

We Believe . . .

That Jesus Arose From The Grave

Introduction:

This lesson deals with what may be accurately regarded as the single most important event in human history. While all the events in the life of Jesus were fundamental in proving Him to be the Son of God, they all would have been for nothing had He remained in the grave (1 Cor. 15:13-20). The resurrection is the ultimate proof that Jesus is "both Lord and Christ" (Acts 2:36).

I. JESUS DID, IN FACT, DIE ON THE CROSS OF CALVARY.

A. Pre-crucifixion events.

1. A sleepless night in the garden (Luke 22:39-46).
2. Betrayal by a "friend" (Matt. 26:47-50).
3. Desertion by all his closest friends (Matt. 26:56).
4. The "trial"
 - a. He was subjected to the equivalent of six trials in the matter of a few hours.
 - b. He was accused with lies and false charges (Luke 23:2; Matt. 22:21)
 - c. He was humiliated and mistreated (Matt. 26:67,68).
5. The scourging (Matt. 27:26)
6. The purple robe and crown of thorns (Matt. 27: 27-31)
7. He was forced to carry His own cross (John 19:17).

B. The crucifixion

1. It was common to crucify the victim with arms outstretched, but with the legs bent at the knee. (In Jesus' case, His hands and feet were nailed to the wooden cross (John 20:24-28).
2. This method produced a slower death and prolonged the victim's agony.
3. When the authorities were ready for the victims to die, the legs were broken and rapid suffocation resulted. (John 19:31-37)

C. Post-crucifixion events

1. Any possibility that Jesus might have survived this ordeal is quickly dispelled when we consider the final mistreatment of Jesus' body by a Roman soldier at the scene (John 19:32-37).
2. Final confirmation of death was made by the Romans (Mark 15:43-45).

II. THE BURIAL OF JESUS

A. The tomb

1. Just outside the city of Jerusalem (John 19:41).
2. "Hewn in stone" (Luke 23:53).
3. "Wherein never man before was laid" (Luke 23:53).

B. The burial methods resulted in an encasement so tight that it could hardly be removed and was nearly air-tight (John 19:38-40).

C. A huge stone was placed at the entrance of the tomb (Mark 15:46).

III. SECURITY PRECAUTIONS

- A. Roman guards (Matt. 27:62-65).
- B. The Roman seal (Matt. 27:66).

IV. EVIDENCE OF THE RESURRECTION

- A. The tomb was empty!!!
 - 1. Matt. 28:1-15
 - 2. Both the Jews and the Romans attest that the tomb was empty.
- B. There were numerous eye-witnesses who saw Jesus following the resurrection (1 Cor. 15:3-8).
- C. Circumstantial evidence
 - 1. The church
 - 2. Baptism
 - 3. The Lord's Supper
 - 4. Changed lives

V. SOME SKEPTICAL ARGUMENTS ANSWERED

- A. Stolen by His disciples?
- B. "Swooned"?

CONCLUSION:

The unmistakable conclusion must be that Jesus Christ really did come forth from the grave, a victor over death. This great event gives us hope of a similar victory.