

THE MOST WONDERFUL EVENT IN HISTORY **(Luke 24:1-12)**

1. Prophecies of the resurrection.

- a. The resurrection is not a doctrine that is limited to being taught in the New Testament.
- b. There are numerous prophecies in the Old Testament that point to the Christ being raised from the dead.
- c. Isaiah 53:8-10.
 - i. This passage deals with the Suffering Servant of God.
 - ii. No one argues that this passage is a prophecy about the suffering our Lord would face.
 - iii. In fact, this is the text from which Philip preached Jesus to the Ethiopian.
 - iv. There is no doubt this passage teaches that the Suffering Servant would die (Isaiah 53:8-9).
 - v. But notice verse 10 (Isaiah 53:10).
 - (1) How could His days be prolonged if He is in the grave?
 - (2) The only explanation is the resurrection.
- d. Genesis 3:15 tells us that Satan would bruise the heel of the One coming, but that One would bruise Satan's head - this can only be by means of the resurrection.
- e. Psalm 16:9-11 is quoted in Acts 2:25-28 as well as Acts 13:35-37 and both of those uses are in conjunction with teaching about the resurrection.
- f. Psalm 2:7 is quoted in Hebrews 1:6 and applied to Jesus.
- g. In the New Testament, Jesus knew that prophecies of His resurrection were to be found in the prophets (Luke 24:24-27).
- h. Jesus, Himself, prophesied that He would die and be resurrected.
 - i. Matthew 16:21.
 - ii. Matthew 17:22-23.
 - iii. John 2:19.
 - iv. John 10:17-18 and others.
- i. What we see from these passages is that God always intended to raise His Son from the dead: the resurrection was always in the mind and plans of God.

2. The proof of the resurrection.

- a. God never intends for us to believe, or have faith, in anything without giving us the evidence for it.
- b. This holds true for the resurrection.
- c. The tomb in which Jesus was buried is proof of the resurrection.
 - i. Joseph of Arimathea took possession of the body of Jesus, and he and Nicodemus prepared the body quickly for burial (John 19:38-42).
 - ii. The tomb itself was sealed and guarded by Roman soldiers (Matthew 27:62-66).
 - iii. Notice Matthew 28:1-8.
 - iv. The soldiers and some of the rulers of the Jews give evidence of the tomb being empty (Matthew 28:11-15).
- d. The witnesses of the resurrected Savior also give proof of the resurrection.
 - i. Paul tells us that there were over 500 witnesses to the resurrected

Christ (1 Corinthians 15:5-8).

ii. Jesus appeared several times to the apostles and some of those accounts are found in each of the gospel accounts as well as the first chapter of Acts and then in Acts 9, when Jesus appeared to Saul on the road to Damascus.

iii. Peter claimed to be an eyewitness (Acts 3:15), as did John (1 John 1:1-3).

e. Another proof of the resurrection is the change in the lives of many.

i. To me, one of the greatest proofs of the resurrection is the change in the life of Paul.

(1) Notice how he talked about his former life (Galatians 1:13-14; Philippians 3:4-6).

(2) He persecuted the church unmercifully (Acts 8:1-3).

(3) He gave all that up after meeting the Christ on that road (Philippians 3:7-8).

ii. The earthly brothers of Jesus changed as well.

(1) They did not believe Jesus was Messiah at one time (John 7:5).

(2) Yet, after the resurrection, they are with the apostles (Acts 1:13-14).

(3) Two of them were inspired to write letters contained in the New Testament (James and Jude).

iii. A dead Savior would not cause these changes to come about in the lives of these and others.

3. The pertinence of the resurrection.

a. Someone might ask why the resurrection is so important to discuss.

b. Several reasons stand out as to why it is important.

c. Our salvation depends on the resurrection of Jesus.

i. According to 1 Corinthians 15:1–4, the resurrection is vital to the gospel message.

ii. It is the gospel message that saves (Romans 1:16).

iii. If the most vital part of that message is false, then there is no salvation.

d. Numerous important things stand or fall with the resurrection:

i. Jesus said that He would be resurrected (John 2:19).

(1) John 2:21 lets us know that this was about His own body.

(2) If He wasn't resurrected as He said He would be, He cannot be who He claimed to be.

(3) So, the truthfulness of Jesus stands or falls with the resurrection.

ii. The accuracy of the scriptures counts on the resurrection.

(1) 1 Corinthians 15:12-19 lets us know that if Jesus hasn't been resurrected then we won't be either.

(2) If 1 Corinthians 15 is wrong, then all other scriptures can be called into question.

iii. Jesus being the Son of God stands or falls on His resurrection (Romans 1:4).

iv. The preaching of the apostles stands or falls on the resurrection because their preaching centered on the resurrection of Jesus.

e. The resurrection is pertinent because it allowed Jesus to sit at the right hand

of God.

- i. This is important because it is there that Jesus serves as our Mediator between us and God (1 Timothy 2:5).
 - ii. He intercedes on our behalf there (Romans 8:34).
- f. The resurrection is pertinent to every aspect of our faith.

4. The problem of the resurrection.

- a. You might wonder why I mention a problem about the resurrection.
- b. Let me say, there is no problem for one who is a child of God.
- c. Because of the resurrection, you and I will be able to be with Jesus when this life is over.
 - i. Colossians 3:4;
 - ii. John 5:28-29a;
 - iii. We will be given incorruptible bodies (1 Corinthians 15:42).
 - iv. We will meet the Lord in the air and there be with Him for eternity (1 Thessalonians 4:15-17).
- d. The problem lies with those who are outside of Christ.
 - i. Notice what Daniel said about those who will be resurrected who lived in rebellion to God (Daniel 12:2).
 - ii. Notice the end of John 5:29.
 - iii. Revelation 21:8 lets us know how awful it will be for those who died in sin.
- e. For those outside of Jesus, the resurrection is a great problem because of the fate that awaits them.

From an article by Sidney White.