

The Resurrection of Jesus the Son of Man and the Created Children of God

The person of Jesus was literally raised from the dead having died on the cross. This is what is known as The Resurrection.

Jesus was crucified on a Roman cross, the means of capital punishment at the time.

Luke 23:33 [NIV] *“When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals, one on his right, the other on his left.”*

Acts 2:23 [NIV] *“This man was handed over to you by God’s set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross.”*

Jesus was buried.

Luke 23:50-53 [NIV] *“Now there was a man named Joseph, a member of the Council, a good and upright man, who had not consented to their decision and action. He came from the Judean town of Arimathea and he was waiting for the kingdom of God. Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus’ body. Then he took it down, wrapped it in linen cloth and placed it in a tomb cut in the rock, one in which no-one had yet been laid.”*

John 19:41-42 [NIV] *“At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no-one had ever been laid. Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was near by, they laid Jesus there.”*

Jesus was resurrected.

Matthew 28:5-6 [NIV] *“The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.”*

Acts 2:24 [NIV] *“But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.”*

Acts 2:36 [NIV] *“Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”*

Why is this study important?

The resurrection is essential for Christian faith.

If there had been no resurrection of Jesus, there would be no such thing as Christianity. It is the resurrection of Jesus that keeps the message of Jesus alive beyond His own generation.

The resurrection is essential for our salvation.

There would be no reason to value Christ’s death if He had not also been resurrected.

1 Corinthians 15:17 [NIV] *“And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.”*

The resurrection is essential for our future.

Christ's resurrection is our only hope of a future personal resurrection.

1 Corinthians 15:14-16 [NIV] *“And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either.”*

Without understanding the resurrection of Jesus we are unable to answer such questions as:-

- a) Was it just the spirit in Jesus that returned to God [**Ecclesiastes 12:7**] or was His body raised and returned to God?
- b) What kind of body did Jesus have after He was raised?
- c) What kind of resurrection can we expect?

Scriptures stress that Jesus was objectively raised from the dead. His body was not left behind to rot in the earth.

Psalms 16:8-11 [NIV] *“I have set the LORD always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure, because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay. You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.”*

The body of the Holy One [the Messiah] would not see [corruption] decay.

Acts 2:25-28 [NIV] *“David said about him: “I saw the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will live in hope, because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay. You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence.”*

Peter quoted this Psalm of David as part of the gospel message to those gathered on the First Day of Pentecost.

Acts 13:32-37 [NIV] *“We tell you the good news: What God promised our fathers he has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising up Jesus. As it is written in the second Psalm: “‘You are my Son; today I have become your Father.’ The fact that God raised him from the dead, never to decay, is stated in these words: “‘I will give you the holy and sure blessings promised to David.’ So it is stated elsewhere: “‘You will not let your Holy One see decay.’ “For when David had served God’s purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was buried with his fathers and his body decayed. But the one whom God raised from the dead did not see decay.”*

The same message was the centre of the gospel preached by the early church.

Acts 1:3 [NIV] *“After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.”*

Jesus used His own bodily resurrection to convict those who saw Him for a period of 40 days after His public crucifixion and death.

The empty tomb consolidates this truth of a bodily resurrection.

Luke 24:1-3 [NIV] *“On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.”*

Luke 24:22-23 [NIV] *“In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn’t find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive.”*

John 20:2, 6-7 [NIV] *“So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!” ... “Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus’ head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen.”*

The testimony of God’s messengers confirm the truth of a bodily resurrection.

Matthew 28:6 [NIV] *“He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.”*

Mark 16:5-6 [NIV] *“As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. “Don’t be alarmed,” he said. “You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him.”*

Those who went to the tomb where Jesus was laid were **not** expecting it to be empty. They had come to anoint Jesus’ body.

Mark 16:1 [NIV] *“When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus’ body.”*

Luke 24:1 [NIV] *“On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb.”*

The fact that these dedicated ladies found the tomb empty filled them with fear.

Matthew 28:8 [NIV] *“So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples.”*

Mark 16:8 [NIV] *“Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.”*

Jesus Himself testified to the reality of His objective resurrection.

Matthew 17:1-9 [NIV] *“After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus. Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!” When the disciples heard this, they fell face down to the ground, terrified. But Jesus came and touched them. “Get up,” he said. “Don’t be afraid.” When they looked up, they saw no-one except Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them, “Don’t tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”*

Here was a preview of the resurrection.

Luke 24:39 [NIV] *“Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.”*

John 20:27 [NIV] *“Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”*

The gospel writers emphasise that it was Jesus' physical body that was raised.

