, Saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept. And if this come to the governor's ears, we will persuade him, and secure you. So they took the money, and did as they were taught: and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.

—Matthew 28:12-15

- a) The elders and the Pharisees had to plot and lie because they could not explain it away. The Man was risen! Again, their lying shows that Jesus rose from the dead. If he did not rise from the dead, then there would have been no cause to lie and connive about it.
- b) The very men that were put out to guard the tomb were the very ones to witness the greatest even of all history, yet they allowed themselves to be bought out of it.
- c) If Jesus was really a fraud like many jokers and religions have said, the disciples would not have allowed being martyred for a liar. The simple fact is that the resurrection of Jesus cannot be explained away!

A. First to be raised from the dead, never to die again.

Jesus was not the first one to be raised from the dead. True, many other people in scripture were raised from the dead, but only to die again.

- a) 1 Kings 17:22, Elijah raised the widow's son from the dead.
- b) 2 Kings 4:35, Elisha raised the Shunammite woman's son from the dead.
- c) 2 Kings 13:21 A man came back to life after his dead body was thrown and touched the dead bones of Elisha.
- d) Jesus raised Lazarus (John 11; Matthew 9:25; and Luke 7:15).
- e) Peter raised Dorcus from the dead in Acts 9:40-41.
- f) Paul raised Eutychus from the dead (Acts 20:7-21).

Jesus prophesied His death and His resurrection and then rose again from the dead fulfilling His Word (Matthew 12:40; John 2:18-19). Jesus prophesied His death and resurrection a total of **14 times (7 public and 7 private)**. He defeated the grave!

Colossians 1:18 "And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence."

- a) Jesus was the first one to die and resurrect, but **NEVER** to die again.
- b) When Jesus resurrected from the dead, He resurrected with a spiritual body that could never die again.

B. Four parts to the Gospel

1 Corinthians 15:1-4 "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:"

- a) These verses make it clear that the Gospel has four parts to it.

- i) The Christ
 - ii) The death for our sins.
 - iii) The burial.
 - iv) The resurrection.
- b) The Gospel is incomplete without these four parts. Jesus, the Christ (God), died, was buried and rose again.
- c) We have to believe the three aspects of the Gospel to be truly born again. We can't believe one and reject another. For instance, if you don't believe that Jesus raised from the dead, you can't be saved even though you believe He died on the cross.

C. "...that God raised Him from the dead..."

Romans 10:9-10 "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

- a) These verses make it clear that we have to confess with our mouth and believe in our heart **that God raised Him from the dead** to be saved.
- b) Some folks when they are ministering salvation, they do not highlight that the person they are ministering to **MUST** believe that God raised Him from the dead, yet this is the main point by which a person is finally saved.
 - i) Those who do not believe that Jesus rose again from the dead cannot be saved.
- c) To me, having someone just repeat sinners prayed and not have him confess that he believes that Jesus was raised again from the dead is not a biblical way to minister salvation.
- d) Notice the word "*saved*." This is translated from a Greek word "*Sozo*" which means safety, to be made whole, deliverance, the forgiveness of sins, healing, protection, and prosperity.

- i) If we want to experience all the above, we need to believe in our hearts that Jesus has been raised from the dead—That He is alive. If Jesus is not alive, there is no hope for the above. There is nothing to receive from a dead God! Jesus is alive. We have hope for everything we need in this life.

D. Seen of the twelve and of above 500 brethren.

1 Corinthians 15:5-6 “And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.”

- a) **The evidence supporting the resurrection of Jesus is overwhelming.** First, there were over five hundred eyewitnesses of the risen Christ! These are a lot of eyewitnesses. Five hundred voices cannot be ignored.
- b) This is a powerful detail of the resurrection of Jesus. Best to say, this is crucial proof that the gospels do not mention. Jesus was seen by the twelve disciples and then was seen by more than five hundred brethren at once.
- c) Jesus did not rise spiritually but bodily. A spirit cannot be seen. Jesus was seen by many after His resurrection. **Resurrection changes everything.** Seed comes up different after it dies.
 - i) If Jesus was a phony, He would have said that He will rise from the dead spiritually, hence leaving no evidence for his resurrection, but He said and rose again physically.
 - ii) No religion boasts this truth. Even the grave is empty to this day. The man rose again from the grave physically not spiritually.

E. The resurrection, our hope!

1 Corinthians 15:12 “Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?”

- a) The resurrection of the Lord Jesus is the hope that believers will as well resurrect one day unto eternal life.
- b) The resurrection of the Lord Jesus is proof that there is a resurrection.

