

Uniqueness of Christ's Resurrection

No. 104

Introduction.

I. The apostle Matthew records these words in the 28th chapter of his gospel. (Matt. 28:1-10).

MAT 28:1 Now after the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the grave. **2** And behold, a severe earthquake had occurred, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone and sat upon it. **3** And his appearance was like lightning, and his garment as white as snow; **4** and the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men. **5** And the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified. **6** "He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying. **7** "And go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead; and behold, He is going before you into Galilee, there you will see Him; behold, I have told you." **8** And they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy and ran to report it to His disciples. **9** And behold, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshiped Him. **10** Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and take word to My brethren to leave for Galilee, and there they shall see Me."

- A. As one reads through the Bible he learns of some who were raised from the dead. The Shunamite woman, Lazarus, Jarius' daughter, Dorcas, Eutychus, and others were raised from the dead by the mighty power of God.
 - B. Jesus was not the first nor the last to be raised from the dead, but His resurrection is unique from the others. His resurrection stands out as The Resurrection of all resurrections. No other resurrection past, present or future is like it.
- I. **Propheesied In The Old Testament** - The resurrection of Christ was unique because it was prophesied in the Old Testament. (1 Cor. 15:3, 4).
- A. God said in **Psalms 2:7**.
 - 1. Paul informs us in Acts 13:33 that this prophecy was made of Christ.
 - 2. This amazing prophecy was not about the virgin birth of Jesus, but about His resurrection. He contends it was fulfilled when Christ was "begotten" or raised from the dead.

ACT 13:33 that God has fulfilled this promise to our children in that He raised up Jesus, as it is also written in the second Psalm, 'Thou art My Son; today I have begotten Thee.'

B. David said in **Psalms 16:10**.

- 1. David was not here speaking of himself; he was buried and his body saw corruption.

2. He was speaking in the first person for Christ who would be raised from the dead.
3. By inspiration Peter quotes this psalm in Acts the 2nd chapter and boldly affirms Christ fulfilled it.

ACT 2:27 Because Thou wilt not abandon my soul to Hades, Nor allow Thy Holy One to undergo decay.

29 "Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. 30 "And so, because he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn to him with an oath to seat one of his descendants upon his throne, 31 he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that He was neither abandoned to Hades, nor did His flesh suffer decay. 32 "This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses.

4. Paul also states in Acts 13 that this prophecy in the 16th psalm was made of Christ who was raised up without seeing corruption. (Act 13:35-37)

ACT 13:35 "Therefore He also says in another Psalm, 'Thou wilt not allow Thy Holy One to undergo decay.' 36 "For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep, and was laid among his fathers, and underwent decay; 37 but He whom God raised did not undergo decay.

- II. **Christ Announced It Beforehand** - The resurrection of Christ was unique because Christ announced it beforehand. (Matt.12:38-40; 16:21).
- III. **He Raised Himself Up Through The Holy Spirit** - The resurrection of Christ was unique because He raised Himself up through the Holy Spirit.
 - A. Relate John 2:19-21. **Note Christ used the pronoun "I."**
 - B. John 10:18.
 - C. **Romans 8:11.** We learn here how Christ raised Himself from the dead. He raised Himself through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- IV. **His Resurrection Was Not A Temporary Resurrection** - Christ's resurrection was unique because His resurrection was not a temporary resurrection.
 - A. Lazarus, Dorcas, Eutychus, and all the others who were raised from the dead were raised only temporarily. After a time they died again and returned to the dust of the earth.
 - B. **This is not so of Jesus' resurrection.** Jesus was dead, but now He is alive. He is alive forevermore. (Rev. 1:17, 18).
- V. **His Resurrection Was The First fruits of Our Resurrection** - Christ's resurrection was unique because His resurrection was the first fruits of our resurrection.
 - A. The inspired record state. (1 Cor. 15:20-23).

²⁰But now hath Christ been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of them that are asleep. ²¹For since by man *came* death, by man *came* also the resurrection of the dead. ²²For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. ²³But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; then they that are

Christ's, at his coming.

B. The word "first fruits" means a "pledge" or "guarantee" of our resurrection. Because He was raised we shall be raised from the dead.

1. The righteous will be raised at His coming. They will be raised to spend eternity with Christ in heaven. (Rev. 22:5).

2. The wicked also will be raised at that time. (Acts 24:15; Jn. 5:28, 29).

VI. His Resurrection Proved His Deity - Christ's resurrection was unique because it proved His Deity.

A. **There were some lingering questions.** Was Christ just a man? Was He a good man? Was He an imposter? Was He perhaps just a prophet? Was He the Son of God as He claimed? These questions still lingered even after Christ's death. There was mass confusion, even among His disciples, concerning His identity. Paul affirms. (Rom. 1:4).

B. The resurrection of Christ was conclusive and indisputable proof of the Sonship of Christ.

1. If He had been an imposter, God would not have raised Him from the dead. He would have left Jesus in the tomb.

2. God was saying by His resurrection, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased. Hear ye Him."

VII. His Resurrection Is The Foundation Of Christianity - Christ's resurrection is the foundation of Christianity.

A. Listen to these thought-provoking words of Paul. (1 Cor. 15:12-19).

¹²Now if Christ is preached that he hath been raised from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³But if there is no resurrection of the dead, neither hath Christ been raised: ¹⁴and if Christ hath not been raised, then is our preaching vain, your faith also is vain. ¹⁵Yea, we are found false witnesses of God; because we witnessed of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶For if the dead are not raised, neither hath Christ been raised: ¹⁷and if Christ hath not been raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. ¹⁸Then they also that are fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹If we have only hoped in Christ in this life, we are of all men most pitiable.

B. It is quite evident from Paul's words here that the resurrection of Christ is the very foundation of Christianity.

1. If Jesus were not raised, we shall not be raised. We have been duped. We are still in our sins. We are to be pitied.

2. **But since Christ has been raised, we too shall be raised in that last day.** We too shall have a glorious spiritual body. We too shall spend eternity with God.

Conclusion.

I. Yes, the resurrection of Christ is unique.

A. It is The Resurrection of resurrection and will bless our lives if we trust and obey the risen Savior.

B. Jesus said. (Jn. 3:36; 6:47; 11:25; Mk. 16:16).

II. Come today in faith and be baptized. Surrender your life to Jesus who is alive and rules on high. Come as we sing!

"Scripture taken from the NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE®,
© Copyright 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation

Used by permission." (www.Lockman.org)