

What is most important, the death of Christ or His resurrection?

The cross of Christ won for us the victory that we could never have won for ourselves.

Colossians 2:15 *“Having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross”*

On the cross God piled our sins on Jesus, and He bore the punishment due us

Isaiah 53:8 *“For the transgressions of My people He was stricken.”*

In His death, Jesus took upon Himself the curse introduced by Adam

Galatians 3:13 *“Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”*

With the death of Christ, our sins became powerless to rule over us

Romans 6:6 *“knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.”*

By His death, Jesus destroyed the works of the devil

John 12:31 *“Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.”*

1 John 3:8 *“For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil”*

-If Christ is not physically raised from the dead, then we ourselves have no hope of resurrection, the apostles’ preaching was in vain, and believers are all to be pitied. Without the resurrection, we are still sitting “in darkness and in the shadow of death” -

Because of Jesus’ resurrection

His promise holds true for us

John 14:19 *“Because I live, you also will live”*

Our great enemy, death, will be defeated

1 Corinthians 15:26 *“The last enemy that will be destroyed is death”*

Jesus “was raised to life for our justification”

Romans 4:25 “who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.”

John 2:19 “Jesus answered and said to them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”

1 Cor 15:1-7 “ Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, ² by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

³ For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. ⁶ After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. ⁷ After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. ⁸ Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time.”

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Title: The Gardener

Text: John 20:1-18 “Now the first day of the week Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb.

² Then she ran and came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him.”

³ Peter therefore went out, and the other disciple, and were going to the tomb.

⁴ So they both ran together, and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first.

⁵ And he, stooping down and looking in, **saw the linen cloths** lying there; yet he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he **saw the linen cloths** lying there,

⁷ and the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself.

⁸ Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also; and **he saw and believed**. ⁹ For as yet they did not know the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead.

¹⁰ Then the disciples went away again to their own homes.

¹¹ But Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping, and as she wept she stooped down and looked into the tomb.

¹² And she saw **two angels** in white sitting, **one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.** Why?

¹³ Then they said to her, “**Woman, why are you weeping?** She said to them, “Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him.”

¹⁴ Now when she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus.

¹⁵ Jesus said to her, “**Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?**” She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him, “Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away.”

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to Him, “Rabboni!” (which is to say, Teacher).

¹⁷ Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, ‘I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.’ ”

¹⁸ Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that He had spoken these things to her.

Gen 2:9b “The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden”

Gen 3:8 “And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking (Gardener) in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.”

Gen 3:22-24 “Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of **the tree of life**, and eat, and **live forever**” — ²³ therefore the LORD God sent him out of **the garden of Eden** to till the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴ So He drove out the man; and He placed **cherubim(s)** at **the east of the garden of Eden**, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to **the tree of life.**”

3 x 'the tree of life' is spoken of in Genesis

Solomon's Temple was designed to evoke the Garden of Eden, symbolizing God's presence on earth as a paradise-like sanctuary

. The architecture featured elaborate, stylized plant imagery, including carvings of palm trees, pomegranates, lilies, and cherubim, representing a sacred, enclosed garden.

Key Elements of the Temple Garden Imagery:

- **Edenic Symbolism:** Scholars believe the temple was a visual representation of Eden, the original holy space.
- **Decorative Motifs:** The walls, doors, and pillars were covered with carved flowers, gourds, palm trees, and cedar wood, often covered in gold.
- **Water Symbolism:** The "Sea" (a large bronze basin) and ten smaller basins of water represented the rivers of Eden and the abundance of nature.
- **The Inner Sanctuary:** Carved cherubim and palm trees were prominently featured, **protecting the Ark of the Covenant, echoing the cherubim guarding Eden.**

Two cherubs

Two angels: Ex 37:6-9 Bezalel, gifted artisan, *"He also made the mercy seat of pure gold; two and a half cubits was its length and a cubit and a half its width.*

*⁷He made **two cherubim** of beaten gold; he made them of one piece at the two ends of the mercy seat: ⁸**one cherub at one end on this side, and the other cherub at the other end on that side.***

***He made the cherubim at the two ends of one piece with the mercy seat.** ⁹The cherubim spread out their wings above, and covered the mercy seat with their wings.*

Rev 2:1 "To the angel of the church of Ephesus write,"

Vs 7b *"To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God."*