

Created After the Image of God

Lesson 9 – The Resurrection of Jesus Christ

November 10, 2019

“... and to put on the new self, **created to be like God** in true righteousness and holiness” (Ephesians 4:24)

“... and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge **in the image of its Creator**” (Colossians 3:10)

Read Matthew chapter 28

1. The empty tomb is the first great fact that substantiates the resurrection
 - a. “‘Sir,’ they said, ‘we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, “After three days I will rise again.” **So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body** and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first.” (Matthew 27:62-64)
 - i. By sealing the tomb and posting guards to ensure that His body would not be stolen, they actually destroyed their own claim they would later make that His body had been stolen!
 - ii. “When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, telling them, ‘**You are to say, “His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.”**’” (Matthew 28:12-13)
 - iii. Soldiers were to be put to death for falling asleep at their post yet they were told to say this. Besides, if they really were asleep, how could they have known who stole the body?
 - b. God ordained through Moses that all Jewish men would come to Jerusalem three times a year
 - i. “**Three times a year all the men** are to appear before the Sovereign LORD.” (Exodus 23:17)
 - ii. “**Three times a year all your men** must appear before the LORD your God at the place he will choose: **at the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the Festival of Weeks and the Festival of Tabernacles.** No one should appear before the LORD empty-handed” (Deuteronomy 16:16)
 - c. On the Festival of Unleavened Bread (Passover), Jerusalem was overflowing with people
 - i. “**Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?** ... In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn’t find his body.” (Luke 24:18, 22-23)
 - ii. “**That the Messiah would suffer and, as the first to rise from the dead,** would bring the message of light to his own people and to the Gentiles. ... The king is familiar with these things, and I can speak freely to him. I am convinced that none of this has escaped his notice, because **it was not done in a corner.**” (Acts 26:23, 26)
 - iii. God ensured great multitudes of people would be in Jerusalem during these days. More people adds credibility to the events and makes the resurrection harder to deny.
 - d. Just 50 days later on the Festival of Weeks (Pentecost), again Jerusalem was filled with people
 - i. “Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that **the patriarch David** died and was buried, and **his tomb is here to this day.**” (Acts 2:29). Everyone in Jerusalem knew that David’s tomb was still occupied but Jesus’ tomb was not!
 - ii. Jewish men were the best judges of the evidence—they had everything to lose and nothing to gain, they knew the Scriptures, they witnessed the events, they understood the implications—about 3,000 Jewish men believed the resurrection in that place at that time
 - iii. The preaching of the gospel message about the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ began right after it all happened and right where it all happened, in Jerusalem
 - iv. If it couldn’t be legitimately denied in that place at that time then it can’t be denied anywhere else at any other time
2. Eyewitness testimony is the second great fact that substantiates the resurrection

- a. "One witness is not enough to convict anyone accused of any crime or offense they may have committed. **A matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.**" (Deuteronomy 19:15)
- b. "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and **you will be my witnesses** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8); "God has raised this Jesus to life, and **we are all witnesses of it.**" (Acts 2:32); "You killed the author of life, but **God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this.**" (Acts 3:15); "And with great power **the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus.** And great grace was upon them all." (Acts 4:33 NKJV); "The God of our ancestors **raised Jesus from the dead**—whom you killed by hanging him on a cross. ... **We are witnesses of these things,** and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him." (Acts 5:30, 32); "But **God raised him from the dead** on the third day and caused him to be seen. He was not seen by all the people, but **by witnesses whom God had already chosen**—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead." (Acts 10:40-41); "But **God raised him from the dead,** and for many days he was seen by those who had traveled with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. **They are now his witnesses to our people.**" (Acts 13:30-31), "**You will be his witness** to all people of what you have seen and heard." (Acts 22:15); "Now get up and stand on your feet. I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and **as a witness of what you have seen and will see of me.**" (Acts 26:16); "After that, **he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time,** most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep." (1 Corinthians 15:6)
- c. Not giving false witness or testimony was one of the Ten Commandments—it was a serious sin
 - i. "**You shall not give false testimony** against your neighbor." (Exodus 20:16)
 - ii. "**Do not spread false reports.** Do not help a guilty person by being **a malicious witness.**" (Exodus 23:1)
 - iii. "The judges must **make a thorough investigation,** and if the witness proves to be a liar, giving false testimony against a fellow Israelite, then **do to the false witness as that witness intended to do to the other party.** You must purge the evil from among you." (Deuteronomy 19:18-19)
 - iv. "There are six things **the LORD hates,** seven that are detestable to him ... **a false witness who pours out lies ...**" (Proverbs 6:16, 19)
 - v. "For out of the heart come **evil thoughts**—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, **false testimony,** slander." (Matthew 15:19)
 - vi. "**And if Christ has not been raised,** our preaching is useless and so is your faith. More than that, **we are then found to be false witnesses about God,** for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised." (1Co 15:14-15)
3. Signs, wonders, and miracles is the third great fact that substantiates the resurrection
 - a. The sign of tongues on the Day of Pentecost about 50 days after Christ's resurrection
 - i. "Now the whole world had **one language and a common speech.** ... That is why it was called Babel—because there **the LORD confused the language of the whole world.** From there the LORD **scattered them over the face of the whole earth.**" (Genesis 11:1, 9)
 - ii. The same God that scattered all people by confusing the languages is the same God that confirmed Christ's resurrection by giving instant fluency in languages
 - iii. "Then how is it that **each of us hears them in our native language?** Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and

- converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—**we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!**” (Acts 2:8-11)
- iv. Jewish men from all over the world speaking different native languages were in Jerusalem
 - b. Jesus gave His disciples supernatural power during His ministry and also after His resurrection
 - i. “Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and **gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.**” (Matthew 10:1)
 - ii. “**But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you;** and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)
 - iii. Giving them this power again substantiates that He is alive and that it’s still His ministry
 - c. Signs, wonders, and miracles was confirmation from God of the gospel message they preached
 - i. “And they went out and **preached everywhere,** the Lord working with *them* and **confirming the word through the accompanying signs.** Amen.” (Mark 16:20 NKJV)
 - ii. “‘What are we going to do with these men?’ they asked. ‘Everyone living in Jerusalem knows **they have performed a notable sign, and we cannot deny it.**’” (Acts 4:16)
 - iii. “How shall we escape if we ignore so great a salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was **confirmed to us by those who heard him. God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles,** and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.” (Hebrews 2:3-4)
 - iv. “I persevered in demonstrating among you **the marks of a true apostle, including signs, wonders and miracles.**” (2 Corinthians 12:12)
 - d. Why would God confirm false witnesses with miracles? God hates false witness!
 - 4. The spread of Christianity is the fourth great fact that substantiates the resurrection
 - a. “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses **in Jerusalem,** and in all Judea and Samaria, and **to the ends of the earth.**” (Acts 1:8)
 - b. The foundation of Christianity was in Jerusalem with the sign of tongues given to the Jews
 - i. “Very well then, **with foreign lips and strange tongues God will speak to this people ...** So this is what the Sovereign LORD says: ‘See, **I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation;** the one who relies on it will never be stricken with panic.’” (Isaiah 28:11, 16)
 - ii. The city of Jerusalem is Zion, “Zion—which is the City of David.” (2 Samuel 5:7)
 - iii. The Day of Pentecost with the sign of tongues became the cornerstone of Christianity
 - c. The same sign of tongues was also given to Gentiles, confirming their salvation as well
 - i. “The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on **Gentiles.** For they heard them **speaking in tongues and praising God.**” (Acts 10:45-46)
 - ii. “**“So if God gave them the same gift he gave us who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ,** who was I to think that I could stand in God’s way?’ When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, ‘**So then, even to Gentiles God has granted repentance that leads to life.**’” (Acts 11:17-18)
 - iii. That Jews never wanted to accept Gentiles shows just how strong this sign was to them
 - d. “And if Christ has not been raised, **our preaching is useless and so is your faith.** ... And if Christ has not been raised, **your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.**” (1 Corinthians 15:14, 17)
 - i. If the resurrection did not happen then Christianity is just another false religion
 - ii. The extent and strength of Christianity testifies to the believability of the resurrection
 - 5. What’s the real reason people reject Christ and don’t become Christians?
 - a. If the resurrection happened then Christianity is true and all other religions are false
 - b. The credibility of the resurrection is so strong that it’s very suspicious when people deny it

- i. Maybe they haven't done their homework and just don't have all the facts?
 - ii. Maybe they're not very intelligent and it's hard for them to understand?
 - iii. Maybe the real reason is that they have motives for denying it?
- c. "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ... **This is the verdict:** Light has come into the world, but **people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.**" (John 3:16, 19)
 - i. A verdict indicates a strong conclusion or a sound judgment—the resurrection is a verdict leaving no excuses for denying it
 - ii. Jesus left no gray area about the truth, it's the difference between light and darkness
 - iii. If the resurrection is a verdict (light in the darkness), and you've heard the evidence, and you're an intelligent person, yet you still deny it, then it indicates that you have motives
 - iv. Jesus said that people reject light because they love darkness—they love living in sin
- d. The paradox of Christianity is that it's easy to be saved, but it's not easy to be saved!
 - i. Jesus paid the price for our sins, but we must pay a price in turning from our sins
 - ii. We must strip away our pride, expose our shame, turn from sin, and live for Christ
 - iii. We must forsake everything and sell ourselves into slavery of the Lord Jesus Christ
- e. What's your reason for not becoming a Christian?

Basic Lecture Lesson Plan – Fall & Winter 2019

1. The Creation of the Universe and Man (9/8)
2. The Purpose for Creating Man (9/15)
3. The Fall of Man (9/22)
4. The Curse (9/29)
5. God's Chosen People (10/6)
6. Prophecies about Jesus Christ (10/13)
7. The Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ (10/20)
8. The Death and Burial of Jesus Christ (11/3)
9. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ (11/10)
10. The Lordship of Jesus Christ (11/17)
11. Conformed to the Image of Jesus Christ (11/24)
12. Treasure on Earth or in Heaven (12/1)
13. The Strength, Comfort, and Peace of the Holy Spirit (12/8)
14. Trusting God (12/15)
15. The Whole Armor of God (12/22)