

Doctrine of the Resurrection Revisited

1. The prominence of the resurrection of Christ is set forth in Scripture.
 - *1 Corinthians 15:14 And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching in vain, and your faith is also vain.*
2. The fact of the resurrection is declared in simple eloquence as the essence of the true gospel.
 - *1 Corinthians 15:1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; 2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. 3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:*
3. The time of the resurrection of Christ is said to be on the third day.
 - *1 Corinthians 15:34 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).*
4. A possible date and time of the crucifixion was AD 30, the 15th of Nisan, which fell on Friday (April 7) between 9 AM and 3 PM. During those six hours the world was changed.
5. That the day was Friday is indicated in various passages.
 - *Mark 15:42 "the day before the Sabbath" (Saturday).*
 - *Matthew 27:62 "the day of preparation"*
 - *Luke 23:54 "that day was the preparation, and the Sabbath (Saturday) drew on "*
 - *John 19:14 "it was the preparation of the Passover".*
6. Friday is called preparation day because the meals for the Sabbath were prepared on the sixth day, as no fires were allowed to be kindled on the Sabbath.
 - *Exodus 16:5 And it shall come to pass, that on the sixth day they shall prepare that which they bring in; and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily.*
7. Some modern theologians have suggested that the day on which Christ died was really Wednesday, and not Friday.
8. The reason for this view is grounded in a concern for exact literalism.
 - *Matthew 12:30 For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.*

9. As interesting as the concept is, the idea that Jesus died on Wednesday, it is not necessary to embrace, for a variety of reasons.
- All the other events of the Last Week would need to be condensed in time, and reassigned to other days.
 - The Jews considered part of a day to be a full day, thereby fulfilling the prophecy of Matthew 12:40.
 - The natural reading of the gospel narratives indicate a weekly Sabbath, not a special Sabbath.
 - The earliest tradition of the Church honored Friday as the day Christ died. Those closest to the scene of action would surely be more familiar with the events than others two thousand years later. New interpretations of the scripture should always give more honors to the historical position of the Church when that position has always been consistent.
 - Conservative Christian scholars down through the centuries have recognized Good Friday as the day on which Christ died. *“The day of the week on which Christ suffered on the cross was a Friday, during the week of the Passover, in the month of Nisan, which was the first of the twelve lunar months of the Jewish year, and included the vernal equinox.”* (Philip Schaff, *History of the Christian Church*, Vol. I., p. 133). Alfred Edersheim who wrote *The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah* concurs.
10. The reason for the resurrection is to confirm that Christ really died as a substitute for sinners.
11. Christ was not a martyr, dying for His faith, but a Savior, dying for our sins. He did not say, *I am finished*, but *it is finished!*
- *1 Corinthians 15:3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;*

Special Note.

Christ really died at Calvary. He was dead. But then, on the third day, the brain cells in the human body of Christ fired. His eyelids fluttered. Air flowed into His lungs. He breathed. He lived. He rose up from the burial place in the tomb. Angel came to roll the stone away, not to let Christ out, but to let the world in.

12. All three Persons of the God head were involved in the Lord's death and resurrection.
- The Father. *Acts 2:24 Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.*

- The Son. *John 10:11 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. John 10:18 No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.*
- The Holy Spirit. *Romans 1:4 And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:*

13. The results of the resurrection include the salvation of souls.

- *1 Corinthians 15:2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.*

14. Christ made at least seventeen personal post resurrection appearances.

- Mary Magdalene John 20:1118
- The other woman Matthew 28:910
- The two disciples Luke 24:1322
- Simon Peter Luke 24:3335
- Ten Apostles Luke 24:3644
- Eleven apostles John 20:2631
- Seven apostles John 21:114
- Five hundred disciples 1 Corinthians 15:6
- James, the Lord's brother 1 Corinthians 15:7
- The eleven apostles on Mt. Olivet Luke 24:4449
- Stephen Acts 7:160
- Paul (five times)
- ❖ At Damascus Acts 9:19
- ❖ In Corinth Acts 18:9
- ❖ While at Jerusalem Acts 23:11
- ❖ On board a ship Acts 27:23
- ❖ At Lystra 2 Corinthians 12:14
- John, Isle of Patmos Revelation 1:12

15. Because the resurrection of Christ is essential to the gospel, it has been challenged. Several alternative theories have emerged to explain what might have happened.

- The Fraud Theory suggests that the early disciples simply lied. But then the question emerges, "*Would the disciples die for a known lie?*" All but John died a martyr's death.
- The Swoon Theory maintains that Jesus did not die at Calvary, but merely swooned. Later, in the cool of the cave he revived, and was able to escape. The response to this concept is that the soldiers who killed Christ knew death. They had stared it in the face. Also, the armed guards would have kept anyone from stealing the body.

