

Testimony of the Tomb

my impressions

Choose from the following phrases those which best describe your impression of each of the statements below.

- A. I didn't know that B. Most convincing C. Mind boggling
D. That's awesome! E. I'm grateful F. That's eye opening
G. What a relief H. That inspires me I. That's reassuring
J. It's hard to grasp K. Hallelujah L. Other _____

1. Of the major world religions, Judaism, Islam, Buddhism and Christianity, only in Christianity do we find that the founder, though He died, was resurrected. (Matthew 28:1-8; Mark 16:1-9; Luke 24:1-12; John 19:33-35¹; 20:1-8, 9², 10-20)
2. The resurrection of Christ is THE foundation upon which Christianity rests. On this point there is no middle ground. Either He died and rose from the dead or there is no rational foundation for the Christian faith! (1 Corinthians 15:14¹⁶; Romans 1:4¹³)
3. The compelling story of Christ's, death and resurrection, are further amplified and solidly confirmed when compared with prophecy. (Psalm 34:20 & John 19:33-35¹; Psalm 16:10⁷; 49:15⁸ & Matthew 28:2-6)
4. The disciples were too afraid to be associated with Him during the awful trial leading to His death. The fact that they walked and talked with Him after His resurrection turned them from cowards to bold witnesses of His life, death, and resurrection until they died. (Matthew 26:31; Mark 14:50, 68-71; Acts 14:3; 3:15)
5. The resurrection of Christ from the dead is personally compelling for yet another reason. If God can take a dead man and give him life, then God can also take our lifeless hearts, lost in trespasses and sin, and recreate them, just as He prophesied and promised. (1 Corinthians 15:20-22¹⁰; Romans 1:4¹³; Ezekiel 36:26; Ephesians 2:1; Jude 1:24)
6. All since Adam have sinned and have inherited death. Christ, through His death and resurrection, has given all access to eternal life. (1 Corinthians 15:20-22¹⁰; 1 John 1:2; 5:11; Romans 6:23)
7. Death is an enemy to God who created people to live forever. In the end, death will be no more! (John 3:16; 1 Corinthians 15:26; Revelation 21:4)

Choices: I want the same death that Jesus chose. _____

Thunder IN THE HOLY LAND

LESSON 15

TESTIMONY OF THE TOMB

Comparison of the Gospels:

Jesus was taken to Pilate (Matthew 27:1-2; Luke 23:1-5; John 18:28; Mark 15:1-5). Pilate offered Barabbas in place of Jesus, but the people cried against Jesus, "CRUCIFY HIM!" (Matthew 27:15-26; Mark 15: 6-15; Luke 23:13-25; John 18:39-40; 19:1-16) He was taken out and crucified on a hill (Matthew 27:32-37; Mark 15:21-32; Luke 23:26-38; John 19:17-24) Just before He died He called out, "It is finished." (Matthew 27:45-51; Mark 15:33-41; Luke 23:44-49; John 19:28-30). Jesus rose from the grave three days later (Matthew 28:1-8; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-10).

1. **John 19:33-35** But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs: But one of the soldiers with a spear _____ his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water. And he that saw it bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe.
2. **John 20:9** For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the _____.
3. **Acts 2:32** This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are _____.
4. **Acts 4:20** For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.
5. **Acts 13:31** And he was _____ many days of them which came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are his witnesses unto the people.

Sticking With the Story:

If the resurrection story had been made up it is unlikely that all of those dedicated to its proclamation would have allowed themselves to be persecuted, tortured and killed:

Peter was crucified upside down.
 James was stoned to death.
 Matthew was killed by the sword.
 James (son of Alphaeus) was crucified.
 James (son of Zebedee) was killed by the sword.
 Thaddaeus was shot through with arrows.
 Bartholomew was crucified.
 Phillip crucified.
 Simon the Zealot was crucified.
 Thomas was killed with the spear.
 Although John died a natural death, tradition tells us he was a miraculous survivor of being thrown into a cauldron of boiling oil.

6. **Isaiah 46:10** _____ the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, say-ing, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:
7. **Psalms 16:10 NKJ** For You will not leave my soul in _____, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.
8. **Psalms 49:15 NKJ** But God will redeem my soul from the power of the _____, for He shall receive me.
9. **Matthew 20:19** And shall deliver him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify him: and the third day he shall _____ again.
10. **1 Corinthians 15:20-22** But now is Christ risen from the _____, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.
11. **Romans 6:23** For the wages of sin is _____; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
12. **1 Corinthians 15:26** The last enemy that shall be destroyed is _____.

13. **Romans 1:4** And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the _____ from the dead:
14. **John 10:30** I and my Father are _____.
15. **John 14:11** Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake.
16. **1 Corinthians 15:14** And if Christ be not _____, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.

Notes and Questions