

**Title:** “He Is Risen!”  
**Text:**  
**ID:** 2039  
**Charts:** Yes; Keynote slide

**File Name:** resurrection evidences 2.docx  
**Scripture Reading:** 1 Corinthians 15:12-20  
**Binder #:** 41-41  
**Chart file name:** resurrection evidences 2.key

### **Introduction:**

- I. On the Day of Pentecost, Peter quoted three passages from the Old Testament:
  - A. The first was from Joel 2 and served as an explanation for the speaking in tongues by the apostles.
  - B. The second was a prophecy by David of the resurrection of the Christ (Psalm 16).
  - C. The third was a prophecy by David of the exaltation of the resurrected Christ (Psalm 110).
- II. The resurrection of Jesus was a centerpiece of the apostles’ sermon on that day (v. 24, 32).
  - A. A resurrection is a miracle, an obvious display of supernatural power.
  - B. Resurrection runs counter to the natural order of events in the physical life of a person (conception, birth, growth, decline, death, decay).
- III. The attention paid to the resurrection of Jesus in the early sermons of the apostles is understandable – considering its importance!
  - A. Evidence for the deity of Jesus
    1. **Romans 1:3–4 (ESV)** <sup>3</sup> concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup> and 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,
    2. **Romans 10:9–10 (ESV)** <sup>9</sup> because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.
  - B. Guarantee of our physical resurrection
    1. He was the “firstfruits.”
      - a. **1 Corinthians 15:20 (ESV)** <sup>20</sup> But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.
      - b. **1 Corinthians 15:23 (ESV)** <sup>23</sup> But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.
  - C. Guarantee of the final judgment
    1. **Acts 17:30–31 (ESV)** <sup>30</sup> The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup> because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”
  - D. Evidence of our spiritual resurrection
    1. **Colossians 2:11–12 (ESV)** <sup>11</sup> In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, <sup>12</sup> having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were

also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.

2. **Ephesians 1:19–20 (NKJV)** <sup>19</sup> and what *is* the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power <sup>20</sup> which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated *Him* at His right hand in the heavenly *places*,
3. **Ephesians 2:1 (NKJV)** <sup>1</sup> And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins,

#### IV. Purpose of our study:

- A. Emphasize the importance of the resurrection of Jesus.
- B. Examine the evidence for the resurrection of Jesus to produce stronger faith.

### **Body:**

#### I. **Raised or Not?**

- A. The apostles declared that Jesus had been raised from the dead. Either He was or He wasn't.
- B. If Jesus was not actually raised from the dead, at least three possibilities exist:
  1. The disciples decided to perpetrate the greatest hoax in human history by affirming what they knew was not true.
  2. The disciples truly believed that Jesus had been raised, but they were mistaken.
  3. Jesus escaped from the tomb.

#### II. **The Hoax Theory**

- A. The disciples knew that Jesus had not been raised, but decided to preach His resurrection so that they could proclaim Him to be the Son of God, the prophesied Messiah.
  1. Removing the body from the tomb would have been necessary. The disciples would have been unable to take the body from the tomb because the tomb was guarded by Roman soldiers.
    - a. **Matthew 27:62–66 (ESV)** <sup>62</sup> The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate <sup>63</sup> and said, “Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise.’ <sup>64</sup> 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.” <sup>65</sup> Pilate said to them, “You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can.” <sup>66</sup> So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.
    - b. The guards would later testify to the emptiness of the tomb, telling the story that the disciples had come and stolen the body away...while they slept (Mt. 28:11-15).
      - 1) These disciples would have been the same men who fled the Garden when Jesus was arrested.
      - 2) The apostles would have needed to move the large stone that covered the entrance to the cave tomb. Would they have been able to do that without waking the soldiers who were supposedly sleeping on duty?

