
THE RESURRECTION

Cornerstone
BAPTIST CHURCH

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INTRODUCTION

The certainty of Jesus Christ's resurrection is critical to the Christian faith. Without it, our faith is vain. Therefore, in this book, we will provide the reader with some simple and undisputable facts about the resurrection.

THE RESURRECTION

When God made the first man and woman (Adam and Eve), he made them with a living soul, spirit, and body. God gave Adam one command to either obey or disobey. That command was simply to not eat “of the tree of knowledge of good and evil”.

Unfortunately, Adam and Eve chose themselves and rebelled against God. The very moment they rebelled, they died spiritually and began to die physically. Adam’s sin brought death, sorrow, and separation from God. However, God in his mercy, provided Adam and Eve a sacrifice to cover their sinful selves (Genesis 3:21). Then gave them a promise to cling to; a promise of a future Seed who would conquer sin and Satan (Genesis 3:15).

As time went on, the future generations of Adam and Eve continued to corrupt themselves, getting worse and worse. Thus, God looked for a man to call back the people to their Maker. That man was Noah. Noah preached, but no one listened, so God was forced to bring judgment (a world-wide flood).

After the flood, God made a special covenant with Noah, but as mankind began to multiply upon the face of the earth again, they soon forgot the covenant and mercy of God. Thus, God searched for a family to use to point the rest of the world unto the one true God again and send the promised Seed through.

As he searched around the world, he found a man who would raise his family to love God. That man was Abram (who later became known as

Abraham). God made a special covenant with Abraham and gave him the promise that, through his seed, the whole world would be blessed (Genesis 12; 15; 18 etc.).

Abraham went on to have a son named Isaac whom God said he would use to give a special seed (Genesis 17:19). Isaac then had a son named Jacob whose name was later changed (by God) to Israel (Genesis 32). This man, Jacob, had twelve sons who also had children. The families of these twelve sons later became known as the twelve tribes of Israel (Jacob). Today, we know these families simply as Israel.

Israel became God's special people with special blessings and special purposes. However, Israel did just like the others before them; they became consumed with the gold and glimmer of the world and forgot about the God of heaven. The consequences of this were terrible.

Many times God would send Israel a messenger; they would repent and do right for a little while, but then fall back into sin again. This happened over and over again, until God determined it was time to send forth the promised Seed to bring freedom from sin for his people. Israel needed a redeemer! So, a Redeemer God would bring!

God, in his wisdom and knowledge, sent forth the promised Seed right on time. The promised Seed would be his only begotten Son—Jesus Christ. Christ would become the ultimate Prophet, Priest, and Prince!

Jesus Christ—the Perfect Seed—came to rescue Israel, reign in Jerusalem, and redeem the world from sin and Satan.

Oh' what a wonderful time Christ was to bring in! However, something tragic happened. The Seed was rejected! As a whole, the Hebrews rejected the promised Seed and chose Caesar over Christ. Thus, Christ Jesus was crucified upon an old rugged cross!

After Jesus Christ was crucified, he was taken off the cross and buried in the borrowed tomb of Joseph of Arimathaea. There were guards stationed at his tomb to make it as secure as they could. But something happened on the third and glorious day. HE AROSE!

📖 Luke 24:1-8 “Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them. And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre. And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus. And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments: And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again. And they remembered his words,”

📖 Acts 10:37-40 “That word, I say, ye know, which was published throughout all Judaea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached; How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him. And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree: Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly;”

The fact Jesus Christ arose from the grave is of the utmost importance.

Paul said this in 1 Corinthians 15:14, “And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.”

The whole of the New Testament revelation rests on Christ’s resurrection being a historical fact.

If Christ be not risen, then our faith is vain, our life is vain; our existence, our morality, our hopes, dreams, loves, and choices are nothing but a mirage, for we are nothing! Let us eat and drink for tomorrow we die!

However, praise be to the Lamb of God for he is in truth risen as he said!

His resurrection is proven by a heap of evidence.

Dr. Luke, who lived during this time, had this to say:

Acts 1:1-3 “The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen: To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:”

Acts 17:31 “Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.”

