

The Skeptics Question and the Resurrection

Who Did Jesus Claim to Be?

- Not one recognized religious leader, not Moses, Paul, Buddha, Mohammed, Confucius, etc., has ever claimed to be God; that is with the exception of Jesus Christ. Christ is the only religious leader who has ever claimed to be deity and the only individual ever who has convinced a great portion of the world that He is God.
- Secular history affirms that Jesus lived on earth and that He was worshiped as God. He founded a church which has worshiped Him for 1,900 years.
- Mark 14:61-64 (1066)—Jesus of Nazareth was condemned to death, not upon the statements of His accusers, but upon the admission extorted from Him under oath.

Jesus Foretells His Own Resurrection

- John 2:13-17 (1116)—Jesus casts the money changers out of the temple.
- John 2:18—the Jews demand to see a sign that Jesus had the authority to act in this fashion.
- John 2:19—“destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”
- John 2:20—that’s impossible it took forty six years to build the temple.
- John 2:21-22—the Bible tells us that Jesus was speaking about his own death. Consequently, Jesus predicted his own death and resurrection.
- John 10:17-18

Jesus Foretells His Own Resurrection

- Matthew 16:21-22 (1022)—not even Jesus closest followers understood that Christ had to suffer, be killed, and raise again on the third day.
- Matthew 16:1:4—after just feeding the four thousand in chapter 15:32-39 the leadership of Israel comes and demands to see an additional sign. Jesus says that only sign that will be given to them is the sign of the prophet Jonah.
- Matthew 12:38-41 (1013)—after arguing with Jesus in verses 24-30 about what power Jesus was using to cast out devils the leadership of Israel demands an additional sign. Jesus again says that only sign of the prophet Jonah will be given.

Jesus Foretells His Own Resurrection

- Jonah 1:17 (943)—how long was Jonah in the whale's belly? Three days and three nights.
- Jonah 2:1-2-6—Jonah died and went to hell. After three days and three nights God brought up Jonah's life "from corruption."
- Acts 2:31 (1151)—when Jesus died he also went to hell for three days and three nights only to rise from the dead and not see corruption.

The Skeptics Question

- John 2:18 (1116)—we see the ***question and position*** of the skeptic. I need more proof before I can believe.
 - Matthew 12:41 (1013)
 - Luke 7:30-35 (1082)
- John 2:19 (1116)—we see ***the content*** of Christ's answer.
 - What greater proof could He offer than to rise from the dead? Naturalism is compelled to believe that death is the cessation of life, the irreversible ceasing of one's brain activity.
 - Jesus gave the greatest proof of His authority by accurately predicting His death and the time of His bodily resurrection. Of all people, the temple authorities should have been alert to His promise, but they never dreamed that it would actually happen.
 - Jesus did not predict merely a spiritual resurrection but a physical verifiable resurrection.

The Skeptics Question

- John 2:21—we see *the context* of Christ's answer. He was speaking not of the temple of his body, which He called the temple of God. Christ lifted their sights beyond bricks and mortar to the place where Christ seeks to dwell within every human being.
 - I Corinthians 3:16-17 (1214)
 - II Corinthians 6:16 (1234)
 - Ephesians 2:22 (1251)
 - II Corinthians 4:10-12 (1232)—it is God's desire to live his life out through your mortal flesh.

The Facts of the Gospel

- I Corinthians 15:3-4 (1225)—the facts of the gospel are simple.
 - Jesus Christ died for our sins (II Corinthians 5:21)
 - Jesus Christ was buried as proof that he was dead (Matthew 27:57-66)
 - Jesus Christ rose again the third day according to the Scriptures (I Corinthians 15:5-8)
- Romans 3:24-25 (1194)
- Ephesians 2:8-9 (1251)

Definition of Faith

- Faith in the Biblical sense is substantive, based on the knowledge that the One in whom that faith is placed has proved that He is worthy of that trust. In its essence, faith is a confidence in the person of Jesus Christ and in His power, so that even when His power does not serve my end, my confidence in Him remains because of who He is. Faith for the Christian is the response of trust based on who Jesus Christ claimed to be, and it results in a life that brings both mind and heart in a commitment of life to Him
- This is not an irrational or unreasonable response based on who Christ claimed to be.