

RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST

(Part 2)

I. THE GRAVE CLOTHS:

Christ's burial garments left behind in the tomb form one of the most interesting aspects of the evidence for the resurrection. There are two areas of consideration.

A. Their position

1. John tells us that the grave cloths were left "lying," indicating that Jesus had passed through them without disturbing their position.
2. They were lying in the same folded position which formed the outline of the body of Christ when was "wound" in them for burial (Mk.15:46).
3. The grave cloths were lying as they had been folded originally.

B. Burial custom of the Jews

1. Jesus had been bound up in grave cloths for his burial.
2. The manner in which the Jews dressed their dead for burial is described in John's account of Lazarus'...
3. "He that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with grave cloths; and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, loose him, and let him go." (Jn.11:44)
 - a. Lazarus needed assistance to get out of the burial wrappings.
4. John says that "they took the body of Jesus, and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as the custom of the Jews is to bury" (Jn.19:40).

II. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE THIRD DAY:

- A. This refers to the third day after Christ's crucifixion. It was on that day, "the first day of the week," that Jesus' tomb was found empty (Mt.28:1-7; Mk.16:1-7; Lk.1-7; Jn.20:1-7).
- B. Jesus prophesied He would rise on the third day after death by crucifixion.
 1. Resurrection obviously implies a death. But Jesus specified death by crucifixion (Mt.20:19; Jn.3:14; 8:28; 12:32-33).

2. The absence of the body of Jesus from the tomb on the third day following his execution by crucifixion becomes extremely significant (Lk.4:28-30; Jn.5:18; 7:1, 25; 8:59; 10:31; 11:8).
3. The fact of the empty tomb on the third day following the crucifixion lends a great deal of credibility to the resurrection.

C. Prophecy was foretold early in his ministry

1. After the first temple cleansing at the outset of his ministry Jesus pointed to his resurrection on the third day as a confirmation of his claim to deity (Jn.2:13-22)
2. He appealed to Jonah's experience in the fish three days and three nights... (Mt.12:38-40).

D. It became common knowledge.

1. Jesus' prophecy of his death spread beyond his small circle of disciples.
2. The Jewish rulers knew of the prophecy and considered that knowledge of it was widespread (Mt.27:62-66).

E. Christianity and the first day of the week.

1. It is nowhere in scripture called a special day, or even a holy day, but that it contained for the early church a special significance is made clear from the scriptures.
2. The church was established on the first day of the week (Act.2:1-47)
3. Paul shows us that on this day the church was to assemble and take up contribution (1 Cor.16:1-2).
4. The church also was to observe the Lord's supper on that day (Act.20:7; I Cor.4:17).

Conclusion: If Jesus was raised his claims are true and he is the Lord. If not, historical Jesus who claimed to be God come down to men, who claimed to be Savior and King with the gift of eternal life for the believer was a reality a liar, a cheat, and a blasphemer.

How can we know? We can know by the evidence. The function of reason is to sit in judgment on the evidence and draw a conclusion.