Matthew 28:9 [NIV] *“Suddenly Jesus met them. “Greetings,” he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshipped him.”*

Luke 24:23-24 [NIV] *“but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.”*

John 20:15 [NIV] *“Woman,” he said, “why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?” Thinking he was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.”*

It was only Jesus' body that they could think of when they saw the empty tomb.

Jesus stressed that it was His physical body that had been raised from the dead.

Luke 24:42-43 [NIV] *“They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate it in their presence.”*

Acts 10:41 [NIV] *“He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen, by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.”*

This was part of the proof preached after Jesus' ascension.

A physical resurrection was the only thing that made sense to the disciples.

John 20:25 [NIV] *“So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it.”*

Acts 2:36 [NIV] *“Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”*

Peter stressed that it was the same Jesus that had been resurrected.

Paul continues to stress a bodily resurrection but with the added transformation to a physical/spirit body.

1 Corinthians 15:4-8 [NIV] *“that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After 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. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.”*

Acts 17:31 [NIV] *“For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by **the man** he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead.”*

Christ still referred to as “the man”.

Acts 7:56 [NIV] *“Look,” he said, “I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”*

In his dying vision Stephen saw Jesus the Son of Man on the right hand of God.

This physical resurrection with a spirit component explains the sudden appearances and disappearances of Jesus during the 40 days between His resurrection and ascension.

John 20:19 [NIV] *“On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!”*”

Luke 24:31 [NIV] *“Then their eyes were opened and they recognised him, and he disappeared from their sight.”*

Of what personal importance is the physical/spirit resurrection to us?

1 Corinthians 15:20-21 [NIV] *“But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man.”*

Jesus was the “first fruits” of all who have died trusting in what God has done through Him.

Jesus was **not** the first to be resurrected from the dead, but He was the first who is still alive, all the rest died again and are now asleep in their graves awaiting Christ’s return.

Revelation 1:18 [NIV] *“I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.”*

Jesus is the key to eternal life.

Jesus’ resurrection shows permanence of bodily life in the Kingdom of God.

1 Corinthians 15:35-44 [NIV] *“But someone may ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?” How foolish! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed, perhaps of wheat or of something else. But God gives it a body as he has determined, and to each kind of seed he gives its own body. All flesh is not the same: Men have one kind of flesh, animals have another, birds another and fish another. There are also heavenly bodies and there are earthly bodies; but the splendour of the heavenly bodies is one kind, and the splendour of the earthly bodies is another. The sun has one kind of splendour, the moon another and the stars another; and star differs from star in splendour. So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.”*

The spirit of man [**Job 32:8**] returns to God [**Ecclesiastes 3:21**] only for the period of time up to the resurrection.

There will be a time when this spirit will be reunited with a physical body for a time of judgement or a physical/spirit body for eternal life in the Kingdom of God.

1 Thessalonians 4:14-17 [NIV] *“We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord’s own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord for ever.”*

The resurrection of Jesus and of our bodies shows the continuity between the present and the future.

We will continue to be the same person as we become now in this physical life!! [Please read that again]

Matthew 28:9 [NIV] *“Suddenly Jesus met them. “Greetings,” he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshipped him.”*

Jesus was recognisable after His resurrection.

1 John 3:2 [NIV] *“Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.”*

We will be transformed into an incorruptible body but retain recognisable features.

We will have our memories and we will recognise one another in the Kingdom of God.

The empty tomb convinced no-one at the time that Jesus was alive.

Even meeting the resurrected Christ face to face the disciples still had questions.

Who was this Jesus?

Why did He come to earth?

Why did He die?

Why was He raised?

These questions are still asked today.

John 20:29 [NIV] *“Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”*

The answers will only come by faith not by sight.

How was this faith received?

Romans 10:17 [NIV] *“Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.”*

Faith comes from the reading and accepting the Word of God. The printed Word [The Bible] and the living Word [Jesus Christ].

John 16:13 [NIV] *“But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.”*

We will be led into understanding and faith by the Spirit of Truth, the Spirit of Christ, the Holy Spirit, all names for the same being.

Galatians 5:22 [King James] *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,”*

One of the fruits of the Holy Spirit that can “rub off” on us is faith, and the faithfulness of God’s Word.

Ephesians 4:30 [NIV] *“And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”*

We need to ensure that we do not grieve the Holy Spirit through un-confessed and unforgiven sins so that His active presence in our lives will convict us of the truth of the resurrection.