

## IS IT REALLY, REALLY TRUE?

### Job 14:14

**Introduction:** The question has been asked for centuries by every generation of mankind and Job asked that same question - *"...if a man die, shall he live again?..."* This question knocks at every heart's door at some time or other. It is a bit strange to say "IF a man die..." for death is certain and all of us will die. Perhaps it might be best to ask, "When a man dies or after a man dies, will he live again?"

We, Christians talk about the resurrection but at funerals we sometimes act as if there is no resurrection and we shall never see our loved one again who also believed in Jesus. So, is it really, really true that there is a resurrection?

- 1. Look at the life of Jesus** - born, lived, died, rose from the dead. He lived and nobody will deny that. He died and nobody will deny that (describe the details).
  - Jesus' disciples went back to fishing again after He was buried, His followers were crushed, defeated, disappointed and returned to their old jobs and ways of life. Jesus was dead now.
  - The authorities made sure Jesus was dead and that He stayed dead. (Details of the guards at the tomb)
- 2. Then came Sunday morning** - There was a fluttering of angelic wings, sound of the tomb stone being rolled back, eternal life forces pouring life into the dead body of Jesus. (Describe the sounds, etc.)
  - Some women followers of Jesus came to the tomb to finish burial details and found the doorway stone rolled away. (*John 20:11-16*)
- 3. Believe it or not** - If we believe this account, then it is the loveliest story ever written. If the account is not believed, then it is a clever and shameful lie.
  - Is it all a trick? The disciples didn't believe the women's story. Thomas didn't believe it. Then Jesus appeared to them and then: *"...my Lord and my God..."*
  - If a single person talks about seeing someone alive again who had died, nobody would pay much attention. If ten (10) people tell you, then you begin to give it some serious thought. But if 500 people tell you that they all saw the person who was dead, but was now alive, then you must admit that the facts are there and if you deny what the 500 are telling, then you are in the minority.
  - Think about this: if the story of Jesus' resurrection was made up, an invention, who would invent it or make it up so that they might be crucified upside down like Peter or have his head chopped off like Paul or stoned to death like Stephen, etc..?
- 4. John 20:4-8** - The stone was rolled away from the door NOT to let Jesus Christ out, BUT to let the others (disciples) in.
  - Remember what they saw when they entered the tomb? (Describe) Then they believed after seeing.
  - What, then did they do after seeing the empty tomb and the burial clothes folded neatly and put aside? They began to boldly tell everybody what they saw. (*Acts 2:22-24*)
  - The followers of Jesus had been scattered, downcast, hopeless, then with the thrilling news of Jesus' resurrection, everyone was completely changed. JESUS WAS NOT DEAD, BUT ALIVE!
- 5. Is this just too much to believe?** Things like this just don't happen. (Describe again the details of the resurrection and Jesus walking out.) This is just too much to believe, right?

- Think for a moment about watching your television. The room is filled with the sounds and with the television picture. You don't like the program, so you turn your television off. Did you stop the sound - no! Did you end the picture - no! The signal was still there, it was your receiver that was turned off.
- So, is it true? Because some don't want to believe in Jesus' resurrection does that make it untrue, does it mean that it didn't happen? Did Jesus really rise from the dead?

## CONCLUSION:

1. Does that question knock at your heart's door? Doesn't that question take you back 2,000 years to that empty tomb and the disciples of Jesus?
  - Place yourself in the garden on the quiet Sunday morning, think about what Mary saw and heard. Can you see a figure coming to you? Can you hear His voice?
  - Can you hear His voice saying: ***"...Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world..."...whosoever believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live, and whosoever liveth and believeth in me, shall never die..."...because I live, ye shall live also..."***
2. When we cannot stand it any longer and we cry out to God for help, then it comes.
3. So, the question again: ***"...If a man die, shall he live again?..."*** Is it really, really true? Yes, the resurrection of Jesus Christ is a fact!
4. Do you believe it?