

The Resurrection – Proof That Jesus Is The Son Of God

Romans 1:4 states that **Jesus Christ was "declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead."** The resurrection of Jesus, more than any other single event, is the ultimate evidence that Jesus of Nazareth was, and is, The Son of God.

Although we have the Bible record of other people being raised from the dead, it certainly was not an everyday occurrence. Jesus raised Lazarus, the widow's son at Nain, the daughter of Jairus, and perhaps others (John 11; Luke 7:11-15, 22; 8:49-56). Peter raised Dorcas from the dead (Acts 9:36-41). In the Old Testament, both Elijah and Elisha raised people from the dead (1 Kings 17:22; 2 Kings 4:32-35; 13:20-21). However, none of these resurrected individuals were thought to be "gods."

The case of Jesus is different. As the body of Jesus lay alone in Joseph's new tomb, no one took Him by the hand and commanded Him to rise. The tomb is sealed and closely guarded. No one stood outside the tomb and called for him to come forth. No one even witnessed His actual resurrection – the angel rolled away the stone and the guards "became like dead men" (Matthew 28:4). The resurrection of Jesus was accomplished by the direct power of God. The fact that "God raised up" Jesus is declared many times in the Book of Acts (2:24, 32; 3:13; 4:10; 10:40; 13:30, 37). His resurrection is the ultimate evidence that identifies the historic Jesus of Nazareth to be, in fact, the Divine Son of God!

There was physical and testimonial evidence that confirms the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Consider the following details:

- The tomb was new. No one had been lain there before (Matthew 27:57; Mark 15:43; Luke 23:51). There was no possibility of confusing the body of Jesus with the remains of another.

- The tomb entrance was closed with a large stone, sealed, and guarded. (Matthew 27:60-66). No one could have taken the body away.
- The grave clothes were left neatly in the tomb. When Peter and John went into the tomb after the resurrection, they "*saw the linen cloths lying there, and the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself*" (John 20:6-8). No one stealing a body would take the time to unwrap it and neatly fold up the clothes! Only a person who would never have use of them again would leave the expensive grave wrappings behind!
- The scars of Jesus' resurrected body were examined. On the very evening of the day of His resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples and "*showed them His hands and His side*" (John 20:20). Wounds in the hands and feet could be observed on anyone who had been crucified, but the wound in the side of Jesus was unique. It offered gruesome evidence to His identity, and also to what His body had been subjected.
- Many people saw Him alive. The number of witnesses to the resurrection of Jesus is overwhelming credible evidence. In a court of law, facts can be established on the basis of two or three reliable witnesses. In addition to the apostles, many, many more saw the resurrected Christ, including Mary Magdalene, Cleopas, James, 500 brethren at once, and finally the apostle Paul.

The detailed nature of the evidence provides overwhelming proof, validating the authenticity of the resurrection of Jesus. His resurrection is the ultimate proof that validates His claim that He is the Son of God, The Way, The Truth, and The Life; the only way to The Father (cf. John 14:6). The detailed and reliable evidence we have for the resurrection of Jesus validates our belief of it. Believing in the resurrection of Jesus is the key to our salvation. "*Knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus*" (2 Corinthians 4:14).

Adapted by Doug Roush from an article by Steve Klein