

## STUDY NUMBER NINE FOR NEW CHRISTIANS - THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS

(Not entirely original with me)

**Introduction:** This study is for new Christians, however every Christian needs to be reminded of the truths of Jesus' resurrection. The resurrection of Jesus is essential to the Christian faith. Pastor, use your own introduction.

### I. CHRISTIANS BELIEVE IN THE LITERAL, BODILY RESURRECTION OF JESUS FROM THE DEAD

1. The Bible says Jesus rose from the dead.
  - Seven times in the Old Testament.
    - Psalm 16:9-10
    - Isaiah 26:19
  - 75 times in the New Testament.
    - 1 Corinthians 15:3-4
2. All Christianity depends/hangs on the reality of His resurrection.
  - Paul realized the importance of the resurrection and wrote/spoke of it often.
    - 1 Corinthians 15:14 - Preaching and faith are vain if no resurrection.
    - 1 Corinthians 15:17 - Faith is vain, and we are still in our sins.
    - 1 Corinthians 15:19 - If in this life only...
    - 1 Corinthians 15:32 - Eat and drink for tomorrow we die...

### II. A LITERAL RESURRECTION DEMANDS A GENUINE, LITERAL DEATH

1. The Bible states that Jesus died.
  - 1 Corinthians 15:3
2. Pilate officially verified that Jesus was dead.
  - Mark 15:42-45
3. A centurion stabbed Jesus with a sword to assure He was dead.
  - John 19:34
4. The flow of "blood and water" from the side of Jesus gave medical evidence of death.
  - John 19:34
  - Medical knowledge of today affirms that "blood and water" from the body is evidence of death.
5. Those who prepared Jesus' body for burial saw no sign of life.
  - John 19:38-42
6. The burial preparations would have killed Jesus if He had been alive.
  - His body was wrapped tightly making breathing almost impossible.
  - His face was covered, adding to the difficulty of being able to breathe.
  - The spices used to preserve the body were noxious and would have suffocated Jesus.
  - His weakened condition would have made death inevitable in the tomb:
    - Jesus had no sleep the previous night.
      - John chapters 18-19

- The loss of blood as sweat while praying in the garden.
  - Luke 22:44
- The scourging Jesus endured before crucifixion.
  - Matthew 27:26
- The crown of thorns shoved upon His head.
  - Matthew 27:29-30
- Ripping off His clothing, reopening the wounds from His scouraging.
  - Matthew 27:31
- The long walk to Golgotha, the place of His crucifixion.
- The crucifixion itself lasting for some six hours.
  - Mark 15:25, 34, 37
- The spear shoved into His side.
  - John 19:34

### **III. THE EMPTY TOMB**

1. There has never been any historical proof/argument to refute the fact that the tomb was/is empty.
  - The only argument about the empty tomb is HOW it became empty.
2. The early preaching taking place in Jerusalem
  - Acts 2:5, 22-24, 32, 41
  - The tomb was close to Jerusalem and had it still been occupied, Peter's sermon would have been refuted and there would not have been the many conversions.
3. No record of the tomb becoming enshrined as a place of homage or pilgrimage has happened.
4. Mention of the tomb disappears from the writings after the resurrection.
5. IF Jesus did NOT rise, the grave would have become a central place of importance, particularly to Jesus' disciples and the other followers.

### **IV. EXPLANATIONS FOR THE EMPTY TOMB BY UNBELIEVERS**

1. The disciples stole the body.
  - The oldest "explanation."
    - Matthew 28:11-14
  - However a Roman guard was posted.
    - Matthew 27:62-66
  - The order and neatness of the grave clothes. Thieves would have rushed in and made a mess.
    - Luke 24:12; John 20:4-7
  - The disciples were never charged by the law for grave robbing or for breaking the seal the Romans had put on the tomb.
  - The authorities would have mounted a massive search.
  - The women expected to find Jesus' body upon their return.
    - Luke 22:55-24:4
  - The disciples were too scared, disorganized, scattered to have thought up such a crime.
  - Testimony of moral integrity in the lives of the disciples argues against their ability to have ever committed this crime.
  - People do not die for something they know to be a lie/false.

2. The Jews stole the body of Jesus.
  - The stupidest of all explanations probably.
  - The Jews sought to prevent the body of Jesus from disappearing in the first place, thus the guard.
    - Matthew 27:62-64
3. Jesus revived in the tomb.
  - Jesus was however, truly dead.
  - Who moved the huge stone?
  - How did Jesus get out of the grave clothes?
  - Where did Jesus go for the remainder of His life if He was still alive?
    - How did He avoid being found out later?
  - How could a man of Jesus' moral integrity allow His closest friends to preach a lie and even die for that lie?
  - If Jesus were this type of a person, how could He resist the spotlight?
  - Would His appearance have evoked visions of victory?

## **V. EVIDENCES OF JESUS' RESURRECTION**

1. The empty tomb.
2. The many appearances by the risen Jesus.
  - 1 Corinthians 15:3-8
3. The transformation of the lives of His disciples' lives, especially Peter, James and then Paul.
4. The transformation of lives of believers throughout history. Dead people don't change lives of others.
5. The effect on history, itself.
6. The Bible says Jesus rose from the dead, from the tomb.
  - The Bible has been proven throughout history to be accurate and true.

## **CONCLUSION:**

1. 1 Corinthians 15:3-4
2. Christ died for our sins.
  - He was buried.
  - He rose again on the third day ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES.
3. Pastor add your own concluding remarks.