

Cornerstone Faith of West Liberty  
1 Cor. 15:12-19—the Resurrection-at the heart of it all  
January 12, 2025

- I. The question to be solved—If Jesus is raised from the dead how is it preached that the dead do not rise
  - A. Resurrection is in Jewish history
    1. Elijah (1 Kings 17:17-24—widow ladies son)
    2. Elisha (2 Kings 4:32-36—Shunammite woman's son)
    3. Elisha's bones (2 Kings 13:20-21)  
**2 Kings 13:20-21 (NKJV)** *Then Elisha died, and they buried him. And the raiding bands from Moab invaded the land in the spring of the year. <sup>21</sup> So it was, as they were burying a man, that suddenly they spied a band of raiders; and they put the man in the tomb of Elisha; and when the man was let down and touched the bones of Elisha, he revived and stood on his feet.*
    4. Ezekiel valley of dead bones vision (Ezek. 37:1-14)  
**Ezekiel 37:9-10 (NKJV)** *Also He said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." ' " <sup>10</sup> So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army.*
  - B. If no resurrection—Jesus is like every other false messiah
    1. Theudas (Acts 5:34-36)
    2. Judas (Acts 5:37)
    3. Bar Kokhba—around 120AD
      - These are all dead!
- II. Seven arguments for the resurrection of Jesus from the dead
  - A. If no resurrection Jesus is still dead (13)
    - The core of the power of Christianity is the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead—without it we have nothing to offer more than humanistic beliefs like everyone else!
  - B. If no resurrection preaching the gospel is in vain (14)
    - The preaching of the apostles is empty, meaningless  
**Matthew 15:7-9 (NKJV)** *Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: <sup>8</sup> 'These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. <sup>9</sup> And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.' "*
      - Without the resurrection the preaching of the apostles is nothing but human teaching or commandments that they are trying to pass off as the teaching of God

C. If no resurrection—your faith as Christians is vain (14)

“Faith is not created, sustained, or increased by looking at ourselves or at others, but only by absorbing the reality and the implications of the resurrection of Jesus.” The Message of 1 Corinthians, David Prior, Page 264

D. If no resurrection we call God a liar as false witnesses

1. Being a false witness breaks one of the ten commandments

- To attack the resurrection is to attack the character of God

**Romans 3:7-8 (NKJV)** *For if the truth of God has increased through my lie to His glory, why am I also still judged as a sinner? <sup>8</sup> And why not say, "Let us do evil that good may come"?-- as we are slanderously reported and as some affirm that we say. Their condemnation is just.*

2. Being a false witness proves apostles false

- There is no way they could have been deceived or mistaken; either they told the truth or they were deliberate liars, deceivers, and frauds! (Acts 10:34-43)

E. If no resurrection we are still in our sins

1. Our redemption and salvation are directly tied to Jesus rising from the dead (Acts 13:38-39; Rom. 5:8-10; 1 Pet. 1:3-5)

**1 Peter 1:3-5 (NKJV)** *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, <sup>4</sup> to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

F. If no resurrection all those who died in Christ have perished

- In other words, Jesus did not conquer death, hell, and the grave

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 (NKJV)** *But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. <sup>14</sup> For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.*

G. If no resurrection as Christian were to be pitied

- All the promises of God are no longer yes and Amen (2 Cor. 1:20)
- All who have suffered and died were deceived and not in heaven (Rev. 6:9-11—those under altar who are martyred)

III. Since Jesus has been raised (Mark A. Copeland)

A. It verifies our justification – (Rom. 4:24-25)

B. It demonstrates the power available to the Christian – (Eph. 1:18-20)

C. It gives us hope concerning our own resurrection – (1Pet. 1:3)

D. It demands our complete loyalty to Him – (Rom. 14:9)

The death of the first witnesses to the resurrection—the apostles of Jesus

- They believed in the resurrection enough to live and die for it and the gospel.
- What about you?