

# The Resurrection of Jesus Christ

## Introduction:

The resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ was the greatest demonstration of the power of God ever — Romans 1:4. Moreover, it is by this power that a lost sinner is born again (Romans 1:16) and a believer enabled to live (Philippians 3:10.)

Without the resurrection of our Lord, His crucifixion would have been meaningless and a tragic defeat. If Christ did not rise from the dead we would NEVER KNOW if His sacrifice was sufficient to save, I Corinthians 15:14.

But Christ DID rise! In fact, the resurrection is one of the best authenticated facts of history. Over 100 times the Word of God directly speaks of the resurrection of Christ.

## I. The Testimony for the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The account of the resurrection of Jesus Christ is given in each of the Gospels. This in itself is significant, because:

### A. The Gospels give Eye-Witness Accounts.

They are not second- or third- hand. They represent the most accurate form of narration.

### B. The Gospels Give Straight-Forward Accounts.

There is remarkable absence of embellishment, coloring, or mysticism associated with this supernatural event.

### C. The Gospels Give Four Separate and Independent Accounts.

If there was collusion between the writers, we would have four stories which, on the surface, would appear in precise harmony — they would need to be carefully studied to find discrepancies.

The actual fact, there are four accounts which, on the surface, appear to have discrepancies — they need to be studied to find harmony!

It is absolutely incredible that 4 men sitting down in 4 location at 4 different times to write 4 accounts of an event which never happened could produce 4 stories which agree as they do. The only explanation is that the resurrection did happen.

## II. The Evidence for the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

### A. The Empty Tomb.

Matthew 28:1-8; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:3; John 20:1-10

### B. The Many Post-Resurrection Appearances of Christ.

1. To Mary — John 20:16.
2. To the Women — Matthew 28:5-9
3. To Peter — Luke 24:34
4. To Two on the Road to Emma's — Luke 24:13-35
5. To the Disciples in the Upper Room — John 20:19
6. To the Disciples and Thomas — John 20:26-29
7. To John and Peter — John 21:5-7
8. To the Eleven — Matthew 28:16; Acts 1:4

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9. To A Whole Company of Believers — I Corinthians 15:4-7

10. To Paul — I Corinthians 15:8

C. The Changed Lives of the Apostles.

e.g. Peter the “denier of Christ” became the great “preacher of Christ.”

D. The Resurrection Preaching of the Apostles.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ was central to the Gospel preaching recorded in the Book of Acts.

See: Acts 2:32; 3:15; 4:2, 10; 5:31; 10:40; 13:30, 37; 17:31, 32

E. The Institution of the First Day of the Week.

The first day of the week, Sunday, or the “Lord’s Day” is the resurrection day.

The “Sabbath” is the seventh day — and still is!! Saturday!

Christians do not hold to Sunday as the Christian Sabbath, but it is evident that the early churches began meeting on this day. See: Acts 20:7; I Corinthians 16:2.

F. The Witness of Jesus Christ Himself.

Revelation 1:18

### III. The Nature of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ

A. Negatively Considered.

1. It was not a Resuscitation.

Some believe Christ swooned on the cross and was revived by the coolness of the tomb.

The Bible gives abundant evidence that He was dead. See: Mark 15:37, 43-45; John 19:31-34; 38-40.

2. It was not an Hallucination.

The disciples had not been eating mushrooms. Mary magdalene went to the tomb expecting to anoint a dead body — she did not expect to meet her risen Savior. Mark 16:9; John 20:1-18.

3. It was not a Spiritual Materialization.

No “seance” was involved. Christ rose bodily from the sea — Luke 24:39; John 20:24-29.

4. It was not a Myth.

The Jews at first did everything to prevent a “religious myth” from eventuating — Matthew 27:62-66; then later attempted to perpetrate a myth — Matthew 28:12-14.

5. It was not a Removal of Christ’s Body.

Some hold that the dead body of the Lord Jesus Christ was removed, and the “resurrection” was subsequently concocted.

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If this were the case, the question must then be asked, “Who took the body?”

In answer, there are only 5 possibilities:

a) The Disciples took it.

This theory claims that the disciples either over-powered or sneaked past the guards, removed the body of Christ from the tomb, and disposed of it elsewhere.

Three things make this fanciful assumption — the “sentinels,” the “seal,” and the “stone.” See: Matthew 27:64-66.

Besides, the Bible says the disciples were dispersed immediately after the crucifixion — Matthew 26:56, 58.

