

## **The Resurrection of Jesus**

### **By Greg Rangel**

As we have seen before through various ways, Jesus has been, is, and will always be very unique. There is a big difference between Jesus and every other religious leader that has ever existed as we have seen many times over.

One of the greatest events and facts that we see through Scripture and through history is the resurrection of Jesus. Jesus rose from the dead three days after He physically died on the cross for humanity. Or did He?

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the most essential doctrine for Christianity in general. If Jesus Christ rose from the dead as Scripture states, then EVERYTHING that we read in the Bible is true as Scripture states it is. But, if Jesus Christ did not rise from the dead as the Bible states, then Christianity is fake. So, did Jesus rise from the dead or didn't He? Could it be that Christianity is just one of many religions thinking that only this religion is truth and all the rest are false, like the other religions think as well? Are we all on the same boat saying the same thing?

The Bible states that Jesus died for our sins and rose again on the third day. To begin with, Jesus Himself said that He would rise on the third day. In Matthew 20:18-19 Jesus stated; "Behold, we go up to Jerusalem: and the Son of man shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and unto the scribes, and they shall condemn him to death, And shall deliver him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify him: and the third day he shall rise again."

Peter in his great sermon in Acts 2 stated about Jesus from verse 24-32 the following. He said; "Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it. For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved: Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope: Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance. Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulcher is with us unto this day. Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne; He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption. This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses."

Peter here focuses on the fact that their father King David died and that his body did not rise from the dead. That is why King David's body did see corruption. But not Jesus' body because God did raise Him from the dead. Peter also states at the end that they were all witnesses to that fact.

Paul the Apostle also wrote regarding the resurrection of Jesus Christ. In 1 Corinthians 15:3-8 Paul wrote; "...how that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the Scriptures. And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve. After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time."

Paul attests to the fact that there were witnesses to the resurrection of Jesus. He states that Jesus was seen Peter. He was also seen of the twelve. Jesus was also seen alive after His resurrection by more than 500 people at once. He also mentions James and himself of course.

In our next article we will continue to focus on the resurrection of Jesus and on the fact that there were eyewitnesses.

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