

JESUS



We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood on the cross, in His bodily Resurrection, and in His ascension to the right hand of the Father.

Paul Harvey tells of the agnostic who stayed home on Christmas day while his wife went to church. Sitting in front of the warm fireplace he heard a thud on the window, and to his surprise saw a flock of birds freezing in the snow. They had been attracted by the light and warmth and had tried to fly into the shelter, but each attempt only left them bruised in the snow as they slammed against the glass window.

The man rushed outside and opened the barn, but the helpless creatures could not understand his actions and refused to go into the shelter. Knowing they would die in the snow, the man ran among them, waving his arms trying to drive them into the barn. However, his actions only frightened them because he was so big and they were so small. He exhausted himself and felt so helpless in trying to assist them.

In that moment he realized there would be only one way to save the birds, and that would be if somehow he could only become one of them and lead them safely into the shelter. Only then would they be unafraid and trusting. Suddenly, the impact of that thought struck home. He rushed inside and fell on his face before God, spilling hot tears of repentance. **That, he remembered**, is just what Jesus did when He came to this world, took upon Himself the clothing of humanity, and died on the cross so we would not die helpless and alone. Jesus became flesh and dwelt among us.

John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the Only Begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

I. HE IS DIVINE

1 John 14-15

14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.

15 Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.

Christ is the eternal Son of God. He perfectly did and revealed the Will of the Father, taking upon Himself the demands and necessities of human nature and identifying Himself completely with mankind. He was 100% God and 100% man.

A. He is called divine by The Father.

Matthew 3:17 And lo a voice from Heaven, saying, This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased.

Matthew 17:5 While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased, hear ye Him.

Hebrew 1:8 But unto the Son He saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever; a scepter of righteousness in the scepter of Thy kingdom.

B. He is called divine by the Scripture.

Mark 1:1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Thomas calls Him God.

John 20:28 And Thomas answered and said unto Him, My Lord and my God.

Peter calls Him God.

Matthew 16:16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Even the Demons recognized Him as God.

Matthew 8:29 And behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with Thee, Jesus, Thou Son of God? Art Thou come hither to torment us before the time?

Paul saw Him as God.

Romans 1:3 Concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh.

John saw Him as God.

Revelation 17:14 These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for He is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and

they that are with Him are called the chosen, and faithful.

C. Jesus claimed to be God.

John 10:30 I and My Father are one.

Jesus said He was greater than Abraham.

John 8:52-58

52 Then said the Jews unto Him, Now we know that Thou hast a devil. Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and Thou sayest, If a man keep My saying, he shall never taste of death.

53. Art Thou greater than our father Abraham, which is dead? And the prophets are dead: Whom makest Thou Thyself?

54 Jesus answered, If I honour Myself, My honour is nothing: it is My Father that honoureth Me; of Whom ye say, that He is your God:

55 Yet ye have not known Him; but I know Him: and if I should say, I know Him not, I shall be a liar like unto you: but I know Him, and keep His saying.

56 Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day: and he saw it, and was glad.

57 Then said the Jews unto Him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast Thou seen Abraham?

58 Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.

Jesus received worship reserved only for God.

Matthew: 14:33 Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped Him, saying, Of a truth Thou art the Son of God.

He forgave sin, a privilege reserved only for God.

Mark 2:5-11

5 When Jesus saw their faith, He said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee.

6 But there were certain of the scribes sitting there, and reasoning in their hearts,

7 Why doth the man thus speak blasphemies? Who can forgive sin but God only.

8 And immediately when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they so reasoned within themselves, He said unto them, Why reason ye these things in your hearts?

9 Whether is it easier to say to the sick of the palsy, Thy sins be forgiven thee, or to say, Arise, and take up thy bed, and walk?

10 But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (He saith to the sick of the palsy,)

11 I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way into thine house.

In his personal prayer, He claimed to be God.

John 17:5 And now, O Father, glorify Thou Me with Thine own self with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was.

He promises to return in the glory of His Father with His angels.

Matthew 16:27 For the Son of man shall come in the glory of His Father with His angels; and then He shall reward every man according to His works.

D. He is called Creator and Sustainer of Life.

Colossians 1:16 For by Him were all things created, that are in Heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him and for Him.

He holds the world and upholds all things by His power.

Hebrew 1:3 Who being the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

All power in Heaven and earth resides in Christ.

Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying All power is given unto Me in Heaven and in earth.

II. HE WAS BORN OF A VIRGIN

Matthew 1:23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

The virgin birth staggers natural man. He cannot understand the process nor

purpose of such an unusual event. However, the virgin birth of Jesus is an integral part of the doctrine of the “kenosis”, or the pouring of divine nature into human flesh.

A. Born of God and woman, Jesus was conceived by the Holy Ghost.

Luke 1:35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

He was born of the Virgin Mary, with no earthly father to taint His blood with sin. His birth was foretold in the Old Testament and accomplished in the New Testament.