When the resurrection Savior did appear to them, they were amazed, some in unbelief — Luke 24:9-12; John 20:8-9.

b) The two Marys took it.

Some claim these two women executed an early Sunday morning “sting!”

According to Matthew 27:60, the stone was “great” in size. Historians say such a stone would require several men to move it. Two women were physically unable to perform such a feat — Mark 16:1-4.

c) Joseph of Arimathea took it.

They theorize that Joseph decided not to keep Jesus in his tomb, and so removed the body.

It is interesting to note that Joseph, along with Nicodemus, was both a secret disciple of Christ's and a member of Jewish Sanhedrin — Matthew 27:57; Mark 15:43. According to Luke 23:50, he was also a “good man, and a just...” If he had removed the body, he would have said so to either the Jews or the disciples.

He had gone to a lot of trouble — John 19:38-40 — it would seem strange for him to change his mind.

d) The Jews took it.

Of all people who would want the body of Jesus, it would have been the Jewish religious leaders. However, we note firstly that they did make every attempt to hold the body — Matthew 27:64, 66; secondly, upon learning of the empty tomb they concocted a story — Matthew 28:12-13 — why not call for the arrest and interrogation of the disciples, and why pay out a lot of money in bribes if they knew where the body was?; and thirdly, 7 weeks later, when the apostles were winning thousands of converts through preaching the resurrection, why not produce the body?

e) The Roman Soldiers took it.

Some would have us believe that the disciples bribed the soldiers who were guarding the tomb. To this theory, there are three answers:

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- (1) The disciples were probably too poor to pay the probe.
- (2) For the soldiers to remove the body, it meant direct disobedience to their order — Roman army discipline for sleeping at their posts, accepting bribes, or breaking the seal would mean death without trial.
- (3) Romans were out to keep the peace — why be the cause of an uproar?

### B. Positively Considered.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ was personal, visible, and bodily.

1. Jesus Rose Personally from the dead. — Matthew 28:6; John 21:7.
2. Jesus Rose Bodily from the dead. — Matthew 28:9; John 20:20, 27.
3. Jesus Rose Visibly from the dead. — Mark 16:9, 12, 14; Luke 24:34; John 20:18.

## IV. The Means of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ was accomplished by the power of the triune God.

- A. He was raised by the Father. — Romans 6:4; 10:9; Ephesians 1:17-20.
- B. He arose by His own power. — John 10:18.
- C. He was quickened by the Holy Ghost. — Romans 8:11; I Peter 3:18.

## V. The Resurrection Body of Jesus Christ

### A. In Some ways it was different from His former Body.

1. Mary did not recognize Him Immediately. — John 20:15.
2. His Disciples did not recognize Him at the Sea Shore. — John 21:4-7.
3. It evidently had some Variableness in form. — Mark 16:12

### B. In Some ways it was similar to His former Body.

1. It was flesh and bone. — Luke 24:39.
2. He could partake of Food. — Luke 24:42, 43.
3. He could be recognized at times. — John 20:28.

### C. It was not hindered by the Natural Law.

1. He could pass through matter. — John 20:19.
2. He could disappear. — Luke 24:31.
3. He was not limited by natural laws. — Acts 1:9

## VI. The Results of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ

### A. With Reference to Jesus Christ.

1. It affirmed His deity. — Romans 1:4.
2. It vindicated His sinless Life. — Romans 5:12, 19.
3. It made His intercessory work possible. — Romans 8:34.

### B. With Reference to the Word of God.

Christ's resurrection fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies that Christ would rise again.

Jobs 19:25; Psalm 16:10; Isaiah 53:10-12. See also: Matthew 16:21; 26:32; Mark 8:31-34; 9:9; John 2:19-22.

### C. With Reference to the Lost.

1. It is God's token of judgment. — Acts 17:31.
2. It offers Salvation. — Romans 4:25; 10:9.

### D. With Reference to Israel.

Christ's resurrection fulfills the promise of God to the nation of Israel — Acts 13:32, 33.

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### E. With Reference to the Believer.

1. It is proof of our Justification. — Romans 4:24, 25.
2. It is the Hope of our own Resurrection. — I Corinthians 15:20-22; II Corinthians 4:14; I Peter 1:3-4.
3. It is the Basis of our New Life in Christ. — Romans 6:4-10; 7:1-4.
4. It gives us Power for Fruitful, Victorious Christian Living — Philippians 3:10.
5. It reveals the Nature of our Resurrection Body — Philippians 3:21; I John 3:1-3.
6. It gives us Power for our Witness — I Corinthians 15:12-14.