

# The Resurrection of Jesus – Resurrection Day 2024

The resurrection of Jesus is the most debated event in human history. The reason it is debated is not due to the lack of evidence but because of inherent disbelief. It is not something that has ever been duplicated; it cannot be duplicated.

The necessity for the resurrection is in the nature of the Gospel (1 Corinthians 15:16-17). We admit this; if it can be proven that Jesus did not rise from the dead, then there is no reason to believe in Jesus, and we wait for another. If Jesus did not rise from the dead, then the sacrifice for sin is pointless.

The biblical claim is evident and obvious: Jesus rose from the dead.

Harmony of Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; John 20

And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat down on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his garments were white as snow. And for fear of him, the guards trembled and became as dead men.

Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices that they might go and anoint Jesus. And on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. And as they went, they said, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?" (for it was very large). But when they came within sight of the tomb, they saw that the stone had been rolled back. And they went in and found not the body of the Lord Jesus.

Then Mary Magdalene hurried away to Simon Peter and to the other disciple, the one whom Jesus especially loved, and said, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we know not where they have laid him!"

And the other women entered the tomb and saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had been lying.

"Do not be afraid," he said. "You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen and is not here. See, here is the place where they laid Him. But go and tell His disciples, and Peter, that He will go ahead of you into Galilee, and you will see Him there, as he told you."

While they were still amazed by all of this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling garments; and the women were afraid and bowed their faces to the ground. But the men said to them, "Why are you seeking the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen. Remember how He told you while He was still in Galilee that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and rise on the third day."

And they remembered His words and departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy.

And they returned from the tomb and told all these things to the eleven and to all the others. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles. But their words seemed to them as an idle tale, and they did not believe them.

Peter and the other disciple set out for the tomb, hurrying along together. But the other disciple outran Peter and, arriving first at the tomb, peered inside and saw the linen winding cloths lying there, but did not go in. Then Simon Peter arrived and went inside the tomb and saw the linen winding cloths lying there,

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and the napkin which had been around His head—not lying with the linen winding cloths but wrapped round and round and lying in a separate place. Then the other disciple, who had arrived at the tomb first, went inside and saw these things and believed (for as yet they had not understood the scripture, how that it was necessary for Jesus to rise from the dead). Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood before the tomb and wept. And as she wept, she peered inside the tomb and saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain—one at the head, and one at the feet.

"Woman," they said, "why are you weeping?"

"Because they have taken away my Lord," said Mary, "and I know not where they have laid Him."

Then she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but was not aware that it was Jesus.

"Woman," said Jesus, "why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?"

"Sir," said Mary (supposing him to be the gardener), "if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away."

"Mary!" said Jesus.

Mary turned to Jesus and cried, "Rabboni!" (that is to say in Hebrew, "Master!").

"Do not hold Me," said Jesus, "for I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to My brethren and tell them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.'"

Then Mary Magdalene went away to the disciples and said, "I have seen the Lord!" and told them the things He said to her. When they heard that He was alive and that she had seen Him, they did not believe it.

Below is the evidence for the resurrection of Jesus:

1. Jesus foretold His resurrection (Matthew 16:21, 17:22-23; John 2:19-22)
2. The tomb was discovered empty.
3. The disciples did not initially believe that Jesus was resurrected.
4. There is a vast number of eyewitnesses.
  - a. The women
  - b. To Peter specifically
  - c. Two on the road to Emmaus
  - d. In the locked room, minus Thomas
  - e. Thomas and other apostles
  - f. To James specifically
  - g. On the seashore
  - h. At the ascension
  - i. To Stephen (standing at the right hand)
  - j. To Paul several times
  - k. 1 Corinthians 15:3-8
5. The lasting impact of the doctrine of Jesus as resurrected, even to the point of death

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Skeptics have attempted to disprove the resurrection, only to come away as believers. We all know the testimony of C.S. Lewis and Lee Strobel.

“Simon Greenleaf (1783–1853) helped to put the Harvard Law School on the map. He wrote the three-volume legal masterpiece, *A Treatise on the Law of Evidence*, which is still regarded as “the greatest single authority in the entire literature of legal procedure.” The U.S. judicial system today operates on rules of evidence established by Greenleaf.”

“They had every possible motive to review carefully the grounds of their faith, and the evidence of the great facts and truths which they asserted; and these motives were pressed upon their attention with the most melancholy and terrific frequency. It was therefore impossible that they could have persisted in affirming the truths they have narrated, had not Jesus actually risen from the dead, and had they not known this fact as certainly as they knew any other fact.” (§ 30)

The details of the resurrection are well documented and the facts, based on logical historical rules for validation, are irrefutable.

## *What is the Impact?*

The resurrection is the quintessential point in the proclamation of the Gospel. In Acts, the proclamation of the resurrection was given at least thirteen times. The Gospel is incomplete without the resurrection.

The resurrection is the proof that His sacrifice was sufficient and that His promises are true. If you are not sure that you are reconciled to God (saved, have eternal life), we beg you to consider who Jesus is, what He did, and what He promises.

- a. Jesus Christ, God in the flesh, promised Messiah, His sinless life (2 Corinthians 5:21)
- b. Jesus died for our sins, resurrected for life (Romans 5:6-9)
- c. Jesus’ promise is that salvation is a gift

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Genesis 15:6 - Then he believed in the Lord; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.

John 3:17-18 - [17] "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. [18] "He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

John 5:24 - "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life."

John 6:28-29 - [28] Therefore they said to Him, "What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God?" [29] Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent."

John 10:28-30 - [28] "and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. [29] "My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. [30] "I and the Father are one."

John 11:25-26 - [25] Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, [26] and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?"

John 20:30-31 - [30] Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; [31] but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

Romans 3:20, 22-24, 28 - [20] because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin. ... [22] even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; [23] for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, [24] being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; ... [28] For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law.

Romans 4:4-5 - [4] Now to the one who works, his wage is not credited as a favor, but as what is due. [5] But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness,

Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Galatians 2:16 - Nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified.

Ephesians 2:4-5, 8-9 - [4] But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, [5] even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ... [8] For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; [9] not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Philippians 3:9 - And may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith,

Titus 3:5 - He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,

1 John 5:13 - These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.