

LESSON 29: CHRISTIANS BELIEVE IN THE RESURRECTION

- (I) It's the conquering of death
- (II) It's the Cornerstone of Christianity
- (III) It is the most scrutinized event in world history

(I) IT'S THE CONQUERING OF DEATH

A) Jesus Died A Real Death

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| 1) He was Scourged & Crucified | John 18:12-40 |
| 2) He was Certified Dead | John 19: 1, 18 |
| 3) Laid in the Tomb | John 19:32-34 |
| 4) Large Stone Door Closed | Mark 15:46 |
| 5) Roman Guard posted | Matt. 27:63-65 |
| 6) Secured and Sealed | Matt. 27:66 |
| 7) Dead for days | Luke 24:1 |

B) Jesus was Certified Dead

“Pilate was surprised to hear that he was already dead. Summoning the centurion, he asked him if Jesus had already died. [45] When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he gave the body to Joseph.” Mark 15:44-45

“Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jews did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. [32] The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. [33] But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. [34] Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water.” Jn 19:31-34

C) In 1986 William D. Edwards, MD; Wesley J Gabel, MDiv; Floyd E Hosmer, MS, AMI wrote an article on the crucifixion for the Journal of the American Medical Association, titled On the Physical Death of Jesus Christ

D) The final conclusion of their report was that, “*Modern medical interpretation of the historical evidence indicates that Jesus was dead when taken down from the cross.*”

E) What is a Resurrection?

1) The Dictionary says,

- A) The act of rising from the dead or returning to life.
- B) The state of one who has returned to life.
- C) The act of bringing back to practice, notice, or use; revival.
- D) The Resurrection. Theology.

- a) The rising again of Jesus on the third day after the Crucifixion.
- b) The rising again of the dead at the Last Judgment.

2) There were several that were not permanent in the scriptures, most notably that of Lazarus

- a) Jesus resurrection was never to die again
- b) Death is losing it's grip

1) It is "real death" not "near-death" that they are brought back from...
Lazarus and Jesus it had been days...

c) Death is universal and nobody has been able to beat it

- 1) None powerful enough
- 2) None rich enough
- 3) Not wise enough (Buddha, Gandhi)
- 4) THE GRAVE ALWAYS WINS!!

d) Universal Death applies not only to people, but to all of creation. (bondage of decay)

(II) THE RESURRECTION IS THE FOUNDATION OF CHRISTIANITY

A) Christianity was founded after all His disciples lost hope

B) From an April 1996 US News & World Report

"Some extraordinary event occurred in Jerusalem to account for the radical change of behavior in the disciples."

C) "Jesus' Tomb Was Empty (a well established fact)

- 1) A known Grave site, anyone could visit it
- 2) A Broken Roman seal (a capital offense)
- 3) Stone was rolled away
- 4) Grave cloths were left behind
- 5) Disciples were confused
- 6) Enemies believed it was empty
- 7) Eye-witnesses said Jesus was alive

(III) IT IS THE MOST SCRUTINIZED FACT IN ALL OF HISTORY

A) People have been looking at this issue for thousands of years from every conceivable angle and position

1) Some as seekers, some as skeptics, some as cynics, some as believers, some to destroy faith

a) Frank Morrison was an English journalist who set out to prove that the story of Christ's resurrection was nothing but a myth. However, his probing led him to discover the validity of the Biblical record in a moving, personal way.

(IV) WHY WAS THERE NO BODY IN THE TOMB?

(Four Possible Answers)

1) Jesus Died and Rose exactly as He said He would

a) This is the cornerstone of Christianity

b) Everything stands or falls on the truthfulness of God's Word

c) Luke tells us in Acts that Jesus *"showed with many convincing proofs that He was alive."*

d) This was the worst fear of those who put Jesus to death

(1) They did NOT want the Body to disappear

(2) They did everything in their power to insure that it didn't.
Now it's gone. Matthew 27:62-64)

(3) The earliest explanation was, "His disciples came and took the body at night while we (the guards) were sleeping."

a) If you were sleeping how do you know who took it?

b) I realize ALL you guys are sound sleepers, but didn't anybody hear those guys trying to roll away that big stone?

c) What soldiers are going to admit to sleeping? And all of them?

d) Why would His deserting disciples return to steal the body?
Especially when they were depressed. Couldn't remember He said it!!

(5) Why would thieves take the time to put all the grave clothes in a neat and orderly fashion?

(a) These are the kinds of things investigating officers notice for false claims of thief. Neatness.

(b) Why would you be cleaning up when there were armed guards outside the tomb you just sneaked in to?

(c) If this really happened how come there were no investigations into wrong doing?

(d) Nobody disputes the empty tomb

2) “Jesus didn’t arise, the apostles were deceived. Hallucination Theory

a) They wanted this so bad they saw Him

b) Much positive evidence against these facts

c) Post resurrection Appearances

1. To Mary Magdalene (John 20:11-18)
2. To the other women (Matthew 28:8-10)
3. To Peter (Luke 24:34; I Corinthians 15:5)
4. To the two on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35; Mark 16:12)
5. To ten of the disciples (Luke 24:36-43)
6. To all eleven disciples, eight days later
7. To seven disciples by the Sea of Tiberias (John 21:1-23)
8. To five hundred followers (I Corinthians 15:6)
9. To James (I Corinthians 15:7)
10. To the eleven, at the ascension (Acts 1:3-12)
11. All saw the same hallucination in different places?

a) Indoors, Outdoors, Along a road, by a lake

b) Some of them touched Him

c) Skeptics having the same hallucination?

12) A similar version of this one is that the disciples went to the wrong tomb.

- a) Then why didn't the enemies of Jesus point to the right one?
- b) The apostles preached in Jerusalem and 1000s got saved... they talked about the empty tomb in their preaching...

3) Jesus Died, Didn't Rise, the disciples deceived (Conspiracy Theory)

- a) This is morally impossible
 - 1) They were devout and genuine and preached righteousness
 - a) Says they were cheap frauds – nobody really believes that...
- b) They were confused and distraught over the crucifixion
- c) There was a sudden change in their lives after the resurrection...

4) Jesus Didn't Die (Swoon Theory)

Popularized by Hugh Schonfield in Passover Plot

- a) It's physically impossible.
 - 1) He never could have survived the extent of His tortures
 - 1) The Romans were convinced He was dead
 - 2)
 - 3) Those who had Him crucified were convinced
- b) It's religiously impossible.
 - 1) These disciples would not be worshipping a Jesus in need of medical attention
 - 2) Their conviction and message was that He rose gloriously from the grave!
- c) It's biographically impossible
 - 1) Makes Jesus out to a deceiver and charlatan
- d) None of these were passed around in Jesus day...
 - 1) WITNESS OF THE APOSTLES

CONCLUSIONS AND LESSONS

1) It says the women went on the first day of the week... that's Sunday, today....

a) People have been worshipping the Risen Son on Sundays ever since that morning...

2) Jesus keeps His Promises

a) Said He would Rise. He did.

b) Said you will rise. You will