- The Vision Theory argues that since the men and women who loved Christ wanted to see Him alive again, they had a vision and the vision became a verbal reality.
 - The Spirit Theory sets forth the novel concept that only the Spirit of Jesus was resurrected.
 - The Heart Theory appeals to modern Liberalism, by teaching that the historical facts of the resurrection do not matter. Jesus is resurrected in our hearts.
16. All of the theories of the resurrection are unworthy of the gospel, and of Christ. It has been said that if the resurrection of Christ is not true, then all gospel preaching has been, and is, now useless; all gospel preachers are liars, and are fools; all souls are still in their sins; all holy reasons for life are destroyed; the body of Christ has deteriorated, and is dry dust in a Middle Eastern graveyard; Christian ordinances, such as baptism, are silly; suffering for the Savior is meaningless; and a life of hedonism (pleasure) should be embraced.
- *1 Corinthians 15:32 If after the manner of men I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantageth it me, if the dead rise not? Let us eat and drink; for tomorrow we die.*
17. But the resurrection of Christ is true. Christ is the First Fruits from among the dead.
- *1 Corinthians 15:20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. 21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. 23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. 24 Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. 25 For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. 27 For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith, all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. 28 And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.*

Special Note.

The Feast of Firstfruits established in Leviticus 23 anticipated the resurrection of the dead.

18. Because the resurrection is true, Christians are to awake to righteousness, and sin not. Moreover, they are to withdraw their fellowship from those who deny the resurrection, and live as the hedonist.
- Awake to righteousness. *1 Corinthians 15:34 Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame.*
 - Be careful of sinful associations. *1 Corinthians 15:33 Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.*

19. The resurrection of Christ becomes a pattern for the resurrection of Christians, and a preview of things to come.

- *1 Corinthians 15:35 But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come? 36 Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die: 37 And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain 38 But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body.*

Special Note.

Christ rose again from the dead, not only for Himself, but for all who shall be raised from the dead.

20. It is still true that the body of the saints will, like a grain of wheat, one-day die. No human power can stop this process.

21. Like a grain of wheat, there is change in death, for death does not suppress life, but releases it. The body will not lose its ultimate identity, and shall one day live again.

- There is change in death. *John 12:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.*
- Death is like a dark glass. *1 Corinthians 13:12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.*

22. What shall the resurrected body be like? The Bible offers a contrast of the resurrection body with the old.

23. The old natural body goes to the grave in corruption, dishonor, and weakness liable to diseases, and infirmities.

- Corruption. *1 Corinthians 15:42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption.*
- Dishonor and weakness. *1 Corinthians 15:43 It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:*

24. It is sown a natural body governed by the Laws of nature. But thanks be unto God, the new resurrection body is raised incorruptible so that it can never again perish.

- Laws of Nature. *1 Corinthians 15:44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.*
- Raised incorruptible. *1 Corinthians 15:42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption:*

25. It is raised in glory to enjoy existence in a new heaven and a new earth.

- *1 Corinthians 15:43 It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power.*
- *Revelation 21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.*

26. It is raised in power so that it is not vulnerable to disease and death.

- *1 Corinthians 15:43 It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:*

27. It is raised a spiritual body, and is not subject to the known Laws of nature.

- *1 Corinthians 15:44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.*

28. Because the teaching of the resurrection sounds too good to be true, the Bible offers assurances that it will happen, because it did happen.

- *1 Corinthians 15:50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption 51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.*

29. The Bible states plainly that all Christians shall all be changed suddenly. Corruption will put on incorruption, and mortal persons will put on immortality. Wonderful change will happen at the Second Advent. Some who are living will not die.

- *Second Advent. Hebrews 9:28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.*
- *Dead in Christ shall be raised first. 1 Thessalonians 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:*
- *Some will not die. 1 Corinthians 15:51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,*

30. The resurrection will be majestic and glorious, as it defeats physical death, and spiritual death, not to mention the world, the flesh, and the devil.

- *A majestic resurrection. 1 Corinthians 15:54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.*

- A victorious resurrection. *1 Corinthians 15:26 The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.*

Revelation 2:11 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.

- A life giving resurrection. *John 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.*
- A never ending resurrection. *John 8:51 Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death.*
- A delivering resurrection. *Galatians 1:4 Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:*

The resurrection of Christ is intended to deliver us from the world. *1 John 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*

The resurrection of Christ is intended to deliver us from the flesh. *Romans 7:18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.*

The resurrection of Christ is intended to deliver us from the devil. *Ephesians 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.*

- A justifying resurrection.

The resurrection of Christ is for our justification. *Romans 4:25 Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.*

Special Note.

In the resurrection, there is proof, there is visible evidence that the Father accepted the perfect life Christ lived, and His substitutionary death.

31. The resurrected body is not simply a restored old body, but a new body. It is a glorified body.
 - *1 Corinthians 15:42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: 43 It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:*
32. A glorified human body is different from all other bodies which are in themselves distinct. All around us we see gradations of bodies. But a glorified body, most have never seen.

- *1 Corinthians 15:39 All flesh is not the same flesh: but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds. 40 There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. 41 There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory.*

33. The Bible extols our lives.

- *Psalms 139:14 I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.*

34. Because we are fearfully and wonderfully made, it should be no surprise that God would redeem that which has been corrupted by sin. What is sown in dishonor shall yet be raised up in glory. We shall yet bear the image of the heavenly.

- *1 Corinthians 15:43 It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: 44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. 45 And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. 46 Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. 47 The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven. 48 As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. 49 And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.*

35. Death is devoured, it is consumed by victory.

- *1 Corinthians 15: 50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. 55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? 56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

36. All who are in Jesus shall share in His resurrection.