

ALIVE FOR EVERMORE
APRIL 4, 2021

REVELATION 1:18

The resurrection is what distinguishes Christianity from all other world religions. These religions have founders that lived and died, but none have come back from the dead to authenticate their claims. Then there's Jesus, who lived, died and rose from the dead, who is alive for evermore. Who has the keys of hell and death. Jesus was willing to stake His entire claims on His resurrection from the dead: He claimed to be the Son of God; the Jewish Messiah; the way, truth and life; bread of life; light of the world; etc. If there was no resurrection, then Jesus was a fraud and all His claims were false.

JOHN 11:25-26

What a claim! This claim places Jesus in a class all by Himself. Other religions may compete on some things: holy book, big buildings, many followers, Christ lived; Christ died; Christ rose; Christ appeared. **1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-8**

MATTHEW 22:23-33

The Sadducees aren't the only ones who don't believe in the resurrection. **ACTS 17:31-32** The Greeks mocked it, and the Romans believed at death, the soul is released and the body is dead forever. Many Eastern religions teach reincarnation: if you behave, you may become an upscale being; if not, you may come back as an insect.

JOHN 5:28-29

Unlike other religions, Christianity teaches the body is not a prison for the soul, but the temple of the living God, purchased by the Blood of Jesus, and will one day be raised up and glorified. **DANIEL 12:2 (NLT), 1 THESSALONIAHS 4:13-18, ISAIAH 66:22-24 (NLT)**

IF THERE'S NO RESURRECTION

1 CORINTHIANS 15:12-19, 32

- Christ lied, Christianity is false, preaching is useless, we are false witnesses, faith is useless, we're still in our sins, there's no hope beyond the grave, our loved ones have perished, we are foolish for living as we do, just party!

IF THERE IS A RESURRECTION

1 CORINTHIANS 15:20-22

Jesus is the Son of God, He is the Messiah, every statement He made is true, our faith is not useless, our witness is true, we are forgiven, reconciled to God, our loved ones are enjoying eternal glory and living is Christ and dying is gain.

WHAT THE RESURRECTION MEANS

1. Jesus is glorified and seated at the throne.
2. Every claim He made is true. It backs up every promise, pledge or prediction He ever made.
3. He succeeded in completing His work. **COLOSSIANS 2:9-15 (NLT)**
4. Death is swallowed up in victory. **1 CORINTHIANS 15:55-58**
5. The resurrection is a historical fact having eternal implications for believers and non-believers: unbeliever – it verifies all that Jesus taught; believer – we owe Him our allegiance.