

THE PROOF OF HIS RESURRECTION

All I want is to know Christ and to experience the power of his resurrection, to share in his sufferings and become like him in his death, in the hope that I myself will be raised from death to life.

Philippians 3:10-11 (TEV)

Early on Sunday morning, as the new day was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went out to see the tomb. ² Suddenly there was a great earthquake, because an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and rolled aside the stone and sat on it. ³ His face shone like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow. ⁴ The guards shook with fear when they saw him, and they fell into a dead faint. ⁵ Then the angel spoke to the women. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶ He isn't here! He has been raised from the dead, just as He said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying. ⁷ And now, go quickly and tell his disciples he has been raised from the dead, and he is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there. Remember, I have told you."

Matthew 28:1-7 (NLT)

❖ Did Jesus Really RISE From the DEAD?

1. Was the resurrection just a MISUNDERSTANDING?

The Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, and that there are neither angels nor spirits, but the Pharisees acknowledge them all.

Acts 23:8 (NIV)

2. Was the resurrection only SYMBOLIC?

And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. ¹⁵ More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised.

1 Corinthians 15:14-15 (NIV)

3. Was the resurrection a HOAX?

When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, ¹³ telling them, "You are to say, 'His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.' ¹⁴ If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." ¹⁵ So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day.

Matthew 28:12-15 (NIV)

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

John 20:19-20 (NIV)

➤ Key Truth: If Jesus had just died, He would have been a martyr not Savior.

❖ Why Does the Resurrection MATTER?

But the fact is that Christ has been raised from the dead. He has become the first of a great harvest of those who will be raised to life again.²¹ So you see, just as death came into the world through a man, Adam, now the resurrection from the dead has begun through another man, Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:20-21 (NLT)

1. If Jesus "Rose from the Dead," then He MADE POSSIBLE our resurrection also.

And if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.

Romans 8:11 (NIV)

2. If Jesus "Defeated Death," then He is my ANSWER for ETERNAL LIFE.

We know that when Jesus was raised from the dead it was a signal of the end of death-as-the-end. Never again will death have the last word.

Romans 6:9 (MSG)

3. If Jesus "Is Alive," then He is AVAILABLE for me to know PERSONALLY.

Who then will condemn us? Will Christ Jesus? No, for he is the one who died for us and was raised to life for us and is sitting at the place of highest honor next to God, pleading for us.

Romans 8:34 (NLT)

❖ How Will I RESPOND to the Resurrection of Jesus?

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies."

John 11:25 (NIV)

1. I can choose to REJECT His resurrection.

He said to him, "If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead."

Luke 16:31 (NIV)

2. I can choose to RESIST His resurrection.

When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered, but others said, "We want to hear you again on this subject."

Acts 17:32 (NIV)

3. I can choose to RECEIVE His resurrection as my HOPE for LIFE.

He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

John 1:11-12 (NIV)

❖ What Will You DO with Jesus' RESURRECTION?

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; ²⁶ and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

John 11:25-26 (NIV)

"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me."

Revelation 3:20 (NIV)

For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Romans 10:13 (NIV)