B. Prophecy foretold His unique birth.

Isaiah prophesied 700 years before Christ that He would be born of a virgin.

Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

This was not the first prophecy of the dramatic event. In the very first Bible book God speaks to Satan and says,

Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her Seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise His heel.

Note “seed of the woman”. In the natural, there is only the “seed of man”. Thus, here is the first hint that the Saviour of the world would be virgin born.

C. Why virgin birth is important?

It is a demonstration of the power, wisdom, and love of God and is necessary that Christ might be sinless. In order to satisfy divine justice, a pure and sinless sacrifice had to be made for our sins.

Hebrew 5:9 And being made perfect, He became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him;

He had to be both human and divine, yet be sinless. Sin was imputed to Adam, and through the paternal side of the race it is legally descended to all men and women.

Romans 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men. For that all have sinned;

Had Christ had a human father, His humanity would have been tainted by original sin. It was thus necessary that He be virgin born. He was the Son of God by His virgin birth, and the Son of Man by His earthly mother. The two natures blended into one so He was not God and Man, but God-man, or, as the theologians call it, the “Theanthropic Being, the “Saviour of our souls”.

III. HE WAS SINLESS.

2 Corinthians 5:21 For He hath made Him to be sin for us, Who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.

Though Jesus was tempted to sin many times, He never committed sin. His enemies tried to trap Him and cause Him to sin, but they were not successful. Jesus was the only perfect man who ever lived.

A. He was without sin.

Pilate examined Christ carefully and pronounced Him totally innocent.

John 19:4 Pilate therefore went forth again, and saith unto them, Behold, I bring Him forth to you, that ye may know that I find no fault in Him.

Peter, who walked with the Lord daily and knew Him intimately, said He was without guile and evil.

1 Peter 2:22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth:

Paul said He who knew no sin was made sin for us.

2 Corinthians 5:21 For He hath made Him to be sin for us, Who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.

Even Christ’s enemies could not point an accusing finger at His life.

John 8:46 Which of you convinceth Me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe Me?

He simply lived above reproach and was totally sinless.

B. He was the perfect sacrifice.

Under divine law, sacrifices for sin had to be perfect. Thus, Jesus had to be without sin if He qualified as the ultimate sacrifice to take away the sins of the world. And He was that.

1 Peter 1:19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

As the perfect sacrifice, He became the perfect author of our salvation.

Hebrew 5:9 And being made perfect, He became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him.

C. His sinless life helps us in two ways.

First, He shows us how we can live above sin.

1 Peter 2:21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps.

In the famed 23rd Psalm, there is a phrase, ***“He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His Name’s sake”***.

Psalm 23:3 He refreshes and restores my life (myself): He leads me in the paths of righteousness (uprightness and right standing with Him not for my earnings, but) for His name’s sake. (KJV Amplified).

He does not drive us to righteousness, but gently leads us in the way we should go. He is our perfect example, and we are saved from the power of sin by His perfect life.

Romans 5:10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

The second way His sinless life helps us is He understands the terrible pull of temptations and our need of divine help. He walked the same paths as we, and feels deeply for us.

Hebrews 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities, but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

Thus Jesus is able to comfort us in our temptations.

Hebrews 2:18 For in that He Himself hath suffered being tempted, He is able to succor them that are tempted.

Because Jesus understands our temptations, He has promised rich rewards to us as we overcome.

James 1:12 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation; for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love Him.

We would be wise to use the same pattern Jesus used in overcoming His wilderness temptations. Note He quoted the Word of God:

Matthew 4:4 But He answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Matthew 4:7 Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

Matthew 4:10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve.

With that sharp sword of the Spirit, the devil has to leave in defeat.

IV. HE PERFORMED MIRACLES.

Hebrews 2:3-4

3 How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard Him;

4 God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to His own will?

Beginning at Cana of Galilee, Jesus performed at least 35 recorded miracles. However, John implies there were many other miracles that were not recorded.

John 21:25 And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen

All these miracles were performed to prove to man that Jesus was and is the Christ. He never performed miracles just to show off His power, but to bless and help needy mankind. They show His complete power over nature, sickness, death, and evil spirits.

A. Power over nature.

Jesus showed His dominance over nature by turning the water into wine.

John 2:1-11

1 And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there:

2 And both Jesus was called, and His disciples, to the marriage.

3 And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto Him, They have no wine.

4 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? Mine hour is not yet come.

5 His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever He saith unto you, do it.

6 And there were set there six waterpots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece.

7 Jesus saith unto them, Fill the waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim.

8 And He saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare it.

9 When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the water knew;) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom,

10 And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: but thou hast kept the good wine until now.

11 This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth His glory; and His disciples believed on Him.

By the draught of fishes.

