

THE RESURRECTION

APRIL 16, 2017

I CORINTHIANS 15:1-4

The resurrection is the cardinal doctrine of our faith. Christianity stands or falls on the resurrection. Disprove it and Christianity falls. No other religion has such a doctrine:

- Many Eastern religions teach reincarnation: Behave, and you may become an upscale being; misbehave, you may return as an insect. After many lifetimes, you may reach nirvana.
- The Romans believed the body imprisoned the soul. At death, the soul is released and the body is dead forever.
- The Greeks mocked Paul for preaching the resurrection. **ACTS 17:31-32**
- The Jewish Sadducees didn't believe in the resurrection.

PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

1. Past: Infallible proofs. **ACTS 1:1-3** Incapable of a mistake.
 - A. Broken Roman seal. **ACTS 12:4**
 - B. Empty tomb, examined by many, and never refuted.
 - C. 4000 pound stone carried far away.
 - D. Grave clothes in the shape of a cocoon.
 - E. Resurrection of other saints. **MATTHEW 27:50-53**
 - F. Appearances of Jesus. **1 CORINTHIANS 15:5-8**
 - G. Paul's conversion. **ACTS 9:1-5**
2. Present: Our faith is not vain. **1 CORINTHIANS 15:12-22**
 - A. The power of regeneration. **ROMANS 10:9-10**
 - B. Healing power. **ROMANS 8:11**
 - C. Because of the resurrection: We have forgiveness, access to God, and authority over all demon powers. **EPHESIANS 1:18-23**
 - D. **PHILIPPIANS 3:10-11 (AMP)**
3. Future: Our resurrected body. **JOHN 5:28-29**
 - A. **DANIEL 12:2 (NLT)** The resurrected body prophesied.
 - B. **I THESSALONIANS 4:13-18**
 - C. Unlike other religions, Christianity teaches that the body is not a prison for the soul, but the temple of the living God, that was purchased by the Blood of Jesus and will one day be raised up and glorified just as Jesus' body was.

CONCLUSION: The resurrection is what distinguishes Christianity from all other belief systems. No other religion can boast of it's founder being raised from the dead and showing himself alive with infallible proofs. All that's left to do is believe!