F. If Christ is not risen...

1 Corinthians 15:13-14 "But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain."

- a) These verses make it clear that if Christ never rose from the dead (which He did), then our preaching and our faith is in vain. In other words, we cannot be born again, and we are believing in vain and we are still in our sins.
- b) If this is true (that Jesus never rose from the dead), then all that slept have perished and if this is true, then believers are the most miserable of all men. 1 Corinthians 15:17-19 "And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable."

G. When Jesus won, we won with Him through faith

Every believer in Christ died with Him, was buried with Him, and also was raised with Him. Furthermore, we are seated (Ephesians 2:6) with Him in heavenly places and our life is hid with Him in God. We identified with Jesus in all areas through faith in Him. All these are realities in our Spirit man, but one day in the future, we will experience a **bodily resurrection** and we will get a new body, never to die again. This body will be immortal, incorruptible and one of flesh and bones (Luke 24:39).

The word "resurrection" is used in reference to the physical body resurrection, while the words "*raised and rise*" are typically used in reference to our current state in our spirits right now hence the terms, "risen with Him", "raised with Him." Our spirit has been raised as a result of Jesus' bodily resurrection (Romans 4:25; Colossians 2:12-13)

- a) Colossians 2:12 “Buried with him in baptism, wherein **also ye are risen with him through the faith** of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.”
- b) Colossians 3:1, 3 “**If ye then be risen with Christ...**” For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.
- c) 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14, 16 “But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first.
- i) When the Bible refers to the believers in Christ, it does not address them as “*dead*”, but as “*asleep*.” (Lazarus—John 11:11; Comforting One another—1 Thessalonians 4:13-16; Saints arose—Matthew 27:52).
- d) All supporters of Jesus will resurrect unto eternal life.
- i) If a person or team you are supporting goes to the ring and wins, you have also won. It is appropriate to celebrate that win and you aren't considered crazy for doing such.
 - In the same way, **Jesus our Champion** won, so we all who have put our faith in Him (supporting Him), have won and are champions along with Him. We won with Him.
 - ii) Jesus died on the cross and rose again, so all those who believe in Him will rise again because He did. We died with Him, and we rose with him.

H. Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life

- a) John 11:25-26 “Jesus said unto her, **I am the resurrection, and the life:** he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?”
- i) Though they were asleep, they will resurrect.

b) Matthew 22:32 “I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.”

i) God is the God of the living, not the dead. He is the God of Resurrection.

I. Proof of forgiveness of our sins.

Look no further, the resurrection of Jesus proves that we have been forgiven. Because of the resurrection of Jesus, we have proof and evidence that we have been forgiven of all our iniquities and our (Romans 4:25 “*who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.*” NJKV). Jesus was raised to secure and seal our Justification (forgiveness). Because we are justified (acquitted), Jesus was raised from the dead.

a) Colossians 2:13 “And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you **all** trespasses;”

b) Psalm 103:3 Who forgiveth **all** thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;

c) Hebrews 9:12, 15 “Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption *for us*. And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions *that were* under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.”

d) Hebrews 10:10-12, 14 “By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ *once for all*. And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God;” For by one offering he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified.

i) If Jesus did not resurrect from the dead, our sins cannot be forgiven. We have been completely forgiven of **ALL** our past, present and future sins have been forgiven. We have a new nature and which does not what to sin.

- ii) All our sins were in the future before we got saved and before we even sinned, yet Jesus died and paid for them. The payment and sacrifice of Jesus were a million times greater than our sin. Because of how vast the payment was (the Blood of Jesus), why could we doubt that it could take care of all our sins—past, present, and future?
- If Jesus did not die and forgive our future sins, then we cannot be truly born again.
 - It takes sinless blood of Jesus for us to be forgiven (Hebrews 9:22), not an apology or I'm sorry. If all it took was a sorry or an apology, then Jesus did not need to come. We could accomplish this another way. There was no way, so Jesus had to come.
- iii) If Jesus did not pay for our past, present and future sins, then we are doomed. He won't be dying again (Hebrews 9:27).
- iv) Our redemption is not only good until the next time we sin. It is not partial.
- The OT forgiveness was temporal while the NT forgiveness was eternal. There is a big difference. Unlike the OT priests that offered sacrifices daily or continually, on the other side, Jesus did it once for all time and for all people. What a huge difference! This ONE TIME CLEANSED US FOR ALL TIME. (Hebrews 9:25-28).