

## Why Christians Believe in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ

One of the unique doctrines of Christianity is the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Bible offers evidence that Jesus Christ was put to death, buried for three days, and that his body came back to life through the resurrection.

The resurrected body is different from mortal bodies. It does not die or decay and it is immortal (1 Corinthians 15:42-54). This is not to be construed as merely a revived body or a resuscitated body. In these latter conditions the person is subject to death again. In Jesus' resurrection he was brought back to life in an incorruptible body. Let us consider the Bible . . .

### THE PROMISE OF THE RESURRECTION

1. Old Testament prophecies (Psalm 16:10 with Acts 2:30; Psalm 68:18 with Ephesians 4:8; Jonah 1:17 with Matthew 12:40; 1 Cor. 15:5).
2. It was a "sign" that Jesus was the Messiah (Matt. 12:38-40).
3. Jesus predicted his resurrection (Matt. 16:21, 17:9, 17:22-23, 20:18-19, 26:32; Mark 8:31, 9:9, 9:31, 10:34).
4. The Jews said that he predicted his resurrection (Matt. 27:63).
5. Jesus said that he would raise himself from the dead (John 2:18-22, 10:18).

### THE DEATH OF JESUS WAS LITERAL

We must clearly establish that Jesus died by crucifixion to silence the critics who say that he faked his death. The Roman executors were professional executors who knew how to crucify someone to death. The Roman executors saw that Jesus was already dead (John 19:33).

1. Jesus died before eyewitnesses (Matt. 27:50; Mark 15: 37; Luke 23: 46; John 19:36).
2. Christ's enemies said that he was dead (John 19:31-33; Mark 15:49).
3. A Roman Centurion attending the crucifixion spoke of Jesus in the past tense "was" (Matt. 27:54; Mark 15:39; Luke 23:47).
4. Pontius Pilot confirmed it (Mark 15:44).
5. Thomas did not believe the report that

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