

"Seven Reasons to Believe in the Resurrection"
Selected Scriptures
April 20, 2014

Three truths concerning the gospel: (1 Cor 15:3,4)

Truth #1: Christ died for our sins (v.3)

Three important elements to this first part of the gospel.

1. Jesus Christ
2. Jesus Christ died
3. Jesus Christ died for our sins.

Truth #2: Christ was buried. (v)4

Truth #3: Christ was raised on the third day.

The most difficult of these three truths to believe is the resurrection.

Seven reasons why you should believe in the resurrection:

Reason #1: The historical reality of the existence of Jesus of Nazareth is undeniably certain.

The evidence:

1. The biblical manuscripts in their quality and their quantity.
2. Extra biblical sources:
 - a. Josephus
 - b. Cornelius Tacitus
 - c. Pliny the Younger
 - d. Clement of Rome
3. Archeological confirmation

Reason #2: The character of Jesus Christ is unquestioned.

Reason #3: The miracles of Jesus Christ went unchallenged.

Reason #4: The identity of Jesus Christ as God the Son was confirmed.

1. It was confirmed by Jesus Himself.
2. It was confirmed by God the Father.
3. It was confirmed by his disciples.
4. It was confirmed by his enemies.
5. It was confirmed by extra biblical sources.
6. It was confirmed when Jesus Christ fulfilled over 400 Old Testament prophecies.

Reason #5: The death of Jesus Christ was undisputed.

Reason #6: The burial of Jesus Christ was definitely secured.

Two popular stories to refute the Bible:

1. The disciples went to the wrong tomb.
2. The disciples stole the body.

The facts:

- Fact #1. Scripture says in Luke 23:50 that Jesus was buried in Joseph of Aramathea's tomb.
- Fact #2. Roman guards were placed at the tomb.
- Fact #3. They put a Roman seal on the tomb.
- Fact #4. They wrapped Jesus in burial cloth and placed him in the tomb.
- Fact #5. A huge stone was placed over the tomb that weighed 2 tons.
- Fact #6. What would be the disciples' motive for stealing the body?

Reason #7: The evidence for Jesus Christ's resurrection is overwhelming.

- Fact #1: Jesus predicted his resurrection openly.
- Fact #2: Jesus appeared 12 different times to over 500 witnesses.
- Fact #3: Jesus appeared in multiple locations.
- Fact #4: The disciples were transformed.
- Fact #5: The transformation of the Roman empire.
- Fact #6: Jesus Christ transformed ME.

DO YOU BELIEVE?