

Proof of the Resurrection

Commentary for November 1, 2007 — The Resurrection Is True

This month's "[November 2007 Newsletter](#)" and Dr. Ernest Martin's transcribed taped lecture "Proof of the Resurrection" give the evidence as to why Jesus was the Messiah. Jesus' resurrection from the dead proved He was the Messiah, the Christ. It is from this that He is called Jesus Christ, Jesus the Messiah.

For each of us who believe that Jesus is our Savior it is important that His resurrection from the dead is proven to be a fact. Although none of us were there and we must rely on historical accounts, there is eyewitness testimony from people who were "on the scene" at important times and places. These eyewitnesses are able to communicate to us — literally — through time and space directly into your minds and thoughts and comprehension, so you can understand the events that occurred surrounding the birth, life, crucifixion, death, resurrection, and ascension into heaven of Jesus Christ.

As Dr. Martin shows, these events surrounding His life, death, and particularly His resurrection have the best evidences possible regarding any historical event. God does not leave Himself without a witness (Acts 14:17), in any important matter, and particularly in this most important group of events surrounding His Son.

Real People, Real Events

The events presented in these eyewitness accounts were not merely seen by these people, like we watch television or a movie today. These events were lived.¹ These events were experienced, not only by the apostles, the disciples, and those close to Jesus, but also by His enemies and thousands of the inhabitants of Judea and Jerusalem in particular.

During His ministry and even after His resurrection they touched Him, ate food He cooked, heard His teaching, laughed with Him, spoke with Him, they witnessed miracles done by Him, and in His name they performed miracles themselves after Pentecost.

Someday you shall do the same:

"Blessed are the pure [Greek, clean] in heart: for they shall see God."

• *Matthew 5:8*

"... when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that has this hope in him purifies himself, even as he is pure."

• *1 John 3:2–3*

"And he said unto me, 'Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb.'"

• *Revelation 19:9*

Mary held her miraculous son's tiny human body when He was born and she likely held his dead body after the crucifixion (Luke 23:55–56).² Is there any doubt she embraced Him after His resurrection?

1. See my article "[Speaking in California and Memory in Luke](#)" where I point out the identifiable instances in the Gospel of Luke where memory is specifically addressed as well as who the sources of the memories in his Gospel were.

John baptized Him. Many people drank wine with Him at the wedding at Cana. The disciples fed thousands who ate from the bread and fish miraculously provided by Him. Thousands heard His teachings and parables. Of those perhaps hundreds listened and did not like what He taught and they wanted to seize and kill Him.

Hundreds were healed by Him. Do you really think the blind, the deaf, the lepers, and the paralytics who were healed would forget what happened to them, or who healed them? Several, including His friend Lazarus, had died and were resurrected by Him. Families had their dead returned to life. You can be certain that those people and those around them paid attention to what happened to Jesus and His disciples. Re-read John 20: 30–31 and 21: 25.

As part of His ministry He sent out the apostles (including Judas) to preach with power to crowds because Jesus gave them that power, even to cast out evil spirits from people. The disciples, in fear of their lives, experienced the storm on the Sea of Galilee that He stopped, immediately. The disciples washed His feet before His crucifixion. Peter defended Him with his sword. John saw His body tortured and beaten and the blood spatter. The women, Joseph of Arimathaea and Nicodemus (John 19: 38–39) wrapped His dead body in linen and buried that body in a tomb.

The disciples touched His pierced hands and feet after His resurrection. They ate fish cooked by Him by the shore of the Sea of Galilee (John 21: 4–25).

- The events described were real.
- Every event happened.
- Scripture was fulfilled.

On the road to Emmaus Jesus spoke with two of His disciples about events in Jerusalem. Toward the end of their time with Him, Jesus opened their minds and recalled to their memory the Scriptures that they already knew. Then they believed.

"Then he said unto them, 'O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?' And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself."

• Luke 24:25–27

When He appeared to His disciples in the Upper Room He explained in detail how the Old Testament Scriptures spoke of Him:

"And he said unto them, 'These are the words which I spoke unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me."

• Luke 24:44

Enjoy Dr. Martin's presentation. The Gospel accounts can be trusted. They can be proven. They can be believed. Your belief is purifying (1 John 3: 3). Your belief will have its reward:

"... God has from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ."

• 2 Thessalonians 2:13–14

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2. Depending on whether **"from that hour"** in John 19: 26–27 meant "immediately" or whether it meant soon after His death.