

# The Resurrection of Jesus

## ~ The Apostles' Creed ~

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
 the maker of heaven and earth,  
 and in Jesus Christ, his only son, our lord:  
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
 born of the virgin Mary,  
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
 was crucified, dead, and buried;  
 he descended into hell.

**The third day he arose again from the dead;**

he ascended into heaven,  
 and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
 from there he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit;  
 the holy catholic church;  
 the communion of saints;  
 the forgiveness of sins;  
 the resurrection of the body;  
 and the life everlasting. Amen.

### (1) Why is the Resurrection important? Why is it necessary for Christianity?

*(In other words, why isn't Jesus' death enough? Why did he have to rise from the dead?)*

#### 1 Corinthians 15:17-19

<sup>17</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup> Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. <sup>19</sup> If in this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

#### 1 Peter 1:3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

~~The key is to understand that crucifixion is a verdict.~~  
~~The Resurrection is the REVERSAL of that verdict.~~  
~~Without the resurrection, the verdict of the cross stands.~~

### (2) The Roman perspective: a political verdict

*If Jesus is killed on a Roman cross, that means he is not the Messiah (king).*

*Crucifixion is the last thing possible that would happen to a mighty conquering king.*

#### Luke 23:1-3

<sup>1</sup> Then the whole company of them arose and brought Jesus before Pilate. <sup>2</sup> And they began to accuse him, saying, "We found this man misleading our nation and forbidding us to give tribute to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ, a king." <sup>3</sup> And Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?"

#### Matthew 27:28-29, 37

<sup>28</sup> And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, <sup>29</sup> and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!"

<sup>37</sup> And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."



### **(3) The Jewish perspective: a theological verdict**

*The penalty for blasphemy (falsely claiming you are God) is death. Jesus was killed on the cross because he falsely claimed to be God's one true Son. And the fact that Jesus was crucified proves he was not who he claimed he was, because God would not allow his Son to be killed by pagans.*

#### **John 8:58-59**

<sup>58</sup> Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." <sup>59</sup> So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

#### **Mark 14:61-64**

<sup>61</sup> But Jesus remained silent and made no answer. Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?" <sup>62</sup> And Jesus said, "I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven."

<sup>63</sup> And the high priest tore his garments and said, "What further witnesses do we need? <sup>64</sup> You have heard his blasphemy. What is your decision?" And they all condemned him as deserving death.

### **The Resurrection vindicated Jesus as the divine Son of God.**

#### **Romans 1:4**

Jesus was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead.

#### **Acts 17:24-32**

<sup>24</sup> "The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, <sup>25</sup> nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. <sup>26</sup> And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, <sup>27</sup> that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, <sup>28</sup> for "In him we live and move and have our being"; as even some of your own poets have said, "For we are indeed his offspring." <sup>29</sup> Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. <sup>30</sup> The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup> because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

<sup>32</sup> Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, "We will hear you again about this."

#### (4) The salvation perspective: death on cross is punishment for sin, shame and humiliation

##### **Romans 6:23**

The wages of sin is death

##### **Philippians 2:5-8**

<sup>5</sup> Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

##### **Hebrews 12:2**

looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

#### The Resurrection reverses the sentence of death and declares us righteous in Christ

##### **Acts 2:22-24**

Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know – <sup>23</sup> this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. <sup>24</sup> God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.

##### **1 Corinthians 15:17-19**

<sup>17</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.

##### **Romans 4:24-25**

<sup>24</sup> It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, <sup>25</sup> who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

##### **Romans 6:3-4**

<sup>3</sup> Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup> We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

##### **1 Peter 1:3**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

#### (5) How do we know the Resurrection of Jesus actually happened in history?

*Christianity is utterly unique in this claim. All other religions claim private miracles. But Christianity is based on a very public event, with hundreds of eye-witnesses. Christianity welcomes public scrutiny and skeptics to examine the evidence.*

##### **1 Corinthians 15:3-8**

<sup>3</sup> For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup> and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup> Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup> Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. <sup>8</sup> Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.