

Why should I believe in the resurrection of Jesus?

Luke 24:1-12

¹ But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. ² And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men suddenly stood near them in dazzling clothing; ⁵ and as the women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, the mensaid to them, “Why do you seek the living One among the dead? ⁶ He is not here, but He has risen. Remember how He spoke to you while He was still in Galilee, ⁷ saying that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.”⁸ And they remembered His words, ⁹ and returned from the tomb and reported all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰ Now they were Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James; also the other women with them were telling these things to the apostles.¹¹ But these words appeared to them as nonsense, and they would not believe them. ¹² But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen wrappings only; and he went away to his home, marveling at what had happened.

The resurrection of Jesus is central to the Christian faith. We talk about serving a Lord who is alive today. History clearly tells us of Jesus death, both in biblical and non-biblical material. But what evidence supports the resurrection of Jesus and why does it matter?

First, let’s look at five pieces of evidence.

1. Eyewitness accounts

Luke 24:13-15, 36, Matthew 28:8-10, 18-20, John 20:19, Acts 1:3, 1 Corinthians 15:6

2. The conversion of key skeptics.

3. The enemy declared the tomb was empty.

Matthew 28:11-13

4. Jerusalem was where the story took root.

Luke 24:47, Acts 2:14, 22-24, 4:15-16, 6:7

5. The peculiarity of the first eyewitnesses.

John 20:18

Second, why does it matter?

1. Resurrection separates Christianity from all other religions.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

2. Resurrection confirms prophecy.

Psalm 16:10 –11

3. Resurrection affirms justification.

Romans 4:24-25, Hebrews 7:25

4. Resurrection is foundational to our faith.

1 Corinthians 15:14-19

5. Resurrection secures our hope.

1 Corinthians 15:20, 22-23, Romans 8:11, John 10:28