



The Resurrection & Ascension of Jesus

The greatest miracle in all the Bible is the resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ. Belief in the resurrection touches every aspect of our lives.

The Resurrection of Jesus was unlike the other Resurrections in the Bible

1. He knew exactly when he was going to be raised (Jn 2:19; Mt 12:39-40)
2. He raised Himself (Jn 10:17-18)
3. He never died again (1 Cor 15:20-21; Jn 11:25)
4. His resurrection conquered Satan and was the ultimate victory over sin and death (Heb 2:14-15)

There were other miracles surrounding the death of Jesus

- Three hours of darkness—from noon till 3 pm (Mt 27:45)
- An earthquake that split the curtain in the temple (Mt 27:51)
- Righteous dead were raised (Mt 27:52-53)

1. Jesus died about 3 PM on Friday. The Sabbath would begin at 6 PM. There was much haste in burying Him
 - Joseph of Arimathea, a secret disciple, asked Pilate for permission to bury Jesus (Jn 19:38)
 - Nicodemus brought spices to put on the body (Jn 19:39)
 - The body was wrapped in linen and buried in a "new tomb" that belonged to Joseph
 - The two Mary's were present (Mt 27:61)
 - On Saturday, the chief priests convince Pilate to guard the tomb to keep the disciples from stealing the body and falsifying an alleged resurrection. Guards and a seal are placed at the tomb (Mt 27:62-66)

2. Early Sunday morning, while it is still dark, women gather at the tomb with the purpose of putting more spices on the body (Mt 28:1)

- an earthquake had occurred that early morning (Mt 28:2)
 - an angel rolled away the stone. The guards became frightened. The angel told the women, "He is not here." They were instructed to go tell the disciples (Mt 28:2-8)
 - The disciples did not believe the women (Lk 24:11)
 - Jesus walks with two men seven miles to Emmaus. When they recognize that it was Jesus they hurried back to Jerusalem to tell the disciples. They were not believed either (Mk 16:12-13)
 - The soldiers report what happened and they are paid off to spread the rumor that the disciples stole the body (Mt 28:11-15)

3. Jesus appears to the apostles (Thomas was missing) (Jn 20:19-23)

- Jesus appears to the disciples eight days later. This time Thomas is among them (Jn 20:26)
- Jesus appeared to as many as FIVE HUNDRED (1 Cor 15:6)
- Jesus provides a great catch of fish for the disciples (Jn 21:4-8)

The consequences of the Resurrection (1 Cor 15:12-19)

1. Our preaching is worthwhile (14)
2. The apostles were true witnesses (15)
3. Our faith has value (17)
4. We are forgiven (17)
5. Those who have died, live on (18)
6. We are to be envied (19)

The Ascension takes place forty days after the Resurrection (Acts 1:3)

1. It takes place near Bethany (Lk 24:50-51; Acts 1:9-10)
2. Angels appeared (Acts 1:11)
3. Jesus ascended to sit at the right hand of His Father (Mk 16:19; Eph 1:20)

Proofs of the Resurrection

1. Scriptures (1 Cor 15:1-4)
2. Numerous eyewitnesses who never recanted and gave their lives believing this (1 Cor 15:5-8)
3. The Lord's Supper (1 Cor 11:26)
4. Baptism (Rom 6:3-4)
5. Changed lives → *Because He lives...*