Luke 5:1-11

1 And it came to pass, that, as the people pressed upon Him to hear the word of God, He stood by the lake of Gennesaret,

2 And saw two ships standing by the lake: but the fishermen were gone out of them, and were washing their nets.

3 And He entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And He sat down, and taught the people out of the ship.

4 Now when He had left speaking, He said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught.

5 And Simon answering said unto Him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at Thy word I will let down the net.

6 And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake.

7 And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink.

8 When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord.

9 For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken:

10 And so was also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men.

11 And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed Him.

John 21:6-11

6 And He said unto them, Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find. They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes.

7 Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved saith unto Peter, It is the Lord. Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he girt his fisher's coat unto him, (for he was naked,) and did cast himself into the sea.

8 And the other disciples came in a little ship; (for they were not far from land, but as it were two hundred cubits,) dragging the net with fishes.

9 As soon then as they were come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid thereon, and bread.

10 Jesus saith unto them, Bring of the fish which ye have now caught.

11 Simon Peter went up, and drew the net to land full of great fishes, an hundred and fifty and three: and for all there were so many, yet was not the net broken.

By stilling the storm.

Matthew 8:23-27

23 And when He was entered into a ship, His disciples followed Him.

24 And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that

the ship was covered with the waves; but He was asleep.

25 And His disciples came to Him, and awoke Him, saying, Lord, save us; we perish.

26 And He saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then He arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm.

27 But the men marveled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him!

By feeding the 5000.

Matthew 14:15-21

15 And when it was evening, His disciples came to Him, saying, This is a desert place, and the time is now past; send the multitude away, that they may go into the villages, and buy themselves victuals.

16 But Jesus said unto them, They need not depart; give ye them to eat.

17 And they say unto Him, We have here but five loaves, and two fishes.

18 He said, Bring them hither to Me.

19 And He commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass, and took the five loaves, and the two fishes and looking up to Heaven, He blessed and brake, and gave the loaves to His disciples, and the disciples to the multitude.

20 And they did all eat, and were filled; and they took up of the fragments and remained twelve baskets full.

21 And they that had eaten were about five thousand men besides women and children.

By feeding 4000.

Matthew 15:32-38

32 Then Jesus called His disciples unto Him, and said, I have compassion on the multitude, because they continue with Me now three days, and have nothing to eat: and I will not send them away fasting, lest they faint in the way

33 And His disciples say unto Him, Whence should we have so much bread in the wilderness, as to fill so great a multitude?

34 And Jesus saith unto them, How many loaves have ye? And they said, Seven, and a few little fishes.

35 And He commanded the multitude to sit down on the ground.

36 And He took the seven loaves and the fishes, and gave thanks, and brake them, and gave to His disciples, and the disciples to the multitude.

37 And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the broken meat that was left seven baskets full.

38 And they that did eat were four thousand men, beside women and children.

Providing the temple tax money.

Matthew 17:24-27

24 And when they were come to Capernaum, they that received tribute money came to Peter, and said, Doth not your Master pay tribute?

25 He saith, Yes. And when he was come into the house, Jesus prevented him, saying, What thinkest thou, Simon? of whom do the kings of the earth take custom or tribute? of their own children, or of strangers?

26 Peter saith unto Him, Of strangers. Jesus saith unto him, Then are the children free.

27 Notwithstanding, lest we should offend them, go thou to the sea, and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find a piece of money: that take, and give unto them for Me and thee.

And cursing the fig tree.

Matthew 21:19-22

19 And when He saw a fig tree in the way, He came to it, and found nothing thereon, but leaves only, and said unto it, Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever. And presently the fig tree withered away.

20 And when the disciples saw it, they marvelled, saying, How soon is the fig tree withered away!

21 Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done.

22 And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

B. Power over sickness.

Most miracles Jesus performed involved the healing of sick people. These healings covered such varied illnesses as deafness and dumbness.

Matthew 15:29-31

29 And Jesus departed from thence, and came nigh unto the sea of Galilee; and went up into a mountain, and sat down there.

30 And great multitudes came unto Him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and He healed them:

31 Insomuch that the multitude wondered, when they saw the dumb to speak, the maimed to be whole, the lame to walk, and the blind to see: and they glorified the God of Israel.

A Withered Hand.

Matthew 12:9-13

9 And when He was departed thence, He went into their synagogue:

10 And, behold, there was a man which had his hand withered. And they asked Him, saying, Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath days? that they might accuse Him.

11 And He said unto them, What man shall there be among you, that shall have one sheep, and if it fall into a pit on the sabbath day, will he not lay hold on it, and lift it out?

12 How much then is a man better than a sheep? Wherefore it is lawful to do well on the sabbath days.

13 Then saith He to the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it forth; and it was restored whole, like as the other.

Leprosy.

