

BELIEVE

Today I want to give you the story of the resurrection

Matthew 28:1-7 – Early on Sunday morning, as the new day was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went out to visit the tomb. ² Suddenly there was a great earthquake! For an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled aside the stone, and sat on it... ⁵ Then the angel spoke to the women. “Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶ He isn’t here! He is risen from the dead, just as He said would happen. Come, see where His body was lying. ⁷ And now, go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead, and He is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see Him there. Remember what I have told you. (NLT)

John 20:19-20 - That Sunday evening the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! “Peace be with you,” He said. ²⁰ As He spoke, He showed them the wounds in His hands and His side. They were filled with joy when they saw the Lord! (NLT)

John 20:24-29 – One of the twelve disciples, Thomas (nicknamed the Twin), was not with the others when Jesus came. ²⁵ They told him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he replied, “I won’t believe it unless I see the nail wounds in His hands, put my fingers into them, and place my hand into the wound in His side.” ²⁶ Eight days later the disciples were together again, and this time Thomas was with them. The doors were locked; but suddenly, as before, Jesus was standing among them. “Peace be with you,” He said. ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and look at My hands. Put your hand into the wound in My side. **Don’t be faithless any longer. Believe!**” ²⁸ “My Lord and my God!” Thomas exclaimed. ²⁹ Then Jesus told him, “**You believe because you have seen Me.** Blessed are those who **believe without seeing Me.**” (NLT)

John 20:31 – **But these are written so that you may continue to believe** that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in Him, you will have life by the power of His name. (NLT)

Today is a day of celebration for believers everywhere... millions around the world worshipping the risen Christ...and a great day of salvation for all who will find Him... it is my hope the today we will **believe on him!!**

Six times throughout the gospels Jesus predicted in detail His death burial and resurrection.

Mark 10:33-34 – “Listen,” He said, “we’re going up to Jerusalem, where the Son of Man will be betrayed to the leading priests and the teachers of religious law. They will sentence Him to die and hand Him over to the Romans. ³⁴ They will mock Him, spit on Him, flog Him with a whip, and kill Him, but after three days He will rise again.” (NLT)

EYE WITNESS ACCOUNTS

1 Corinthians 15:1, 3-8 Let me now remind you, dear brothers and sisters, of the Good News I preached to you before... ³ ... **Christ died** for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. ⁴ He **was buried**, and He was **raised from the dead** on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. ⁵ He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve. ⁶ After that, He was seen by more than 500 of His followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷ Then He was seen by James and later by all the apostles. ⁸ Last of all, as though I had been born at the wrong time, I also saw Him. (NLT)

This testimony is important, why?

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EMPERICAL PROOF

The roman government testified to His resurrection. The secular historian Josephus , who was not a Christian and hired by the Roman Government wrote the following:

*Now there was about this time Jesus, a wise man; if it be even possible to call him a man. For he was a doer of wonderful works; a teacher...who drew to him many of the Jews, and many of the Gentiles. He was [the] Christ. And when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men among us, had condemned him to the cross; those that loved him at the first did not forsake him. **For he appeared to them alive again, the third day: as the divine prophets had foretold...** And the tribe of Christians, so named from him, are not extinct to this day.*

This testimony is important for one reason and one reason only

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HISTORICAL PROOF

Why would the apostles die for a lie?

... these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name. (NLT)

What if people aren't the standard, what if God is the standard? How do I measure up then?

Romans 3:3 – For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (NKJV)

Romans 6:23 – The payment for sin is death, but the gift that God freely gives is everlasting life found in Christ Jesus our Lord. (GW)

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