The Resurrection of Jesus Christ

**Introduction:** The most compelling and definitive evidence that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God is His resurrection from the dead. This truth is trumpeted in many places, including the preaching of the apostle Paul in Acts 17:30-31, *“Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained.* ***He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead****.”*

The gospel accounts which give a record of His resurrection are: Matthew 27:62 – 28:8; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 23:50 – 24:12; John 20:1-10.

**The significance of the Resurrection event**

* **It verifies the Deity and authority of Jesus** (Romans 1:4; Acts 2:36)
* **It assures us that He is the one who will judge the world in righteousness** (Acts 17:30-31)
* **It gives us the hope of our own resurrection in the day of Judgment**  (John 5:28-29; 1 Corinthians 15:12-28; 1 Peter 1:3,21; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14)
* **It assures us that Jesus is indeed the Savior, and our sins may be forgiven!** (Acts 2:29-36; cf. 1 Corinthians 15:17)
* **It verifies our justification** (Romans 4:24-25; 8:33-34)
* **It requires our loyalty to Him** (Romans 14:7-8; 2 Corinthians 5:14-21)

**Predictions of the Resurrection**

* **By the psalmist David** (Psalm 16:7-11; cf. Acts 2:25-28; Psalm 110:1; cf. Acts 2:34-35)
* **By Jesus Himself**. (Matthew 27:63; John 2:18-22; Matthew 16:21; John 11:25)

**The Many Witnesses of the Resurrection**

* **Paul lists many of these witnesses in 1 Corinthians 15:3-8**

Jesus was seen by Cephas (Simon Peter) - Luke 24:34 **/** Jesus was seen by the twelve (apostles) - Luke 24:36-43; Acts 1:2-3 **/** He was seen by five hundred people at one time (probably in Galilee) - cf. Matthew 28:10,16-17 **/** He was seen by James, the Lord's brother

* **Other appearances are recorded in the Scriptures**

To Mary Magdalene - Mark 16:9; John 20:14 **/** To other women returning from the tomb - Matthew 28:9,10 **/** To two disciples on the road to Emmaus - Luke 24:13-33 **/** To the apostles, Thomas absent - John 20:19-24 **/** To the apostles, Thomas present - John 20:26-29 **/** To seven disciples by the Lake of Tiberias (Sea of Galilee) - John 21:1-23 **/** To the apostles at the ascension - Acts 1:3-12

**The Unimpeachable Witness (Saul of Tarsus)**

* **Saul identified as a persecutor of the church** (Acts 7:54 – 8:3; 9:1-2)
* **Luke’s account of Saul’s eyewitness event** (Acts 9:3-22)
* **Saul’s testimony in his own words to the mob in Jerusalem** (Acts 22:1-21)
* **Saul’s written testimony** (1 Corinthians 15:8-11, 20-26)
* **Saul’s preaching** (Acts 17:30-34)
* **Saul’s faithful witness** (Philippians 3:7-11; cf. 2 Corinthians 11:22-33)

**Conclusion:** Those who deny the resurrection do so because they arbitrarily deny the possibility of the supernatural. It is not because of a paucity of proof. We have recorded for our faith “many infallible proofs”, (cf. Acts 1:3). The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the foundation of His gospel! (1 Corinthians 15:20-23).