

# BRINGING THE WORD OF LIFE

## E-MAIL NEWSLETTER

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'...that you may know that you have eternal life.' 1 John 5:13

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### *The One Who Rose*

Before we come to the examination of what Scripture teaches as to the resurrection of Jesus Christ, it will be helpful to investigate these few questions:

- Who is it that could rise from the dead?
- What kind of life was it that deserved such a distinction?
- What kind of death would be worthy of resurrection?

### *The Person of the Lord Jesus Christ*

There must be something arrestingly special in the person of our Lord, seeing His death and resurrection carry with them such far-reaching results. The apostle John, in his wonderful Gospel, presents Christ as the only begotten Son of God—One eternally with the Father and the Holy Spirit in the unity of the Godhead. Scripture declares that He always was the eternal Word, and that "the Word was with God, and the Word was God" **John 1:1**. And this divine Person became Man. We read these amazing words: "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth" **John 1:14**. With such a Person before us, everything relating to Him is lifted far above that which marks the greatest and wisest of men.

We are then not surprised that He was characterized by actions perfectly unique to Himself, and by events quite unlike those which happen to mere men.

### *The Character of Our Lord's Life*

Why did the eternal Son of God become man? It was because by man sin entered the world, and death by sin **Romans 5:18**. Therefore the penalty of sin must be met by man in order to give a holy God a righteous basis for offering forgiveness of sins and eternal life to guilty men. What man was sufficient for this?

It is evident that the one who could do this must himself be perfectly sinless, one upon whom death had no claim. And who could fulfill that condition? Look at the billions of the human race. Is there one untainted by sin? All are sinners. All need a Saviour.

Only one could come forward, and this was the sinless One, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Eternal Son of the Father. He alone could say, "Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God" **Hebrews 10:7**.

This is why our Lord became man, yet never ceased to be the eternal Son in the unity of the Godhead with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

With delight we follow the record of His blameless, spotless life as man on this earth. He was perfectly sinless in thought, word and deed.

He never apologized for anything He said or did, for there was never the slightest occasion for His doing so. In fullest measure He always did His Father's will. Here was One, the likes of whom before or since the world has never seen. He was "God manifest in the flesh" **1 Timothy 3:16**.

## *The Character of Our Lord's Death*

And yet it was not His holy, blameless life that could save men from the penalty of their sins. True, if He had not been sinless, He could not have been the sinner's Saviour, yet Scripture teaches us that it is not His *life* that saves, but His atoning *death*, and that alone. Scripture lays great emphasis on our Lord's death. "The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin" **1 John 1:7**.

All the righteous judgment of God against sin was poured out on the holy Person of our Lord Jesus Christ as He hung upon the Cross of Calvary. There and only there did mercy and truth meet; there and only there did righteousness and peace kiss each other **Psalms 85:10**. There only could be heard the triumphant cry, "It is finished" **John 19:30**.

**God can now righteously and gloriously forgive any sinner who truly puts his trust in the Saviour, who "once suffered for sins, the Just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God" 1 Peter 3:18.**

We miss the whole point of the Scriptures if we fail to realize that our Lord's death was absolutely unique, that no one has ever died a death like His, that no other person could experience such a death, for it was an atoning, sacrificial death, absolutely necessary for man's salvation. May these few thoughts as to the Person who rose from the dead lead the reader to a fuller understanding of the significance of His resurrection. *A.J. Pollock*



## THE DEATH OF CHRIST WAS –

### ● VIOLENT

'And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left' **Luke 23:33**.

### ● VALUED

'Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again' **John 10:17**. 'Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father' **Philippians 2:9-11**.

### ● VOLUNTARY

'No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again' **John 10:18**.

### ● VEILED

'Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour' **Matt. 27:45** (Noon-3pm)

### ● VICARIOUS

He died for sins but not His own. He had no sin. He was the Holy, spotless Lamb of God. He died for your sins. 'Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures' **1 Cor. 15:3**. 'Christ hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God' **1 Peter 3:18**.

### ● VERIFIED

'When they came to Jesus, and saw that He was dead already, they brake not His legs' **John 19:33**. 'He was buried' **1 Corinthians 15:4**. (His body was prepared for burial and placed in a tomb).

### ● VALIDATED

It was confirmed by many Old Testament prophecies. For example - '...He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement of our peace was upon Him and with His stripes we are healed' **Isaiah 53:5**.

### ● VICTORIOUS

'When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, He said, **IT IS FINISHED**, and He bowed His head and gave up the spirit' **John 19:30**. 'Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God hath made that same Jesus whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ' **Acts 2:36**.

### ● VINDICATED

The resurrection of Christ is the ultimate VINDICATION of His claim that He is the Son of God. '...declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead' **Romans 1:4**.



## WHY WE BELIEVE JESUS ROSE FROM THE DEAD



If Jesus did not rise from the dead, the Christian faith is a foolish fantasy. However, if the resurrection of Christ did occur, it confirms His life, message, and atoning work. It is the basis of our hope of life beyond the grave.

*Christ is alive, and the evidence is overwhelming.*

Here are some of the reasons we can be so sure.

- **Jesus predicted His resurrection** (Matt 16:21; Mark 9:9–10; John 2:18–22).
- **The Old Testament prophesied it** (Psalm 16:10; check Acts 2:25–31; 13:33–37).
- **The tomb was empty and the grave clothes vacant.** If those who opposed Christ wished to silence His disciples, all they had to do was produce a body, but they could not (John 20:3–9).
- **Many people saw the resurrected Christ.** They looked on His face, touched Him, heard His voice, and saw Him eat (Matt. 28:16–20; Luke 24:13–39; John 20:11–29; John 21:1–9; Acts 1:6–11; 1 Cor. 15:3–8).
- **The lives of the disciples were revolutionized.** Though they fled and even denied Christ at the time of His arrest, they later feared no one in their proclamation of the risen Christ (Matt 26:56, 69–75).

- **The resurrection was the central message of the early church.** The church grew with an unwavering conviction that Christ had risen and was the Lord of the church (Acts 4:33; 5:30–32; Rom. 5:24).
- **Men and women today testify that the power of the risen Christ has transformed their lives.** We know that Jesus is alive not only because of the historical and biblical evidence but also because He has miraculously touched our lives.  
Kurt E. DeHaan.



### DO YOU KNOW HIM AS YOUR SAVIOUR?

And this is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent. John 17:3

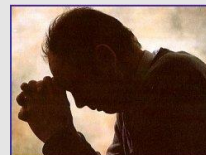
For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Romans 6:23

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God not of works lest any man should boast. Ephesians 2:8–9

He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life but the wrath of God abideth on him. John 3:36



### POINT TO PONDER



**Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf at springtime.** Martin Luther

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