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THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CHRIST'S RESURRECTION

Not only can the historical resurrection be established on the basis of witnesses, but also the additional advantage of these facts is that virtually all scholars admit them as knowable history. Since such a minimum number of facts is adequate to historically establish the literal resurrection as the best explanation for the data, this event therefore should not be rejected even by those critics who disbelieve the reliability of Scripture. Their questions on other issues do not disprove this basic conclusion, which can be established by critical and historical procedures.

Especially when viewed in conjunction with the eyewitness evidence from the early Church, we have a strong twofold apologetic for the historicity of Jesus' resurrection. This contemporary approach also complements the more traditional apologetic summarized earlier, all of which combine to historically demonstrate the fact that Jesus was raised from the dead.

As Paul asserted in I Corinthians 15:12-20, the resurrection is the center of the Christian faith and teaching. This event signals the approval of Christ' teachings (Acts 2:22-23) and thus continues to provide a basis for Christian belief today. It guarantees the reality of eternal life for all who trust the gospel (I Corinthians 15:1-4, 20).

All the synoptic Gospels recorded the finding of the empty tombs and the heavenly Messengers and John added the details of the neatly folded grave image clothes [John 20:1-8].

The NT recorded 14 cases of appearances of Christ to more than 500 people after His resurrection. Matthew recorded the Galilean appearances and Luke the Jerusalem appearances.

The resurrection in glory is the most wonderful manifestation of the power of God –Who raised Him from the dead. The believer is assured that the same power is at work at him.

By His resurrection, Christ was designated Son of God in power [Romans 1:4]. The Jews condemned Him because He claimed to be the Son of God and equal with God [Luke 22:70-71]. By raising Him from the dead, God the Father gave undeniable evidence that Jesus indeed is the Son of God.

Christ's resurrection was the beginning of His exaltation as Lord and Christ, God's anointed King, Prophet and High Priest Forever on the heavenly throne [Acts 2:29-36, Philippians 2:9-11].

In Christ's resurrection, the believer has the divine guarantee of his justification before God. The ground for these fundamental blessings is to be found in Christ's atoning death [Romans 5: 10, 17-19], but without the resurrection that dead would have had no atoning power. The Cross-without resurrection would mean that God has not been satisfied by Jesus redemptive work.

When Christ was raised, the believers whom He represented in His spiritual death and in His resurrection were raised with Him [Colossians 3:1]. Jesus Christ's resurrection in a glorious, immortal, powerful, and spiritual body guarantees the believer's future resurrection in a similar manner and power [1 Corinthians 15:47-, Philippians 3:21 and 1 John 3:2].

The reality of His resurrection is far greater in importance than His death [Romans 8:32-33]. Christ died the spiritual death for our redemption and He died the physical death for our resurrection, therefore, Christ is the Cause and Source of resurrection. Salvation is the redemption of the soul and resurrection is the redemption of the body.