

The Resurrection of Jesus

Of all the world's religions, Christianity alone purports to be based on the resurrection of its divine founder. No other religion or worldview makes such an audacious and consequential claim. Throughout the Gospels, Jesus himself predicts his own betrayal, death and resurrection (Matthew 16:21; John 2:19-22). The resurrection of Jesus is at the center of the Christian worldview and Christian devotion. The Gospels do not end with the death of Jesus but speak of an empty tomb, of his appearances and of a commission by the risen Jesus.

Without Easter there is no Christianity, as Paul makes abundantly plain in a letter that took up a dispute in the church at Corinth about the resurrection of the dead (1 Corinthians 15:14-19). If Christ has not been raised (1) Christian preaching is useless, (2) Christian faith is useless, (3) Christians are false witnesses about God, (4) Christian faith is futile; (5) Christians are unforgiven and left in their sins; (6) those who have died in Christian hope are lost; and (7) those who hope in Christ are supremely pitiable, since their hope ends with this life. In other words, Christianity without a risen Christ is pointless.

The resurrection of Christ, if true, insures that life under the sun is not meaningless, that death is not the end and that humans who rightly relate themselves to God in Christ can become agents of the kingdom of God now and eventually thrive in a restored universe without curse and without end (Matthew 6:33; Revelation 21-22). Rather than appealing to vague hopes of some "survival" after death, Christianity roots its hope for the future in an event in the past: the resurrection of Jesus. This gives the Christian confidence for today and tomorrow.

These minimal facts are best explained on the basis of the resurrection of Jesus:

1. Death by crucifixion. It is a well-established fact of history that Jesus died by crucifixion in the early 30s. New Testament scholars of all persuasions find no reason to doubt the biblical and extrabiblical material witness that Jesus was crucified.

2. Burial in a known tomb. Besides his death, scholars agree that Jesus was buried in a tomb owned by Joseph of Arimathea, a member of the Jewish court that sentenced Jesus (Matthew 27:57-61; Mark 15:42-47; John 19:38-42).

3. The empty tomb. The four Gospels are unanimous in reporting that on the Sunday after Jesus' crucifixion and burial, his tomb was found empty by several women, Peter and another disciple (probably John) (Matthew 28:1-7; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-8; John 20:1-9). This is reliable for several reasons. First, it is found in Mark, probably the oldest Gospel material. Second, it is assumed in Paul's report in 1 Corinthians 15. Third, the stories are basic and lack fictional embellishments. Fourth, the fact that all four Gospel accounts mention that women beheld the empty tomb gives this story credibility, since the witness of women in that day was held in very low regard. If the Gospels invented convincing stories, they would not include women as primary witnesses. Fifth, the early Jewish polemic against the Christians was that Jesus' disciples stole the body of Jesus—an allegation that presupposes that Jesus' tomb was indeed empty (Matthew 28:11-15).

4. The postmortem appearances of Jesus. Another set of facts is paramount in the case for the resurrection. "On multiple occasions and under various circumstances, different individuals and groups of people experienced appearances of Jesus alive from the dead." The New Testament lists twelve separate appearances over a forty-day period. Jesus appeared to 1. Mary Magdalene (John 20:10-18) 2. Mary and the other women (Matthew 28:1-10) 3. Peter (Luke 24:34; 1 Corinthians 15:5) 4. two disciples on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35) 5. ten apostles (Luke 24:36-49) 6. eleven apostles (John 20:24-31) 7. seven apostles (John 21) 8. all of the apostles (Matthew 28:16-20) 9. five hundred disciples (1 Corinthians 15:6) 10. James (1 Corinthians 15:7) 11. again to all the apostles (Acts 1:4-8) 12. the apostle Paul (Acts 9:1-9; 1 Corinthians 15:8; 9:1). The nature of these appearances must be explicated in order to avoid confusion. First, the accounts speak of visitations of an embodied person, not a disembodied spirit. Jesus returns from the dead as a living man who takes up space, can be seen, heard and touched. He walks with his disciples, teaches them and dines with them. About this, the New Testament vouchsafes no doubts.

We have another, perhaps the strongest, witness of the resurrection: the apostle Paul. In handling a dispute in the church at Corinth over the resurrection of the dead, Paul speaks of the various appearances of the risen Jesus (1 Corinthians 15:1-8). This passage, while a confession of doctrine, is also rich in evidential force and detail. First, Paul is affirming the physical nature of the resurrection: the same Christ that was buried was raised. Paul assumes the empty tomb; what he relates makes no sense without it. Second, Paul's authorship of 1 Corinthians is never disputed, even by liberal scholars who question the authorship of some of the other epistles traditionally attributed to him. Third, Paul's language in this passage indicates that he is invoking an already-existing creed of the early church. Paul's letter was written in the middle 50s, thus making it most likely the earliest written testimony to the resurrection.

"Deci dacă voi, care sunteți răi, știți să dați daruri bune copiilor voștri, cu cât mai mult Tatăl vostru cel din ceruri va da Duhul Sfânt celor ce I-L cer!" Luca 11:13

Seri de rugăciune stăruitoare - botez, umplere, daruri duhovnicești

3 aprilie - Miercuri, ora 7pm - Nelu Cosma & Gabi Covaci

4 aprilie - Joi, ora 7pm - Nelu Cosma & Gabi Covaci

5 aprilie - Vineri, ora 7pm - Nelu Cosma & Dorin Juravlea



"... Și ea urma acum poruncile lui Mardoheu cu tot atâta scumpătate ca atunci când o creștea el."

Estera 2:20b

Joi (7pm) Midweek service

11	Iulian J.	Dumnezeu conduce istoria	Estera 1
18	Pavel P.	Mardoheu, un tată adoptiv de excepție	Estera 2
25	Cornel S.	Haman, promovarea care coboară	Estera 3



Aprilie - Ascultând de Duhul Sfânt!

Duminică, 7	Psalmul 92	Cina Domnului
10am: îndemn	Richard P.	
mesaj	Pavel P.	Duhul Sfânt și învierea Romani 8:9-11
5pm: îndemn	Moise Z.	
mesaj	Daniel Gălpăian	Binecuvântare Isaac Samuel Gălpăian & Isaiah Filimon
Sâmbătă, 13	(ora 2:30pm)	Wedding Loren Jurca & Raul Ghib
Duminică, 14	Psalmul 93	
10am: îndemn	Cosmin Avram	Binecuvântare Celine Thea Cociuba
mesaj	Allen Pop	
5pm: îndemn	David Pop	
mesaj	Allen Pop	
Duminică, 21	Psalmul 94	
10am: îndemn	Florin C.	
mesaj	Cornel S.	Călăuzirea Duhului Sfânt Fapte 16:5-10
5pm: îndemn	Jason M. & Adrian P.	
mesaj	Richard P.	Rich financially and poor spiritually? Mark 10:17-27
Duminică, 28	Psalmul 95	
10am: îndemn	Moise Z.	
mesaj	Iulian J.	Confirmarea Duhului Sfânt Fapte 10:34-48
5pm: îndemn	Sami Herman Jr.	
mesaj	Dan S.	Războiul spiritual Efeseni 6:10-18