Matthew 8:2-4

2 And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped Him, saying, Lord, if Thou wilt, Thou canst make me clean.

3 And Jesus put forth His hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

4 And Jesus saith unto him, See thou tell no man; but go thy way, shew thyself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them.

Blindness.

Mark 8:22-26

22 And He cometh to Bethsaida; and they bring a blind man unto Him, and besought Him to touch him.

23 And He took the blind man by the hand, and led Him out of the town; and when He had spit on his eyes, and put His hands upon him, He asked him if he saw ought.

24 And he looked up, and said, I see men as trees, walking.

25 After that He put His hands again upon his eyes, and made him look up: and he was restored, and saw every man clearly.

26 And He sent him away to his house, saying, Neither go into the town, nor tell it to any in the town.

Palsy.

Luke 5:17-26

17 And it came to pass on a certain day, as He was teaching, that there were Pharisees and doctors of the law sitting by, which were come out of every town of Galilee, and Judaea, and Jerusalem: and the power of the Lord was present to heal them.

18 And, behold, men brought in a bed a man which was taken with a palsy: and they sought means to bring him in, and to lay him before Him.

19 And when they could not find by what way they might bring him in because of the multitude, they went upon the housetop, and let him down through the tiling with his couch into the midst before Jesus.

20 And when He saw their faith, He said unto him, Man, thy sins are forgiven thee.

21 And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, Who is this which speaketh blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, but God alone?

22 But when Jesus perceived their thoughts, He answering said unto them, What reason ye in your hearts?

23 Whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Rise up and walk?

24 But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power upon earth to forgive sins, (He said unto the sick of the palsy,) I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy couch, and go into thine house.

25 And immediately he rose up before them, and took up that whereon he lay, and departed to his own house, glorifying God.

26 And they were all amazed, and they glorified God, and were filled with fear, saying, We have seen strange things to day.

Christ's power for healing knew no distance barriers.

Luke 7:1-10

1 Now when He had ended all His sayings in the audience of the people, He entered into Capernaum.

2 And a certain centurion's servant, who was dear unto him, was sick, and ready to die.

3 And when he heard of Jesus, he sent unto Him the elders of the Jews, beseeching Him that He would come and heal his servant.

4 And when they came to Jesus, they besought Him instantly, saying, That he was worthy for whom He should do this:

5 For he loveth our nation, and he hath built us a synagogue.

6 Then Jesus went with them. And when He was now not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to Him, saying unto Him, Lord, trouble not Thyself: for I am not worthy that Thou shouldest enter under my roof:

7 Wherefore neither thought I myself worthy to come unto Thee: but say in a word, and my servant shall be healed.

8 For I also am a man set under authority, having under me soldiers, and I say unto one, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it.

9 When Jesus heard these things, He marvelled at him, and turned Him about, and said unto the people that followed Him, I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.

10 And they that were sent, returning to the house, found the servant whole that had been sick.

He could heal in masse as well as individually.

Luke 17:11-19

11 And it came to pass, as He went to Jerusalem, that He passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee.

12 And as He entered into a certain village, there met Him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off:

13 And they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.

14 And when He saw them, He said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed.

15 And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God,

16 And fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks: and he was a Samaritan.

17 And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine?

18 There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger.

19 And He said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.

Jesus could even heal an ear that had been severed by a sword.

Luke 22:49-51

49 When they which were about Him saw what would follow, they said unto Him, Lord, shall we smite with the sword?

50 And one of them smote the servant of the high priest, and cut off his right ear.

51 And Jesus answered and said, Suffer ye thus far. And He touched his ear, and healed him.

Christ had power over any kind of disease or accident.

C. Power over death.

Three times Jesus proved His power was greater than death. The first was the widow's son of Nain.

Luke 7:11-17

11 And it came to pass the day after, that He went into a city called Nain; and many of His disciples went with Him, and much people.

12 Now when He came nigh to the gate of the city, behold, there was a dead man carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow: and much people of the city was with her.

13 And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not.

14 And He came and touched the bier: and they that bare him stood still. And He said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise.

15 And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak. And He delivered him to his mother.

16 And there came a fear on all: and they glorified God, saying, That a great prophet is risen up among us; and, That God hath visited His people.

17 And this rumour of Him went forth throughout all Judaea, and throughout all the region round about.

Another incident involved the daughter of Jairus.

Luke 8:40-56

40 And it came to pass, that, when Jesus was returned, the people gladly received Him: for they were all waiting for Him.

41 And, behold, there came a man named Jairus, and he was a ruler of the synagogue: and he fell down at Jesus' feet, and besought Him that He would come into his house:

42 For he had one only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she lay a dying. But as He went the people thronged Him.

43 And a woman having an issue of blood twelve years, which had spent all her living upon physicians, neither could be healed of any,

44 Came behind Him, and touched the border of His garment: and immediately her issue of blood stanchèd.

45 And Jesus said, Who touched Me? When all denied, Peter and they that were with Him said, Master, the multitude throng thee and press Thee, and sayest Thou, Who touched Me?

