

# RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST

## (Part 1)

### I. EVIDENCE FROM THE BURIAL TOMB:

Christ's resurrection as presented in the Gospels is founded on the evidence from the burial tomb of Jesus. Keep in mind that the N.T. has been repeatedly verified as a reliable record of history and that therefore our appeal to the Gospels for the facts in the case is as reliable as any Greek, Roman, or Jewish record from the same period of history. The Gospels are reliable records of fact, not fiction.

#### A. Implications

1. Our Lord's resurrection is the supreme sign of the Christian religion.
2. If Jesus was resurrected from the dead it is necessarily implied that he is the son of God and the Bible is the word of God.

#### B. The resurrection proves that Jesus is the son of God.

1. Resurrection is obviously a sign of deity.
2. Mere men cannot raise themselves from the dead.
3. Jesus pointed to this event as the divine sign (Mt.12:38-40; Jn.2:18-21).
4. The apostle Paul also pointed this out (Rom.1:4).

#### C. The resurrection proves the Bible is the word of God.

1. Jesus called the O.T. the word of God (Jn.10:35).
2. Jesus pointed out that the apostles would be guided by the Holy Spirit (Jn.14:26; 16:13).
3. Both the preaching and writings of the apostles is word of God.
  - a. This is the claim of Luke (Act.2:1-4)
  - b. And Paul (1 Cor.2:10-13; Eph.3:3-5)
  - c. And Peter (1 Pet.1:12)

### II. JOHN'S GOSPEL ACCOUNT:

A. Each of the four Gospels presents the resurrection evidence from Christ's burial tomb.

#### B. John's line of reasoning.

1. Jn.20:30-31 - John wrote for the express purpose of producing belief in Jesus as the son of God.
2. According to John the resurrection is the supreme sign of his deity.

#### C. Jn.20:1-8

1. John pointed out in this text that the disciple who came first to the tomb "saw and believed."
2. He wants us to know what he saw and why he believed.

#### D. The facts as we have them from John are four in number.

1. The stone had been rolled back and the tomb was standing open,
2. The tomb itself was empty of the body of Jesus,
3. The grave cloths in which Jesus was buried were lying in the tomb, and
4. It was Sunday, the first day of the week; (a very important fact).

### III. THE TOMB WAS OPEN AND EMPTY:

A. Of course the first question is who opened the door and removed the body of Jesus. (It was either a human act or a supernatural act).

1. Now if we can satisfy a line of inquiry which eliminates the human element as the cause or the removal of Jesus' body from the tomb then this will leave us with the conclusion that the cause was supernatural.

#### B. *Was it the disciples of Christ?*

1. Matthew records the steps taken to prevent such a thing. (Mt.27:62-66)
2. A Roman guard posted at the door of the tomb would preclude the possibility of the disciples stealing the body of Jesus. (Mt.28:11-15)

#### C. *Was it the Jews?*

1. Did the Jews take the body of Christ out of the tomb and put it in another place?
2. Such an action would have been completely contrary to their own statement of intent and desire to keep the body of Christ in the tomb until the third day after the crucifixion.
3. Matthew 27:63
4. Jn.19:39-40; 20:5-7