

# Jesus Has Power Over Death

John 20:1-10

Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him."

So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in.

Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed;

for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples went back to their homes.

Do you believe?

Physical Formula

Assumptions and Facts = Conclusion

What evidence do we have of the resurrection of Jesus Christ?

## 1. The testimony of history vs. a "Legend" Theory?

"Legend" - over time facts are mixed with fantasy.

Davey Crockett – ½ horse, ½ alligator

Killed a bear when he was 3.

History of the resurrection of Jesus.

"According to the laws of legal evidence used in courts of law, there is more evidence for the historical fact of the resurrection of Jesus Christ than for just about any other event in history."

Dr. Simon Greenleaf (Harvard Law School)

“I am prepared to say that if anyone thinks the Gospels are either legends or novels, then that person is simply showing his incompetence as a literary critic. I’ve read a great many novels and I know a fair amount about the legends that grew up among early people, and I know perfectly well that the Gospels are not that kind of stuff.”  
C.S. Lewis – a writer of myths/fairy tale stories

- . Enemies confirm account
- . Disciples received no benefit but instead were martyred.
- . Readers too close to the situation to believe the account if it was made up.

## **2. Manuscript authority vs. “Conspiracy” Theory?**

Conspiracy? The disciples got together to plan a strategy for a new religion and invented the idea of a resurrection.

He presented Himself alive to them after His suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during 40 days and speaking about the kingdom of God. Acts 1:3

Quantity of manuscripts – 5,000 plus  
Early date of some of the manuscripts – one generation

## **3. Eyewitness accounts vs. a “Hallucination” theory?**

Hallucination? – Due to emotional and mental stress combined with an intense desire for the resurrection of Jesus, they “see” the risen Lord!

“Eyewitnesses!” – Individuals, groups, more than 500 at one time different places, different times over 40 days.

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty.  
2 Peter 1:6

This Jesus, God raised up, and of that we are all witnesses. Acts 2:32

You killed the Author of Life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses.  
Acts 3:15

## **4. Empty grave clothes vs. the “Wrong tomb” theory?**

“Wrong tomb” theory – The disciples were confused and went to the wrong tomb that was empty and began to tell everyone He has risen!

Empty grave clothes – But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen clothes by themselves... Lk. 24:12

So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen clothes with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. John 19:40

And stooping to look in, he (John) saw the linen cloths lying there... John 20:5

Peter saw the linen cloths lying there. (6)

And the facecloth, which had been on Jesus' head not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. (7)

## **5. The moving of the large stone vs. the “Swoon” Theory.**

“Swoon” theory? – Jesus never really died; He recovered in the tomb and left on His own.

“Large Stone” -

Saw the stone had been taken away from the tomb. Jn. 20:1

They found the stone rolled away from the tomb. Lk. 24:2

The stone had been rolled back, it was very large. Mk. 16:4

## **6. The Roman guards and the Roman seal vs. the “Stolen body” theory?**

Stolen body? – Disciples who are hiding and afraid for their lives would walk past 4 Roman soldiers – well trained and well armed – move 1-2 ton rock – enter tomb and unwrap Jesus, laying the linen cloths neatly on the shelf and then leave with the body of Jesus.

Roman Seal -

You have a guard of soldiers – Go, make it as secure as you can. Matt. 27:65

So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard. (66)

## 7. The transformation of the disciples!

She sent and told those who had been with Him as they mourned and wept. But when they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they would not believe it. Mark 16:10-11

- . Doubt to faith!
- . Fear to Courage!
- . Passive to active!
- . Hiding to Proclaiming!
- . Defeat to victory!

The central miracle of New Testament Christianity is the resurrection of Christ. Without this miracle, the early church would not have come into being...Indeed, we would probably never have heard of Jesus of Nazareth.” Walter A. Elwell – Evangelical Dictionary of Theology

The Resurrection of Jesus was the core message of the early church, especially in Jerusalem where it could easily be disproved. The truth and the power of the risen Lord had dramatically transformed the fearful into the faithful!

- Are you ready to believe?
- Are you ready to trust in the Risen Lord?
- Are you ready to surrender your life to the one who conquered the grave?
- Are you ready for a powerful transformation by God in your life?

Was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by His resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Rom. 1:4

For I am not ashamed of the Gospel for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes to the Jew first and also to the Greek.  
Rom. 1:16