46 And Jesus said, Somebody hath touched Me: for I perceive that virtue is gone out of Me.

47 And when the woman saw that she was not hid, she came trembling, and falling down before Him, she declared unto Him before all the people for what cause she had touched Him, and how she was healed immediately.

48 And He said unto her, Daughter, be of good comfort: thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace.

49 While He yet spake, there cometh one from the ruler of the synagogue's house, saying to Him, Thy daughter is dead; trouble not the Master.

50 But when Jesus heard it, He answered him, saying, Fear not: believe only, and she shall be made whole.

51 And when He came into the house, He suffered no man to go in, save Peter, and James, and John, and the father and the mother of the maiden.

52 And all wept, and bewailed her: but He said, Weep not; she is not dead, but sleepeth.

53 And they laughed Him to scorn, knowing that she was dead.

54 And He put them all out, and took her by the hand, and called, saying, Maid, arise.

55 And her spirit came again, and she arose straightway: and He commanded to give her meat.

56 And her parents were astonished: but He charged them that they should tell no man what was done.

The third incident involved His friend Lazarus.

John 11:1-46

1 Now a certain man was sick, named Lazarus, of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha.

2 (It was that Mary which anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.)

3 Therefore his sisters sent unto Him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom Thou lovest is sick.

4 When Jesus heard that, He said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.

5 Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus.

6 When He had heard therefore that he was sick, He abode two days still in the same place where He was.

7 Then after that saith He to His disciples, Let us go into Judaea again.

8 His disciples say unto Him, Master, the Jews of late sought to stone Thee; and goest Thou thither again?

9 Jesus answered, Are there not twelve hours in the day? If any man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world.

10 But if a man walk in the night, he stumbleth, because there is no light in him.

11 These things said He: and after that He saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep.

12 Then said His disciples, Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well.

13 Howbeit Jesus spake of his death: but they thought that He had spoken of taking of rest in sleep.

14 Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead.

15 And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent ye may believe; nevertheless let us go unto him.

16 Then said Thomas, which is called Didymus, unto his fellow disciples, Let us also go, that we may die with him.

17 Then when Jesus came, He found that he had lain in the grave four days already.

18 Now Bethany was nigh unto Jerusalem, about fifteen furlongs off:

19 And many of the Jews came to Martha and Mary, to comfort them concerning their brother.

20 Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met Him: but Mary sat still in the house.

21 Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if Thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.

22 But I know, that even now, whatsoever Thou wilt ask of God, God will give it Thee.

23 Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again.

24 Martha saith unto Him, I know that he shall rise again in the Resurrection at the last day.

25 Jesus said unto her, I am the Resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die. Believest thou this?

27 She saith unto Him, Yea, Lord: I believe that Thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.

28 And when she had so said, she went her way, and called Mary her sister secretly, saying, The Master is come, and calleth for thee.

29 As soon as she heard that, she arose quickly, and came unto Him.

30 Now Jesus was not yet come into the town, but was in that place where Martha met Him.

31 The Jews then which were with her in the house, and comforted her, when they saw Mary, that she rose up hastily and went out, followed her, saying, She goeth unto the grave to weep there.

32 Then when Mary was come where Jesus was, and saw Him, she fell down at His feet, saying unto Him, Lord, if Thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.

33 When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews also weeping which came with her, He groaned in the spirit, and was troubled,

34 And said, Where have ye laid him? They said unto Him, Lord, come and see.

35 Jesus wept.

36 Then said the Jews, Behold how He loved him!

37 And some of them said, Could not this man, which opened the eyes of the blind, have caused that even this man should not have died?

38 Jesus therefore again groaning in Himself cometh to the grave. It was a cave, and a stone lay upon it.

39 Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto Him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days.

40 Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?

41 Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up His eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that Thou hast heard Me.

42 And I knew that Thou hearest Me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that Thou hast sent Me.

43 And when He thus had spoken, He cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth.

44 And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with grave clothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.

45 Then many of the Jews which came to Mary, and had seen the things which Jesus did, believed on Him.

46 But some of them went their ways to the Pharisees, and told them what things Jesus had done.

Those He raised died again later. However, Jesus proved Himself total victor over death, Hell, and the grave by His own Resurrection.

1 Corinthians 15:20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept.

Because of His power over death there is no more sting in death.

1 Corinthians 15:55-57

55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.

57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

D. Power over evil spirits.

He Who is all powerful has total control over all evil spirits whether they manifest themselves in insanity:

Matthew 8:28-34

28 And when He was come to the other side into the country of the Gergesenes, there met Him two possessed with devils, coming out of the tombs, exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by that way.

29 And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with Thee, Jesus, Thou Son of God? art Thou come hither to torment us before the time?

