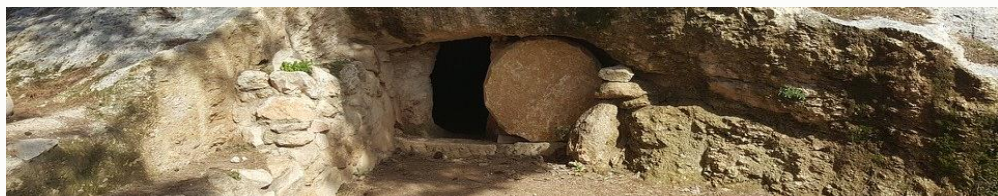


CONSIDERING THE RESURRECTION

Evidence for the resurrection: the change in the disciples

One day Napoleon was master of Europe; a few months later he is captive on a lonely island. Something must have happened in between to bring about such a change in this man. What was it? Answer: the Battle of Waterloo! And in the same way something happened to change the disciples of Jesus Christ from cowards into men *“who turned the world upside down”* (Acts 17:6). Look at them before the resurrection and you will see that they were frightened men; afterwards they are bold as lions in their presentation of Christ to the world. As J.N. Anderson put it: *“What changed Peter from a weakling who denied his Lord because of a servant girl’s questions into a man who could not be silenced by the whole Sanhedrin?”* Answer: The Lord Jesus had risen from the dead, and **“He was seen by Cephas [Peter], then by the twelve.”** (1 Corinthians 15:5). This change is evidence in itself for the resurrection.



And it is only underscored when we realise that they faced severe persecution for their witness to the resurrection as well. In fact, nearly all the disciples were martyred for it. And what’s more, none of them went back on their testimony that it was true. That surely says something in favour of it being a fact. And best of all, the risen Lord Jesus is still changing lives today! He can yours.

Popular Objections

“How do you know God exists?”

A sarcastic relative put a sign on the bedroom door of a little girl who went to church. It said, “GOD IS NOWHERE”. The next time the relative passed the bedroom door, they noticed it had been changed slightly to read: “GOD IS NOW HERE”. It was changed from a statement of denial to one of affirmation. *But how do Christians know that God is there?* Well, first of all, the Bible tells us so as a statement of fact. The first words of the Bible say, **“In the beginning God...” (Genesis 1:1)** – they don’t try to explain His existence. So very simply, the Bible’s teaching is that He is there and everything else flows from that. But we know it from other things too.



For instance, creation is evidence of God’s existence. **Hebrews 3:4** says **“For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God.”** That’s simple logic, isn’t it? If you look at a house, you know there was a builder. If you see a picture, you know there was an artist. Well, that’s the same with the whole of creation too. It’s amazing design, beauty, and precision point to a God who made it. In fact, the Bible says, **“For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made... so that they are without excuse” (Romans 1:20)**. Other ways we know He’s there include: complex Bible prophecies coming true; prayers being answered; the Holy Spirit coming inside us when we get saved; and the appearing of God in Christ (John 1).