

LIVING PROOF IT HAS BEEN COMPLETED

Acts 2:22-36

Introduction: God made man, man sinned, God had to leave man, God promised to "fix" things and restore man to acceptance and rightful position with God. God came to live with man through His Son, Jesus, coming into the world, living in the world just as every human has done since Adam and Eve. While here, Jesus revealed God's love and concern for man. God's next step in bringing man back was to get man's sin taken care of and it was on the cross that God was able to transfer all of man's sin to Himself, through the sacrificial death of His Son, Jesus. Jesus died on the cross as a sacrifice for the sins of every human being, satisfying the demands of righteousness. Jesus was then buried in a tomb, His earthly life ended, His work to redeem mankind finished. So, was it really all over? Had God's plan to redeem mankind been successful? How could people know that God's plan had worked?

I. JESUS WAS RAISED FROM THE DEAD FOR EVERYONE TO SEE

1. Jesus came to earth to live among mankind and reveal God, the Father, to everyone. More than once God, the Father, spoke audibly from heaven giving His divine approval to what Jesus was doing and people heard Him.
2. Jesus came to earth exactly as every other person did since Adam and when He began to tell about God, the Father, and show people how God loved them, the people rejected Him and eventually put Him to death, but in spite of His physical death, Jesus was still victorious.
3. Jesus came to earth to not only show the world God, the Father, but to become the redeemer of mankind. To become the sacrifice, to become the one through whom God could restore man to the fellowship Adam once had and that God wanted with all mankind.
4. So, how could God let everyone know that all was done? It was over? It was finished? What better way than for Jesus, who died on a cross and was buried in a tomb, to be resurrected for all to see as alive as He had ever been.

II. THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS WAS LIVING PROOF THAT GOD'S PLAN WORKED

1. God had promised Himself and mankind to one day deal with mankind's sin.
2. God, somehow, had to find a way to deal with ALL sin and to be able to free the entire human race from separation from God and the damnation it was in.
3. For a human being to enter into God's presence, he/she had to be like God, sinless, pure in every respect but no human being was like that, therefore God's Son, Jesus would take man's place but God's Son first had to become totally human in order to be able to pay for every sin.

4. So, from eternal existence to limited human life, to death of human life on a cross, taken lifeless from a cross and wrapped in the clothing of death, put in a tomb, the grave, now where? Had Jesus become mankind's redeemer? Had Jesus succeeded? He was dead, buried like a human being, had He really taken care of all sin? Where exactly was He?

5. *1 Corinthians 15:55-57* - "Up From the Grave He Arose..."

III. GOD'S DIVINE SEAL OF APPROVAL WAS DISPLAYED IN JESUS' RESURRECTION

1. What better way for God to show His divine approval and acceptance of what Jesus had done than by raising Jesus up from the human dead and His walking once again among those who knew Him, thus allowing everyone to see for themselves first hand?
2. On the cross, in His dying breath, Jesus uttered, "*it is finished...*" What exactly was finished?
- Sin had been payed for, Satan had been defeated, mankind had been redeemed, God and mankind could now be rejoined in eternal fellowship as it was in beginning.
3. When Jesus said, "*it is finished*" God, the Father, said "*AMEN!*" by raising Jesus up from the grave.

IV. GOD PROMISES A SIMILAR RESURRECTION TO ALL BELIEVERS (*Matthew 28:5-6*)

1. On that First day of the Week, Sunday, to us, God raised Jesus up from the grave of death.
2. The body that was raised was the very same body that Jesus had lived His earthly life in and the same body that sits today at the right hand of God, the Father, the same body that Jesus will keep throughout all eternity.
3. God has promised that all who believe in His Son, Jesus, will spend eternity in their own resurrected bodies. *1 Corinthians 15:20-24; 49*

V. THE RESURRECTION IS THE NEW BEGINNING (*Colossians 1:18*)

1. Jesus is the "first born," the beginning of a new type of existence - a resurrected human body.
2. Jesus gained back for humanity all that Adam and Eve lost that fateful day in the Garden.
3. Man, no longer, has to be a slave to sin or a part of Satan's family and death does not have to be the end anymore.
4. Jesus' resurrection guarantees victory for anyone wanting to be a part of God's family for they will have a body just like His for all eternity.
5. God planned it, Jesus and God, the Father, did it and the new beginning for man can come only through God's plan and that is through His Son, Jesus Christ.

CONCLUSION:

1. God came to this earth through His Son, Jesus, to be with mankind. God took all the sins of mankind and on the cross, payed for them Himself through His Son, Jesus. Therefore God can now give to those who believe in Jesus, a new body like Jesus' and therefore receive those who believe in Jesus, as members of His divine family.
2. Do you understand what Jesus came for? Do you understand what Jesus did? Do you understand why Jesus did it? Do you understand what God requires of you for you to have a resurrected body some day and be accepted into His divine family?
3. What have you done about it?