

## His Victorious Resurrection – What’s the Evidence?

- Thomas Jefferson [1801-1809]. Did not believe in miracles. Bible: Life & Morals of Jesus of Nazareth. *There laid they Jesus and rolled a great stone at the mouth of the sepulchre and departed. 1 Cor. 15.19: If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable [deserving sympathy for one’s pathetic condition].*
- *Nothing like the resurrection is claimed by any other religion. Islam teaches Christ never died [Judas was crucified]. Judaism claims He never rose. Christianity asserts He both died and rose.*
- World does not want to believe He is alive, because if so, they will have to meet Him [Acts 17.31].
- **Resurrection.** Before Christ, rare examples of those who *died* and were *raised*. Elijah. Elisha. Christ [x3]. But, raised to die again [same mortal body subject to death]. Christ was raised never to die again. **Firstborn** [Col. 1]. Raised in *incorruption, glory and power* [1 Cor. 15].

## The Centrality of the Resurrection [1 Cor. 15]

- vv.3-5: *Two couplets. 1. That Christ died. That He was buried [proof of death]. 2. That He rose again. That He was seen [evidence of resurrection]. All attested by [OT] Scripture. Pentateuch: Gen. 22. Living bird [Lev. 14]. Psalms: 16 [not... suffer thine Holy One]. Prophets: Isa. 53 [cut off out of the land of the living... He shall see His seed].*
- v.12: Some denied resurrection [e.g. Sadducees]. *Six serious issues result. 1. Christ is not raised [v.13]. 2. Preaching is ‘vain’ [empty], v.14. 3. Faith is ‘vain’ [pointless if resting in a dead Saviour]. 4. Apostles are liars [v.15]. 5. Our sins remain unforgiven [v.17]. 6. Loved ones who have died are ‘perished’ [v.18].*
- But Christ is raised. Thus, *preaching* has purpose. *Faith* has a worthy object. *Apostles* testify to truth. We are saved [sins forgiven]. Loved ones are with Christ. *1 Th. 4: Dead in Christ shall rise first. Each in His own order.*

## The Certainty of the Resurrection

- **Grave.** Matt. 27.66: Tomb secure. There was a *stone* [1500kg], *seal* and Roman *soldiers*. No *entrance* and no *exit*.
- John emphasises the ‘proving’ of the resurrection. To ‘see’ [x13]. Real *history*. *Evidence* on display. Note x3 Greek words. v.5: John ‘glanced’ or ‘noticed’. v.6: Peter ‘gazed’ [careful, intently]. v.8: John ‘grasped’, *understood* and believed. What? v.5: Linen clothes lying. Undisturbed, still wound [as if round a body] linen strips [19.40]. Not grave robbers [remove or cut]. v.7: ‘Napkin’ = face cloth [wipe sweat] ‘wrapped together’ [neatly folded] by itself. *Finished work. A **bodily** resurrection. Luke 24: Handle me and see. Have ye here any meat?*
- **Groups.** Acts 1.3: *Showed Himself alive... being seen of them 40 days* [testing]. Verify the claim beyond all doubt.
- He appeared to the *ones* [MM, Peter], *twos* [Emmaus]. The *seven* [John 21]. *Ten. Eleven* [John 20]. Even *500* at ‘one time’. Many were still living [to verify]. Not just His friends, but the greatest *sceptic* alive! 1 Cor. 15.8.
- **Grace.** Of God. Risen Christ has changed the lives of millions! Fearful disciples became bold preachers. *No man would willingly sacrifice his life for a lie. “You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart!”*

## The Consequences of the Resurrection Note. Scripture [fulfilled]. Son [declared]. Sentence [guaranteed].

- **Satisfaction.** *Whom God hath raised up* [Acts 2.23-24]. God’s *reversal* of man’s decision. Divine *vindication* of one rejected, despised and accursed. Exalted at His right hand. Made Lord and Christ [in position, Acts 2].
- **Saint.** *Relief* [Heb. 13.20]. His first work was to gather together the scattered flock. *Dried* Mary’s tears. *Dismissed* the disciples’ fears. *Dispelled* Thomas’ doubt. Made *disappointed* hearts to burn. Restored *despairing* Peter.
- **Relationship** [Rom. 7.4]. Died *with* Christ. *Joined* to Him in resurrection life [secret of fruitfulness].
  - Distinctive [Rom. 6.4]. Believers walk in ‘newness’ of life [new in *quality*]. Henceforth we should not serve **sin**! Life [and character] of Christ. It’s guiding principle is the ‘glory of God’.
  - Direction [2 Cor. 5.15]. Once self-indulgent [self-obsessed]. Now we live ‘unto’ Christ [who *lives*]! ‘Smart’ phones have made us spiritual *fools*. Addicted to *self* and the *world*. When phone stolen = liberated!
  - Desires [Col. 3.1]. Spiritually seated in heaven. We ought to set our hearts [affection] and minds [thinking] on things above [spiritual]. Be *motivated* and *directed* by a risen Christ.