

**UNANSWERED**

**BODY OF PROOF**

**CAN I TRUST IN THE  
RESURRECTION OF JESUS?**

# UNANSWERED



# INTRODUCTION

- After receiving more than four thousand questions at his Christian Thinkers Society events, Dr. Jeremiah Johnston recognized six categories of recurring, trending questions.
- Today we will examine one of those questions.
- Body of Proof: Why Can I Trust in the Bodily Resurrection of Jesus and How Does That Change Things Today?

**THE DEAD RISE:  
A PHD IN ZOMBIES**

# RESURRECTION

- Resurrection of Jesus: A Ghost Story?
- Our culture is fascinated by the notion of the risen dead. You can even earn a Ph.D. in zombie studies.
- But that was not the world of the New Testament.
- A bodily resurrection was foreign both to the Jewish culture and to the Roman culture.
- Dr. Jeremiah Johnston explains it this way:



# RESURRECTION

- Recovering a Resurrection-Centric Faith
- The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the seminal issue for the church today.
- Paul made the resurrection the foundation of the Gospel message (1 Corinthians 15:1-8, 12-20).
- The two disciples (Luke 24:13-35) said that had hoped that Jesus was the one. The death of Christ should have been the end of Christianity.

# RESURRECTION

- Belief in the bodily resurrection of Jesus was the driving force behind the growth and expansion of the early church.
- It began with people in the upper room to a movement that, by the time it has reached Thessalonica in Greece, had "*turned the world upside down*" (Acts 17:6).
- Every sermon in Acts discusses the resurrection.

# RESURRECTION

- We are on the eve of the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther and the Reformation.
- Luther's study of Romans led to this Reformation.
- In the opening chapter of Romans, Paul states that Jesus "*was declared to be the Son of God in power . . . by his resurrection from the dead.*"
- The early church was resurrection-centric in all each teaching and mission.

# RESURRECTION

- How many sermons do most Christians heard in the last year about the resurrection of Jesus?
- Perhaps the only time it is mentioned in many churches is on Easter Sunday.
- Most Christians do not know how to defend the foundational belief of Christianity.
- Paul explains that it is *“of first importance.”*



καὶ ὁ ἄκλυτος τοῦ Ἰσραὴλ μετὰ τῶν ἀνθρώπων  
μετ' αὐτῶν

# RESURRECTION

- Romans 8:11 - *“If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies.”*
- Colossians 1:27 - Only because of the resurrection could Paul say that, *“Christ in you, the hope of glory.”*
- Do you possess a resurrection-centric faith?

**EVIDENCE OF THE  
GREATEST COMEBACK**

# RESURRECTION

- Evidence for a Resurrection-Centric Faith
- In New Testament times, people did not live very long (life expectancy was in the 20s).
- Skeletal remains suggest that as many as 25 percent were sick, dying, or in need of medical attention. Infant mortality was as high as 30 percent.
- Jesus immediately gained attention as a Healer and Miracle Worker.

# RESURRECTION

- Jesus raised people from the grave:
  - Jesus raised the daughter of Jairus from the dead (Mark 5:21-43; Matthew 9:18-26; Luke 8:40-56).
  - Jesus raised up the only son of a widow as the funeral left the village of Nain (Luke 7:11-17).
  - Jesus raised Lazarus from the tomb in Bethany four days after he died (John 11:1-44).

# RESURRECTION

- Scriptural Evidence for the Resurrection
- Jesus had to convince His disciples that He was not a ghost (Luke 24:36-49).
- He tells them to touch Him (Luke 24:39).
- He even eats with them (Luke 24:41).
- Imagine their thoughts as He ate with them and they thought back to His brutal crucifixion.

# RESURRECTION

- In his Pentecostal sermon (Acts 2:32), Peter proclaimed: *“This Jesus God raised up, and of that we are all witnesses.”*
- Nothing short of the miracle of the resurrection can explain the post resurrection transformation of the disciples who fled (Mark 14:50) just days before.
- All four Gospels report that the tomb was empty. Even the skeptics knew the tomb was empty.

# RESURRECTION

- Scriptural Evidence for the Post-Resurrection Appearances
- Women leaving the tomb area (Matt. 28:9-10).
- Mary Magdalene (Mark 16:9-10; John 20:14-17).
- Two disciples on the road to Emmaus (Mark 16:12-13; Luke 24:13-31).
- Peter (Luke 24:34; 1 Cor. 15:5).

# RESURRECTION

- Ten disciples in the upper room (Luke 24:36-49; John 20:19-23).
- Eleven disciples in the upper room (Mark 16:14; John 20:26-31; 1 Cor. 15:5).
- Seven disciples fishing (John 21:1-23).
- The disciples on the Galilee mountain (Matt. 28:16-20; Mark 16:15:5).

# RESURRECTION

- More than 500 witnesses (1 Cor. 15:7).
- James and then all the apostles (1 Cor. 15:7).
- The ascension (Mark 16:19; Luke 24:50-51; Acts. 1:7-9).
- Apostle Paul (Acts 9:3-6).

# RESURRECTION BODIES

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- What will the Resurrection Be Like?
- Cosmic signs and miracles will hasten the resurrection of the dead.
- The dead will suddenly rise suddenly while three sounds take place:
- The command of the Lord, the voice of the Archangel, and the trumpet of God (1 Thess. 4:16).

# RESURRECTION BODIES

- What Kind of Resurrection Body?
- Our resurrection body will be a literal, physical body, not a spirit-ghost body or apparition.
- Paul tells us that Christ will “*transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body*” (Phil. 3:21). We will have a body like His body (Luke 24:39).
- Christians used the term *koimeterion* to describe the caring for the body in burial (cemetery).

# RESURRECTION BODIES

- Why Does the Resurrection Matter for Us Today?
- Paul reminds us (1 Cor. 15:30-32) that the resurrection is central to our faith and is something we should proclaim as part of the Gospel.
- Paul concludes by stating that our labor is not in vain (1 Cor. 15:58). We should be “*steadfast, immovable, always excelling in new Lord’s work.*”



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JEREMIAH J. JOHNSTON

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LASTING TRUTH FOR TRENDING QUESTIONS

CHRISTIAN THOUGHTS  
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