30 And there was a good way off from them an herd of many swine feeding.

31 So the devils besought Him, saying, If Thou cast us out, suffer us to go away into the herd of swine.

32 And He said unto them, Go. And when they were come out, they went into the herd of swine: and, behold, the whole herd of swine ran violently down a steep place into the sea, and perished in the waters.

33 And they that kept them fled, and went their ways into the city, and told every thing, and what was befallen to the possessed of the devils.

34 And, behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus: and when they saw Him, they besought Him that He would depart out of their coasts.

Seizures.

Matthew 17:14-20

14 And when they were come to the multitude, there came to Him a certain man, kneeling down to Him, and saying,

15 Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is lunatick, and sore vexed: for oftentimes he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water.

16 And I brought him to Thy disciples, and they could not cure him.

17 Then Jesus answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him hither to me.

18 And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour.

19 Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out?

20 And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.

Muteness.

Matthew 9:32-33

32 As they went out, behold, they brought to Him a dumb man possessed with a devil.

33 And when the devil was cast out, the dumb spake: and the multitudes marvelled, saying, It was never so seen in Israel.

Jesus is all Powerful.

V. HIS VICARIOUS AND ATONING DEATH

1 Peter 2:24 Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree,

that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by Whose stripes ye were healed.

Jesus suffered on the cross and died in our place. Thus, His death was vicarious in that it was in the place of others. It pictures one throwing his body over another to take the punishment in himself. Jesus did this for lost men. On the cross He endured in Himself the whole of God's wrath against sin. His death was voluntary. No man took his life from Him. He gave it freely.

A. John the Baptist testified of this Lamb Who would take away the sin of the world.

John 1:29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

B. Paul says Christ died for the ungodly.

Romans 5:6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

C. Where the law failed to free us from sin and death, Jesus succeeded.

Romans 8:3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

D. Jesus gave Himself a ransom for us.

1 Timothy 2:5-6

⁵For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

⁶Who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

E. Jesus gave Himself for us that we might be His people.

Titus 2:14 Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

F. Jesus made the one and eternal sacrifice that is good for all eternity.

Hebrews 7:27 Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this He did once, when He offered up Himself.

VI. HIS BODILY RESURRECTION

John 14:19 Yet a little while, and the world seeth Me no more; but ye

see Me: because I live, ye shall live also.

If Jesus would not have risen from the grave by the power of God, He would have just died a martyr's death. However, because He came forth victorious from the grave, He has become the Savior. All four Gospels tell of the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead. The entire New Testament proclaims it. The Resurrection proves the deity of Christ and makes His death meaningful and effective. It assures believers of Christ's daily companionship and is the guarantee of the believer's own Resurrection.

A. The facts of the Resurrection.

The Resurrection is called the best established fact of history. The Gospels tell the events surrounding it.

Matthew 28:1-15:

1 In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.

2 And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from Heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.

3 His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow:

4 And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men.

5 And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified.

6 He is not here: for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

7 And go quickly, and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead; and, behold, He goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see Him: lo, I have told you.

8 And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring His disciples word.

9 And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held Him by the feet, and worshipped Him.

10 Then said Jesus unto them, Be not afraid: go tell My brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see Me.

11 Now when they were going, behold, some of the watch came into the city, and shewed unto the chief priests all the things that were done.

12 And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave large money unto the soldiers,

13 *Saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole Him away while we slept.*

14 *And if this come to the governor's ears, we will persuade him, and secure you.*

15 *So they took the money, and did as they were taught: and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.*

B. Appearance of Jesus after the Resurrection.

Luke 24:1-19:

1 *Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them.*

2 *And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre.*

3 *And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus.*

4 *And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments:*

5 *And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead?*

6 *He is not here, but is risen: remember how He spake unto you when He was yet in Galilee,*

7 *Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.*

8 *And they remembered His words,*

9 *And returned from the sepulchre, and told all these things unto the eleven, and to all the rest.*

10 *It was Mary Magdalene, and Joanna, and Mary the mother of James, and other women that were with them, which told these things unto the apostles.*

11 *And their words seemed to them as idle tales, and they believed them not.*

12 *Then arose Peter, and ran unto the sepulchre; and stooping down, he beheld the linen clothes laid by themselves, and departed, wondering in himself at that which was come to pass.*

13 *And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs.*

14 *And they talked together of all these things which had happened.*

15 *And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus Himself drew near, and went with them.*

16 *But their eyes were holden that they should not know Him.*

17 And He said unto them, What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad?

18 And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto Him, Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days?

19 And He said unto them, What things? And they said unto Him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people:

Mark 16:1-20

1 And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint Him.

2 And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun.

3 And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre?

4 And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great.

5 And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted.

6 And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: He is risen; He is not here: behold the place where they laid Him.

7 But go your way, tell His disciples and Peter that He goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see Him, as He said unto you.

