



Matthew 27:57-28:15

# HE IS RISEN!

Here is the climax of Matthew and of the gospel message. As the sequel to the crucifixion, Christ's resurrection and exaltation forms the central event of Christian history and New Testament theology (cf. Acts 2:22-26; 26:6-8; 1 Cor 15; Eph 1:15-2:10; Col 3:1-4; 1 Thess 4:13-18; Heb 1:1-4; 1 Pet 3:18-22; Rev 5). Without this reversal of the ignominy of the cross, Jesus' death would have atoned for nothing. The resurrection demonstrates Christ's vindication by God, who reestablishes him in heaven as Lord of the cosmos. It is the most spectacular of all the biblical miracles and from a human perspective the most incredible of Christianity's claims. If it is false, Christians are of all people most to be pitied (1 Cor 15:19). If it is true, it guarantees the coming bodily resurrection of all believers (1 Cor 15:20-28; 2 Cor 5:1-10; 1 John 3:1-3).

—Craig L. Blomberg

*For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received:  
that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures,  
that He was buried,  
that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,  
and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.  
Then He appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time,  
most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.*

—1 Corinthians 15:3-6

Christianity stands or falls on the historical, physical reality of the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ.

## THE REALITY OF JESUS' DEATH (27:57-66)

- **The Confirmation by the Roman Soldiers**
  - Jesus was scourged and crucified (27:26-50).
  - Jesus was pierced with a sword (John 19:31-37).
  - Jesus was confirmed to be dead (Mark 15:42-45).
- **The Burial by Joseph of Arimathea**
  - Joseph was a member of the Sanhedrin, a wealthy man, and a \_\_\_\_\_ disciple of Jesus (27:57-60; Mark 15:42-46; Luke 23:50-53; John 19:38-42).
  - Joseph, with Nicodemus' help (another secret disciple), embalmed Jesus' body with about \_\_\_\_ lbs of spices, bound Him with linen strips, and buried Him in his own new tomb, rolling a stone in front of its entrance.
- **The Securing of the Tomb by the Religious Leaders**

*The earliest creed in the history of Christianity is probably the one found in 1 Corinthians 15:3-5. Most scholars, even liberal and skeptical ones, say that this creed first began circulating as early as two or seven years after Jesus' resurrection.* —Alisa Childers

*You never know how much you really believe anything until its truth or falsehood becomes a matter of life and death to you.*

—C. S. Lewis

*The resurrection is God's "Amen" to Jesus' loud cry: "It is finished!"* —J. A. Schep

*If Jesus rose from the dead, then you have to accept all that he said; if he didn't rise from the dead, then why worry about any of what he said? The issue on which everything hangs is not whether or not you like his teaching but whether or not he rose from the dead.*

—Timothy Keller

*Our Lord Jesus Christ has friends of whom little is known. This fact is full of comfort and encouragement. It shows us that there are some quiet souls on earth who know the Lord and the Lord knows them and yet they are little known by the church.* —J. C. Ryle

## THE REALITY OF JESUS' RESURRECTION (27:1-10)

All four gospels record the resurrection of Jesus...though they record some of the details differently. These variations can be harmonized and do not contradict the reality of the resurrection but rather confirm it.

### Matthew gives us seven key facts regarding Jesus' resurrection:

1. Jesus rose from the dead early on Sunday morning.
2. An angel descended from heaven and rolled away the stone.
3. The soldiers guarding the tomb are absolutely terrified.
4. A group of women are the first to discover the tomb is empty.
5. An angel speaks to the women and tells them Jesus has risen.
6. Jesus later meets these women and they \_\_\_\_\_ Him.
7. All the disciples eventually see the resurrected Jesus.

## THE INSUFFICIENCY OF ALTERNATIVE THEORIES (28:11-15)

Matthew provides the background to an alternative theory that began to circulate right after Jesus' resurrection—the disciples stole the body. So why should we reject this theory and believe in Jesus' resurrection?

- The gospels are \_\_\_\_\_ accounts.
- The disciples are \_\_\_\_\_ witnesses.
- The church is a \_\_\_\_\_ reality.

## THE RELEVANCY OF THE RESURRECTION

Because Jesus rose from the dead...

- I do not have to live in fear.
- All my sins are forgiven.
- I have the sure hope of eternal life in the kingdom of God.
- I can rejoice!

*All the gospels stress the significance of the women as the first witnesses of the empty tomb.*

—R. T. France

There are four women mentioned at the crucifixion—Mary, the mother of Jesus; Salome, mother of James and John; Mary, the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

*Celsus and Porphyry [two ancient objectors to Christianity] ridiculed the Christian proclamation of the resurrection of Jesus on the basis that it rested upon little more than the confused, contradictory testimony of "hysterical women."*

—Jeremiah Johnston

*If one presumes that the Gospel writers were fabricating Christian fiction by inventing the story of the resurrection, then surely they should have done a better job of it.*

—Russ Dudrey

*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. Everyone was beaten, tortured, stoned and put in prison. They would not have endured that if it weren't true. Watergate embroiled 12 of the most powerful men in the world—and they could not keep a lie for three weeks. You are telling me 12 apostles could keep a lie for 40 years? Absolutely impossible.*

—Chuck Colson

*Weak, frail, erring as the disciples were, Jesus still calls them His "brethren."*

—J. C. Ryle

*Upon a life I did not live, upon a death I did not die, I risk my whole eternity on the resurrection.*

—Charles H. Spurgeon