

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ

The bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ is the foundation doctrine of the New Testament and is mentioned 104 times. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the boast and glory of Christianity. It is one of the major differences between Christianity and all the religions of men—THE FOUNDER OF CHRISTIANITY CONQUERED DEATH AND HE LIVES FOREVER MORE (Rom 6:9; 1Cor 15:26, 54-57; 2Cor 1:9; Rev 1:8; 21:4; Heb 7:25).

1. The resurrection of Christ was prophesied in the Old Testament scriptures (Psalm 16:10 with Acts 2:29-32).

2. The resurrection of Jesus Christ was BODILY (Psalm 16:10; Acts 2:29-32; Luke 24:39,40; John 2:19-22; 20:25-29; 1Cor 15:35-37).

3. Jesus predicted His resurrection (Matt 12:39-40; 16:21; 20:17-19; 26:30-32; Mark 8:12; Luke 11:29; 18:31-33; John 2:19-22). If Jesus Christ did not rise, He was a liar, and thus was not a prophet of God (Deut 18:18-22), the apostles were liars, our preaching is vain (1Cor 15:14), our faith is also vain (v. 14, 17), we are false witnesses (v. 15), we are yet in our sins (v. 17), they who have died in Christ are perished (v. 18), and we are of all men most miserable (v. 19).

4. Jesus showed Himself alive after his death by many infallible proofs (Acts 1:1-3). He was seen by Mary and the other women (Matt 28:8-10; Mark 16:9,10; John 20:11-18), by Peter (Luke 24:34; 1Cor 15:5), by the disciples on the Emmaus road (Mark 16:12; Luke 24:13-32), by the disciples, except Thomas, in the upper room (Luke 24:36-43), eight days later by the disciples, including Thomas (Mark 16:14; John 20:26-29), by seven disciples on the shore of the Sea of Galilee (John 21:1-24), by more than 500 brethren at once (1Cor 15:6), by James (1Cor 15:7), by those who witnessed His ascension from the Mount of Olives (Matt 28:18-20; Mark 16:19; Luke 24:44-53; Acts 1:3-12), and by Saul (later to be named Paul) on the Damascus road (Acts 9:1-20; 1Cor 15:8).

5. The resurrection is the sign God gave to validate the Lord Jesus Christ's deity (Rom 1:4) and His life and ministry (Matt 12:38; Mark 8:12; Luke 11:29; John 2:18-22).

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6. The resurrection of Jesus Christ must be believed for a sinner to be saved (Rom 10:9-10) as it is an essential part of the saving gospel (1Cor 15:3-8 with Rom 1:16 and 1Cor 4:15).

7. How did He rise? By the power of the Father (Acts 2:24), by His own power (John 2:19), and by the power of the Holy Spirit (1 Peter 3:18).

8. The resurrection of Jesus Christ guarantees the believer's resurrection (1Cor 15:12-23; 1Thes 4:14). How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come? Answer: As a grain that is sown must die in order to be made alive, so God will quicken (make alive) the Christian's dead body which is sown in corruption, dishonor, and weakness that it may be raised in incorruption, glory, and power. The natural, earthy body of flesh and blood will be raised a spiritual, heavenly body (1Cor 15:35-57). Upon Jesus Christ's return to earth, the believers' vile bodies will be raised and fashioned like unto Jesus' glorious body (1Thes 4:16, 17; Philippians 3:21; 1John 3:2; Rom 8:23, 29). Jesus' post-resurrection body was glorious (Phil 3:21), immortal (Rom 6:9), made of flesh and bones (Luke 24:39), had hands and feet (Luke 24:40), and had the wounds of the crucifixion (John 20:25-29). After the resurrection, Jesus talked (John 20:19), ate (Luke 24:30-33, 41-43), breathed on the disciples (John 20:22), and could enter a closed room without opening the door (Luke 24:36, John 20:19). Job 19:25 and 26 shows that the believer's resurrection will be bodily, as was the Lord Jesus Christ's.

9. The resurrection allowed Jesus to ascend into heaven as was prophesied in the Old Testament scriptures (Psalm 68:18 with Eph 4:8; Psalm 110:1 with Acts 2:34), to build the church as He promised (Matt 16:18), to give gifts to the church (Eph 4:7-13), to prepare a place for believers as He promised (John 14:2, 3), to intercede for believers (Heb 7:25), to come again as He promised (John 14:3; Matt 24 and 25), and many other things that the scriptures teach that the risen Lord Jesus did after His death, is currently doing, and is yet to do in the future.