

What Happened After the Resurrection?

The resurrection is the foundational truth of the New Testament. If Christ did not rise from the dead, our faith is vain. Paul said in **1Co 15:16-19** “For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: **17** And if Christ be not raised, **your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.** **18** Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. **19** If in this life only we have hope in Christ, **we are of all men most miserable.”**

But, the bible tells us that the proof of his resurrection is infallible, **Ac 1:1-3** The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, **2** Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen: **3** To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by **many infallible proofs**, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:

Successful Conspiracies Require the Following to be True – according to Homicide detectives

- Lowest possible number of co-conspirators – *The bible records over 500 witnesses 1Cor.15:6*
- A short time span – *the longer a story goes on it tends to change. The resurrection story has not changed.*
- Excellent communication between conspirators – *the early church was scattered from persecution.*
- Strong familial relationships – *the resurrection story was not isolated to any one family or culture*
- Little or no pressure to confess – *persecution of Christians to the death was ongoing*

Proofs of the Resurrection

1Co 15:14 And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.

This historical fact provides infallible proof (**Acts 1:3**) of Christ's resurrection and his deity. The tomb was secured by the Roman government and a watch was set. There was no way anyone could tamper with it. The Roman guard was most likely a sixteen-man unit (**Mat.27:65-66, Acts 12:4**) and was governed by very strict rules. According to tradition, the guard members could not sit down or lean against anything while they were on duty. If a guard member fell asleep, he was beaten and burned.

Irreconcilable Problems for the Critics

- If the soldiers had fallen asleep as alleged (**Mat.28:13**), they couldn't have known what happened.
- The work of moving the stone, removing the grave clothes and carrying the body away, would surely have awakened at least some of the soldiers.
- The Romans would have desperately sought the body rather than appear incompetent for allowing him to be stolen.
- The disciples could never have persisted in preaching a lie about the resurrection when it began to cost them all their possessions and their lives, especially if Rome would have produced Jesus' body.

The Results of the Resurrection

1. God Commandeth All Men Everywhere to Repent

- a. **Act 17:30-31** And the **times of this ignorance** God winked at; **but now commandeth all men every where to repent: 31** Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness **by that man** whom he hath ordained; whereof **he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.**

Now that God has commended his love toward man through Jesus Christ, ignorance is no longer an excuse. HE has given all men assurance of who HE is by the resurrection from the dead.

2. The Comforter was Given

- a. **To Reprove the World of Sin, Righteousness, and Judgment as well as to Guide the Believer in Truth**
John 16:7-13 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; **It is expedient for you that I go away:** for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you (*something different*). **8** And when he is come, **he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9** Of sin, because they believe not on me; **10** Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; **11** Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged. **12** I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. **13** Howbeit **when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth:** for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

- b. **To Baptize and Indwell the Believer**
Ac 1:5 For John truly baptized with water; but **ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost** not many days hence.
Eph 1:13 In whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, **ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise**,
Ro 6:4 Therefore **we are buried with him by baptism into death**: that **like as Christ was raised up** from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.
 - c. **To Teach the Word of God to the Believer**
1Co 2:11-13 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. **12** Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. **13** Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.
3. **Jesus Became Our High Priest and Mediator**
- a. **Heb 4:14-16** Seeing then that **we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens**, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* profession. **15** For we have not an high priest which cannot be **touched with the feeling of our infirmities**; but was in all points tempted like as *we are*, yet without sin. **16** Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, **that we may obtain mercy, and find grace** to help in time of need.
 - b. **He Is the Mediator Between God and Men**
1Ti 2:5 For *there is* one God, and **one mediator** between God and men, **the man Christ Jesus**;
 Jesus (*not Mary*) is mediating between God and men. There is no other way to get to heaven except through Jesus. Furthermore, there is no way to please God as a believer, except through obedience to his word
 - c. **He Is the Mediator of the N.T.**
Heb 9:15 And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions *that were* under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.
 Interestingly, Heb. 8:6 and 12:24 say, "...mediator of a better/new covenant" but here it says, "testament". The Word of God is completed with the 27 books of the N.T. Jesus mediates with man via the words of this book. There are no extra-biblical revelations, especially those which would contradict the clear words of scripture.
4. **Man Has Been Redeemed from the Curse of the Law**
- a. **We Are No Longer Under the Curse of the Law**
Ga 3:13 Christ hath **redeemed us from the curse of the law**, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed *is* every one that hangeth on a tree:
 - b. **Our Sins are Washed Away**
Tit 2:14 Who gave himself for us, that he might **redeem us from all iniquity**, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.
 - c. **We Are Therefore, to Serve**
1Co 6:20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.
5. **Believers Are Instructed to be Ambassadors for Christ – 2Co 5:20** Now then **we are ambassadors for Christ**, as though God did beseech *you* by us: we pray *you* in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.
- a. **We have been given the ministry of reconciliation – 2 Cor. 5:18**
2 Cor. 5:18 And all things *are* of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;
 - b. **We Are Living Epistles**
2Co 3:2-3 **Ye are our epistle** written in our hearts, **known and read of all men: 3** *Forasmuch as ye are* manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, **written not with ink**, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.
6. **Jesus is Building His Body, the Church - Mt 16:18** And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock **I will build my church**; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.
Ro 11:25 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.
 Once this is accomplished, Jesus will return. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!