

The Resurrection of Jesus

Lesson 1
The Biblical Testimony

Introduction

- Resurrection of Jesus – central fact of Christianity
- Confirms purpose of His death and establishes basis for His exaltation, now ruling above all
- If Jesus was not raised, then His claims and actions are invalid
- Along with the Creation, Jesus' resurrection is strongly denied by many

2

Introduction

- Examples – Evolution theory (denying God as Creator) and Jeffersonian Bible (Bible stopped after Matthew 27:60 denying Jesus' resurrection)
- Belief in Jesus' death and resurrection often taken for granted
- Forget that these vital truths are based on reasonable testimony not human emotions or traditions

3

Introduction

- We believe not because of feelings or habit but because of the reliable testimony of the Word of God which we have read
- Many ancient writings with only few copies in existence accepted as reliable while the New Testament with thousands of copies in existence seen as unreliable
- Lessons designed to strengthen faith in the living Lord whom we should trust for forgiveness, eternal life and daily strength⁴

The Resurrection of Jesus

The biblical testimony
Biblical testimony compared to man's theories
If the resurrection is true or false, then...
God's transforming power in the resurrection and gospel

5

The Biblical Testimony

Historical nature of the biblical testimony
Trustworthy nature of the biblical testimony
Importance of Jesus' death, burial and resurrection
Biblical testimony of Jesus' death, burial and resurrection

6

Historical Nature Of The Biblical Testimony

- New Testament not written in “once up a time” fairy tale type language
- Written in historical style noting people, places, events and things
- If facts incorrect, could be easily proven by anyone
- Notice some examples

7

Historical Nature Of The Biblical Testimony

Luk 1:1 Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile an account of the things accomplished among us,
Luk 1:2 just as they were handed down to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word,

8

Historical Nature Of The Biblical Testimony

Luk 1:3 it seemed fitting for me as well, having investigated everything carefully from the beginning, to write *it* out for you in consecutive order, most excellent Theophilus;
Luk 1:4 so that you may know the exact truth about the things you have been taught.

9

Historical Nature Of The Biblical Testimony

Luk 2:1 Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth.
Luk 2:2 This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.
Luk 2:3 And everyone was on his way to register for the census, each to his own city.

10

Historical Nature Of The Biblical Testimony

Luk 2:4 Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David,
Luk 2:5 in order to register along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child.

11

Historical Nature Of The Biblical Testimony

Luk 3:1 Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip was tetrarch of the region of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene,
Luk 3:2 in the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John, the son of Zacharias, in the wilderness.

12

Historical Nature Of The Biblical Testimony

Luk 3:3 And he came into all the district around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins;

13

Historical Nature Of The Biblical Testimony

Act 1:1 The first account I composed, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach,

Act 1:2 until the day when He was taken up *to heaven*, after He had by the Holy Spirit given orders to the apostles whom He had chosen.

14

Historical Nature Of The Biblical Testimony

Act 1:3 To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a *period of* forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God.

15

Trustworthy Nature Of The Biblical Testimony

- Biblical testimony as trustworthy as any human testimony meeting standards of reliability designed to evaluate court testimony
- What makes witnesses believable and trustworthy?
 - Honesty
 - Competence
 - Sufficient number

16

Trustworthy Nature Of The Biblical Testimony

- Our belief in testimony of Jesus' death, burial and resurrection form foundation for all else we are to believe and obey
- If we believe these primary facts, then we ought to follow the same guidelines for understanding biblical testimony as to how we should be saved, worship God and work with a local church

17

Trustworthy Nature Of The Biblical Testimony

Act 1:21 "Therefore it is necessary that of the men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us--

Act 1:22 beginning with the baptism of John until the day that He was taken up from us-- one of these *must* become a witness with us of His resurrection."

18

Trustworthy Nature Of The Biblical Testimony

1Jn 1:1 What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life--
1Jn 1:2 and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us--

19

Trustworthy Nature Of The Biblical Testimony

1Jn 1:3 what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.
1Jn 1:4 These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete.

