

WHAT THE RESURRECTION PROVES

I. The truthfulness of God's word.

- A. Notice Acts 2:24-28.
 - 1. Peter, by inspiration points out that God raised up Jesus to destroy the power of death because Jesus could not be held by it.
 - 2. He then points the audience to Psalm 16:8-11.
 - 3. This is a Messianic Psalm and David wrote this Psalm from the viewpoint of the Messiah.
 - 4. This psalm shows the confidence of the Messiah in God.
 - 5. He rejoiced because of the presence of God in His life and He would not be shaken in His purpose because of that presence.
 - 6. His flesh would live in hope refers to knowing He would face death but had hope beyond death.
 - 7. The reason is found in verse 27: God would not abandon His soul in death or allow His body to be decayed in any way.
- B. There is no way that David is speaking of himself in this psalm.
 - 1. David did go into the grave where his soul went to the Hadean realm and his body did decay.
 - 2. No one has ever claimed that David rose from the dead.
 - 3. He will one day according to Daniel 12:2.
 - 4. But for now, there has been no resurrection for David.
 - 5. The psalm must be talking about someone else.
 - 6. Peter lets us know that it is referring to the Messiah.
 - 7. That is why Peter said what he did recorded in verse 29.
- C. Verse 30 tells us that David spoke as a prophet and knew that he was not speaking about himself but the one who would descend from him that God had promised.
- D. Peter is very clear in the argument he was making.
 - 1. Psalm 16 has to refer to someone and it couldn't be David.
 - 2. It had to refer to the one who was to come from David who was to be the Messiah.
 - 3. Verse 32 then sums it all up.
- E. So what does the resurrection prove?
 - 1. It proves the truthfulness of God's word.
 - 2. It proves its accuracy and reliability.
- F. Notice Acts 13:29-31.
 - 1. This line of argument about the resurrection was also used by Paul.
 - 2. He showed that the resurrection was a fulfilment of prophecy.
- G. The promise of the Old Testament is a risen Messiah.
 - 1. We find it again in Psalm 2:7.
 - 2. Also in Isaiah 55:3.
 - 3. In other words, God promised the Messiah that He would raise Him up to receive all that was promised to David.
 - 4. By the resurrection, God was affirming Christ as His Son and guaranteeing that the promised blessings that were to come

- through David's seed would come through Him.
- H. Now notice verses 35-38.
 - 1. Paul uses the same verse Peter did from Psalm 16.
 - 2. Both Peter and Paul testified to the fact that the resurrection was prophesied in the Old Testament.
 - 3. The truthfulness of scripture is at stake with the resurrection.
 - I. Now notice Acts 26:22-23.
 - 1. Again the Old Testament is used to tell about the resurrection of Jesus.
 - 2. Paul used that to show Agrippa that what he was accused of by the Jews was taught in their own scriptures.
 - J. The fact that the resurrection took place means the Scriptures are true.
 - K. If it hadn't happened, we couldn't trust them because if they can be broken there, they can be broken anywhere.
 - L. Turn to John 2:19.
 - 1. Eventually they did kill Jesus.
 - 2. Then, in three days, He was alive again.
 - M. Notice 1 Corinthians 15:1-4.
 - 1. The gospel is based on the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus.
 - 2. Again, the resurrection proves the truthfulness of all scripture prophecies that the Messiah would die and rise again.

II. **The deity of Jesus.**

- A. There are a lot of affirmations in the New Testament about Jesus being the Son of God.
 - 1. Angels affirmed it before His birth.
 - 2. Demons knew He was the Son of God (Mark 5:6-7).
 - 3. In John 9, the man born blind attested to Jesus as the Son of God.
 - 4. Nathaniel said you are the Son of God.
 - 5. John the Immerser said, "this is the Son of God" (John 1:34).
 - 6. The Roman soldier at the cross said, truly this is the Son of God.
- B. The most unquestionable attestation came from the Father, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.
- C. However, in Romans 1:4, there is a very explicit statement.
 - 1. The first 2 verses of the chapter tell us that all the elements of the gospel were promised and prophesied in the Old Testament.
 - 2. Then notice verse 3 lets us know the gospel is about Jesus.
 - 3. Then verse 4.
- D. It is the resurrection from the dead that is the supreme declaration of His deity.
 - 1. God declared boldly and irrefutably that Jesus was His Son by the resurrection.
 - 2. The Psalmist had prophesied it in Psalm 2 "You're my Son, this day have I begotten thee."
- E. His deity was affirmed at the announcement of His coming birth, by the Virgin conception and birth, and at His baptism.
- F. But the resurrection, in the most triumphant way possible declared and

affirmed His deity.

