

Foundations Lesson #14

The Resurrection of the Dead

As Paul was making his defense before King Agrippa, he challenged his hearers by saying, “Why should any of you consider it incredible that God raises the dead?” (Acts 26:8). Although some people mistakenly fail to believe in God's power to raise the dead, the resurrection of the dead is a vitally important truth which is clearly declared in Scripture.

I. the central truth of Christianity: Jesus Christ has risen from the dead

- the story as told by the writers of the gospels
 - Matthew 28:1-10 / Mark 16:1-7, 9-14 / Luke 24:1-7, 36-52 / John 20:1-9
- the resurrection preached by the early church
 - Acts 2:24, 2:31-32, 3:15, 4:2, 4:10, 4:33, 5:30, 10:40-41, 13:29-37, 17:2-3, 18, etc.
- the resurrection witnessed by the early disciples
 - Acts 1:21-22, 2:32, 3:15, 10:40-41 / I Corinthians 15:3-8
- the importance of the resurrection: our faith would be futile without it
 - I Corinthians 15:12-23
- no man-made religion having a founder who rose from the dead
 - Buddha, Confucius, Muhammad, Zoroaster, etc.
- opponents of Christianity trying to discredit the resurrection with various “theories”

II. what was accomplished by Jesus' resurrection from the dead

- a demonstration that God is *life* and that he is the author of *life*
 - Acts 2:24 / Romans 4:17 / John 5:21 / John 14:6 / John 11:25-26
- the provision of our justification and our salvation – Romans 4:24-25 / Romans 10:9
- the guarantee that Jesus' followers will also rise from the dead
 - I Corinthians 15:12-20 / Romans 8:11 / I Corinthians 6:14 / II Corinthians 4:14

III. Jesus foretelling his rising from the dead at least seven times

- #1 – John 2:19-22
- #2 – Matthew 16:21 / Mark 8:31 / Luke 9:22
- #3 – Matthew 17:9 / Mark 9:9
- #4 – Matthew 17:23 / Mark 9:31
- #5 – John 10:17-18
- #6 – Matthew 20:19 / Mark 10:34 / Luke 18:32-33
- #7 – Matthew 26:31-32 / Mark 14:27-28
- The chief priests and Pharisees were aware of it. – Matthew 27:62-63
- Angels acknowledged it. – Matthew 28:5-6 / Luke 24:4-8

IV. two varieties of the resurrection of the dead

1. being resurrected from physical death back to physical life
 - the son of the widow of Zarephath – I Kings 17:17-24
 - the son of the Shunamite couple – II Kings 4:18-37
 - the man thrown into Elisha's tomb – II Kings 13:21
 - the widow's son at Nain – Luke 7:11-17
 - Jairus' daughter – Matthew 9:18-26 / Mark 5:21-43 / Luke 8:40-56
 - Lazarus – John 11:1-44
 - many holy people – Matthew 27:52-53
 - Tabitha, also called Dorcas – Acts 9:36-41
 - Eutychus – Acts 20:7-12
 - the two witnesses – Revelation 11:7-12
2. being resurrected from physical death to everlasting spiritual existence
 - both the righteous and the wicked resurrected – Acts 24:15 / John 5:28-29
 - taking place “at the last day” – John 6:39-40
 - the Lord's judgment even allowing for some human input – Matthew 12:41-42
 - receiving a spiritual body – I Corinthians 15:35-57
 - believers receiving repayment for good done while in the body – Luke 14:13-14
 - believers having confidence based on Christ's resurrection – Romans 6:5

V. errors, speculations, and false understandings about the resurrection of the dead

- Herod – Mark 6:14-16
- the Sadducees – Matthew 22:23-32 / Mark 12:18-27 / Luke 20:27-38
- the guards at the tomb – Matthew 28:11-15
- philosophers in Athens – Acts 17:18, 31-32
- some believers in Corinth – I Corinthians 15:12
- Hymenaeus and Philetus – II Timothy 2:17-18
- how to avoid falling into such errors – Matthew 22:29 / Mark 12:24