

I. Three reasons the resurrection of Jesus Christ is crucial

- A. The resurrection is the central miracle of the Christian religion
- B. The resurrection means grace (1 Corinthians 15:14-19)
- C. The resurrection means justice for the world (Acts 17:30-31; Revelation 2:23)

II. Four reasons people do not believe that the resurrection happened

- A. Disbelief in miracles
- B. Unreliability of the biblical accounts
- C. Peace with death
- D. Comfort with the status quo

III. Five strange things about the resurrection of Jesus Christ

- A. Resurrection doesn't fit with any Jewish messianic expectation (v. 6 cf. Luke 9:22,44-45)
- B. None of the accounts are full of OT passages that it "fulfilled"
- C. Enough variation in detail to back up its claim to multiple sources (see Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; John 20)
- D. The first eyewitnesses were female
- E. The unusual nature of Jesus' resurrection body (see Daniel 12:2-3 vs. Luke 24:31; John 20:19)

IV. One thing you need to know: Jesus is risen

- A. Why two angels? Because their news is better than the news of Jesus' birth.
- B. A new creation has begun.
- C. Justice is on the way.
- D. Grace is poured out on us. Forgiveness of sins in his name. Faith and repentance and a restored relationship with God, a restored understanding of ourselves, restored communities and families and nations, the restoration even of the physical world in which we live.
- E. Now is the year of Jubilee, the acceptable year of the Lord.
- F. Our lives are for making disciples in his name, announcing his kingdom and teaching obedience to him, and manifesting that kingdom in justice and forgiveness and restoration and holiness.