

## Truly He is Risen

	<b>Matthew</b>	<b>Mark</b>	<b>Luke</b>	<b>John</b>
<b>Day &amp; Time</b>	At dawn on the first day of the week	Very early after sunrise on the first day of the week	Very early in the morning on the first day of the week	Early while still dark on the first day of the week
<b>Purpose of visit</b>	Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb <i>Could have been Mary wife of Clopas (John 19:25) or mother of James and John</i>	Mary Magdalene and Mary mother of James and Salome brought spices to the tomb to anoint the Lord.	The women bought spices they had prepared the day before the Sabbath to anoint Him	Mary Magdalene was visiting our Christ in the tomb where He had been buried
<b>When was the stone rolled away?</b>	An earthquake occurred and an Angel of the Lord descended from Heaven and rolled back the stone from the door.	The stone had been rolled away when they arrived.	The stone had been rolled away when they arrived.	The stone had been rolled away when Mary arrived.
<b>Who is mentioned at the tomb</b>	One angel	One young man	Two men	Two angels
<b>Description of appearance</b>	Appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow	Dressed in a white robe	Dressed in shiny garments	Dressed in white clothing
<b>When appeared</b>	Descended from heaven and rolled away the stone when they arrived	Were waiting inside the tomb when the women entered	After the women entered the tomb	Waiting inside the tomb when Mary entered (but were not there earlier when Peter and John looked inside)
<b>What did the Angel say?</b>	<i>"Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for</i>	<i>"Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not</i>	<i>"Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen! Remember</i>	<i>"Woman, why are you weeping?" John 20:13</i>

	<i>He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you.'</i> Matt 28:5-7	<i>here. See the place where they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples- and Peter- that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you.'</i> Mark 16:6-7	<i>how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, saying, 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.'</i> Luke 24:5-7	
<b>How did the women feel?</b>	Afraid yet filled with joy	Trembling and bewildered	Frightened when the two men appeared	Mary was greatly upset as she thought the body had been stolen.
<b>Jesus' words after He appeared</b>	<i>"Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me."</i> Matthew 28:10	<i>'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptised will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.'</i> Mark 16:16-18	Met the two believers travelling to Emmaus and after some discussion said, <i>'O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?'</i> Luke 24:25-26	<i>"Jesus said to her, 'Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.'"</i> John 20:17

## 1 Corinthians 15

- St Paul in this chapter establishes the doctrine of the resurrection of the dead, which some of the Corinthians denied.
- The church of Corinth at the time was in the heart of Greek culture. The Greeks back then did not believe in the resurrection; the afterlife only happened to the soul.
- This should be no strange teaching to them; the doctrine of Christ's death and resurrection is the foundation of Christianity. On it, the church is built; without it, our faith is futile.
- Christ's death and resurrection are the very sum and substance of evangelical truth. The basis of our evangelism and preaching to the world is because of our faith that Christ came down, died for us in order so that we may gain eternal life and enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.
- This truth is confirmed by OT predictions. He died for our sins; He was buried, and rose from the dead, according to the scripture-prophecies. It is a great confirmation of our faith of the gospel to see how it corresponds with ancient prophecies.
- By the testimony of many eyewitnesses, who saw Christ after He had risen from the dead (*1 Cor 15:5-6*). Many had witnessed His resurrection on a number of different occasions; e.g. Mary Magdalene at the tomb; the two travelling to Emmaus; the disciples, etc... Even Paul himself was last of all favoured with the sight of him.
- If Christ was not raised, then our preaching and our Gospel are empty. It would make the faith of Christians vain because it is through His death and sacrifice for sin alone that we have forgiveness. Prior to Christ, there had been neither justification nor salvation; we were bound by death and sin. Had Christ remained under the power of death, how could He have delivered us from its power? And it would be in vain having faith in Him. Ultimately, He paid the price of sin but also loosened the bonds that tied us to death and sin.
- In verse 21, all who die, die through the sin of Adam; all who are raised, rise through the merit and power of Christ. Therefore, just as all men died in Adam, so all men, without exception, shall be made alive in Christ. Christ rose as the first fruits; therefore *those that are Christ's (v.23)* shall rise too. All who thus rise, rise in virtue of Christ's resurrection, and so as by man came death, by Man came deliverance.

