

Why I Believe In The Resurrection! Selected Scriptures

Series: Why I Believe – Part 1

Introduction

“How can someone as well educated and intellectually astute as you appear to be . . . really believe in a literal Jesus and all this ‘born-again’ stuff?”

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THE QUESTION

Do you have to throw your “brains in the trash” to believe in Christ?

THE JOURNEY

Is there intellectually feasible evidence to support a faith in the Jesus of the Bible with His claims of deity, eternal life, and absolute truth?

THE CENTRAL ISSUE

Christianity rises or falls on the truthfulness and reality of the resurrection

7 Reasons Corin 15:1-11 Why I Believe In The Resurrection

1. The HISTORICITY of Jesus of Nazareth is Airtight

- Biblical manuscripts - quality and quantity
- Extra Biblical Sources – Josephus, Pliny, Tacitus
- Archeological confirmation

2. The CHARACTER of Jesus is Unquestioned

- Friend and foe agree – great man, moral teacher
- Claimed sinless life – John 8:46
- Affirmed by history and impact

3. The WORKS of Jesus Went Unchallenged

- Fact of miracles, feeding 5000, etc. not disputed
- Eyewitness accounts validated miracles
- Acts 2 sermon – even unbelievers acknowledged His works

4. The IDENTITY of Jesus Was Confirmed

- By Himself – John 14:6
- By God – Mark 9:7
- By His followers – Mark 8:27-30
- By His enemies – John 10:33
- By extra Biblical sources – Pliny AD 111
- Fulfilled over 700 O.T. prophecies

5. The DEATH of Jesus Was Undisputed

- At the time by friend and foe
- By His flogging, beating, and crucifixion

- By medical evidence – water and blood indicate puncture of pericardium sac
- By burial preparation – 70 pounds of spices and linen

6. The **BURIAL** of Jesus Was Public and Secured

- Joseph of Arimathea's tomb
- Roman guards
- Roman seal
- Size of tombstone – takes 20 men to roll away
- Penalty of death for guards sleeping

7. The **EVIDENCE** for Jesus' Resurrection is Convincing

- Predicted by O.T. prophets
- Jesus predicted it openly and numerously
- Appeared 12 different times to over 500 eye witnesses
- Appeared in multiple locations, times, over 40 days
- The transformation of the Disciples
- Explosion of the church – “in Jerusalem”
- Disciples all willing to knowingly “die for a lie” – inconceivable
- Conversion of Saul of Tarsus
- Transformation of Roman Empire and the world – test of time
- Best legal minds – the evidence is conclusive!
- My testimony – “He changed my life”

So, What Does This Mean To You?

The Resurrection . . .

1. **Validates** Jesus' Claims – John 14:6
2. Gives **Absolute Hope** For The Future

"Because I live, you will live also." - John 14:9

3. It Offers **Spiritual Life** Right Now!




¹Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. ²**By this gospel you are saved**, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. ³For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that **Christ died for our sins** according to the Scriptures, ⁴**that he was buried**, that **he was raised on the third day** according to the Scriptures, ⁵and **that he appeared to Peter**, and then to the Twelve. ⁶After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles,
1 Corinthians 15:1-7 (NIV)

Your Response . . .

. . . **What will you do with the evidence?**

_____ it OR _____ it?

Resources:

-  The Case For Christ by Lee Strobel
-  Who Moved The Stone by F. Morrison
-  Did Jesus Rise From The Dead? by Habermas & Flew

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