20

Trustworthy Nature Of The Biblical Testimony

Joh 20:30 Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book;
Joh 20:31 but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

21

Importance Of Jesus' Death, Burial And Resurrection

1Co 15:1 Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand,
1Co 15:2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.

22

Importance Of Jesus' Death, Burial And Resurrection

1Co 15:3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,
1Co 15:4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,
1Co 15:5 and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

23

Importance Of Jesus' Death, Burial And Resurrection

1Co 15:6 After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep;
1Co 15:7 then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles;
1Co 15:8 and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also.

24

The Biblical Testimony

Historical nature of the biblical testimony
Trustworthy nature of the biblical testimony
Importance of Jesus' death, burial and resurrection
Biblical testimony of Jesus' death, burial and resurrection

25

Biblical Testimony Of Jesus' Death, Burial And Resurrection

- As we read the biblical record, we might ask, "Where are the holes in the account?"
- I have studied it many times and cannot find any holes in it that cause me to have doubts of its truthfulness
- Let us honestly and humbly consider the evidence for Jesus' death, burial and resurrection

26

Jesus Foretold His Death and Resurrection

Mar 8:31 And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

Mar 8:32 And He was stating the matter plainly. And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him.

27

Jesus Foretold His Death and Resurrection

Mar 8:33 But turning around and seeing His disciples, He rebuked Peter and *said, "Get behind Me, Satan; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's."

Luk 18:31 Then He took the twelve aside and said to them, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all things which are written through the prophets about the Son of Man will be accomplished.

28

Jesus Foretold His Death and Resurrection

Luk 18:32 "For He will be handed over to the Gentiles, and will be mocked and mistreated and spit upon,

Luk 18:33 and after they have scourged Him, they will kill Him; and the third day He will rise again."

29

Jesus Foretold His Death and Resurrection

Luk 18:34 But the disciples understood none of these things, and *the meaning of* this statement was hidden from them, and they did not comprehend the things that were said.

30

Jesus Foretold His Death and Resurrection

Mat 26:28 for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.

Mat 26:31 Then Jesus *said to them, "You will all fall away because of Me this night, for it is written, 'I WILL STRIKE DOWN THE SHEPHERD, AND THE SHEEP OF THE FLOCK SHALL BE SCATTERED.'

Mat 26:32 "But after I have been raised, I will go ahead of you to Galilee." 31

Jesus Was Scourged, Mocked and Crucified

Joh 19:1 Pilate then took Jesus and scourged Him.

Joh 19:2 And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and put a purple robe on Him;

Joh 19:3 and they *began* to come up to Him and say, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and to give Him slaps *in the face*.

32

Jesus Was Scourged, Mocked and Crucified

Joh 19:17 They took Jesus, therefore, and He went out, bearing His own cross, to the place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha.

Joh 19:18 There they crucified Him, and with Him two other men, one on either side, and Jesus in between.

33

Jesus Was Scourged, Mocked and Crucified

Joh 19:19 Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It was written, "JESUS THE NAZARENE, THE KING OF THE JEWS."

Joh 19:23 Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His outer garments and made four parts, a part to every soldier and *also* the tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece.

34

Jesus Was Scourged, Mocked and Crucified

Joh 19:24 So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, *to decide* whose it shall be"; *this was* to fulfill the Scripture: "THEY DIVIDED MY OUTER GARMENTS AMONG THEM, AND FOR MY CLOTHING THEY CAST LOTS."

35

Jesus Was Scourged, Mocked and Crucified

Joh 19:25 Therefore the soldiers did these things. But standing by the cross of Jesus were His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the *wife* of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

Joh 19:30 Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

36

Jesus Was Scourged, Mocked and Crucified

Joh 19:31 Then the Jews, because it was the day of preparation, so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and *that* they might be taken away.

Joh 19:32 So the soldiers came, and broke the legs of the first man and of the other who was crucified with Him;

37

Jesus Was Scourged, Mocked and Crucified

Joh 19:33 but coming to Jesus, when they saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs.

Joh 19:34 But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.

38

Jesus Was Scourged, Mocked and Crucified

Joh 19:35 And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you also may believe.

