

Supernatural: part 3 - The Miracle of the Resurrection Luke 24:25-27 03.31.13

Main Idea: The resurrection of Jesus Christ makes all the difference in your life in this world and in eternity.

Imagine what you would have experienced had you been there...

- The Passover meal & Jesus foretelling that you would leave him (Luke 22:14-23; 31-34).
 - Jesus sweating drops of blood in his nighttime prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives...and the top 3 disciples falling asleep from emotional & physical exhaustion (Luke 22:39-46; Matthew 26:36-46).
 - Judas' kiss of betrayal, Peter's attempt at murder, denial of Christ & the disciples' cowardice (Luke 22:47-62; Matthew 26:47-56).
 - Jesus' illegal trial, torture, execution, & burial (Luke 22:63-23:56).
 - An odd story of an empty tomb (Luke 24:1-12).
 - Two disillusioned Jesus-followers meet a stranger on a Sunday walk (Luke 24:13-35).
 - The stranger breaks it down: 1) It was necessary for Jesus to suffer & die. 2) Moses & all the Old Testament Prophets prophesied it (Luke 24:25-27).
- Framework of the Resurrection: It wasn't a random, freak accident. It was a divinely calculated outworking of a specific prophecy.
- The stranger reveals His identity (Luke 24:30).

What difference does the resurrection of Jesus Christ make in my life?

a. A sign that unbelief is _____ the evidence (Matt. 12:38-42).

“The Jewish leaders had a motive and the power to do something. Further, they were in the right place at the right time, and yet they were still unable to disprove the disciples' accounts of the resurrection appearances.”¹

b. A rock for faltering & doubting when constantly _____ by skeptics (John 20:24-29; Luke 7:18-23).

*Transformation of the disciples – “Unlike modern persons who die for their religious faith or political convictions (Christians, Muslims, Buddhists, UFO believers, or communists), the disciples were the only ones who believed that their Founder had been raised from the dead. But this also means that they were also the only ones who were in a position to know whether or not they had actually seen Jesus. So their transformation after believing that they had actually seen the risen Jesus is a strong evidence of the resurrection appearances.”²

¹ Gary R. Habermas, *Philosophy of History, Miracles, and the Resurrection of Jesus*, 3rd ed. (Sagamore Beach, MA: Academx, 2012), 69.

² Ibid, 68-69.

*Significance of the Resurrection: “The only time a resurrection ever happened to a founder of a major world religion, it occurred to the only person who make the claims that Jesus did: who uniquely believed that he was Deity, that he was God’s chosen herald to bring the Gospel message, who predicted his resurrection ahead of time, and who taught that God was going to verify his message through miracles. And then he was actually and uniquely resurrected! Either God vindicated Jesus by raising him from the dead, or all of these were coincidences that occurred at once. (Intriguingly, Jesus’ resurrection predictions alone indicate that these events were not coincidences, because Jesus’ knowing about them ahead of time showed that they were planned and orderly occurrences).”³

How to understand the Resurrection:

1. *Negatively*, God wouldn’t raise a heretic from the dead (Deut. 18:18-22).
2. *Positively*, God places His stamp of approval on Jesus by raising him (Acts 2:22-33; 17:30-31).⁴

Empty tomb

- 1) The event was initially reported by female testimony, which strongly confirms that the report was not invented.
- 2) That the birth of Christianity was in Jerusalem, where Jesus’ tomb was located, indicates that the tomb had been vacated.
- 3) The empty tomb teaching is multiply attested, being found in three to four different sections.
- 4) The story of the empty tomb is further attested by enemy testimony (Matt. 28:11-15).⁵

c. An _____ of the forgiveness of sins for all who repent and turn to Jesus in total faith & commitment (1 Corinthians 15:17).

d. Proof of God’s power to free from the chains of _____ (Romans 6:1-10).

e. A confirmation that there is something beyond the _____: Heaven (1 Corinthians 15:52).

f. A beacon of _____ in the midst of bereavement (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

g. A _____ connection to the Second Coming of Christ (Acts 1:10-11; 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10).

h. A certainty of coming _____: Are you ready to face God? (Revelation 1:7; 20:4-6).

Key: against/attacked/assurance/addiction/grave/hope/direct/judgment

³ Ibid, 74.

⁴ Ibid, 75.

⁵ Ibid, 69.

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⁷ Ibid, 68-69.

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