

“The Greatest Miracle – The Resurrection”

How do I know that the resurrection of Jesus Christ took place?

Consider the following argument which involves four statements – together it demonstrates that Jesus’ resurrection is the only answer to fit the historical facts.

1) Jesus Truly Died

- The Bible records the death of the Lord in Matthew 27, Mark 15, Luke 23 and John 19. It is a fact of history confirmed by many independent accounts, including some outside the Bible. For example, Josephus, a Jewish historian said, “Pilate condemned him to be crucified and to die.”
- The Jewish people who wanted Jesus to be crucified and the Roman court who authorized the crucifixion were satisfied that it took place – good evidence that it did indeed happen to Jesus.
- Further, it would be impossible for one to survive crucifixion along with the awful flogging that preceded it.

2) Jesus’ Tomb Was Empty Three Days Later

Why did the body of Christ disappear from the tomb and no one ever found it? It is easy to disprove the assertion that a dead person has come back to life – just find the body!

- a) Some people think thieves may have stolen the body – but there is no evidence for this idea, and it is unlikely since often plans like that are eventually discovered. Jesus’ body has NEVER been discovered!
- b) Some people think that the disciples removed the body to make it seem like Jesus has risen to life. But it is unlikely that this happened – the disciples were very scared after Jesus’ death and would not likely have had courage to think of a plan like that; also they began to preach about Jesus’ resurrection and actually died for their faith. Would they die for something that they knew was a lie? Psychological research shows this is impossible.

3) The Lord Was Seen Alive

Many people saw Jesus including men and women, close disciples and more distant friends. These stories are recorded in Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24 and John 20-21.

- Many of these people were not expecting the resurrection and were started when it took place. It took a while to convince them. It shows they were not inventing the story. Further the story between the different accounts contains some disagreements, indicating that the disciples were not trying to invent an unhistorical story.
- The Lord ate with them and challenged them to touch Him, showing He was not a spirit, but a real bodily person.

4) The Disciples Were Changed

The disciples who were very afraid of being persecuted for the Lord changed overnight, and they started to preach boldly about the resurrection of Christ – what changed them, what power could do this? Also many other people’s lives have been changed since through the power of a living Saviour, a resurrection Jesus.

What does the resurrection of Jesus Christ mean to me?

We can learn four things from the resurrection of the Lord Jesus:

1) Acceptance of Christ’s Sacrifice

At the cross the Lord Jesus offered a sacrifice for our sins, a sacrifice that had to end in death since death is the penalty for sin. But the resurrection marked the end of His death, indicating that His sacrifice for our sins has been accepted by God. Will you accept His sacrifice too?

2) Assertion of Christ’s Sovereignty

The resurrection shows the awesome power of God at work in Jesus Christ, indicating that He is obviously the Lord and King that God has approved. He will rule the world! Acts 17:30-31

3) Authority for the Unbeliever’s Judgment

This power has an incredible warning for those who do not believe Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord – they will have to face Him for judgment.

4) Assurance of the Christian’s Salvation

This power also gives a wonderful confidence and assurance to those who believe Jesus Christ – He has the power to save us from our sins and give us a home in heaven – we can have the assurance of salvation.

Romans 4:25: “Jesus was delivered up because of our offences, and was raised because of our justification.”
Romans 10:9: “If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”