

# Teaching Outline on the Resurrection

One of the unique doctrines of Christianity is the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. No other faith in the world makes this claim. No other faith gives evidences that their founder was put to death, buried for three days, and came back to life in a resurrected body. This outline is a study aid for those who would like to have reasons for why we believe in the resurrection.

In the past centuries there have been critics of Christianity who unsuccessfully challenged this doctrine. They made their statements, but provided no contrary facts. The evidence of the resurrection is so convincing that many of these critics became Christians, among whom are C. S. Lewis, Morrison, and Josh McDowell.

Christians have always silenced critics with the historical record of Scripture. Matthew and John were direct eyewitnesses of the events they wrote about. Mark personally knew several of the apostles from whom he gathered the information for his gospel (1 Peter 5:13). Luke, being well-schooled as a physician, collected the historical facts from the eyewitnesses (Lk. 1:3). He did this that we might know the "certainty" of all these things (Lk. 1:4). Luke also wrote the book of Acts. Here he appealed to the eyewitnesses again by speaking of the resurrection as historical, with many infallible proofs (Acts 1:3).

Resurrection is the word we use in Christianity to describe the fact that Jesus literally came back to life in a glorified body, after being dead for three days. The resurrection body is different from mortal bodies. It will never decay because it is immortal (1 Cor. 15:42-44, 54). This is different from a body being revived or resuscitated.

If this discussion is to be meaningful then we must present the evidence in a logical order. We will attempt to do this by giving the order of the events with as little comment as necessary. Each concept is stated with the biblical references following it. We encourage you to carefully look up each verse and read it in its full context.

## The teaching of the resurrection:

1. The Old Testament predicted that the Messiah (Christ) would be raised up (Ps. 16:10 with Acts 2:30; Ps. 68:18 with Eph. 4:8; Jonah 1:17 with Matt. 12:40; 1 Cor. 15:5).
2. The resurrection was a sign to the Jews that Jesus is the Messiah (Mt. 12:38-40).
3. Jesus predicted his resurrection in His teachings (Mt. 16:21; 17:22-23; 20:18-19; 26:32; Mk. 8:31; 9:9; 9:31; 10:34).
4. The Jews acknowledged that Jesus predicted his resurrection (Mt. 27:63).
5. Jesus said that he would resurrect his body (Jn. 2:18-22; 10:18).

## The death of Jesus was literal

1. He died before a crowd of eyewitnesses (Mt. 27:50; Mk. 15:37; Lk. 23:46; Jn. 19:30).

2. Proof of his death was given by his enemies (Jn. 19:31-33; Mk. 15:49).

3. The Roman Centurion spoke of him in the past tense "was" (Mt. 27:54; Mk. 15:39; Lk. 23:47).

4. Thomas did not believe that Jesus was resurrected, which shows that Thomas knew that He had died (Jn. 20:25).

5. The women went to His tomb, which shows that He was dead (Mt. 28:1; Mk. 16:1; Lk. 24:1; Jn. 20:1).

6. Peter preached the death and the resurrection to the Jews, who could have refuted it if Jesus had not died (Acts 2:23; 2:29; 3:15; 5:30).

## The burial of Jesus was literal

1. Joseph asked for His body to place it in the tomb (Mt. 27:57-58; Mk. 15:43; Lk. 23:50; Jn. 19:38).

2. The Jews sealed His tomb after he was placed in it (Mt. 27:66).

3. The Jews set guards on the tomb who were still there three days later (Mt. 27:65-66; 28:4).

## The evidences of the bodily resurrection of Jesus

1. The guards told the Jews about His resurrection (Mt. 28:11).

2. The angels proclaimed the resurrection to Mary, Solome, Joanna, Mary Magdalene, and other women (Mt. 28:6-7; Mk. 16:1, 6; Lk. 24:5, 10).

3. Jesus appeared to Mary (Mt. 28:9-10; Jn. 20:14).

4. Jesus appeared to two disciples (Lk. 24:15; Mk. 16:12).

5. Jesus appeared to ten disciples (Jn. 20:19).

6. Jesus appeared to eleven disciples in a room (Mk. 16:14; Jn. 20:26; Lk. 24:36 with Acts 1:4).

7. Jesus appeared to eleven disciples on a mountain (Mt. 28:16).

8. Jesus appeared to seven disciples by the sea (Jn. 21:1, 14).

9. Jesus appeared to Simon Peter (Lk. 24:34; 1 Cor. 15:5).

10. Jesus appeared to the twelve after Matthias was chosen to replace Judas in Acts 1:26 (1 Cor. 15:5).

11. Jesus appeared to Stephen (Acts 7:58).

12. Jesus appeared to 500 people at once (1 Cor. 15:6).

13. Jesus appeared to James (1 Cor. 15:7).

14. Jesus appeared to all of the apostles (1 Cor. 15:7).

15. Jesus appeared to Paul four times (1 Cor. 15:8 with Acts 9:3-6; Acts 20:24; 22:17-21; 23:11).

## The enemies of Jesus could not refute the resurrection

1. The Jews tried to lie about it (Mt. 28:11-15).

2. Peter openly preached the resurrection to Jews who could not refute it (Acts 2:14, 24, 31-36).

3. Paul preached it to Festus the governor and King Agrippa without refutation (Acts 15:19; 26:23-26).