**The Power of the Resurrection**

**Why is the resurrection of Jesus so important?**

**1 Cor 15:13-19 If Christ has not been raised then your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.**

**If Jesus was raised, then there is life after death.**

**If Jesus was raised, then that answers a lot of questions….**

**Our Outline:**

**I. We can know Jesus was raised from the dead.**

**II. The power of the resurrection**

**David Hume: “Extraordinary claims require extraordinary proof.”**

**Fact #1 Jesus was crucified in Jerusalem under the orders of Pontius Pilate.**

**-Tacitus**

**To squelch the rumor [that he had started the Great fire in Rome], Nero created scapegoats and subjected to the most refined tortures those whom the common people called ‘Christians,’ [a group] hated for their abominable crimes. Their name comes from Christ, who, during the reign of Tiberius, had been executed by the procurator Pontius Pilate.**

***Annals* 15.44**

 **-Josephus**

**About this time there lived Jesus, a wise man. For he was one who wrought surprising feats and was a teacher of such people as accept the truth gladly. He won over many Jews and many of the Greeks. When Pilate, upon hearing him accused by men of the highest standing amongst us, had condemned him to be crucified, those who had in the first place come to love him did not give up their affection for him. The prophets of God had prophesied these and countless other marvelous things about him. And the tribe of Christians, so called after him, has still to this day not disappeared.**

***Antiquities*  18:3:3**

**Babylonian Talmud “On the eve of the Passover, they hanged Yeshu”**

**Thallus**

We know of Thallus only from a third century Christian historian named Julius Africanus who wrote a treatise of world history in the 50s AD. Thallus discusses the darkness at the time of the resurrection of Jesus, explaining it as caused by an eclipse of the sun. Africanus believes that Thallus is wrong. This supports the idea that even non-Christians were aware of the resurrection as early as the 50s AD—at about the time the first book of the NT was written.

**Fact # 2. The resurrection was publicly proclaimed and believed by the church, beginning in Jerusalem, immediately after the fact. (Acts 2:24)**

 **-Every piece of evidence proves that the resurrection has been at**

 **the heart of Christian teaching from the first sermon. Why do**

 **Christians meet on Sunday?**

**Fact #3. The tomb was empty on the third day. This is a fact. If the tomb had not been empty, then the resurrection would not have been**

 **proclaimed.**

**Question: What is the most reasonable explanation of the facts?**

**Proposed Explanations:**

**I The Stolen Body Theory**

**II The Swoon Theory (that Jesus did not actually die)**

**III Jesus was bodily resurrected from the dead on the third day.**

**I The Stolen Body Theory**

**The reason the tomb was empty is that his body was stolen from the tomb.**

**Q: Who would have stolen the body?**

**Q: Could they have stolen the body?**

**Q: Did they, in fact, steal the body?**

**Matthew 27:62-66 A large boulder, a Roman guard. The Jews did not want anyone stealing this body!!!!**

**Would the Jews have stolen the body? They could have afforded the bribe. Why? What motive?**

**Even if they did, they would immediately have produced the body once the church claimed the resurrection.**

**Would the Romans have stolen the body? Why? It would have caused an insurrection.**

**Would the Christians have stolen the body? Definitely not! They were in hiding. The were defeated, discouraged, depressed, fearful of further reprisals.**

**Could they have? Defeat a cohort of Roman soldiers? Would this battle go unnoticed? Where are the bodies of the Christians?**

**Did they? Besides, the disciples clearly believed in the resurrection. Many died for this belief.**

**II The Swoon Theory.**

**Yes, they Crucified Jesus and yes, he was laid in the tomb (after all the tomb was sealed by a Roman guard), but Jesus had not really died. Later on in the cave he revived, broke free of his bandages, dusted himself off, rolled away the giant stone and fought his way through a cohort of Roman guards.**

**Think about Jesus’ physical situation. By Sun AM,**

**No food or water over 48 hours**

**Beaten almost to death**

**Crucified**

**When a person dies on the cross they hang limp. Suffocation occurs within 2-3 minutes. End of story.**

**The Romans were experts in killing. Could they have been mistaken?**

**The real problem: John 19:31-35.**

**Note, a flow of blood and water. The blood serum had separated from the platelets. Happens one hour after death.**

**Jesus was definitely dead before being stabbed. (John would not have known this fact that the blood separates)**

**Next, wrapped tightly in many layers of cloth strips from head to foot.**

**Almost killed**

**Then killed**

**Then given a fatal wound after being killed.**

**Then rolled away a stone and fought his way through a Roman guard.**

**Besides…**

**500 eyewitnesses!!!!! Jesus was alive after he was laid in the tomb.**

**Fact #4? Jesus was alive after his crucifixion.**

**1 Cor. 15:3-7.**

**Paul: if you do not believe it, just ask one of them. Most of them are alive.**

**These were very high quality witnesses. All would have died for Jesus. It is absolutely inconceivable that they were deceived.**

**Bottom line, there is no other explanation of the facts. Jesus was resurrected from the dead.**

**Besides, the Resurrection was prophesied!**

**Jonah 1:17 Jonah was raised from the dead on the third day. (Matthew 12:40 For as Jonah was three days and three nights….)**

**Genesis 22:1-12 Abraham received Isaac back from the dead on the third day. (Hebrews 11:17-19)**

**Feast of Firstfruits. Lev 23:9-14**

**Jesus is the firstfruit from among the dead. His resurrection is a promise of ours. Colossians “the first fruit from the dead.”**

**1 Cor 15:20-22 But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead also comes through a man. For just as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.**

**II Resurrection Power**

**Romans 1:4 Jesus was declared Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead.**

**Q: How much power would it take to raise Jesus from the dead?**

**Romans 6:2-5 If we have been united with him in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection.**

**Because of Christ’s resurrection, we can life a new life.**

**Romans 6:6-10 The power to overcome sin.**

**Phil 3:10-11 The power to raise US from the dead. Somehow does not mean hopefully. It means, one way or another, I will be resurrected from the dead.**

**The power of the resurrection of Jesus at work in our lives. That is some power!**

**That is the definition of hope.**

**[1 Peter 3:21 Power for salvation.]**

**1Corinthians 15:50-58 Because of the resurrection of Jesus death loses.**

**III Response:**

**John 11:21-26**

**John 11:45, 53 Worship him or kill him**

**John 11:45-48 Either;**

**Put your faith in Jesus or**

**Radically reject him and all he stood for.**

**What is your response to the resurrection?**

**Do you want power in your life?**

**Power to overcome sin.**

**Power to live a transformed life**

**Power to be raised from the dead!!!**

**That power is available to those who are baptized into Christ and are raised with Christ.**