2. If Jesus had not been raised, the body would have remained in the tomb and the unbelieving Jews could have produced the body at any time and thus put an end to the hoax.
    - a. Peter used a similar argument in his Pentecost sermon to prove that David didn't write about his OWN resurrection.
      - 1) **Acts 2:29 (ESV)** <sup>29</sup> “Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.
      - 2) The question of whether David's body had been raised was easily answered!
    3. The apostles were preaching the resurrection of Jesus within 50 days of His death...in the very place where Jesus had been crucified and buried. How could such a hoax have stood up even to the most cursory examination?
- B. What would have been the apostles' motivation in crafting such deceit?
1. It wasn't for financial gain – there was none!
  2. It wasn't for personal prestige.
    - a. **1 Corinthians 4:9–13 (ESV)** <sup>9</sup> For I think that God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death, because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels, and to men. <sup>10</sup> We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. <sup>11</sup> To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are poorly dressed and buffeted and homeless, <sup>12</sup> and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; <sup>13</sup> when slandered, we entreat. We have become, and are still, like the scum of the world, the refuse of all things.
    - b. Tradition suggests that all of the apostles except John were martyred for their faith.

### III. Mistaken Disciples

- A. Did the disciples go to the wrong tomb and happen upon an empty tomb by mistake?
  1. The tomb was near the place of crucifixion (John 19:40).
  2. The women who went to the tomb early on the first day of the week were the same ones who saw where Jesus was buried (Mt. 27:61; 28:1).
- B. Were the disciples confused because there were multiple bodies in the tomb, i.e., they claimed that Jesus had been raised when His body was among the other bodies in the tomb?
  1. Tombs were frequently used for multiple individuals, but not in Jesus' case.
    - a. John 19:41 – “a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid”
- C. The post-resurrection appearances
  1. Jesus appeared to people who were very familiar with Him.
    - a. On resurrection day, He appeared to Mary Magdalene (John 20:11-18), two disciples walking to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-31) and the apostles (20:19-20).
    - b. Paul listed a number of people who saw Jesus after His resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:3-8).

2. The apostles claimed to be eyewitnesses of the resurrected Jesus.
3. The apostles were not quick to believe that Jesus had been resurrected!
  - a. They didn't believe the women who came from the tomb (Luke 24:10-11).
  - b. Thomas didn't believe the other apostles until he could confirm their story for himself (John 20:24-28).

#### IV. Jesus Escaped?

- A. Being seen by the apostles after His burial doesn't necessarily mean that Jesus was resurrected! What if He never died? There is no resurrection if there was no death!
- B. Escape from the tomb would have been impossible.
  1. Guarded by soldiers
  2. Entrance/exit closed with a very large stone
    - a. **Mark 16:3–4 (ESV)** <sup>3</sup> And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?" <sup>4</sup> And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large.
  3. Jesus was in a weak physical condition.
    - a. No food, no water
    - b. Struck by Jews at the Sanhedrin meeting (Matthew 26:67-68; Mark 14:65)
      - 1) **Matthew 26:67–68 (ESV)** <sup>67</sup> Then they spit in his face and struck him. And some slapped him, <sup>68</sup> saying, "Prophecy to us, you Christ! Who is it that struck you?"
      - 2) **Mark 14:65 (ESV)** <sup>65</sup> And some began to spit on him and to cover his face and to strike him, saying to him, "Prophecy!" And the guards received him with blows.
    - c. Scourged
    - d. Crucified
- C. His death was confirmed.
  1. **John 19:33–35 (ESV)** <sup>33</sup> But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. <sup>34</sup> But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. <sup>35</sup> He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe.
  2. **Mark 15:43–45 (ESV)** <sup>43</sup> Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. <sup>44</sup> Pilate was surprised to hear that he should have already died. And summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he was already dead. <sup>45</sup> And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the corpse to Joseph.

#### Conclusion:

- I. It should be clear to all that the gospels provide us with details surrounding the death and burial of Jesus that make any conclusion other than resurrection untenable.

- A. It would have been impossible to sustain a resurrection hoax so close in time to the death of Jesus and in the same place where He had been buried.
  - B. The disciples would have been unable to steal the body of Jesus from the tomb. The Jews wanted to keep His body in the tomb to confirm their opinion that Jesus was a deceiver, an imposter.
  - C. The idea that Jesus never died on the cross, but simply swooned and was put in the tomb while still alive is fanciful and ignores the evidence from testimony.
- II. The resurrection of Jesus:
- A. Evidence of His deity
  - B. Guarantee of our resurrection & the final judgment
  - C. Evidence of God's ability to "raise the spiritually dead"

**Invitation:**

- I. Jesus was raised, never to die again ("I died, and behold I am alive forevermore" – Revelation 1:18).
- II. **Hebrews 7:25 (ESV)** <sup>25</sup> Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

<b>Places Used</b>	<b>Date</b>
Kelly Spring Road	7/24/22 (am)