

The Theology of Christ's Resurrection

On this Easter Sunday, we will take a look at Christ's Resurrection and its central place in Christian theology. In so many ways a case can be made that the chief symbol of Christianity should be the Empty Tomb.

The Importance of Christ's Resurrection

- I. Faith in the Resurrection is ESSENTIAL to Salvation (Romans 10:9-10)
- II. It is THE foundational truth of Christianity
 - A. "It is the Fundamental Doctrine of Christianity" - theologian Henry Thiessen
 - B. If the Resurrection were not true... (I Corinthians 15:12-19)
 1. Preaching is vain - vs. 14
 2. Your faith is vain - vs. 14,17
 3. Apostles are liars - vs. 15
 4. Sins are not forgiven - vs. 17
 5. No hope for our own resurrection - vs. 18
 6. We have no joy - vs. 19
- III. It is important in our Christian life
 - A. Christ is made "head over all things to the church" - Ephesians 1:19-23
 - B. Christ can give us the Holy Spirit - Acts 2:32-33, John 16:7, Ephesians 4:8-13
 - C. In the continuing work of salvation (security and sanctification) - Romans 5:8-10
- IV. It is the ultimate "litmus test" for miracles in the Bible
 - A. Theologian A.H. Strong said that in proving miracles in the Bible start with the Resurrection and not things such as Jonah's whale or Balaam's donkey.
 - B. If you can believe that Christ rose from the dead then you should not have a problem with anything else in the Bible.

Reasons for the Resurrection

- I. Christ arose because of who He is - Acts 2:24
- II. Christ arose to fulfill the Davidic covenant - II Samuel 7:12-17, Isaiah 9:6-7, Luke 1:31-33
- III. Christ arose to be the giver of resurrection life - John 11:25-26
- IV. Christ arose to be the source of resurrection power - Matthew 28:18
- V. Christ arose to be the head of the church - Ephesians 1:20-23
- VI. Christ arose on account of Justification - Romans 4:25
 - A. Compare to Romans 5:9
 - B. "...as Jesus died because of our offences, that is our (merited) condemnation, *He was raised because of our (accomplished) justification.*" - Godet
- VII. Christ arose to be the first fruits of the resurrection - I Corinthians 15:20-23

Results from the Resurrection

- I. It attests Christ's Deity - Romans 1:4, Matthew 12:38-40
- II. It assures of the acceptance of Christ's Work - Romans 4:25
- III. It has made Christ our High Priest - Romans 8:34
- IV. It exalts Christ - Ephesians 1:20-22
- V. It is the standard for Divine power
 - A. Past - Israel's redemption from Egypt - Exodus 20:2, and many others
 - B. Future - Israel's regathering - Jeremiah 23:7-8, Matthew 24:31
 - C. NOW - Christ's Resurrection - Ephesians 1:19-21

The Fact of the Resurrection

- So many events in history are up for debate as to how or even *if* the events occurred.
- The Resurrection of Christ, though something we accept by Faith, is also an historical fact.

Josh McDowell's Factual Defense

I. The Broken Roman Seal

- The penalty for breaking the seal was execution by crucifixion upside down.

II. The Empty Tomb

- No one could deny that the tomb was empty, they could only deny that Christ being resurrected was the reason.

III. The Large Stone Moved

- So, the disciples moved a 1.5+ ton stone beside sleeping guards and no one noticed

IV. The Roman Guard Goes AWOL

- Dereliction of duty was punishable by death.

V. The Graveclothes Tell a Tale

- So, they took the body but meticulously replaced a hollow shell of wrappings?

VI. Jesus' Appearances Confirmed

- 500+ people were witness to the resurrected Christ.

