

The Resurrection of Jesus from the dead

The resurrection of Jesus from the dead is important for three major reasons:

1. It proves that Jesus is God. Jesus said that He would rise from the dead. ¹⁹ *Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple! I shall raise it in three days."* ²⁰ *Then the Jews said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it in three days?"* ²¹ *However, He was speaking about the temple of His body,* (John 2:19-21). ¹⁷ *The reason why the Father loves Me is that I lay down My life, in order that I may take it back again.* ¹⁸ *No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of My own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it back again. This command I have received from My Father,"* (John 10:17-18). He did what He said He would do. There are some religious leaders who have told their followers they would be in touch with them after they died. No one has heard from them yet. Therefore, they were fakes and frauds. However, Jesus rose from the dead. He is not a fake or a fraud. He demonstrated by His resurrection that He, in fact, is true God. The Apostle Paul said, *"who, according to His holy divinity, was declared with power to be the Son of God by His resurrection from the dead,"* (Rom. 1:4).
2. Jesus' resurrection proves that God accepted His payment for sin and our sins are forgiven in full. Paul declared that Jesus was *"raised to life for our justification,"* (Rom. 4:25). He said, *"If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins,"* (1 Cor. 15:17). Jesus' resurrection was God's great "absolution" of the world. He announced to the whole world that we are forgiven for Jesus' sake. If Christ had not risen from the dead, His *"It is finished"* (John 19:30) would have meant His mission had ended in failure. His resurrection, however, declared that God's mission was accomplished. We are forgiven!
3. Jesus' resurrection also assures us that we shall rise again from the dead. The idea of a physical resurrection from the dead is contrary to human reason. Reason tells us that when a person dies, the flesh decays and will be no more. The Epicureans, among the Greeks, believed that, upon death, a person's atoms simply returned to the pool of atoms in the universe. When Paul proclaimed the resurrection while in Athens, the people laughed at him. They had listened attentively until he spoke of the resurrection. That was too much for them. Many people walked away in scorn.
4. How do we know that we will rise again? Jesus rose from the dead. Paul calls Him *"the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep,"* (1 Cor. 15:20). Jesus said, *"I am the Resurrection and the Life. The person who believes in Me will live even if he dies,"* ²⁶ *and everyone who lives and believes in Me will assuredly never die,"* (John 11:25-26).

“Because I live, you also will live,” (John 14:19). Paul wrote, *“we believe that Jesus died and rose again, we believe that even so, through Jesus, God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep... The Lord Himself will come down from heaven... and the dead who are in Christ will rise first,”* (1 Thess. 4:14, 16). Jesus’ resurrection from the dead is the guarantee of our resurrection.