

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ

John 20

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- In the very first recorded Christian sermon, in **Acts 2**, Simon Peter made the case for Christ's resurrection.
- When speaking of Jesus, the earliest church points to resurrection in the book of **Acts** no fewer than **11 times**.

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- Acts 2:22-32 (ESV)

²² “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— ²³ this Jesus ... you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. ³² This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses.

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- **1 Corinthians 15:12-18** (ESV)

¹² Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ...

¹⁵ We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised ...

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- In the Corinthian church Paul confronted professed believers in Jesus who denied the resurrection.

- **1 Corinthians 15:12-18** (ESV)

¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

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- The apostles held the resurrection to be foundational to the Christian faith.
- They spoke of it constantly.
- It is the story that defines Christianity.

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- It is the event that sets Jesus apart from other teachers, prophets or religious leaders.
- It is the fact that transformed Christ's disciples.

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I know the resurrection is a fact, and Watergate proved it to me. How? Because 12 men testified they had seen Jesus raised from the dead, then they proclaimed that truth for 40 years, never once denying it. Every one was beaten, tortured, stoned and put in prison ...

– Chuck Colson (1931 – 2012),
President Nixon’s “Hatchet Man”

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They would not have endured that if it weren't true. Watergate embroiled 12 of the most powerful men in the world – and they couldn't keep a lie for three weeks. You're telling me 12 apostles could keep a lie for 40 years? Absolutely impossible.

– Chuck Colson 1931 – 2012
President Nixon's "Hatchet Man"

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We will begin with the Burial of Jesus in **John 19:38-42**.

- Joseph and Nicodemus took charge of the body of Christ.
- **Matthew 27:59-61** gives a few more details.

⁵⁹ And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud⁶⁰ and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away. ⁶¹ Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

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The Empty Tomb **John 20:1-10**

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The Empty Tomb **John 20:1-10**

- The story is written naturally without the exaggeration that supernatural stories of that day usually had.
- Christ's followers were not expecting his resurrection.

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The Empty Tomb **John 20:1-10**

- **20:6-7** A friend would not have moved the body while it was naked.
- An enemy would not have carefully folded the cloths.
- **20:9** Jesus had been telling them he would rise from the dead, but the disciples only grasped this after the fact.

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Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene **John 20:11-18**

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Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene **John 20:11-18**

- **20:16** She doesn't understand what has happened until Jesus calls her by name.
- The Gospels all say that Jesus appeared to the women first – odd for that culture unless it were true.

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Jesus Appears to the Disciples

John 20:19-23

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Jesus Appears to the Disciples **John 20:19-23**

- **20:19** They had the doors locked for fear of the Jews.
- **Peace be with you** *Shalom Aleichem* is a normal greeting in Hebrew – and is similar in Aramaic or modern Arabic.
- **20:22-23** Compare with **Luke 24:45-49**.

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Jesus and Thomas **John 20:24-29**

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Jesus and Thomas **John 20:24-29**

- John doesn't explain why Thomas wasn't with them, but by the sound of it he may have been off sulking.
- **20:26** Jesus appears through locked doors – again.
- **20:27** He evidently heard what Thomas said.
- **20:29** We are among “those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

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John's Reason for Writing **John 20:30-31**

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John's Reason for Writing **John 20:30-31**

- We don't have the record of all that Jesus said and did.
- We do have enough to allow us to believe.

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ

Jesus' death on the cross is not the end of the Christian message. The gospel is that Jesus then rose from the dead. Whereas every other life ended in death, Jesus' death ended in life, and his resurrection is the basis of all Christian confidence. Death is nothing to be feared. Jesus has conquered it, and we are in him.

– Nabeel Qureshi (1983 – 2017),
American convert from Islam



The Resurrection: Our Response

The Resurrection: Our Response

Believe the essential points of the Christian faith.

1. Believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for your sins.
2. Believe that He rose from the dead.
3. Receive forgiveness and eternal life from Him.

The Resurrection: Our Response

Decide to live a life of obedience as a necessary follow up to faith in Christ.

1. Consciously submit to God's will as expressed in God's word, the Bible.
2. Examine your life for areas of greed, rebellion, bitterness toward God or others.
3. Continuously confess and reject sin as you are aware of them, praying for the Holy Spirit's help.

A Prayer Expressing Faith in Christ

- *Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner and that I need Your forgiveness.*
- *I believe that You showed your love for me by dying for my sins when You died on the cross.*
- *I believe You rose from the dead.*
- *I want to turn away from my sins and follow You. I invite You to come into my life. I trust You as My Savior and honor You as my Lord.*
- *Thank You Lord, for hearing my prayer. Amen.*