

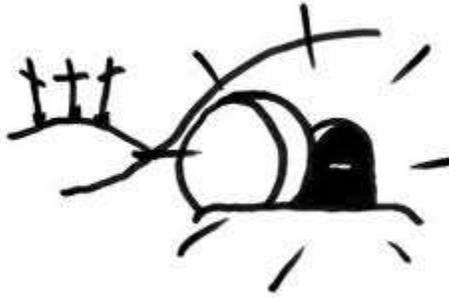
“The Certainties Are Endless”

The Factual Account of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ

“Jesus’ resurrection is the best-attested fact in human history.”

Matthew Arnold - English Poet and Culture Critic, 1822-1888

“Preaching is the proclamation of certainties, not the suggestion of possibilities.”



I. The Importance of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ

1 Corinthians 15:12-19

“Jesus’ resurrection has always been understood as something unique; it was the defeat of death, not a return to life like Lazarus’ raising. It followed a unique life and an atoning death, and thus it means more to say that Jesus rose from the dead than it would to say that anyone else did so. Christ had risen and this is the assurance that redemption has been accomplished and that believers will one day rise. The Resurrection is closely linked to the divine power in the believer’s life.”

International Standard Bible Encyclopedia - Romans 6:9-11; Philippians 3:10

II. Resurrection Proofs

A. Jesus’ Veracity - He said that He would rise again!

Matthew 16:21; 17:9, 23; 20:19; 26:32; 27:63; 28:6ff; Mark 8:31; 9:9, 31; 10:34; 14:28; Luke 9:22; 18:33; 24:7, 46

B. The Empty Tomb - The tomb was closely guarded; no enemy of Christianity was ever able to deal a “death blow” to the Faith by producing the body of Jesus Christ. All four Gospels record that Jesus’ tomb was empty. *“The silence of the Jews was as significant as the speech of the Christians.”* - W. H. Griffith Thomas quoting Fairbairn

C. Post-Resurrection Appearances of Jesus - The four Gospels and 1 Corinthians 15 tell of ten different appearances by Jesus after His resurrection, five on the first day, and five more over the next 39 days.

- D. The Experience of the Early Christian Church – The first disciples were utterly transformed by the Resurrection of Jesus. They risked death and imprisonment to preach the Resurrection of Jesus. Only hard evidence could've convinced the stubborn human heart of Peter, Thomas, Paul, etc. They were convinced that Jesus had risen from the dead. James and Stephen were quickly martyred because of their belief in His resurrection. Consider the depths of despair out of which their faith came: they had all been crushed by the crucifixion and now there was contagious hope. Jews hold tenaciously to their ancient customs, but these first Jewish Christians replaced the Sabbath with the Lord's Day as their day of worship. Their rite of initiation into the Faith was "you were buried with Him in baptism, in which you were raised with Him" (Colossians 2:12). More than 2000 years later, the Christian Church is still here! Though marked by diverse troubles, opposition from enemies, and internal unspirituality and sloth, there is still an astonishing vitality in the Church, and the Church's risen and ascended Lord supplies the spiritual power to make it all possible.
- E. Eyewitness Accounts of Jesus after His Resurrection: _____ Magdalene, _____ who had been at the tomb earlier, _____ disciples on the road to Emmaus, _____ by himself, to the _____ without Thomas, to the disciples with _____ present, to the Apostle _____ by alone, to _____ believers all at once, to His disciples in _____ with instructions for the future, and at His _____.

III. The Implications of the Resurrection for Christians Today

- A. Philippians 3:10
- B. 1 Peter 1:3
- C. 2 Corinthians 3:18
- D. 2 Peter 3:10-15
- E. Romans 4:25; 6:4, 9; 7:4; 8:11, 34; 10:9
- F. 1 Corinthians 6:14; 15:14, 17, 35-50 (a body fitted for eternity in heaven)
- G. Ephesians 2:4-7
- H. Colossians 3:1-4
- I. 1 Thessalonians 1:10