

Lesson 4-4 Jesus - The Resurrection and Ascension

1. In former lessons we have provided evidence, if not proof, that Jesus lived, suffered, and was crucified on a Roman cross, died, went to Hades, came back from death, and ascended to Heaven. Is Jesus the only person who experienced:

Suffering? _____

Death? _____

Hades? _____

Crucifixion? _____

Resurrection? _____

Ascension? _____

2. Has anyone else experienced all the above and did they do so willingly?

3. Have there been others who were resurrected from the grave, descended to Hades and by their own power and authority ascended to heaven? (Read: Romans 1:4, John 10:17-18, Hebrews 7:16, Rev 1:18)

4. We know that the Romans were knowledgeable of the rumors that Jesus was the Son of God and the grave couldn't hold Him, so they posted guards to prevent anyone from stealing the body. Please read:

Matthew 27:64 Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, 'He has risen from the dead,' and the last fraud will be worse than the first."

Matthew 27:65 Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can."

Matthew 27:66 So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.

5. Why do you think they knew to make the tomb secure only until the third day?

6. Some feel that the disciples bribed the guards and stole the body. Do you think this is reasonable? why or why not?

7. If the disciples had stolen the body, how committed would they have been to Jesus' teachings? would they have laid down their lives for the teachings of Jesus?

8. If the body would have remained in the tomb after 3 days, would Christianity exist?

9. If the body of Jesus rotted in the tomb, what would have become of the Bible?

10. Please read:

Matthew 28:1 Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb.

Matthew 28:2 And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it.

Matthew 28:3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow.

Matthew 28:4 And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men.

Do you think the guards told anyone what they saw? why or why not?

11. We can see that Jesus resurrection was much like His life and death; it was spectacular and miraculous. What do you think the guards told Pilate?

12. What do you think Pilate thought and what did he do to preserve his reputation?

13. what do you think Pilate told his wife?

14. The Bible is very clear; After Jesus death and ascension from Hades, He appeared to many including Mary and the disciples:

John 20:15 Jesus said to her, "woman, why are you weeping? whom are you seeking?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away."

John 20:16 Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher).

John 20:17 Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

John 21:4 Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus.

John 21:5 Jesus said to them, "Children, do you have any fish?" They answered him, "No."

John 21:6 He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish.

John 21:7 Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved saith unto Peter, It is the Lord

15. what proof did Mary and the disciples have that Jesus conquered death?

16. what proof did Mary and the disciples have that Jesus conquered sin?

17. what proof do you have that Jesus conquered death?

18. what proof do you have that Jesus conquered sin?

19. what proof do you have that Jesus knows you?

20. what proof do you have, personally, that Jesus loves you?

21. Jesus is the only one who returned from death and presented Himself to hundreds of witnesses. He spent a significant time on earth before and after the resurrection; more that 500 saw Him after the resurrection and before the ascension (1 Corinthians 15:4-8). Those closest to Him spent their lives promoting Jesus' teachings and His resurrection. So, since there is so much proof of the life and resurrection of Jesus, why do so many not believe?

And, why does faith play such an important role in Christianity?

Conclusion: The resurrection and ascension of Jesus fulfilled the scriptures and were Jesus' coronation as the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. He was the first born of the dead (Revelation 1:4) and He led the way for our salvation and hope.