

- ◆ At this time, the disciples had real experiences that they believed to be literal experiences of the risen Jesus.
- ◆ The disciples were transformed from doubters who were afraid to identify with Jesus, to bold proclaimers of his death and resurrection, even being willing to die for this belief.
- ◆ The resurrection was central to their message.
- ◆ The resurrection was proclaimed in Jerusalem where the empty tomb was. As a result... The church was born and grew... ..with Sunday the primary day of worship.
- ◆ James, Jesus' sceptical brother, was converted by the resurrection. Paul, the great persecutor of Christianity, was converted by the resurrection (Acts 9:3-9)

So momentous was this single event in the First Century that its effects have been described as a "widening circle of ripples" from a "boulder crashing into the pool of history." [3] In one of the oddest turns in history, a message centring on a dead "criminal" (1 Corinthians 1:23) came to be proclaimed as "good news." Equally amazing was the extent of the Empire-wide transformation following its proclamation. The impetus for this message was the conviction that the same Jesus who was crucified was now alive again. These facts are admitted even by knowledgeable skeptics. [4] The Resurrection story of course has had its critics, even from the very beginning. From the account of the first guards in Matthew 28:11f all the way to the present, there have been efforts to explain away his resurrection. Each new attempt, however, is more perverse than those which came before, while still failing to account for the range of indisputable facts. Let us now consider...

REFERENCES AND FOOTNOTES

- 1 Gary R. Habermas and Anthony G.N. Flew, *Did Jesus Rise From the Dead?—the entire transcript*, Terry L. Miethe, editor (San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1987), p. XIIIff.
- 2 *Ibid.* pp. 19-20.
- 3 Karl Barth, *The Word of God and the Word of Man* (Harper, 1957), p. 63.
- 4 Will Durant, *The Story of Civilization, Vol. III* (Simon and Schuster, 1972), p. 553f.

This page is located at: <http://www.christiananswers.net/q-eden/edn-t008.html>



Pastor's Comment: this article looks at the historical evidence of the resurrection. It treats the Bible as a history book.. And it is .. But we know it is much more than that. We know the Bible to be true and we have a relationship with the living Christ (what more proof of His life do we need?) but an article like this may help those who doubt. If that is you may I recommend the book.. "Who Moved the Stone".. I would be happy to lend it to you. I do NOT necessarily recommend all the authors quoted in the footnotes.

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Central Mountains Baptist Church

4 APRIL, 2010

Information for Visitors.

- * We're glad you're here. Sit back, relax, and enjoy the service. You're very welcome to join us for a cuppa after church.
- * a Kid's Church and creche is normally provided, during the sermon for the **toddler to primary age bracket**. Please ask for details.

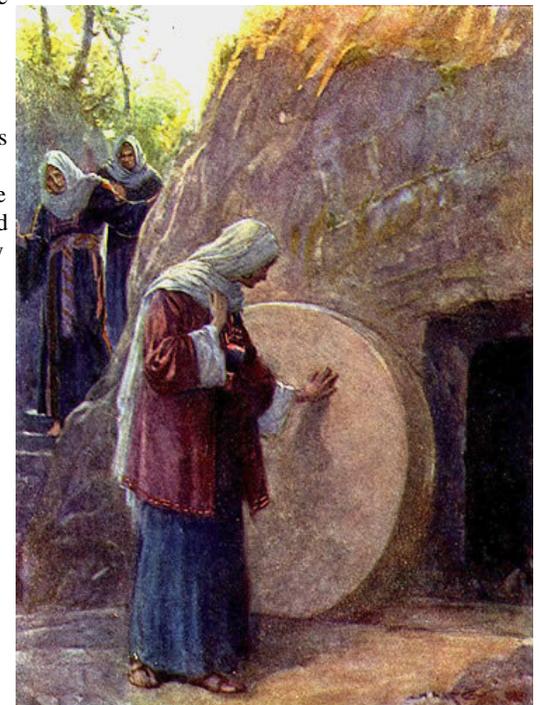
Proof?

The most powerful sign of all that Jesus is who he claims to be, namely the Son of God, is his resurrection from the dead (Romans 1:4). This is a question with huge implications: Did it happen? Is the Resurrection story the great exception to the "usual dreary end of human life?" Many now consider the Resurrection to be one of the most sure and certain events of history. A critical debate on the question "Did Jesus rise from the dead?" took place recently between world-renowned atheistic philosopher, Dr. Anthony Flew, and New Testament scholar and Christian, Dr. Gary Habermas. A panel of five philosophers from leading universities judged the outcome. What was the conclusion? Four votes for Habermas. None for Flew.[1] And one draw. Flew was judged to have retreated into philosophical sophistry while evading the widely-acknowledged historical facts cited by Dr. Habermas.

TWELVE WIDELY-ACKNOWLEDGED HISTORICAL FACTS

These facts (per Habermas) include:

- ◆ Jesus died due to the rigors of crucifixion [2]
- ◆ Jesus was buried.
- ◆ Jesus' death caused the disciples to despair and lose hope.
- ◆ Many scholars hold that Jesus' tomb was discovered to be empty just a few days later.



The Power of God in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ



We can build up the picture of God's power in the resurrection of Jesus Christ by making three statements:

1. God's resurrection power was seen in an _____ life, Hebrews 7:15-17, 25-27, 13:1-8

(Genesis 14:18-19) "Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High. {19} And he blessed him and said: "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth;"



(Psalms 110:1) "The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool. ""

(Psalms 110:4) "The LORD has sworn And will not relent, "You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek. ""

(Matthew 5:17) ""Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. ""

(Matthew 24:2) ".. "Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down. ""

2. God's resurrection power was seen in the impossibility of _____,

(Psalms 16:1-2) "Preserve me, O God, for in You I put my trust. ...

(Psalms 16:7-11) "I will bless the LORD who has given me counsel; {8} I have set the LORD always before me; Because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved. {9} Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices; My flesh also will rest in hope.

{10} For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. {11} You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore. "

(Acts 2:21-32) "And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved.' {22} ".... Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles,; {23} "Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death;

{24} "whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it. {25} "For David says concerning Him: 'I foresaw the LORD always before my face, For He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken.

{26} Therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad; Moreover my flesh also will rest in hope. {27} For You will not leave my soul in Hades, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. {28} You have made known to me the ways of life; You will make me full of joy in Your presence.' {29} "Men and brethren, David, .. is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. {30} "Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to

him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, {31} "he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. {32} "This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. "

(Acts 13:35-41) ""Therefore He also says in another Psalm: 'You will not allow Your Holy One to see corruption.' {36} "For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell asleep, was buried with his fathers, and saw corruption; {37} "but He whom God raised up saw no corruption. {38} "Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through this Man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins; {39} "and by Him everyone who believes is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses. {40} "Beware therefore, lest what has been spoken in the prophets come upon you: {41} "Behold, you despisers, Marvel and perish! For I work a work in your days, A work which you will by no means believe, Though one were to declare it to you. ""

(Philippians 3:10) "that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, "

(1 Peter 1:3-5) "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, {4} to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, {5} who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. "

(Romans 10:9) "that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. "



3. God's resurrection power was in the _____ and the _____ and the _____,

(Romans 1:1-4) "Paul, .. separated to the gospel of God {2} which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures, {3} concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, {4} and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead. "

(John 10:17) ""Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. "

