

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RESURRECTION

1: JESUS IS WHO HE SAID HE WAS:

- The Son of God, Son of Man ^(Daniel 7:13-14)... the Messiah.
- He predicted his death and resurrection... and who can raise himself up from the grave... surely only the Son of God!
 - **Matthew 16:21** - From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.
 - Mark 8:32 adds that he spoke this plainly.
 - **Matthew 17:22-23** - As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men, ²³ and they will kill him, and he will be raised on the third day." And they were greatly distressed.
- **The Resurrection is proof of his authority:**
 - **John 10:17-18** - ¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."
- **His claims were well known by all:**
 - **Matthew 27:62-66** - ⁶² The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate ⁶³ and said, "Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise.' ⁶⁴ Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, 'He has risen from the dead,' and the last fraud will be worse than the first." ⁶⁵ Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can." ⁶⁶ So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.
- **His death and resurrection was to be a sign (that he is the Son of Man)**
 - **Matthew 12:38-40** - ³⁸ Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered him, saying, "Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you." ³⁹ But he answered them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. ⁴⁰ For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

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2: THE RESURRECTION IS PROOF THAT THE MESSAGE OF SALVATION IS TRUE!

- **John 3:16-18** - ¹⁶ "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.
- **Romans 6:23** - For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- **Romans 4:24-25** - (faith counted as righteousness) - It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, ²⁵ who was delivered up for our trespasses and *raised for our justification*.
- **2 Corinthians 5:21** - For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
- **Romans 5:6-11** - ⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— ⁸ but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, *shall we be saved by his life*. ¹¹ More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.
- **1 John 1:9** - If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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3: BECAUSE HE LIVES, WE ALSO LIVE! BECAUSE HE WAS RAISED, WE WILL BE ALSO!

John 11:25-27 - ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."

- Hope for tomorrow - eternal life

Romans 6:4 - 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.

- New life today
 - We can be free from our sin, our past, and our shame.
 - We have an opportunity to start anew in Christ.
 - 2 Corinthians 5:17 - If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.
- New purpose today
 - 2 Corinthians 5:15 - and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

Romans 8:11 - If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

- Resurrection Power
 - We have the promise that the same power of the Holy Spirit that raised Jesus from the grave will one day raise up our earthly bodies and transform them in an instant... to be with him for all eternity!
 - Further, not just a new life with a new purpose... but the same power of the Holy Spirit to give us the power to live out God's purpose for our lives.

4: THE RESURRECTION IS ALSO A GREAT APOLOGETIC FOR OUR FAITH (Strong reason to believe)

- The disciples went from grieving and hiding behind locked doors to boldly preaching the Gospel (particularly after the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost)...

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- One day all but John would be brutally martyred. Even he would suffer greatly for the Gospel.
- Why would these men put forth a lie? They gained nothing in this life... only persecution and suffering and death!
- Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 15:
 - If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.
 - If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.
 - If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people to most be pitied.
 - But in fact... Christ has been raised from the dead!
- A resurrected Jesus is the only reasonable explanation for the transformation of the disciples/apostles and the lives they lived.
 - They saw him dead. They saw him risen. They believed his words and were living for eternity.
 - If Jesus didn't rise from the grave... he wasn't who he said he was, the sin offering didn't happen/wasn't acceptable, the message of salvation isn't true... and the church wouldn't exist.
 - But Jesus did rise from the grave, he is who he said he was, the sin offering counted, the message/offer of salvation is real and true... and the church exists... because he lives!
- The number of witnesses who saw the resurrected Jesus:
 - **1 Corinthians 15:3-8** - ³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶ Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸ Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.
 - Go ask them!

IN CONCLUSION:

- 1: The Resurrection PROVES Jesus is who He said He was.
- 2: The Resurrection PROVES the message of salvation is true.

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- 3: The Resurrection is PROOF of we will be raised and have been raised to new life.
- 4: The Resurrection is trustworthy fact, real, and a strong reason to believe.