Dr. Simon Greenleaf, who was the Royal Professor of Law at Harvard University and one of the greatest legal minds that ever lived, said the following in his book entitled *An Examination of the Testimony of the*

Four Evangelists by the Rules of Evidence Administered in the Courts of Justice:

“IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE that the apostles could have persisted in affirming the truths they had narrated, had not JESUS CHRIST ACTUALLY RISEN FROM THE DEAD, (McDowell 217) ...according to the jurisdiction of legal evidence, the resurrection of Jesus Christ was the best supported event in all of history!” (McDowell 252-253)

Gilbert West and Lord Lyttleton, two Oxford students, believed Christianity was a “tale gone mad” and they determined to refute the Christian faith.

Lyttleton resolved to disprove the conversion of Saul of Tarsus, and West would refute the resurrection of Jesus Christ. They figured a careful, rational examination of the evidence would easily disprove the Christian faith.

But after examining the evidence, they both separately came to accept the Bible as the words of God! Lyttleton concluded that Saul of Tarsus did convert to the Apostle Paul through Jesus Christ. Whilst Gilbert West concluded that the Resurrection was among the best-established facts in all of history! West went on to write a book entitled *Observations on the History and Evidences of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ*.

Professor Thomas Arnold, former chair of history at Oxford and author of the famous volume, *History of Rome*, stated,

“I have been used for many years to study the histories of other times, and to examine and weigh the evidence of those who have written about them, and I know of no one fact in the history of mankind which is PROVED BY BETTER AND FULLER EVIDENCE of every sort, than the great sign which God has given us that Christ died and rose again from the dead.” (McDowell 216)

I say to you, it is a fact that there exists such overwhelming evidence, positive and negative, factual and circumstantial, that no intelligent jury in the world could fail to bring in a verdict that the resurrection story is true.

What are some of the overwhelming evidences that point to the fact that Christ Jesus arose?

1. THE FOUR GOSPEL RECORDS

When we start looking at the Gospels side by side, the first thing we notice is that they are four separate and independent accounts. And this appears plainly from the apparent “discrepancies” in the four different accounts. These apparent discrepancies are many. Thus, it would have been impossible for these four accounts to have been made up in collusion with one another.

Now let me hasten to say, the apparent discrepancies are exactly that, “apparent”, for there is actually great harmony between the four accounts, but the harmony does not lie upon the surface, but rather only after thorough study. Of course, that is exactly what one would expect to exist if these accounts were four literal accounts by four literal people about a literal event. As such, we can assuredly say that there is no way the Gospel accounts could have been made up independently, for they agree too much. Furthermore, there is no way they could have been made up in collusion with one another as the apparent discrepancies are too numerous. The honest person must admit the gospel records are factual records of factual events.

The next thing we notice about these Gospel narratives is there is an absence of all attempts at trying to doctor up the accounts. The authors of the Gospels simply tell what they saw in all simplicity and straightforwardness.

For example, take the fact that in Luke 24 and John 21 we are told that Jesus' disciples could not recognise him when he appeared to them after the resurrection. Notice that we are told this without any explanation whatsoever. Now if the stories were fictitious, they would never have been made mention of this; for the writers would have seen the objection that would have arisen in the minds of those who did not wish to believe in the resurrection; that is, that it was not really Jesus whom the disciples saw. Why then is the story told in this way? This was the way it occurred, and therefore this is the way in which they told it. Again, the honest reader must admit that the gospel narratives are the exact record of facts accurately observed and accurately recorded.

Now take another fact. The fact that in the entire Gospel records of the appearances of Jesus, after his resurrection, there is not a single recorded appearance to an enemy or opponent of Christ; all the appearances were to those who were already believers. Now, if the stories were made up, they would not have made them up this way, especially if they were written 100-300 years after the event as some claim. No, they would have told about all kinds of appearances to all kinds of people. Yet you do not find that in the Gospel records. Why? Because that is not the way it happened; and the Gospel records are simply a telling of how the facts actually occurred. Again, if you are honest you must admit that the Gospel records must be factual accounts of factual events. But let us not stop there. Let us continue with one more example of how the Gospels recorded absolute truth regardless of how the reader may or may not respond, for they were concerned with facts and not fables.

