



WHO IS JESUS?
A STUDY OF THE GOSPEL OF JOHN
33: BODY OF PROOF:
EXPLORING THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS (PART 2)
JOHN 20:19-31
JIM HINTON

I have been used for many years to study the histories of other times and to examine and weigh the evidence of those who have written about them, and I know of no one fact in the history of mankind which is proved by better and fuller evidence of every sort, to the understanding of a fair inquirer, than the great sign which God hath given us that Christ died and rose again from the dead.

Thomas Arnold, Historian and Oxford professor

In short, I didn't become a Christian because God promised I would have an even happier life than I had as an atheist. He never promised any such thing. Indeed, following him would inevitably bring divine demotions in the eyes of the world. Rather, I became a Christian because the evidence was so compelling that Jesus really is the one-and-only Son of God who proved his divinity by rising from the dead. That meant following him was the most rational and logical step I could possibly take.

Lee Strobel, Investigative Reporter and Author

I. THE EVIDENCE FOR THE RESURRECTION

1. The death of Jesus (Mt. 27:50-54; Mk. 15:37-38; Lk. 23:46-47; Jn. 19:31-34)
2. The burial of Jesus (Mt. 27:57-61; Mk. 15:42-47; Lk. 23:50-56; Jn. 19:38-42)
 - Heavy burial clothes (Jn. 19:38-43)
 - Large stone covering the solid rock tomb (Mt. 27:59-60; Mk. 15:40)
 - Governor's official seal (Mt. 27:66)
 - Posting of the Roman Guard (Mt. 27:65-66)
3. The physical evidence (Mt. 28:1-Mk. 16:1-8; Luke. 24:1-12; John 20:1-10)
 - Large stone rolled away
 - Official seal broken
 - Roman Guard gone
 - Presence of Angels
 - Empty tomb
 - Arrangement of the burial clothes
4. The appearance of Jesus to Mary (John 20:11-18)
 - Mary looks in the tomb
 - Mary sees the angels
 - Mary encounters the risen Christ
 - Mary is sent to tell others

5. The numerous other eyewitnesses who saw Jesus alive (John 20:19-29)

I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve. After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he was seen by James and later by all the apostles. Last of all, as though I had been born at the wrong time, I also saw him
1 Corinthians 15:3-7 (NLT)

My dear friends, we are already God's children, though what we will be hasn't yet been seen. But we do know that when Christ returns, we will be like him, because we will see him as he truly is.

1 John 3:2 (CEV)

When he comes back, he will take these dying bodies of ours and change them into glorious bodies like his own, using the same mighty power that he will use to conquer all else everywhere.

Philippians 3:21 (TLB)

6. The transformation of the lives of the disciples and believers down through history (John 20:30-31)

II. THE MEANING OF THE RESURRECTION

1. I can trust that God will keep His promises

God has made a great many promises. They are all "Yes" because of what Christ has done. So through Christ we say "Amen." We want God to receive glory.

2 Corinthians 1:20 (NIRV)

2. I can know that my sins are truly forgiven

And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins.

1 Corinthians 15:17 (NLT)

3. I can live with the hope of eternal life

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me will have life even if they die. And everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.

John 11:25-26 (NCV)