The Post-Resurrection Appearances of Christ

FIRST DAY

1. To Mary Magdalene – Mark 16:9, John 20:11-18
2. To Women returning from the Tomb – Matthew 28:9-10
3. To Disciples on Emmaus Road – Luke 24:13-32, Mark 16:12-13
4. To Peter in Jerusalem – Luke 24:34, I Corinthians 15:5
5. To ten Apostles in upper room – Luke 24:36-43, John 20:19-23

NEXT FORTY DAYS

1. To the eleven in upper room – John 20:24-29
2. To seven apostles by Sea of Galilee – John 21:1-24
3. To the eleven and 500 believers on Mt. Tabor – Matthew 28:16-20, I Corinthians 15:6
4. To the eleven and James (half-brother of Christ) in Jerusalem – Mark 16:14-18, Luke 24:44-49, I Corinthians 15:7
5. To the eleven on Mount of Olives – Luke 24:50-53

The Theology of Christ's Resurrection - Part I

- Last week we looked at the FACT of Christ's Resurrection
- Today we begin to look at what the Bible tells us about the Resurrection

The Resurrection in the Prophecy

- I. That the dead should live again is throughout the Old Testament
 - A. Job 14:13-15, 19:25-27; Psalm 16:9-10, 17:15, 49:15; Isaiah 26:9; Daniel 12:2; Hosea 13:14
- II. O.T. Prophecies concerning Christ's Resurrection
 - A. Psalm 16:9-10 is quoted by Peter in Acts 2:24-31 and by Paul in Acts 13:34-37
 - B. Psalm 118:22-24 is used by Peter in Acts 4:10-11
- III. Christ predicted His own Resurrection seven times.
 - A. John 2:19-22
 - B. Matthew 16:21, Luke 9:22
 - C. Matthew 17:23, Mark 9:30-32
 - D. John 10:17-18
 - E. Matthew 20:17-20, Mark 10:32-34, Luke 18:31-33
 - F. Matthew 26:28-29
 - G. Matthew 26:31-32, Mark 14:27-28

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 - B. If you can believe that Christ rose from the dead then you should not have a problem with anything else in the Bible.

The Theology of Christ's Resurrection - Part II

- We continue today looking at the doctrines surrounding the Resurrection.
- Next week, we'll look at our hopes for resurrection and life beyond the grave.

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Commemoration of the Resurrection

- I. Easter Sunday
- II. Sunday
 - A. NOT the Jewish Sabbath (Saturday)
 - B. Events on the "first day" of the week
 1. Christ arose from dead - Matthew 28:1
 2. Risen Christ meets disciples - John 20:19
 3. Christ instructs disciples - Luke 24:36-49
 4. Christ breathes the Spirit on disciples - John 20:22
 5. Holy Spirit descends - Acts 2:1-4
 6. Believers met - Acts 20:7
 7. Paul preached in Troas - Acts 20:6-7
 8. Corinthians took up offerings - I Corinthians 16:2
- III. Baptism

The Resurrection of Mankind

- We have looked at the facts and doctrines surrounding Christ's Resurrection
- Now we look at the hope each man has for their own resurrection.

People Raised from Dead in the Bible

- I. Widow of Zarephath's son by Elijah - I Kings 17:17-24
- II. Shunamite's son by Elisha - II Kings 4:20-37
- III. Man tossed into Elisha's tomb - II Kings 12:31
- IV. Widow of Nain's son - Luke 11-16
- V. Jairus' daughter - Mark 5:35-43
- VI. Lazarus - John 11:1-44
- VII. Tabitha - Acts 9:36-41
- VIII. Eutychus - Acts 20:7-12
- IX. Various saints after the Crucifixion - Matthew 27:51-53
- X. *Maybe* Paul - Acts 14:19, II Corinthians 12:1-4

The Fact of Our Resurrection

- I. The question is as old as time, but so is the answer - Job 14:14
- II. Old Testament
 - A. It appears Abraham expected it - Genesis 22:5, Hebrews 11:19
 - B. David expected it - Psalm 16:9-11, 17:15
 - C. Isaiah expected it - Isaiah 26:19
 - D. Hosea expected it - Hosea 13:14
 - E. Daniel expected it - Daniel 12:1-3, 13
- III. New Testament
 - A. Christ taught it - John 5:28-29, Luke 20:35-38
 - B. Paul taught it - Acts 24:15
 - C. John taught it - Revelation 20:4-6, 12-13

The Nature and Time of Our Resurrection

- I. We will be raised *bodily* - I Corinthians 15:44
 - A. Our body is also bought in Salvation - Romans 8:23-26
- II. It will be a glorified body like Christ's - Philippians 3:21, I John 3:2
- III. The saved will be resurrected at the Rapture - I Thessalonians 4:13-18
- IV. The unsaved are resurrected also - Acts 24:15, Revelation 20:12-15