Joh 19:36 For these things came to pass to fulfill the Scripture, "NOT A BONE OF HIM SHALL BE BROKEN."

Joh 19:37 And again another Scripture says, "THEY SHALL LOOK ON HIM WHOM THEY PIERCED."

39

Jesus Was Buried In Joseph's Tomb

Mar 15:43 Joseph of Arimathea came, a prominent member of the Council, who himself was waiting for the kingdom of God; and he gathered up courage and went in before Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus.

40

Jesus Was Buried In Joseph's Tomb

Mar 15:44 Pilate wondered if He was dead by this time, and summoning the centurion, he questioned him as to whether He was already dead.

Mar 15:45 And ascertaining this from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph.

41

Jesus Was Buried In Joseph's Tomb

Joh 19:38 After these things Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but a secret *one* for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus; and Pilate granted permission. So he came and took away His body.

Joh 19:39 Nicodemus, who had first come to Him by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds *weight*.

42

Jesus Was Buried In Joseph's Tomb

Joh 19:40 So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen wrappings with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews.

Joh 19:41 Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid.

Joh 19:42 Therefore because of the Jewish day of preparation, since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there. 43

Jesus Was Buried In Joseph's Tomb

Mat 27:59 And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth,

Mat 27:60 and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the entrance of the tomb and went away. 44

Tomb Sealed and Guard Stationed

Mat 27:62 Now on the next day, the day after the preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered together with Pilate, Mat 27:63 and said, "Sir, we remember that when He was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I *am to* rise again.' 45

Tomb Sealed and Guard Stationed

Mat 27:64 "Therefore, give orders for the grave to be made secure until the third day, otherwise His disciples may come and steal Him away and say to the people, 'He has risen from the dead,' and the last deception will be worse than the first."

Mat 27:65 Pilate said to them, "You have a guard; go, make it as secure as you know how." 46

Tomb Sealed and Guard Stationed

Mat 27:66 And they went and made the grave secure, and along with the guard they set a seal on the stone. 47

Why Did Jesus Die?

Isa 53:4 Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted.

Isa 53:5 But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being *fell* upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed. 48

Why Did Jesus Die?

Isa 53:6 All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him.

Isa 53:7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He did not open His mouth; Like a lamb that is led to slaughter, And like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, So He did not open His mouth.

49

Why Did Jesus Die?

Isa 53:8 By oppression and judgment He was taken away; And as for His generation, who considered That He was cut off out of the land of the living For the transgression of my people, to whom the stroke *was due*?

50

Why Did Jesus Die?

Joh 1:29 The next day he *saw Jesus coming to him and *said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

Mat 26:28 for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.

51

The Biblical Testimony

Historical nature of the biblical testimony

Trustworthy nature of the biblical testimony

Importance of Jesus' death, burial and resurrection

Biblical testimony of Jesus' death, burial and resurrection

52

Jesus Was Raised On Third Day and Guards Scattered

Mat 28:1 Now after the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first *day* of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the grave.

Mat 28:2 And behold, a severe earthquake had occurred, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone and sat upon it.

53

Jesus Was Raised On Third Day and Guards Scattered

Mat 28:3 And his appearance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow.

Mat 28:4 The guards shook for fear of him and became like dead men.

Mat 28:5 The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified.

54

Jesus Was Raised On Third Day and Guards Scattered

Mat 28:6 "He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying.

Mat 28:7 "Go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead; and behold, He is going ahead of you into Galilee, there you will see Him; behold, I have told you."

55

Jesus Was Raised On Third Day and Guards Scattered

Mat 28:11 Now while they were on their way, some of the guard came into the city and reported to the chief priests all that had happened.

Mat 28:12 And when they had assembled with the elders and consulted together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers,

Mat 28:13 and said, "You are to say, 'His disciples came by night and stole Him away while we were asleep.'"

56

Jesus Was Raised On Third Day and Guards Scattered

Mat 28:14 "And if this should come to the governor's ears, we will win him over and keep you out of trouble."

Mat 28:15 And they took the money and did as they had been instructed; and this story was widely spread among the Jews, *and is* to this day.