Consider how in John 19:34 that we are told of how blood and water came out of Jesus' side when one of the soldiers pierced the side of the crucified Lord. Notice how the writer does not give us the reason as to

why blood and water came out. The writer simply tells us the facts and leaves it to the reader to determine why/how this happened.

Well, it was not until many centuries later that a man by the name of Dr. Simpson, of Edinburgh University, showed on scientific grounds that the blood and water came out due to “a broken heart”.

Now think, is it conceivable that a writer in fabricating an account of events that never occurred should have made up and inserted a fact that has a strict scientific explanation that was not known until many centuries later? How does it come to be recorded in this way? Because that was precisely what occurred, and though John did not know the explanation, he recorded the fact as observed, and left it for time and scientific discovery to conclusively demonstrate the historical accuracy of what he told.

Now with all that is before us, we have beyond any shadow of doubt, the exact record of something that occurred and was observed precisely as recorded.

Now there are so many more examples of the honesty, realness, and majesty of the Gospels that it would take a whole book just to list them. However, if we just take the examples previously listed, we are logically driven to say: “Here is a true account of the resurrection of Jesus.” Yes, tis true, Jesus is risen!

Now even though the above is sufficient proof that Jesus Christ arose from the dead, let us continue offering you even more evidences of Christ’s resurrection.

2. AN EMPTY TOMB

An empty tomb attests loud and clear that “He is not here: for he is risen, as he said.”

📖 Matthew 28:1-7 “In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre. And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men. And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you.”

Oh’ the empty tomb speaks. Go! Go to the tomb and search for his body and there you will find that he is not there for he is risen as he said!

But let us not stop there, let us give you some more evidences of the resurrection.

3. THE EYEWITNESSES

The eyewitnesses give us empirical evidence that Christ arose from the dead. There are at the least eleven different appearances of our risen Lord that were recorded for us in the New Testament. For instance:

- He appeared to Mary Magdalene at the sepulchre alone (John 20:11-18; Mark 16:9-11).

- He appeared to certain women, "the other Mary", Salome, Joanna, and others, as they returned from the sepulchre (Matthew 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-11).
- He appeared to Simon Peter alone on the day of the resurrection (Luke 24:34; 1 Corinthians 15:5).
- He appeared to the two disciples on the way to Emmaus on the day of the resurrection (Luke 24:13-35; Mark 16:12-13).
- He appeared to the ten disciples (Thomas being absent) and others "with them", at Jerusalem on the evening of the resurrection day (John 20:19-24).
- He appeared to the disciples again (Thomas being present) at Jerusalem (Mark 16:14-18; Luke 24:33-40; John 20:26-28; 1 Corinthians 15:5).
- He appeared to the disciples when they were fishing in the Sea of Galilee (Tiberias) (John 21:1-23).
- He appeared to over 500 brethren at once at an appointed place in Galilee (1 Corinthians 15:6). Take note that in 1 Corinthians 15, the point is made by Paul that those 500 brethren saw him at one time, and then he challenged the sceptics to go and talk to some of those brethren; for when Paul wrote that passage, some of them were still alive.
- He appeared to James (1 Corinthians 15:7).
- He appeared to the apostles immediately before the ascension. They accompanied him from Jerusalem to Mount Olivet, and there they saw him ascend till "a cloud received him out of their sight" (Mark 16:19; Luke 24:50-52; Acts 1:4-10).

- He appeared to Paul on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:3-9, 17; 1 Corinthians 15:8; 9:1).

It is worthy to note these appearances were not just fleeting appearances, but rather he conversed with them face to face, they touched him (Matthew 28:9; Luke 24:39; John 20:27), and he ate with them (Luke 24:42-43; John 21:12-13).

As a matter of fact, when they first saw the risen Saviour, they thought he was just a ghost and therefore he had to prove to them he was more than a spirit; he was flesh and bone.

📖 Luke 24:36-43 “And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit. And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts? Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have. And when he had thus spoken, he shewed them his hands and his feet. And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat? And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb. And he took it, and did eat before them.”

