



6. He is risen indeed!

The gospel (the good news of Jesus Christ) has been called the ‘greatest story ever told.’ Why is it the greatest? I would say, because it is about God blessing all nations. It is about good things to come - forever. In one passage it is correctly called "the everlasting gospel" (Revelation 14:6). It is God's plan for blessing all of humanity for eternity. Let us begin our study Christian essentials over the next eight lessons. I call this Christian Essentials because most Christians across denominations and nations would agree with the concepts presented in this series. Here we reflect on a topic that for many has been for many, including me, the reason for finally accepting Jesus as savior. It is the evidence of His bodily resurrection.

NOTES & QUOTES FROM PODCAST

Obviously scientific evidence which needs replication is impossible when one is dealing with the most unique event in history – Jesus’ resurrection. But, the authenticity of His resurrection can be validated using historical and logical evidence.

1. The Historical Evidence

While over 66,000 ancient manuscripts of the Bible provide a consistent pattern of Jesus death and resurrection, it is important to note that even non-Biblical sources exist. The most famous is the record of Josephus, a first-century Jewish historian, who in his 20-volume account of Jewish history writes,

“Now there was about this time Jesus, a wise man, if it be lawful to call him a man; for he was a doer of wonderful works, a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure... He was [the] Christ. And when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men amongst us, had condemned him to the cross, those that loved him at the first did not forsake him; for he appeared to them alive again the third day; as the divine prophets had foretold. (Antiquities, Book 18, Ch. 3 v3)

2. The Logical Evidence

Moving from historical to logical reasons of Jesus’ resurrection, while many exist I limit myself to four.

a. Jesus died.

Jesus died on a Friday. No serious doubt exists among scholars on this issue. In 1986 the Journal of the American Medical Association published a peer reviewed medical study of Jesus’ death that concluded, “Clearly the weight of the evidence indicates Jesus was dead even before the wound was inflicted.”

b. The Empty Tomb

On the third day – Sunday - Jesus’ tomb was empty – not even Jesus’ opponents disputed this fact. The tomb that was sealed by the Romans, with a large stone covering it and a soldier guarding it was found empty! The best evidence for the empty tomb is that when the disciples began proclaiming that Jesus had risen all that His

opponents could say was, “The disciples stole the body.”

Frank Morrison’s well-researched book “Who moved the stone?” published in 1930 is an excellent read giving logical reasons why His resurrection cannot be disputed. Contact me if you are interested in reading it.

c. There were eyewitnesses

Most of what the world accepts today as ancient history comes from just one or maybe two sources. But, there is an ocean of at least nine ancient sources inside and outside the New Testament of the encounters the disciples had with the resurrected Jesus. For six weeks after His resurrection, Jesus appeared to a variety of groups in different locations. Once, He even appeared to over 500 – a huge number for it to be a fabrication. The people He appeared to didn’t just see Him, but walked, touched and ate with Him.

d. The Transformation of His disciples

Finally, the clincher for me is the transformation of His disciples. This group of eleven men who fled and hid when Jesus was arrested suddenly had no fear of death and fearlessly proclaimed publicly that Jesus was the risen Lord. What removed all fear of human authority and death threats? What made them willingly face arrests, flogging and death? There is no other logical explanation than what they proclaimed, “*We have seen the Lord!*” (John 20:25)

Let me ask you a simple question. “Would you have been willing to die for what you know is a lie?” May God bless us as we answer Jesus’ question, “Who do you say I am?”

DECISION TIME

- In John 11:25-26 Jesus says, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die & whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?” **Do you believe this?**
- If you answered yes, why don’t you take the next step and make the decision and accept the gift offered by Jesus? Just pray this prayer of acceptance: *Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite You to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow You as my Lord and Savior. Thank you, Lord Jesus.*

WHAT NEXT?

If you have accepted Jesus for the first time or even if you have been a follower of Jesus, here is a short video on your next steps to build your relationship with Jesus Christ.

<https://youtu.be/dCuuRjrOUFA>

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