III. The complete salvation from God.

- A. Jesus came to save people from their sins, which was told Joseph by the angel.
 - 1. This was His purpose for coming.
 - 2. He didn't come to be ministered to, but to minister to others.
 - 3. He is the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world.
- B. There is a great amount of interest in the cross as there should be.
 - 1. It is not just because of the work accomplished there.
 - 2. There is a tremendous amount of pity and compassion for Jesus on that cross.
 - 3. When we think of how He was treated and what He had to endure before even getting on the cross, we are moved with compassion.
 - 4. The way He was mocked and abused and crying out resonates with us because we can understand that.
 - 5. In a way, the resurrection doesn't have that because we can identify with suffering, but we can't yet identify with His being resurrected.
 - 6. We understand sin-bearing because we bear our sins and their pain and their guilt.
 - 7. We understand suffering.
 - 8. We don't understand resurrection.
- C. We are unfamiliar with it but we still need to do our best to understand it because it is vital to completing our salvation.
 - 1. If Jesus doesn't rise, He isn't the prophet, priest, and king we need.
 - 2. Without His resurrection, His death is just that of an ordinary man with no saving value.
- D. But He did die and was resurrected and Romans 4:24-25 is critical.
- E. If anyone denies the resurrection, they deny His substitutionary sacrifice for our sins.
 - 1. Everything that comes to us in salvation, comes through the resurrection.
 - 2. Salvation promises everlasting life and Jesus cannot give that if He does not possess it Himself.
 - 3. If He didn't rise, neither will we.
 - 4. If He doesn't live now, neither will we.
 - 5. But...(John 14:19).
- F. There is a power now working in Christians that wouldn't be there if Jesus was not resurrected from the dead (Ephesians 1:19-20).
- G. Everything we have in salvation ties back to the resurrection, even the opportunity to be brought into a new relationship with God.
 - 1. Romans 6:3-4.
 - 2. This allows us to no longer be slaves to sin but servants of righteousness.
 - 3. Baptism is beautiful picture of the death, burial and resurrection to new life because we are in Christ in His death.

IV. The establishment of the church belonging to Christ.

- A. Remember Matthew 16:18?
 - 1. The gates of Hades means death.
 - 2. I will build my church and death won't stop it.
 - 3. If Jesus hadn't been risen from the dead, there would be no true church of the New Testament.
- B. But notice Ephesians 1:20-23.
 - 1. By the resurrection Jesus was affirmed as Lord of all things.
 - 2. This includes being Lord of the church as her head.
 - 3. We know a head does not function without a body.
- C. The resurrection secures for Christ headship over His body.
 - 1. The church is essential as an expression of His life, just as a body is essential to its head.
 - 2. The church was brought into existence to be the body of Christ.
- D. The church stands today because her Head allows us to be triumphant (2 Corinthians 2:14).

V. The inevitability of judgment.

- A. John 5:22-29.
- B. God keeps very accurate records.
 - 1. Those records are going to be present at the judgment.
 - 2. Those who have evil records will be part of the resurrection unto damnation.
 - 3. Those with righteous records will be a part of the resurrection of life.
 - 4. Verse 26 is what allows Jesus to be the judge.
- C. What this text tells us is that everyone will live forever, some in hell, some in heaven, but everyone will live forever.
- D. Acts 17:31 lets us know that it was the resurrection of Jesus by God that gives to Jesus the authority to be Judge.
 - 1. There is a universal judgment coming.
 - 2. God has fixed a day when it will take place.
 - 3. The world will be judged in righteousness by the Man God appointed.
 - 4. He appointed Him and gave proof to men of the judgment by raising Jesus from the dead.

VI. The eternal bliss of God's people.

- A. John 14:1-3.
- B. We gain victory over death by the resurrection of Jesus (1 Corinthians 15:57).
 - 1. The perishable will put on the imperishable.
 - 2. The mortal will put on immortality.
 - 3. Death will be swallowed up in victory because Jesus came out of that tomb.

From a sermon by John MacArthur.