Now not only are the Gospel records, the empty tomb, and His appearances evidences of Christ’s resurrection, but another evidence of Christ’s resurrection is:

4. THE AMAZING TRANSFORMATION OF THE APOSTLES

The night Jesus was crucified, eleven disciples were left defeated and confused. They thought they had given up everything for naught and so they forsook Christ and ran away. That is why it says in Mark 14:50, “And they all forsook him, and fled.”

Listen to what the great apostle Peter does when faced with a decision to either turn his back on Christ or stand up for Him:

📖 Mark 14:71 “But he began to curse and to swear, saying, I know not this man of whom ye speak.”

It is hard to believe it; but the great apostle Peter denied the Lord Jesus three times, cursing and swearing and saying, “I know not this man.”

As you can see, these men thought all was a waste, all was lost, all was over. Thus, they were scared and did not want to be associated with Jesus; lest they too should be crucified.

But something happened. Less than two months later, they went back into Jerusalem boldly preaching even at the threat of death that “JESUS CHRIST IS ALIVE!”

Listen to Peter in Acts 2:22-24, “Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.”

What transformed these fearful and confused men into fierce, bold lions? What had these men seen? What had these men heard? What was it that beatings, threatening, jail, torture, and even death could not silence?

It was the resurrected Lord!

📖 Acts 2:32 “This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.”

Acts 3:13-15 “The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus; whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let him go. But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you; And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses.”

Acts 10:34-41 “Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him. The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:) That word, I say, ye know, which was published throughout all Judaea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached; How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him. And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree: Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly; Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead.”

And so those men changed from cowardly clowns to courageous conquerors. They had seen the resurrected Lord and they could not but speak, regardless of the consequences. Torture could not silence them. Threats could not scare them. They had turned from mouse to men! They had been transformed by the victorious Christ! They knew that though the heathen revile and rage against them and their Christ they were still more than conquerors, for the Lord had conquered death, hell, and the grave. They knew that they need not fear death any longer, for though the world destroy their bodies they would rise to eternal life for

he was risen! And so as you read the history of the church you will read a history of people who once were subject to fear until they met the resurrected Saviour. At which time they no longer fear death but rather welcome it as a passage into true life. Now there is only one reason that such a change would happen and that was the reality of the resurrection!

We are not crazy when we declare unto you, “JESUS IS ALIVE!” These things were not done in a corner, but openly. The glorious Gospel records, an empty tomb, the transformation of the apostles, and the eyewitnesses all give us assurance of this fact. Truly, there are many infallible proofs of Christ’s resurrection!

However, we now desire to point you to one more proof of the resurrection.

5. THE EFFECTS JESUS HAS MADE UPON TRUE BELIEVERS EVERYWHERE FROM EVERY WALK OF LIFE

✚ 2 Corinthians 5:17 “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

Jesus Christ has bound up many broken hearts; brought peace to many restless lives; brought many broken homes back together; and changed vile and violent people into good, productive, and peaceful citizens.

Christ has never let down anyone who truly trusts him for he is alive and well! And this truth alone proves beyond any shadow of doubt that, **YES JESUS IS ALIVE!**

This brings us up to the last point we desire to make about the resurrection.

THE INVITATION OF THE RESURRECTION

You have been given “many infallible proofs” for the resurrection. We know that if you have read this far with an open heart that you know Jesus is alive, for the Holy Spirit would have revealed that unto you!

Acts 17:31 “Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.”

And so we invite you to repent and believe the Gospel. Let not your rebellious heart stand in the way but believe on the Lord Jesus Christ today!

1 Corinthians 15:1-4 “Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:”

Psalm 34:8 “O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.”

Stop trusting in yourself and trust in the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ! He is in heaven right now, waiting to save whosoever will come unto God by him!

You are a sinner worthy of Hell. But, because Christ died for your sins, was buried, and rose again the third day, you can be saved!

📖 Hebrews 7:25 “Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.”

📖 Romans 10:13 “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Sinner, get saved today!

Christian, we encourage you to die to self, society, and sin, and live in the power of his resurrection!

📖 Philippians 3:7-10 “But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;”

If you have just trusted Jesus Christ as your Saviour or if you have any questions then please let us know at:

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