



## How Do I Know Jesus Rose From the Dead?

### Four areas of evidence to consider:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ **tomb**

*“So they went in (the tomb) — but the Lord Jesus’ body was gone.” Luke 24:3 (LB)*

2. \_\_\_\_\_ **testimony**

*“I passed on to you what I received, which is of the greatest importance: that Christ died for our sins, as written in the Scriptures; that He was buried, and was raised to life on the third day as written in the Scriptures. He appeared to Peter... to the Twelve... to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living... to James... to all the apostles, and last of all He appeared to me also...” 1 Cor. 15:5-8 (NIV)*

3. \_\_\_\_\_ **of the church**

*“Then Peter stood up... raised his voice and addressed the crowd. . . ‘God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact’.” Acts 2:14, 32 (NIV)*

4. \_\_\_\_\_ **of** \_\_\_\_\_

### How Christ’s resurrection can change my life:

- \_\_\_\_\_ for my past

*“Jesus was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.” Rom. 4:25*

- \_\_\_\_\_ for my present

*“I pray that you will know how great His power is for those who have put their trust in Him. It is the same power that raised Christ from the dead.” Eph. 1:19,20 NLV*

- \_\_\_\_\_ for my future

*“But Christ has been raised to life! And he makes us certain that others will also be raised to life.” 1 Cor. 15:20 CEV*

*“Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?’”*

John 11:25,26

### A Life Changing Prayer

*“Heavenly Father, I believe Jesus was who He said He was. I believe He died for my sins and was raised to life. I receive by faith your gift of pardon, power, and promise. Thank you, Jesus. I accept You as my Lord and Savior. Please change my life as You desire. Amen.”*

### Daily Meditations

Here’s a chance to spend some time each day this week meditating on today’s topic!

### This week’s memory verse:

*“The angel said to the women, ‘Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said.’” Matt. 28:5,6a*

### Monday

Read Matthew 12:39-40; Matt. 16:21, and Mark 9:10. Why do you think Jesus spoke more clearly to the disciples about His death and resurrection than He did to the crowds?

Why do you think the disciples responded the way they did?

Why didn’t they take Jesus literally?

Do you ever have a hard time taking God at His word? What are some promises of Jesus that you are tempted to doubt?

*Today ask God for child-like faith that takes Him at His word. Think of a promise of God you can claim today!*

### Tuesday

Read Matt. 27:57-66. Some say Jesus merely “swooned” on the cross only to be revived by the cool tomb. In these verses, what are some of the listed obstacles that Jesus would have had to overcome in his weakened state?

God deliberately let the situation be painted black so that only a miracle could explain the subsequent occurrences-- the guards, the graveclothes, etc., seemed to render any hope dead. Similarly, He sometimes lets situations in our lives seem hopeless so that we realize He is the one miraculously at work when the situation turns around! Has something like this ever happened to you? When and how?

*Today thank God for the fact of Christ's resurrection. If you never have before, trust in Him personally. And thank God that He is in ultimate control-- even of those situations in your life that seem hopeless!*

### **Wednesday**

Read Isaiah 53. List the prophecies in this chapter about Jesus:

These predictions are so eery that years ago some suggested this chapter was a Christian addition to the Old Testament after the death of Jesus. But archaeologists have discovered manuscripts of this very chapter in Dead Sea Scrolls dating from long before the birth of Christ!

Why do you think God places prophecies like this in Scripture? How do they help you?

Mathematician Peter Stoner, in his book *Science Speaks*, takes just 48 of the many Old Testament prophecies about Jesus and estimates that the odds of them being fulfilled are 1 in 10 to the 157th power! What does this teach you?

*Today, thank God for His power demonstrated conclusively in passages like this-- and rest in Him, because you have proof here that He knows all about tomorrow! Please pray for the Wednesday night "Tough Questions" class which starts tonight. The topic: "Is Jesus the Only Way to God?"*

### **Thursday**

Read Psalm 22. I believe that when Jesus called out "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken me?" on the cross, He was deliberately referring to this Psalm. In those days the Psalms were not numbered; they were known by their first line, which served as a title. Look this Psalm over... how many prophecies can you spot?

Does this Psalm help you understand some of what Jesus must have been feeling?

*Again, thank God that He knows the details of our lives centuries before they ever occur! Ask Him to help you rest in His control. If you haven't done it yet, make it personal-- ask Jesus to be your Savior from sin and the Lord of your life.*

### **Friday**

Read 1 Peter 1:16-19. What does Peter say about the source of his belief?

His life was changed by an encounter with the risen Jesus-- as our lives can be changed today. Do you know someone who seems to have met Jesus supernaturally and is now living a changed life?

Who? What are they like?

What do changed lives prove?

*Today, ask the Lord to renew your own enthusiasm for Jesus and the way He has changed your own life!*

### **Saturday**

Today please finish any meditations you might have missed, and please pray for the services this weekend. Ask the Lord to bring back to the church this weekend people who need to hear the message that God is true-- and truly loves them! Thanks!!