

Jesus Is Raised From the Dead

- Exodus 5.1–2, “Who is Yahweh that I should obey his voice? I do not know Yahweh.”
- Previous lessons: 1) “Exodus: Who Is Yahweh That I Should Obey His Voice?” 2) “Leviticus: I am Yahweh, Be Holy, for I am Holy,” 3) “Ezekiel: They Shall Know That I am Yahweh,” and 4) “Who Is This Jesus?”

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Brief List of Evidences for the Resurrection

- Ancient documents that record eye witness accounts of the resurrected Jesus, all of whom saw and heard Jesus, many touched him or used other senses:
 - o Mary Magdalene, John 20.10–18
 - o Mary / women, Matthew 28.1–10
 - o Peter, 1 Corinthians 15.5
 - o Two disciples, Luke 24.13–35
 - o Ten disciples, Luke 24.36–49; John 20.19–23
 - o Eleven disciples, John 20.24–31
 - o Seven disciples, John 21
 - o All disciples, Matthew 28.16–30; Mark 16.14–18
 - o 500 brethren, 1 Corinthians 15.6
 - o James, 1 Corinthians 15.7
 - o All apostles, Acts 1.4–8
 - o Paul, Acts 9.1–9; 1 Corinthians 15.8
- Indirect evidences
 - o Transformed disciples: from scared, scattered, and skeptical to bold proclaimers of the resurrection no matter the consequences, Matthew 27.58; Mark 16.11, 13, 14; Luke 24.11, 18; John 20.15, 19, 25; Acts 4–5.
 - o Theme of apostolic preaching: major thrust of all recorded sermons and speeches in Acts and the arguments providing reasons for radical changes in attitudes and actions center on the resurrection, Acts and Epistles; for example, Acts 2.22–40; 3.14, 26; 4.10; cf. 4.2,33; 1 Corinthians 15.
 - o Reaction of those who rejected Jesus: no enemy ever produced a body to deny the resurrection; instead they bribed the soldiers who had guarded the tomb to lie, Matthew 28.11–15; they resisted rather than refuted the disciples’ proclamation of the resurrected Jesus.
 - o Existence and rapid growth of the early church: rapid growth in the face of opposition and persecution; quickly distributed throughout the Roman Empire.
- The above points were adapted from Norman L. Geisler, “Resurrection, Evidence For,” *Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics*, Baker Reference Library (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1999), 651–656.
- Our purpose in this lesson, though, is to determine what the resurrection means regarding knowing Yahweh. We want to answer the “So what?”

Demonstrates God’s Power

- Acts 2.23–24, 36; 3.15; 10.40; 13.29–30, man killed the Christ (under the influence of satanic powers, 1 Corinthians 2.8; cf. John 13.2); God raised him from the dead; the apostles declared the power of God in their preaching by pointing to the resurrection of Jesus.
- Romans 1.1–6; Ephesians 1.18–20; Colossians 2.12; 1 Peter 3.18 (cf. (N)KJV or NIV), the apostles declared the message of and based their teaching on the power of God as made known in the resurrection of Jesus.

Confirms Jesus as the Son of God

- John 20.24–31, Thomas went from “I will never believe” (v25) to Jesus telling him, “Don’t disbelieve, but believe” (v27) to Thomas declaring of Jesus, “My Lord and my God!” (v28) to Jesus saying “Have you believed because you’ve seen me? Blessed are those who haven’t seen and yet have believed” (v29) to John saying he wrote all of those “so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name” (v31). [Thomas gets a bad rap. John’s purpose in writing his gospel was to make Jesus known as God to his readers / hearers, cf. John 1.1–4, 14, 18; 20.30–31, and he chose Thomas to make this declaration in John 20.28.]

- Psalm 2.7, nearly 1000 years before Jesus's death, burial, and resurrection, David prophesied that God would beget a son and on the day he begot him he would declare that he was his son. Paul said this begetting occurred in Jesus's resurrection, Acts 13.26–33; Romans 1.1–6.

Is the Basis for Faith

- 1 Corinthians 15.12–19, everything about our faith stands or falls on the resurrection of Jesus.
- Romans 10.9–11, God graciously grants salvation to those who truly believe that he raised Jesus from the dead (cf. Romans 4.24). Saving faith is so much more than just acknowledging that we are sinners or that Jesus was a great person and great teacher. Faith in the resurrection of Jesus comes from hearing the word of Christ (Romans 10.17) and culminates in our obedience to the gospel (Romans 10.13–16; more below).
- The resurrection of Jesus was the central point of every sermon in Acts; cf. 2 Timothy 2.8.

Is the Basis for Our Justification / Salvation in Baptism

- Romans 4.13–25 (esp vv24b–25), Jesus was raised from the dead for our justification, and when we believe in God who raised him from the dead we can be saved. But how does faith in the resurrection of Jesus save?
- Romans 6, it is in water baptism that we are united with Jesus in his death and resurrection and thereby are dead to sin, are saved by his blood / death (cf. Romans 5.6–11), walk in newness of life, put to death the old person of sin, are no longer enslaved to sin, are set free from sin, etc.; note esp Romans 6.17–18.
- Colossians 2.8–15 // Ephesians 2.1–10, these parallel passages teach 1) we were dead in sin, 2) when we followed the prince of the power of the air and 3) the passions of our flesh, 4) but the God who raised Jesus from the dead 5) raises us from the dead when we by faith are baptized and 6) makes us alive together with Jesus. Though the word “baptism” doesn't appear in Ephesians 2.1–10, all the other phrases that appear in both passages makes it undeniable that the raising of us in both passages is connected to our being first buried in water baptism; out of the waters of baptism, God raises us with Jesus whom he previously raised.
- 1 Peter 3.18–22, as Noah and his family were saved through water, baptism now saves us; not because it is a meritorious work, but because it is an act of faith in which we appeal to God to cleanse us from our sins by the blood of Jesus (cf. Hebrews chapter 9, esp vv9b–10, 13–14, and chapter 10, esp vv1–4, 19–22 [“bodies washed with pure water” is a reference to baptism, “our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience” is a reference to what God does to our soul / conscience with the blood of Jesus when we are baptized]).

Is the Basis of Our Resurrection

- John 14.1–4, 18–19, before even dying on the cross, Jesus said he would live again and that because he lived after death, those who were in him would also live after death.
- Acts 26.22–23, Paul taught that the scriptures (“the prophets and Moses”) taught that Jesus would rise from the dead first, followed by the rest of us (cf. Acts 23.6; 24.15–16).
- Romans 8.11, God raised Jesus from the dead, so we know he will raise our dead bodies (cf. Romans 1.4; 1 Corinthians 15.42–44).
- 1 Corinthians 15.20–23, Christ's resurrection means our resurrection will be next.
- Philippians 3.1–11, Paul, confident in the resurrection of Jesus, threw away everything he had ever worked for before knowing the truth about Jesus so that he could then devote everything to attain the resurrection from the dead. We should do whatever it takes, too, “that by any means possible [we] may attain the resurrection from the dead”!

Who is Yahweh that I should obey his voice? He is the God who raised Jesus from the dead so that we might know him, believe in him, and obey him, so that one day we would be resurrected to spend eternity with him. Do you know Yahweh? Do you believe in him? Have you obeyed the gospel?