

“HE HAS RISEN”

The Proofs of the Resurrection

Matthew 28:1-15

MT 28:1 After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

MT 28:2 There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. ⁴ The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

MT 28:5 The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."

MT 28:8 So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

MT 28:11 While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. ¹² When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, ¹³ telling them, "You are to say, 'His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.' ¹⁴ If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." ¹⁵ So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day.

First Proof: The Life of Jesus

His birth, a miracle

His life, a miracle. Perfect, sinless

His words, a miracle. No one ever spoke like He spoke.
He predicted His death and resurrection.

Matthew 16:21, From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

His actions, all miracles.

Second proof: The Empty Grave.

The women and the disciples found the empty tomb and they believed that He had risen. God Himself acted and raised His beloved Son back to life.
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Third proof: Transformation of the Disciples

When the message of the Resurrection first came they were incredulous and hard to be convinced, but when once they became assured they never doubted again. An astonishing change took place in their lives.

Fourth proof: Formation and the Existence of the Church.

Multitudes of Jews were led to worship Him (Acts 2:41)

Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day including a great company of priests obeyed Him. (Acts 6:7)

So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

The only explanation of these facts is God's act of the Resurrection, for nothing short of it could have led to the Jewish acceptance of Jesus Christ as their Messiah.

Fifth proof: The Witness of the Apostle Paul

The powerful testimony of the Resurrection by Paul is found in 1 Corinthians 15: 3-8, *For 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, ⁵ and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. ⁶ 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. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, ⁸ and last of all he appeared to me also.*

The 25 years of suffering and service for Christ of this servant of God is a living proof of his belief in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. His life was suddenly changed when he met Christ on the road to Damascus and he was never the same again.

Sixth proof: The Gospel Record

The record in the four Gospels of the appearance of the risen Christ is a powerful proof of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Among others there is the account of the visit to the tomb of Peter and John in John 20. Also the account of the walk to Emmaus of 2 disciples as they meet the Risen Lord. In Luke 24. A chain of happenings extending from the empty grave to the Day of Ascension are carefully recorded as evidence of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Seventh Proof: Jesus Christ living His resurrected life in the lives of the believers today.

We say with Paul, “For me to live is Christ and to die is gain”.
Philippians 1:21 and

“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me”. Galatians 2:20.

Are we living proofs to the Resurrection of Jesus Christ?

He Lives

I serve a Risen savior, He's in the world today
I know that He is living whatever men may say
I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer
And just the time I need Him, He's always near

He lives! He lives! Christ Jesus lives today
He walks with me and talks with me
Along life's narrow way
He lives! He lives! Salvation to impart
You ask me how I know He lives?
He lives within my heart

In all the world around me, I see his loving care
And though my heart grows weary
I never will despair.
I know that He is leading
through all the stormy blast
The day of His appearing will come at last.

Rejoice, rejoice, oh Christian
Lift up your voice and sing
Eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ the King
The hope of all who seek him,
the help of all who find
None other is so loving, so good and kind