

Intro: The evidence: the empty tomb - Matt 28:1-10; John 12:32

I. Why believe: The witnesses of Jesus' resurrection - John 17:20; 20:30-31; Acts 2:32

A. Number of witnesses: 1 Cor 15:3-8

1. Cephas - Luke 24:34
2. Twelve (Apostles) - Lk 24:36-43; Ac1:2-3
3. 500 at one time (Galilee) - Mt 28:10,16-17
4. James, the Lord's brother
5. Paul (on the road to Damascus) - Ac 22:6-10
6. Mary Magdalene - Mk 16:9; Jn 20:14
7. Other women returning from the tomb - Mt 28:9,10
8. Two disciples on the road to Emmaus - Lk 24:13-33
9. Apostles, Thomas absent - Jn 20:19-24
10. Apostles, Thomas present - Jn 20:26-29
11. Seven disciples by sea of Galilee - Jn 21:1-23
12. Apostles (His ascension) - Ac 1:3-12

B. Are the witnesses reliable?

1. Brothers in the flesh - Jn 7:3-5; Mk 3:21, Acts 1:14
2. Thomas - Jn 20:24-28; Acts 10:40-41)
3. Saul of Tarsus, former great enemy - Acts 9:1-2

C. Strength of their witness: "infallible proofs" - Acts 1:3

1. They ate and drank with Jesus - Acts 10:41
2. They saw, heard and touched him - John 20: 24-28; 1 John 1:1-2

D. The witness of

*Acts 1:3* To these He also presented Himself alive, after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days, and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God.

their transformation

1. Before...

- a. Afraid at His arrest - Mk 14:50
- b. Peter denied Him three times - Mk 14:66-72
- c. The women mourned His crucifixion - Lk 23:27

2. After His death...

- a. His disciples were sad - Lk 24:13-17
- b. They hid behind closed doors in fear - Jn 20:19

3. After His resurrection...

- a. They fearlessly praised God in the Temple - Lk 24:52-53
- b. They proclaimed Christ, despite persecution - Acts 5:28-32, 41-42

E. The witness of their high moral standard afterwards...

1. They taught others to live holy lives - 1 Thess 4:1-7; Eph 4:25
2. They lived their own lives in unimpeachable ways - 1 Thess 2:3-12

F. The witness of the price they paid.

1. The Apostles endured much suffering - 1 Cor 4:9-13
2. All, but one, died a martyr's death

II. The significance of the resurrection for unbelievers.

A. Proves that Jesus truly is the Son of God. - Rom 1:4

B. Demonstrates that the Christ truly has all authority - Matt 28:18; Acts

- 2:36
- C. Verifies the truthfulness of Jesus - Matt 16:21; Matt 17:23; Matt 20:19
  - D. If the truth; His other teachings are true.
    - 1. He was from God and spoke the words of the Father - John 8:28
    - 2. No one can come to the Father but through Him - John 14:6
    - 3. His blood was shed for the remission of sins - Matt 26:28
    - 4. He came to offer abundant life - John 10:10
    - 5. He went to prepare a place for us - John 14:2
    - 6. He shall come again - John 14:3
    - 7. There will be a resurrection and judgment - John 5:28-29; 12:48
- III. What if Christ is not raised?
- A. Gospel preaching is vain - 1 Cor 15:14
  - B. Your faith is vain - 1 Cor 15:14
  - C. The apostles were false witnesses - 1 Cor 15:15;
    - 1. They swore that God raised Jesus from the dead - Acts 2:32
    - 2. They claimed to eat and drink with Him - Acts 10:39-41
  - D. We are still in our sins - 1 Cor 15:17
  - E. All perished at death - 1 Cor 15:18
  - F. We are to be most pitied - 1 Cor 15:19
- IV. What the resurrection of Jesus does for the Christian
- A. It verifies our justification - Romans 4:24-25; Matt 26:28; Rom 8:33-34

*Rom 8:33* Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies;  
 34 who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.

- B. It demonstrates power available to the Christian - Eph 1:18-20
    - 1. The power of our conversion - Col 2:11-12; 1 Peter 3:21
    - 2. The power available to live the Christian life - Rom 8:11; Phil 2:12-13; 4:13
  - C. It gives us living hope in our own resurrection - 1 Peter 1:3; 1 Peter 1:21; 1 Thess 4:13-14
  - D. It demands our complete loyalty to him - Rom 14:9
    - 1. He was raised and exalted to be our Lord - Acts 2:32-36; Eph 1:22-23
    - 2. As the risen Savior, our lives and service belong to Him - Rom 14:7-8; 2 Cor 5:15
- Conclusion: Do you believe in the empty tomb? - John 8:24; Acts 5:34-39; Mark 16:16

*Acts 2:36* "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ — this Jesus whom you crucified."