8 And they went out quickly, and fled from the sepulchre; for they trembled and were amazed: neither said they any thing to any man; for they were afraid.

9 Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom He had cast seven devils.

10 And she went and told them that had been with Him, as they mourned and wept.

11 And they, when they had heard that He was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not.

12 After that He appeared in another form unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country.

13 And they went and told it unto the residue: neither believed they them.

14 *Afterward He appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen Him after He was risen.*

15 *And He said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.*

16 *He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.*

17 *And these signs shall follow them that believe; In My Name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;*

18 *They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.*

19 *So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, He was received up into Heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.*

20 *And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.*

John 20:1-10:

1 *The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre.*

2 *Then she runneth, and cometh to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and saith unto them, They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid Him.*

3 *Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple, and came to the sepulchre.*

4 *So they ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulchre.*

5 *And he stooping down, and looking in, saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in.*

6 *Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen clothes lie,*

7 *And the napkin, that was about His head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself.*

8 *Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulchre, and he saw, and believed.*

9 *For as yet they knew not the scripture, that He must rise again from the dead.*

10 Then the disciples went away again unto their own home.

B. Appearances of Jesus after the Resurrection.

1. To Mary Magdalene.

John 20:11-18

11 But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulchre,

12 And seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.

13 And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid Him.

14 And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus.

15 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing Him to be the gardener, saith unto Him, Sir, if thou have borne Him hence, tell me where thou hast laid Him, and I will take Him away.

16 Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto Him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master.

17 Jesus saith unto her, Touch Me not; for I am not yet ascended to My Father: but go to My brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto My Father, and your Father; and to My God, and your God.

18 Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that He had spoken these things unto her.

2. To the Women.

Matthew 28:5-10

5 And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified.

6 He is not here: for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

7 And go quickly, and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead; and, behold, He goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see Him: lo, I have told you.

8 And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring His disciples word.

9 And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held Him by the feet, and worshipped Him.

10 Then said Jesus unto them, Be not afraid: go tell My brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see Me.

3. To Peter.

Luke 24:34 Saying, The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon.

4. To the two on the road to Emmaus.

Luke 24:13-31

13 And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs.

14 And they talked together of all these things which had happened.

15 And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus Himself drew near, and went with them.

16 But their eyes were holden that they should not know Him.

17 And He said unto them, What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad?

18 And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto Him, Art Thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days?

19 And He said unto them, What things? And they said unto Him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people:

20 And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and have crucified Him.

21 But we trusted that it had been He which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done.

22 Yea, and certain women also of our company made us astonished, which were early at the sepulchre;

23 And when they found not His body, they came, saying, that they had also seen a vision of angels, which said that He was alive.

24 And certain of them which were with us went to the sepulchre, and found it even so as the women had said: but Him they saw not.

25 Then He said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken:

26 Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into His glory?

27 And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, He expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning Himself.

28 And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: and He made as though He would have gone further.

29 But they constrained Him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And He went in to tarry with them.

30 And it came to pass, as He sat at meat with them, He took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them.

31 And their eyes were opened, and they knew Him; and He vanished out of their sight.

5. To the Apostles.

Luke 24:36-43

36 And as they thus spake, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.

37 But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit.

38 And He said unto them, Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts?

39 Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself: handle Me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see Me have.

40 And when He had thus spoken, He shewed them His hands and His feet.

41 And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, He said unto them, Have ye here any meat?

42 And they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb.

43 And He took it, and did eat before them.

6. To the Apostles and Thomas.

John 20:19-29

19 Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.

20 And when He had so said, He shewed unto them His hands and His side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord.

21 Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as My Father hath sent Me, even so send I you.

22 And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:

23 Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.

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

25 The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into His side, I will not believe.

26 And after eight days again His disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you.

27 Then saith He to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold My hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into My side: and be not faithless, but believing.

28 And Thomas answered and said unto Him, My Lord and my God.

29 Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen Me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.

7. To those by the sea of Tiberius.

John 21:1-23

1 After these things Jesus shewed Himself again to the disciples at the sea of Tiberias; and on this wise shewed He Himself.

2 There were together Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, and two other of his disciples.

3 Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing. They say unto him, We also go with thee. They went forth, and entered into a ship immediately; and that night they caught nothing.

4 But when the morning was now come, Jesus stood on the shore: but the disciples knew not that it was Jesus.

5 Then Jesus saith unto them, Children, have ye any meat? They answered Him, No.

6 And He said unto them, Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find. They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes.

7 Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved saith unto Peter, It is the Lord. Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he girt his fisher's coat unto him, (for he was naked,) and did cast himself into the sea.

8 And the other disciples came in a little ship; (for they were not far from land, but as it were two hundred cubits,) dragging the net with

fishes.

