

# What Is the Big Deal about the Resurrection of Jesus?

Don Ruhl • Savage Street, Grants Pass, Oregon • April 17, In the year of our Lord Christ, 2022

Scripture Reader and Reading: Phil Joseph – Romans 1.1–4

Song Leader and Song Suggestions: Larry Amberg – Songs on Jesus or the Resurrection

## **Prelude:**

### **I. What is so great about the resurrection of Jesus?**

A. Why do many businesses close on the previous Friday, the day Christ died?

B. First Corinthians 15 shows

1. that the resurrection of Christ

2. is the foundation of all that we hold precious in regard to our faith:

**14 And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. 15 Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise. 16 For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. 17 And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! 18 Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. 19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.**

**– 1 Corinthians 15.14–19**

3. The resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth provides the foundation for:

a) Our preaching

b) Our faith

c) The forgiveness of our sins

d) Our hope of resurrection

### **II. In addition to those things, let see why his resurrection is a “big deal.”**

## **Persuasion:**

### **I. It Fulfilled Prophecy of the Prophets**

A. David wrote Psalm 16, but

1. what he said could not have applied to himself,

2. which Peter will make a point of when I am done reading Psalm 16:

**8 I have set the LORD always before me;  
Because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved.  
9 Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices;  
My flesh also will rest in hope.  
10 For You will not leave my soul in Sheol,  
Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.  
11 You will show me the path of life;  
In Your presence is fullness of joy;  
At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**

**– Psalm 16.8–11**

B. Listen to what Peter said,

1. as I jump into the middle of his argument,
  - a) in the middle of a sentence,
2. about the true identity of Jesus:

**23 “Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; 24 whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it. 25 For David says concerning Him:**

**‘I foresaw the LORD always before my face,  
For He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken.  
26 Therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad;  
Moreover my flesh also will rest in hope.  
27 For You will not leave my soul in Hades,  
Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.  
28 You have made known to me the ways of life;  
You will make me full of joy in Your presence.’”**

3. Now watch this as Peter reasons from David’s prophecy
  - a) as to why Psalm 16,
    - (1) at least verses 8–11 of Psalm 16,

(2) cannot apply to David.

b) You do not need me to give commentary on Psalm 16, because

(1) Peter will do it for us, but

(2) I will comment a little on what Peter said, as he continued:

**“29 Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. 30 Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, 31 he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. 32 This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses.”**

**– Acts 2.23–32**

4. Did you catch what Peter said, how he reasoned?

a) David was dead and still buried.

b) They all knew where his tomb was.

(1) What did Peter imply?

(2) He implied that David’s body had seen corruption, decomposition.

5. However, they all knew the report

a) that the tomb of Jesus was empty, because

b) his soul left the Hadean world and reunited with his body.

6. Therefore, Peter concluded:

**36 “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”**

**– Acts 2.36**

a) Saying Jesus is Lord means he is over everything and everyone.

b) Saying he is the Christ means he is the chosen one of God.

## II. It Fulfilled Prophecies of Jesus

A. How many times did Jesus reveal to his disciples that he would rise?

B. Matthew 12.40

**40 “For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”**

C. Matthew 16.21

**21 From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.**

D. Matthew 17.22–23

**22 Now while they were staying in Galilee, Jesus said to them, “The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men, 23 and they will kill Him, and the third day He will be raised up.” And they were exceedingly sorrowful.**

E. Matthew 20.18–19

**18 “Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death, 19 and deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock and to scourge and to crucify. And the third day He will rise again.”**

F. Matthew 27.62–64 shows that even his enemies knew about his prophecies:

**62 On the next day, which followed the Day of Preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered together to Pilate, 63 saying, “Sir, we remember, while He was still alive, how that deceiver said, ‘After three days I will rise.’ 64 Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day, lest His disciples come by night and steal Him away, and say to the people, ‘He has risen from the dead.’ So the last deception will be worse than the**

**first.”**

G. Luke 24.5–7 two angels reminded some women:

**5 Then, as they were afraid and bowed their faces to the earth, they said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? 6 He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, 7 saying, ‘The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.’”**

H. John 2.19

**19 Jesus answered and said to them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”**

I. What all this means is

1. that Jesus spoke the truth,
2. not only on his own resurrection, but
  - a) that everything else he said,
  - b) he declared truthfully.

### **III. It Was a Self-Resurrection**

A. John 10.17–18

**17 “Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. 18 No one takes 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. This command I have received from My Father.”**

B. It shows that he has the keys of Death and Hades.

**18 “I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.”**

**– Revelation 1.18**

C. No one stood at his tomb and raised him from the dead.

1. He unlocked the gates of Hades from inside and left
2. and re-inhabited his body.
  - a) No one else in Hades can do such a thing.

D. What is Hades?

1. Hades is where everyone goes to wait for the resurrection of all humanity.
2. There are two places in Hades:
  - a) Paradise
  - b) Torment.
    - (1) Jesus went to Paradise,
    - (2) then used the key to unlock the gate of Hades,
      - (a) enabling him to reenter his body,
      - (b) hence to resurrect himself.

E. What that means is

1. he is the Creator and Owner of Hades.
2. He has power over Hades and Death.

#### **IV. He Released Us from the Fear of Death**

A. Hebrews 2.14–15

**14 Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.**

B. Why do we fear death?

1. We either do not know
  - a) what is on the other side, or
  - b) we do not believe what the Bible says is on the other side.

2. We are not sure of our salvation.
3. We fear the manner of death.
4. We believe that death is the end.
  - a) Jesus freed us from all these fears
  - b) when we realize that he died, but then
    - (1) came back,
    - (2) showing himself alive for forty days,
      - (a) before ascending into heaven.
      - (b) He made it through death, you can too.

## V. He Is the Firstfruits

### A. First Corinthians 15.20–23

**20 But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. 23 But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming.**

### B. Paul's point in First Corinthians 15 is

1. that the resurrection of Christ means
2. that we also shall rise from the dead.

### C. John 11.25

**25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live."**

### D. First Peter 1.3

**3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...**

## VI. It Declared Jesus to Be the Son of God

A. Because his resurrection fulfilled prophecy,

1. because his resurrection fulfilled his own prophecies,
2. because his resurrection was a self-resurrection,
3. because he has delivered us from the fear of death and
4. because his resurrection is the firstfruits of ours, Paul declared:

**3 ...concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, 4 and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.**

**– Romans 1.3–4**

B. If Jesus is the Son of God, what exactly does that mean?

1. If Jesus is the Son of God, he will judge all men and women.
2. If Jesus is the Son of God, and
  - a) if he favors us,
  - b) that means we have someone whom God loves on our side,
    - (1) who will speak in our favor before God.
    - (2) What do you think?