



Introduction

Last week we discussed Christ being our sacrifice, and the implications of that truth. We also learned about propitiation with Jesus being the Passover Lamb, and expiation with Jesus being the scape goat.

This week, we're going to look at two fundamental realities to the gospel—Jesus' burial and resurrection.

Christ was Buried

Jesus' burial is a fulfilment of Old Testament prophecy.

Isaiah 53:9 says, "And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth."

Second, all four gospels attest to Jesus' burial.

Matthew 27:57-66, Mark 15:42-27, Luke 23:50-56, and John 19:38-42.

Where did Christ go when he died?

First, Psalm 16:10. This verse says, "For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption." The word "*Sheol*" is translated as underworld, grave, or pit. God would not allow Jesus' physical body to decay.

Second, Romans 10:7. This verse says, "or 'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead)." Here Paul uses the word "abyss" which translated means "realm of the dead."

Third, Ephesians 4:9. Paul wrote, "In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth?" Jesus' descending to the earth as a human being.

Fourth, 1 Peter 3:18-20. It says, "For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water." Paul Washer gives us some clarity here.

Some interpret this text as teaching that Christ descended into hell when he died, so that he might proclaim His victory to those who dwelled there. The more consistent interpretation is that the Holy



Spirit, who raised Christ from the dead, was the very instrument through whom Christ spoke to Noah's generation. Christ spoke to them through the Holy Spirit, by means of the preaching of Noah. They did not believe the words Christ preached by Noah; therefore, they died in their sins and have remained in prison (i.e. hell) until now.

Fifth, and finally, Luke 23:43. It says, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise." Jesus' body spent three days in sheol—the grave, but Jesus' spirit was with the Father.

Christ was Raised

Historical Event

In Luke 1:3-4 we see that Luke treats his whole gospel account as real events, and takes careful steps to make sure his information is accurate. In Luke's second book, Acts, he also recounts how Jesus' resurrection was attested to by "many proofs." Peter in Acts 10 describes eating and drinking with Jesus. And Paul in 1 Corinthians 15 says that Jesus appeared to over 500 people at once! No one in the scriptures denies the historicity of Jesus' resurrection.

The Foundation of our Faith in the Resurrection

First, the apostles did not seek to prove the resurrection, but proclaim it.

Second, most people come to faith before studying the historicity of the resurrection. There is an undeniable aspect to the resurrection that is spiritual—faith based.

There is still evidence!

First, it was predicted. Luke 24:25-26, ""O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?""

Second, the theories against Jesus' resurrection are dumb. First, we have the *Swoon Theory*. This theory basically states that Jesus was so overcome with sorrow and pain that he fainted on the cross. Second, is the *Stolen Body Theory*. This is also silly because of 1) the Roman guards placed outside the tomb and 2) the disciples' overall cowardice and lack of courage during Jesus' trial and execution. Jesus found them in a locked room when he rose again! Third, we have the *Wrong Tomb* theory. This supposes that the disciples, who spent the last 3 years of their lives dedicated to this man called Jesus, just had an "oopsie" and went to the wrong tomb.



Third and finally, we have credible witnesses. 2 Peter 1:16 says, “For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.”

The Nature of Jesus’ Resurrection

First, it was a bodily resurrection. Jesus redeems not only our souls, but our fallen bodies too.

Second, it was a powerful resurrection. 1 Corinthians 15:42-44:

So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body

The significance of Jesus’ resurrection

First, Jesus’ resurrection vindicates Jesus. Paul wrote in Romans 1:3-4, “concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord.” 1 Timothy 3:16, “He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit.”

Second, Jesus’ resurrection confirms our justification. Romans 4:25 says Jesus was, “delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.” 1 Corinthians 15:17, “And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.”

Third, it guarantees our future resurrection. John 14:19, “Because I live, you also will live.” 1 Corinthians 6:14, “And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power.” And again in 1 Corinthians 15:20-23 Paul writes,

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.

Fourth and finally, it is the essential to our faith. Romans 10:9 “because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” 1 Corinthians 15:14-19,

And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has



been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

Small Group Discussion Questions

1. If Jesus didn't go to hell, why does the Apostle's creed say that Jesus descended into hell?
2. What place and role does evidence have in apologetics? How would you respond to someone saying faith and evidence are at odds with each other? Is that person right or wrong?
3. Why do our enemies fear and fight against Jesus' resurrection?
4. How would you describe the essentiality of Jesus' resurrection to someone else?

The significance of Jesus' resurrection

- a. Vindicates Jesus – Romans 1:3-4
- b. Confirms our Justification – Romans 4:25



- c. Guarantees our resurrection – John 14:19; 1 Corinthians 6:14; 15:20-23
- d. It is essential to our faith – Romans 10:9; 1 Corinthians 5:14-19, 32