9 As soon then as they were come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid thereon, and bread.

10 Jesus saith unto them, Bring of the fish which ye have now caught.

11 Simon Peter went up, and drew the net to land full of great fishes, an hundred and fifty and three: and for all there were so many, yet was not the net broken.

12 Jesus saith unto them, Come and dine. And none of the disciples durst ask Him, Who art Thou? knowing that it was the Lord.

13 Jesus then cometh, and taketh bread, and giveth them, and fish likewise.

14 This is now the third time that Jesus shewed Himself to His disciples, after that He was risen from the dead.

15 So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou Me more than these? He saith unto Him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love Thee. He saith unto him, Feed My lambs.

16 He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou Me? He saith unto Him, Yea, Lord; Thou knowest that I love Thee. He saith unto him, Feed My sheep.

17 He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou Me? Peter was grieved because He said unto him the third time, Lovest thou Me? And he said unto Him, Lord, Thou knowest all things; Thou knowest that I love Thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed My sheep.

18 Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldst: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldst not.

19 This spake He, signifying by what death he should glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He saith unto him, Follow Me.

20 Then Peter, turning about, seeth the disciple whom Jesus loved following; which also leaned on His breast at supper, and said, Lord, which is he that betrayeth thee?

21 Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do?

22 Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou Me.

23 Then went this saying abroad among the brethren, that that disciple should not die: yet Jesus said not unto him, He shall not die; but, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee?

8. To Over 500 People.

1 Corinthians 15:6 *After that, He was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.*

9. To James.

1 Corinthians 15:7 *After that He was seen of James; then of all the apostles.*

10. Again to the eleven.

Acts 1:3-12

3 *To whom also He shewed Himself alive after His passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:*

4 *And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith He, ye have heard of Me.*

5 *For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.*

6 *When they therefore were come together, they asked of Him, saying, Lord, wilt Thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?*

7 *And He said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in His own power.*

8 *But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

9 *And when He had spoken these things, while they beheld, He was taken up; and a cloud received Him out of their sight.*

10 *And while they looked stedfastly toward Heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;*

11 *Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into Heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into Heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into Heaven.*

12 *Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day's journey.*

C. The importance of His Resurrection — He proved there is eternal life.

1 Corinthians 15:20 *But now is Christ risen from the dead and become the firstfruits of them that sleep.*

He is able to save us to the uttermost because He is alive to make intercession for us.

Romans 8:34 *Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, Who is even at the right hand of God, Who also maketh intercession for us.*

And most of all, because He lives, we can live also. Jesus is alive today. The cross is empty, the tomb has nothing in it. Critics have tried to discredit the Resurrection fact, but they cannot block out its truth. The Resurrection became the focal point of all the Apostles preached, and the central theme of The New Testament. Of all the world's religions, Christianity alone has a "Living Saviour" Who ever liveth to make intercession for them.

Hebrews 7:25 *Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them.*

VII: HIS ASCENSION.

Ephesians 4:8 *Wherefore He saith, When He ascended up on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.*

Forty days after the Resurrection of Jesus, He ascended back to His heavenly Father. Today He is there at the right hand of God making intercession for us, serving as our Mediator between God and man, whereby men may be reconciled to God.

A. The facts of the Ascension.

Acts 1:1-11

1 *The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,*

2 *Until the day in which He was taken up, after that He through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom He had chosen:*

3 *To whom also He shewed Himself alive after His passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:*

4 *And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith He, ye have heard of Me.*

5 *For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.*

6 *When they therefore were come together, they asked of Him, saying, Lord, wilt Thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?*

7 *And He said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in His own power.*

8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

9 And when He had spoken these things, while they beheld, He was taken up; and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

10 And while they looked stedfastly toward Heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into Heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into Heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into Heaven.

B. Stephen sees Jesus at the right hand of God.

Acts 7:55-56

55 But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into Heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God,

56 And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.

C. Paul encounters Christ from the Lord's heavenly position.

Acts 9:1-6

1 And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest,

2 And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.

3 And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from Heaven:

4 And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou Me?

5 And he said, Who art Thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus Whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.

6 And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.

D. Jesus makes intercession for us at the right hand of God.

Romans 8:34 Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, Who is even at the right hand of God, Who also maketh intercession for us.

E. Because Jesus was obedient to the cross, God exalted Him to the high position He now holds.

Philippians 2:4-11

4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

7 But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

8 And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name:

10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in Heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

F. We have a friend in God's court Who knows our deepest needs and feelings.

Hebrews 4:14-16

14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.

15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

G. Angels, authorities, and powers are subject to Jesus sitting at the right hand of God.

1 Peter 3:22 Who is gone into Heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto Him.

H. Jesus is our example, and His life gives us strength for the race set before us.

We can look unto Him as Author and Finisher of our faith, because He completed the work at Calvary and is at the right hand of God.

Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

By ascending, Jesus led captivity captive and gave great gifts to men. And they all said AMEN!

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