

The Doctrine of the Resurrection: Part 3

Introduction

“The death of Christ was a watershed of the drama of redemption, the Scarlet Thread through the Bible.” This is one of the reasons why the resurrection gained such prominence in early Christian witnessing. According to Luke in Acts 1:3, the resurrection was supported by “many infallible proofs,” Greek *pollois tekmerion*, “an indisputable and unassailable evidence, proof, or fact. Note the following seven facts:

1. **Jesus predicted His resurrection** – Sign of Jonah – Matt. 12:38-40; sign of Temple destroyed – John 2:18-21; Jesus words to disciples – Mt 16:21; 20:17-19; Mk. 9:31; Lk. 9:21-22; 18:31-34; Mk 8:31-33.
2. **The empty tomb affirmed the resurrection** – affirmed by Roman guards, Mt 28:11-15; by disciples, Jn 20:3-11; by women, Mt 28:6-8; Jn 20:1-2.
3. **The appearances of Jesus after the crucifixion affirmed the resurrection** – He appeared to Mary, Mt 28:1; Mk 16:9; Peter, Lk 24:34; 10 disciples, Jn 20:19, 24; 11 disciples, Jn 20:26; Lk 24:51; disciples on Emmaus Road, Lk 24:13-15; disciples in Galilee, Mt 28:16-17; Jn 21:1; to five hundred, 1 Cor 15:6; to Paul, in 1 Cor 15:8; to James in 1 Cor 15:7.
4. **Roman historians affirmed facts of life, ministry, death, & resurrection of Jesus** - Josephus, wrote AD 80-85; Tacitus, wrote AD 106-109 in the reign of Nero alluded to the death of Christ and the existence of believers in Rome; Suetonius & Pliny the Younger AD 120- mention believers who pledged allegiance to Christ, see Merrill Tenney’s *New Testament Survey* p. 200ff.
5. **Existence and spread of the church affirm the resurrection** – It was founded by miraculous visitation at Pentecost, Acts 2:1-40; miraculous growth of church, Acts 2:42-47; spread to the whole world, Acts 17:6.
6. **Change in the Day of Worship Sabbath became the Lord’s Day** – Believers gathered regularly on the first day of the week in affirmation of the resurrection, Acts 20:7; 1 Cor 16:2; Rev 1:10.
7. **Change life of the Apostle Paul affirmed the resurrection** – Acts 9:1-30, his dramatic conversion on the Damascus road followed by his, baptism and preaching ministry; Acts 9:23;26:21; Jews attempted to kill Paul because of his conversion; Acts 26:12-23 – Paul’s own testimony of his conversion before Agrippa.

Lamar E. Cooper, Sr.