- Why is the resurrection so important?

- Because of the resurrection, we know that death has been conquered, and we too will be raised from the dead to live eternally with Christ.
- It is necessary and part of our faith;  
*“Because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”* Romans 10:9
- Because Christ was raised from the dead, we now have the opportunity to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. We have been redeemed and are heading towards gaining eternal life.
- The resurrection gives authority to the church’s witness in the world. Christ’s message to His disciples in Mark 16:16-18 and in Acts 2:8 *‘... and you shall be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.’* In the book of Acts, the apostles’ most important message was the proclamation that Jesus Christ had been raised from the dead.
- The resurrection gives us hope. We suffer here on earth only briefly before we resurrect and reunite with our Lord Jesus Christ. The resurrection gives us hope for the future.
- The resurrection assures us that Christ is alive and ruling His kingdom.
- Jesus kept His promise to rise from the dead, so we can believe He will keep all His other promises
- The Resurrection ensures that the ruler of God’s eternal kingdom will be the living Christ
- Christ’s resurrection gives us the assurance that we also will be resurrected
- The power of God that brought Christ’s body back from the dead is available to us; our moral and spiritual senses can be resurrected so that we can grow in Christ.
- The resurrection provides the substance of the church’s witness to the world; we do not simply tell the story of a Man who lived a good life on earth but that He came down to save us from our sins and resurrected to grant us eternal life.

## The Historicity of the Resurrection

- Multiple eyewitness accounts –
  - different people: Mary Magdalene (*Mark 16:9*), the disciples (*Matthew 18:9-10*), etc...
  - different times: Mary Magdalene at the tomb (*John 20:11-18*), the travelers as they journeyed on their way to Emmaus (*Luke 24:13-31*)
  - different situations: Mary Magdalene when visiting the tomb and He spoke to her (*John 20:11-18*), the disciples when He appeared to them and then later ate with them (*Luke 24:26-43*)
- Eyewitnesses who were willing to suffer and die for their testimonies, which ends any chance of false motives for their testimonies.
- The birth and rapid spread of the early church, particularly from those who were persecuting Christians themselves such as St Paul.
- The Bible openly declared that the resurrection had over 500 witnesses, many still alive at the time. St Paul openly stated such and many at the time could have responded to such with negativity but no one arose and disputed his statement.
- Jesus fulfilled many of the Old Testament prophecies. The probability of the fulfillment of all of them by chance is extremely small and best accounted for as a miracle.

## EVIDENCE THAT JESUS ACTUALLY DIED AND AROSE

Proposed explanations for the empty tomb	Evidence against these explanations	References
Jesus was only unconscious and later revived	<p>A Roman soldier told Pilate that Jesus was dead</p> <p>The Roman soldiers did not break Jesus' legs, because He had already died, and one of them pierced Jesus' side with a spear.</p> <p>Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus wrapped Jesus' body and placed it in the tomb</p>	<p>Mark 15:44,45</p> <p>John 19:32-34</p> <p>John 19:38-40</p>
The women made a mistake and went to the wrong tomb	<p>Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw Jesus placed in the tomb</p> <p>On Sunday morning, Peter and John also went to the same tomb</p>	<p>Matthew 27:59-61</p> <p>Mark 15:47</p> <p>Luke 23:55</p> <p>John 20:3-9</p>
Unknown thieves stole Jesus' body	The tomb was sealed and guarded by the Roman soldiers	Matthew 27:65,66
The religious leaders stole Jesus' body to produce it later	If the religious leaders had taken Jesus' body, they would have produced it to stop the rumours of His resurrection	

N.B. if Christ was unconscious and was revived later; it does not make sense how one could tolerate such beatings and physical harm only to then get up and walk again. Recovery given the physical beatings that Christ endured could only mean months before He would be able to revive. Hence, He could not have revived later! Further, Christ appeared to so many people after His resurrection on a number of different occasions and settings meaning they were all hallucinating if that weren't true!