

## THE RESURRECTION IS A TRUE FACT

The resurrection of Christ from the dead is a stage of Jesus' exaltation. To accomplish His resurrection, Jesus made full use of the divine properties His human nature had received from the divine nature. He had said, "*The reason why the Father loves Me is that I lay down My life, 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 have authority to take it back again. This command I have received from My Father*" (John 10:17-18). The ability to have life and give life is a property that the Son of God possessed from eternity. This property was communicated to His human nature at the time of Christ's conception. During His humiliation, Jesus did not exercise this power when He died. Had Jesus exercised this property, He could not have died. However, when Jesus rose from the dead, He simply exercised the power His human nature possessed from His divine nature and raised Himself from the dead. This is the command He had received from His Father. So, who raised Jesus from the dead? God raised Jesus from the dead (Acts 2:32). The God-man, Jesus Christ, also raised Himself from the dead. His resurrection is part of His exaltation in that He exercised the divine property to give life, which His human nature had received from His divine nature.

The resurrection of Jesus from the dead is attested to in many places in the Bible. One such place where Jesus' resurrection was prophesied was in the Old Testament where Job, who spoke of his own resurrection from the dead, based his hope on the fact that "*my Redeemer lives and that at the last He will stand on the dust*" (Job 19:25). Again, David had foretold, "*For You will not abandon My soul to Sheol or allow Your Faithful One to see decay*" (Psalm 16:10). On Pentecost, Peter stated that David "*saw what would come and said concerning the resurrection of the Christ that He was not abandoned to the grave and that His body did not experience decay*" (Acts 2:31). Isaiah foretold, "*Because of the anguish of His soul, He will see and be satisfied*" (Is. 53:11).

Jesus made it clear that the Old Testament foretold His resurrection. He told His disciples, "*Look! We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the Chief Priests and scribes. They will condemn Him to die<sup>19</sup> and hand Him over to the Gentiles to be made fun of, whipped and crucified, but on the third day He will be raised*" (Matthew 20:18-19). Jesus said to the Emmaus disciples, "*Was it not necessary for the Messiah to suffer these things and enter His glory?*" (Luke 24:26).

Jesus foretold He would raise Himself from the dead. "*Destroy this Temple! I shall raise it in three days.*"

<sup>20</sup> *Then the Jews said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this Temple, and will You raise it in three days?"*

<sup>21</sup> *However, He was speaking about the Temple of His body.*" (John 2:19,21; see also John 10:17-18). Jesus indicated He would spend three days and nights in the heart of the earth (Matthew 12:40). This would be the sign that Jesus was who He said He was, the Messiah, the God-man.