

The Resurrection of Jesus

Introduction:

1. *“And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is vain and your faith is also vain”* (1 Cor 15:14).
2. If the resurrection of Jesus is untrue, then Christianity collapses. But if Jesus **was** raised from the dead, what then?

1. The Historical Record

A. Jesus foretold His resurrection in a variety of ways:

1. Figuratively - Jn 2:18-22.
2. By OT allusion - Mt 12:38-40.
3. Directly - Mt 16:21-23.

B. In spite of His repeated instruction, His disciples did not believe it when it happened - comp. Jn 20:9 and Lk 24:6.

1. They had seen Jesus raise **others** from the dead, but they must come to believe fully in the Father by His resurrection of Jesus (Ac 2:24).
2. The death of Jesus was the type of shocking tragedy in which emotion supplants rationality and balanced analysis.
3. The disciples scoffed (Lk 24:11), were foolish and slow to believe” (Lk 24:25); they were troubled and doubtful (Lk 24:38).

C. Jesus, therefore, had to provide gradual and repeated proof of His resurrection.

1. Appearances: several were necessary (to the women who went to anoint Jesus’ body; to Mary Magdalene; to Peter; to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus; to the ten and then to the eleven, etc.).
2. Teaching: Lk 24:27, 32.
3. Sight, hearing, touch, normal function (eating) - Lk 24:36, 39-43.

Conclusion: The disciples gradually came to the conviction that Jesus was raised from the dead and they preached this truth with all diligence.

2. Implications of the Resurrection of Jesus

- A. Declared Sonship of Jesus with power - Rom 1:4. Many other proofs were offered (Ac 2:22), but this was the ultimate approval of all Jesus did and taught.
- B. Assurance of sin's removal - Ac 13:30-39. The essence of the "promise which was made to the fathers" (v 32) was forgiveness of sin, and the resurrection is evidence that the sacrifice of Jesus was acceptable and effective.
- C. Assurance of our own resurrection - 2 Cor 4:13-14; 1 Cor 6:14. We will all live beyond this life, but what will be the quality of our existence?
- D. Living hope - 1 Pet 1:3, 20-21. It is the resurrected *life* of Christ which makes our hope *living*, not some theory or philosophy or page out of a book. Jesus, by example, became the firstfruits of other resurrected lives (1 Cor 15:20).
- E. The coming judgment - Ac 17:31. Jesus was raised and divine scrutiny revealed no fault or flaw. Therefore, "His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption" (Ac 2:31). We, too, will be raised unto judgment.
- F. Moral imperatives - 1 Cor 15:32; Rom 6:4-6. Knowing that we will live forever and be held accountable for all our actions gives us purpose to live morally, self-sacrificially, obediently.
- G. Basis of courage, endurance - 2 Cor 4:16-5:3. As we mature spiritually, our conception of renewal and eternal life grows. We groan under the strain of earthly burdens - sickness, death, failure, disappointment, etc. - which only serve to make us eagerly desire "our habitation which is from heaven."

3. The Present Reality of Resurrection

- A. The resurrection is more than a fact of ancient history; it is a present reality.
Jesus lives now!
- B. Further, **Jesus was raised to rule!** Our belief in the current reign of Jesus over all the world and for the benefit of His spiritual kingdom gives us great calmness, resignation and optimism.
- C. Jesus not only lives in heaven but **lives through us**, His brethren and disciples (Gal 2:20). We must declare the resurrected life of Jesus in our own lives.

Conclusion: *"Indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord ... that I may know Him and the **power of His resurrection** ... if, by any means, **I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.**" (Ph 3:8-11).*