Christ was raised

- 2. Historical event
 - a. Luke 1:1-4 – treated all things historically
 - b. Acts 1:3 – Many proofs
 - c. Acts 10:38-42 – Raised on third day, appeared to those chosen by God, ate and drank, and commanded us to testify.
 - d. 1 Corinthians 15:3-9 – to the apostles, and over 500 people!
- 3. The foundation of our *faith* in the resurrection
 - a. The apostles did not seek to prove the resurrection, but proclaim it
 - b. Most people come to faith before studying the historicity of the resurrection
 - c. While our faith is based on real, rational truth, evidence can never produce faith
- 4. Yet, there is still evidence for the resurrection!
 - a. It was predicted - Luke 24:25-26
 - b. The tomb is empty
 - i. Three skeptical theories that are wrong
 - 1. “Swoon theory” – John 19:31-34
 - 2. Stolen body – Roman guard, Matthew 27:64, the disciples lack of courage (Mark 14:27; Matthew 26:56)
 - 3. Wrong tomb – Belonged to Joseph of Arimathea, the women knew where the tomb was
 - c. Credible witnesses
 - i. First hand eyewitnesses – 2 Peter 1:16
 - ii. More than one witness
 - 1. Resurrection Sunday – Mary Magdalene and several other women, cleopas and another disciple on the road to Emmaus, Peter and the ten disciples in the upper room.
 - 2. Following Sunday – all eleven apostles with doubting Thomas, 500 witnesses at one time
 - 3. Sometime later – the apostles fishing by the sea
 - iii. A lie without a motive – why would the apostles give their lives for a lie?
 - iv. The conversion of enemies – Paul
- 5. The nature of the resurrection
 - a. Bodily – Luke 24:36-43
 - b. Powerful – 1 Corinthians 15:42-44
- 6. The significance of Jesus’ resurrection
 - a. Vindicates Jesus – Romans 1:3-4



- b. Confirms our Justification – Romans 4:25
- c. Guarantees our resurrection – John 14:19; 1 Corinthians 6:14; 15:20-23
- d. It is essential to our faith – Romans 10:9; 1 Corinthians 5:14-19, 32

Outline

Christ was buried

1. It was prophesied (Isaiah 53:9)
2. All four gospels attest to Jesus' burial
 - a. Matthew 27:57-66; Mark 15:42-27; Luke 23:50-56; John 19:38-42
3. Where did Christ go when he died?
 - a. Sheol - Psalm 16:10
 - i. Underworld, grave, pit
 - b. Abyss – Romans 10:7
 - i. Realm of the dead, not hell
 - c. Descended – Eph 4:9
 - i. To earth, not hell
 - d. Spirits in prison – 1 Peter 3:18-20
 - i. “some interpret this text as teaching that Christ descended into hell when he died, so that he might proclaim His victory to those who dwelled there. The more consistent interpretation is that the Holy Spirit, who raised Christ from the dead, was the very instrument through whom Christ spoke to Noah’s generation. Christ spoke to them through the Holy Spirit, by means of the preaching of Noah. They did not believe the words Christ preached by Noah; therefore, they died in their sins and have remained in prison (i.e. hell) until now.” – Paul Washer
 - e. Paradise - Luke 23:43
 - i. To the Father’s presence

Christ was raised

7. Historical event
 - a. Luke 1:1-4 – treated all things historically
 - b. Acts 1:3 – Many proofs
 - c. Acts 10:38-42 – Raised on third day, appeared to those chosen by God, ate and drank, and commanded us to testify.
 - d. 1 Corinthians 15:3-9 – to the apostles, and over 500 people!
8. The foundation of our *faith* in the resurrection
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- c. While our faith is based on real, rational truth, evidence can never produce faith
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 - a. Bodily – Luke 24:36-43
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- 11. The significance of Jesus' resurrection
 - a. Vindicates Jesus – Romans 1:3-4
 - b. Confirms our Justification – Romans 4:25
 - c. Guarantees our resurrection – John 14:19; 1 Corinthians 6:14; 15:20-23
 - d. It is essential to our faith – Romans 10:9; 1 Corinthians 5:14-19, 32

Discussion Questions

Outline

- 1. What is a sacrifice?
 - a. Latin, Greek, and Hebrew words (Sacerfacere, zebah, thusia)
- 2. What does having a need for a sacrifice teach us?
 - a. The seriousness of sin and its punishment—death
 - i. Romans 3:23,



- b. The need for a substitutionary sacrifice
 - i. Genesis 3:21
- c. The need for a great and final sacrifice
 - i. Hebrews 10:1-10
 - 1. Sacrifices were a shadow
 - 2. Animal sacrifices had to be offered continually
 - a. Animal sacrifices could not take away sin
 - 3. God takes no pleasure in animal sacrifices
 - 4. Christ declared himself the replacement
 - 5. It was according to the will of God
 - 6. He did away with the old system
 - ii. Hebrews 9:11-14
 - 1. Jesus is a greater high priest
 - 2. He entered the holy of holies
 - 3. His blood purifies his people, unlike the blood of bulls and goats
 - iii. Hebrews 9:25-29
 - 1. Jesus only needed one try (Hebrews 10:14)
 - 2. Since he did away with sin, his second return means our salvation, not condemnation.
 - iv. Hebrews 10:12
 - 1. His work is complete
- 3. Christ is the Lamb of God
 - a. John 1:29, 36; Isaiah 53:6-7; 1 Peter 1:18-20
- 4. Christ is the Passover Lamb
 - a. Exodus 12:5 – without blemish
 - b. Exodus 12:21 – it was to be killed
 - c. Exodus 12:22 – its blood was a covering
 - d. Exodus 12:23 – the blood causes God to pass over us
- 5. Christ is the Goat
 - a. Lev 16:8 – one for the Lord, one for Azazel
 - i. Note from Paul Washer
 - b. Goat for the Lord
 - i. A sin offering – Lev 16:9
 - ii. Again, to be killed – Lev 16:15
 - iii. Blood brought inside the veil – Lev 16:15
 - iv. Sprinkled on the mercy seat - Lev 16:15
 - v. Making atonement – Lev 16:16
 - c. Scape Goat
 - i. The sin was placed on its head – Lev 16:21-22
 - ii. The goat carried the sins away from the people – Lev 16:22



Small Group Discussion Questions