57

Peter and John Confirmed Jesus' Empty Tomb

Joh 20:1 Now on the first *day* of the week Mary Magdalene **came* early to the tomb, while it **was* still dark, and **saw* the stone *already* taken away from the tomb.

Joh 20:2 So she **ran* and **came* to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and **said* to them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him."

58

Peter and John Confirmed Jesus' Empty Tomb

Joh 20:3 So Peter and the other disciple went forth, and they were going to the tomb.

Joh 20:4 The two were running together; and the other disciple ran ahead faster than Peter and came to the tomb first;

Joh 20:5 and stooping and looking in, he **saw* the linen wrappings lying *there*; but he did not go in.

59

Peter and John Confirmed Jesus' Empty Tomb

Joh 20:6 And so Simon Peter also **came*, following him, and entered the tomb; and he **saw* the linen wrappings lying *there*,

Joh 20:7 and the face-cloth which had been on His head, not lying with the linen wrappings, but rolled up in a place by itself.

Joh 20:8 So the other disciple who had first come to the tomb then also entered, and he saw and believed.

60

Peter and John Confirmed Jesus' Empty Tomb

Joh 20:9 For as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead.

Joh 20:10 So the disciples went away again to their own homes.

61

Risen Jesus Appeared To His Apostles

Joh 20:24 But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came.

Joh 20:25 So the other disciples were saying to him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."

62

Risen Jesus Appeared To His Apostles

Joh 20:26 After eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus *came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace *be* with you."

Joh 20:27 Then He *said to Thomas, "Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing."

63

Risen Jesus Appeared To His Apostles

Joh 20:28 Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

Joh 20:29 Jesus *said to him, "Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed *are* they who did not see, and *yet* believed."

64

Risen Jesus Appeared To His Apostles

Joh 20:30 Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book;

Joh 20:31 but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

65

Basis For Believing in Jesus' Death, Burial and Resurrection

- We believe in, trust in and obey the living Lord Jesus
- We believe He died, was buried and raised from the dead based on the written Biblical testimony
- Our faith not based on feelings or traditions

66

Basis For Believing in Jesus' Death, Burial and Resurrection

- Statement from Michael Evans a Pentecostal teaching in mid 1980's at North Carolina University
- Michael basically told me, "if you don't have something besides this book (he meant the Bible, glh), students just won't listen."

67

Basis For Believing in Jesus' Death, Burial and Resurrection

- Implication – he believed the Spirit must work inside of us to produce emotional experience from within not based on believing testimony from without
- We believe because we trust in the testimony of what they saw and heard in the first century not on our emotions

68

Why Was Jesus Raised From The Dead?

- Jesus' resurrection proves that He is the Son of God as He claimed and confirmed by miracles
- Also, His resurrection proves the Bible is the inspired Word of God, prophecies foretelling His death, burial, resurrection and ascension

69

Why Was Jesus Raised From The Dead?

Rom 1:1 Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,

Rom 1:2 which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures,

70

Why Was Jesus Raised From The Dead?

Rom 1:3 concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh,

Rom 1:4 who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord,

71

Why Was Jesus Raised From The Dead?

Luk 24:44 Now He said to them, "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."

Luk 24:45 Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures,

Luk 24:46 and He said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day,

72

Jesus Death and Resurrection and Obeying The Gospel

Act 2:22 "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know--

Act 2:23 this *Man*, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put *Him* to death. 73

Jesus Death and Resurrection and Obeying The Gospel

Act 2:24 "But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.

Act 2:36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ--this Jesus whom you crucified." 74

Jesus Death and Resurrection and Obeying The Gospel

Act 2:37 Now when they heard *this*, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?"

Act 2:38 Peter *said* to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 75

The Biblical Testimony

Historical nature of the biblical testimony

Trustworthy nature of the biblical testimony

Importance of Jesus' death, burial and resurrection

Biblical testimony of Jesus' death, burial and resurrection 76

The Resurrection of Jesus

The biblical testimony

Biblical testimony compared to man's theories

If the resurrection is true or false, then...

God's transforming power in the resurrection and gospel 77