

Christology Lesson 14

THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST

Matthew 28:1-20

SIX REASONS TO BELIEVE:

1. THE AUTHORITY OF THE BIBLE

A. Based on sound **EVIDENCE**, not hearsay or fairy tales!

Testimony of Lord Lyndhurst (1772-1963 A.D.), recognized as one of the greatest legal minds in British history: "I know pretty well what evidence is; and I tell you, such evidence as that for the Resurrection has never broken down yet."

B. Based on many **EYEWITNESSES** *1 Cor. 15:4-8*

- Many eyewitnesses whose testimony was investigated carefully. Luke's whole account is based upon eyewitness' *Luke 1:1-4*
- Jesus presented himself alive by many convincing proofs over a significant period of time. *Acts 1:3*
- He was seen by Cephas: Jesus made a special resurrection appearance to Peter. *Luke 24:34*
- Then by the twelve: This probably refers to the first meeting Jesus had with His assembled disciples, mentioned in the Gospels. (*Mark 16:14, Luke 24:36-43, and John 20:19-25*) This was the meeting where Jesus appeared in the room with the doors and windows shut. He appeared to over 500 people at once of whom most of them were still alive.
- He was seen by James: This would be James, the brother of Jesus who is seen as a prominent leader of the N.T church in *Acts 1*. Significantly, in the gospels, Jesus' brothers are hostile to Him and His mission (*John 7:3-5*). Yet in the first chapter of Acts Jesus' brothers are among the followers of Jesus (*Acts 1:14*). - He was seen by all the apostles: Refers to a few different meetings such as in *John 20:26-31; 21:1-25; Matthew 28:16-20, and Luke 24:44-49*.
- He appeared to Paul.

2. THE ABSENCE OF THE BODY OF JESUS FROM A CLOSELY GUARDED TOMB

A. It was **SHOCKING** to the Romans - a great embarrassment! *Matthew 27:62-66* (They could not produce the body!)

- They were prepared to guard the tomb.
- The stone was sealed: It was illegal for anyone to break the seal according to Roman law and demanded immediate death penalty. Also any soldiers under whose command the seal was broken were also executed.

- A typical Roman guard had 4 soldiers. The soldiers would be highly trained and fully equipped - sword, shield, spear, dagger, and armor. *Matt. 28:11*
- B. It was **STARTLING** to the women - *Matt. 28:5-8; Mk- 16:8*
- C. It was **SURPRISING** to the disciples - they did not believe it!
Mark 16:14; Luke 24:18-21

3. THE ATTEMPT OF THE SANHEDRIN TO EXPLAIN WHAT HAD HAPPENED - They never questioned the report of the guard; they never even checked it out; they knew they would not have been there if it had not happened! What about the grave clothes? They were still there to be examined. *Matthew 28:11-15*

- A. The grave clothes would have had approximately 100lbs of myrrh and aloe between them.

4. THE ACTIONS OF THE APOSTLES AFTER THE RESURRECTION – their lives were changed and transformed!

- A. There was a definite **CHANGE** In their attitude and response
 - they all forsook Him at the cross and fled. (*Matt. 26:56*)
 - i. It is not likely that these men would abandon Jesus during what might have seemed to be the climax of their cause and then a few days later be willing to die for a lie.
 - they did not believe He would rise from the dead (*Luke 24:9-11*)
- B. There was a new **COURAGE** In their witness after the resurrection - they were beaten, jailed, and killed for what they now believed! *Acts 5:40-42; 12:1-2*
 - The combined testimony of these witnesses is overwhelming. Not only did they see Jesus after His death, but they saw Him in a manner which revolutionized their faith and trust in Him.
 - i. The changed character of the apostles, and their willingness to die for the testimony of the resurrection, eliminate fraud as an explanation of the empty tomb.
 - ii. All of the apostles were tortured and killed for their faith except John.

5. THE APPEARANCES OF JESUS CHRIST AFTER HIS RESURRECTION

- A. They were **EXTENDED** over a period of 40 days - *Acts 1:3*
- B. They were **EVIDENCED** by many different people and situations - *I Corinthians 15:1-8*
- C. His body was **EXAMINED** carefully by the apostles – *Luke 24:36-43; I John 1:1*

6. THE ASSURANCE IN THE BELIEVER'S HEART - *I John 5:6-13*