

## What the Resurrection Means

3/31/2024

Luke 24:1-7 - 1 But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. 2 And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, 3 but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. 4 While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. 5 And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? 6 He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, 7 that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified... and on the third day rise.”

Quote: *Lexham Survey of Theology* – “The resurrection of Jesus Christ is that central moment in human history that serves as the foundational doctrine of Christianity.”

- 1 Corinthians 15:14 – And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.
  - “in vain” = empty, worthless, ineffective
- 1 Corinthians 15:17 – And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.
  - “futile” = aimless, without purpose

### Did Jesus Really Rise as the Bible Says?

- When Jesus rose from the dead, he was seen by eyewitnesses on 12 separate occasions, one time by over 500 people at once
- Of the different times people saw Him...
  - 2 were skeptics (his brother James and Saul / Paul)
  - On all occasions, people saw Him and probably heard Him
  - 3 times, Jesus offered His body to be touched, to verify He was really alive... And 2 times He was definitely touched
  - 2 times, Jesus showed people His scars from the Crucifixion
  - At least 1 time (possibly more), Jesus ate food with His disciples, proving He had a real body
  - 4 times, people responded to their encounter with the risen Jesus by worshipping Him as God
- Can We Trust the Bible’s Account?
  - Yes, because these accounts of eyewitnesses interacting with the resurrected Jesus were written while the eyewitnesses were still alive
    - If the accounts were not true, they would have been instantly debunked and deleted

### 1) The Resurrection Means we Can Have Eternal Life

- Quote – “In this world, the dead are replaced by the dying.”
- 1 Corinthians 15:20-22 – 20 But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.
- 2 Corinthians 4:14 – ...He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence.
- Hebrews 2:14-15 – 14 Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.
- John Paton (missionary to New Hebrides) (1824-1907)
  - November 1866: Arrived with his young wife... she died shortly after giving birth to their son, and the son died 2 ½ weeks later
    - Faced much disease, violence, criticism, and suffering
  - Before leaving to the New Hebrides

- Leaders in the church criticized him for going to the New Hebrides
- Mr. Dickson: “The cannibals! You will be eaten by cannibals!”
- Paton replied: “Mr. Dickson, you are advanced in years now, and your own prospect is soon to be laid in the grave, there to be eaten by worms... I confess to you, that if I can but live and die serving and honoring the Lord Jesus, it will make no difference to me whether I am eaten by Cannibals or by worms... and in the Great Day my Resurrection body will rise as fair as yours in the likeness of our risen Redeemer.”
- While surrounded by natives coming to kill him, he wrote once in his journal, “I . . . assured them that I was not afraid to die, for at death my Savior would take me to be with Himself in Heaven, and to be far happier than I had ever been on Earth.”

## 2) The Resurrection Means we Can Walk in Righteousness

- Romans 6:3-11 – 3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. 6 We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. 7 For one who has died has been set free from sin. 8 Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9 We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. 10 For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. 11 So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.
- Romans 7:4-6 – 4 Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God. 5 For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death. 6 But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code.
- Romans 4:25 – [Jesus] was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.
  - “justification” = *dikaiósis* = lit. to be declared righteous... Josephus used the word to talk about a criminal receiving a pardon
- Acts 3:26 – God, having raised up his servant, sent him to you first, to bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness.

## 3) The Resurrection Means we Win

- On a remote Pacific Island in WWII...
  - US infantryman encountered a native carrying a Bible
  - The American told him smugly, “We educated people no longer put much faith in that book.”
  - The native replied, “Well it’s a good thing that we do or you would have been eaten by my people today.”
- Daniel 2:44 – And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever
- Mark 4:30-32 – 30 And he said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? 31 It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, 32 yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”
- Isaiah 9:7 – Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

- Quote: Tim Keller in *Hope in Times of Fear* – “The resurrection is not a stupendous magic trick but an invasion... The Bible’s startling message is that when Jesus rose, he brought the future kingdom of God into the present.”
- Quote: N.T. Wright – “Jesus’ resurrection is the beginning of God’s new project, not to snatch people away from earth to heaven, but to colonize earth with the life of heaven.”
- Charles Darwin and Tierra del Fuego
  - 1831-1836: Darwin visited and noted that the people were destitute and morally bankrupt
    - Quote: Darwin – “I believe in this extreme part of South America man exists in a lower state of improvement than in any other part of the world.”
    - Quote: Darwin – “How great the difference between savage & civilized man is. It is greater than between a wild & [a] domesticated animal.”
  - 1844: Captain Allen Gardiner launched the South American Missionary Society to reach these people Darwin had written off
    - Darwin commented that it was “useless to send Missionaries to such a set of savages... probably the very lowest of the human race.”
  - Darwin was proven wrong
    - The missionary society developed churches, schools, industrious farms, and a civilized, productive society centered around the Gospel
    - Darwin was astonished at their success
    - Quote: Darwin (1870, writing to a friend) – “The success of the Tierra del Fuego Mission is most wonderful, and charms me, as I had always prophesied utter failure.”
- Christianity’s World-Changing Impact
  - Christians started the first hospitals and orphanages... ended the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade... ended Gladiator battles... stopped infanticide and abortion in Roman Empire... ended sacrificial deaths of widows in India... lifted up the status of women and children... worked for prison reform, literacy, public education, care for the poor, limited government, freedom of speech, religion, and conscience...
- Quote: Steve Gregg in *Empire of the Risen Son* – “The limits of the power of God’s kingdom to conquer darkness through His word have not yet been discovered.”
- Quote: Napoleon Bonaparte – “The Bible is no mere book but a living creature with a power that conquers all that oppose it.”
- **“The Village that Lived by the Bible” by Clarence W Hall**
  - War correspondent in WWII
  - 1945, on their way to Okinawa, encountered the small village of Shimabuku
  - Unlike all the other villages, people here were healthy and happy, they received the Americans with open arms, they had beautiful, clean houses, productive farms, and storehouses filled with grain. There was no poverty, no jail, no brothel, no drunkenness, and no divorce.
  - Thirty years previous, an American missionary on his way to Japan stopped here and shared the Gospel with 2 men who gave their lives to Jesus. Since then, they set out to convert basically the entire village, which then chose to build their society around the truth of the Bible
  - Hearing the remarkable story and seeing the incredible transformation first-hand, a soldier commented, “Maybe we’re using the wrong kind of weapons.”