

RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

Int.

1. Aim: To show that the resurrection is a truth which is essential.
2. Text: I Cor. 15:12-19
3. The reason the Bible speaks about the resurrection is because there had been a death.
 - a. VIOLENT death
 - b. VOLUNTARY death Jn.10:18 "I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again."
 - c. VICARIOUS death - died for us
 - d. VICTORIOUS death - it was a victorious death because of the resurrection
4. Resurrection is foundation of Christianity
 - a. V. 14 "And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain." [Vain = empty]
 - b. V. 17 "And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins." [Vain = without results, futile]
 - c. Paul makes the resurrection the arch of Christian faith
 - d. If the resurrection is denied the gospel loses its reality and force in life.
 - e. If Christ was not raised from the dead, Christianity is a hoax!
5. Some religious people deny the bodily resurrection [See file on Resurrection for quotes]
6. What really happened? Did he really come forth from the tomb?
7. Three Facts that are admitted by all:
 - (1) Jesus actually died on a Roman cross
 - (2) His body was buried in a new tomb of Joseph of Armithea, and they rolled a stone in front to seal it

(3) Before the 3rd morning his body disappeared.

8. This has been called the battle over the Empty grave!

Discussion

I. WHAT HAPPENED TO THE BODY??

A. Swoon Theory

1. Some skeptics suggest that Jesus did not die on the cross, but only fainted or "swooned" and when he was placed in the cool tomb he revived or regained consciousness. Then he removed the stone.
2. Pilate investigated to make sure Jesus was dead - Mk. 15:44,45
3. The soldier broke the legs of the two thieves to hasten their death. Jn. 19:32-34
4. They all knew that Jesus of Galilee was physically dead.

B. IT WAS STILL BURIED

1. Suppose some tried to claim that the body was still buried in some unknown Palestinian grave
2. When the apostles came into the city of Jerusalem preaching that Christ was a risen Lord, then the authorities would have produced the body and stopped their preaching
3. It might be suggested that they did not know where the body was placed. That is not true. They assigned soldiers to guard the tomb and records would have been available to show the exact spot of his burial.

C. THE ENEMIES STOLE IT

1. They had no motive
 - a. They had a guard of Roman soldiers.
 - b. They had sealed the grave - Mt. 27:62-66
 - c. They wanted to make sure the disciples did not steal it and say he arose
2. If they did steal it and destroy it they were defeating their purpose
3. If they did steal it and did not destroy it, why did they not present it as evidence when the disciples preached that he arose from the grave?
4. Pentecost proves that they did not steal it. Three thousand confessed faith in Christ as a risen Savior 7 weeks after his death.

D. DID THE DISCIPLES STEAL IT?

1. They had no motive
 - a. They expected to see Jesus again only at the final resurrection
 - b. They did not expect him to arise.
2. If they did steal it why did the soldiers have to be bribed to tell it?
 - a. Mt. 28:11-15
 - b. How did they know the disciples stole it if they were asleep? Could you believe sleeping witnesses?
 - c. If the soldiers had been asleep they would not have told it because it was a capital offense for a soldier to be asleep while on his post of duty.
3. If the disciples did steal the body they were preaching a lie
 - a. They would have known it to be a lie
 - b. They suffered and died for a lie

E. DID JOSEPH TAKE THE BODY?

1. If so he had to persuade the Roman guards to let him have it.
2. If they did let him have it why did they not tell it?
3. If he had enough men to take the body by force why was it not reported?
4. If Joseph took the body why did he not tell the disciples so they wouldn't die for a man who was not arisen?

F. WERE THE WOMEN MISTAKEN ABOUT THE TOMB?

1. Some argue that the women went to the wrong tomb and got excited when it was empty
2. Some of the men felt the women were mistaken so they investigated for themselves
- Lk. 24:9-12
3. If the women and men were mistaken about the tomb why did the enemies of the Lord not point out their mistake?

G. WAS IT STOLEN BY A DIS-INTERESTED PERSON?

1. Why would they risk their life to steal the body of someone they didn't know?
2. What would be accomplished by stealing the body of one in whom they were not even interested?

H. The honest student of history is left with but one alternative - JESUS OF NAZARETH DID ACTUALLY RISE FROM THE DEAD!!!

1. Resurrection = a rising up
2. Two Words - Ana = up Histemi = to cause to stand

II. HOW DO WE EXPLAIN THE TESTIMONY OF THE DISCIPLES THAT JESUS WAS RESURRECTED?

- A. They positively affirmed his resurrection
1. They taught he was raised from the dead
 2. They saw him, lived with him, ate with him, and talked with him in his risen state!
 3. Acts 1:3 "to whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:"
- B. **Appearances of the Lord after the resurrection:**
1. Christ appeared to Mary Magdalene at the tomb after Peter and John had left - Jn. 20:11-17; Mk. 16:9-11
 2. The Lord appeared to a group of women disciples who had visited His empty tomb - Mt. 28:9,10
 3. Jesus appeared to Peter on the afternoon of the resurrection day - Lk. 24:34 I Cor. 15:5
 4. He appeared to two disciples on the road to Emmaus - Lk. 24:13-35 Mk. 16:12
 5. Christ appeared to the apostles on the evening of the resurrection - Thomas being absent - Mk. 16:14 Lk. 24:36-43 ; Jn. 20:19-23
 6. The Savior appeared to the disciples on Sunday week following the resurrection; this time Thomas was present - Jn. 20:26-29
 7. The Lord appeared to seven of the disciples beside the sea of Tiberias and thrice asked Peter if he loved Him - Jn. 21:1-23

8. He appeared on one occasion to more than five hundred brethren, most of whom were still alive when Paul wrote the letter called First Corinthians (I Cor.15:6) and this demonstrates that the resurrection story could still be checked out!
 9. Jesus appeared to James (I Cor. 15:7), and this was probably the Lord's half-brother who had formerly disbelieved in Him - Jn. 7:3-5
 10. Christ appeared to the eleven disciples on a mountain in Galilee where He gave what is called the "great commission" - Mt.28:16-20
 11. The Lord appeared to the disciples on the Mount of Olives just prior to His ascension into heaven - Lk. 24:44-53 Acts 1:3-9
 12. The Living One(Rev.1:18) appeared to Stephen, His first martyr (Acts 7:55,56)
 13. Christ appeared to the Apostle Paul on the Damascus road - Acts 9:3-6 later when Paul was praying in the temple (Acts 22:17-21) and while he was in prison in Caesarea (Acts 23:11)
 14. Also, the Lord Jesus appeared to the Apostle John on the isle of Patmos (Rev. 1:12-20.
- C. Did the disciples only see a Vision?
1. Vision - no bodily resurrection, but only a resurrection in the hearts of men
 2. Fails to explain the empty tomb
 3. Fails to account for the manner in which the disciples thought of Jesus after the resurrection
 - a. He appeared as arisen because he had scars - John 20:24-28
 - b. Lk. 24:39,40 "Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have. And when he had thus spoken, he shewed them his hands and his feet."

4. The vision theory does not consider all the facts in the case, the number of appearances to the great number of people

Conclusion

1. Resurrection is the keystone of faith - I Cor. 15:4
 - a. No forgiveness without it - I Cor. 15:17
 - b. No hope without it - I Cor. 15:14
2. Jesus says "I am the resurrection and the life..." Jn. 11:25
3. You can have the resurrection of life.
 - a. Obey the gospel - B R C B = SALVATION
 - b. Live faithfully
4. Jn. 5:28-29 - all will be resurrected -- either to life or damnation ? You make the choice.

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