

Did Jesus Really rise from the dead?

More and more people, many of them Christian Ministers are saying that Jesus did not actually die on the cross but only fainted, therefore there was no miracle of Jesus rising from the dead, and that for salvation it is not necessary to believe this. For most of us we will instantly recognise this as a lie from the devil himself. This study will give you plenty of reasons to believe that Jesus died on the cross and rose again after three days.

The first scripture we will look at is in John chapter 19 verse 30 which quotes some of the last words of Jesus before He died on that cross, these words according to John's gospel read simply and briefly "It is finished." The verse reads: When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit"

When scripture says that He gave up His spirit it can mean nothing less than "He died." What was Jesus referring to when He said this? He was referring to the work that Father had given Him to do, to do all that was possible for man to come back into fellowship with God once more.

This work could only be completed by Jesus dying on the cross because He was and is the perfect and only sacrifice acceptable to God for the atonement of the sins of the world, past, present and future, which included every one of your sins also. He was bound by a covenant to have God forgive all your sin and for Jesus to bring you to salvation when you put your complete trust in the work He accomplished on the cross.

Moses was instructed to make garments for the priests and the High Priest as we see from Exodus chapter 29 verses 25 and 26 which read: "They made bells of pure gold and attached them around the hem between the pomegranates. The bells and pomegranates alternated around the hem of the robe to be worn for ministering, as the Lord commanded Moses."

If they could hear bells jingling when the High Priest ministered on the Day of Atonement then they knew he was still alive and continuing to follow to the letter the instructions that God had given Moses for the annual Atonement of the community.

It is also a well-known fact that if the High Priest had failed in any of the things He was instructed to do during this ceremony – had the sacrifices not been without blemish or he had himself sinned and not yet received God's cleansing from it, then he would have immediately been struck down dead. Had this happened, there would be no sound of bells coming from the sanctuary and they would have had to drag the priest out dead.

Around the waist of the High Priest, as part of his garment was a long rope, this was so that if the High Priest did sin, then since only the Priest or High Priest were the only ones who were allowed in the sanctuary the leaders of the community would drag the High Priest out by the rope round his waist, so that they themselves would not enter the sanctuary and themselves be struck down dead.

The sacrifices used in the ceremony of the Day of Atonement had to be completely without blemish, and all of its blood poured out on the altar, though some of which was splashed over the people in the crowd standing round. It is impossible for anyone or any animal to have all of its blood poured out in this way and remain alive, just as it is also impossible for a person who was not dead to be resurrected.

The very next thing that the High Priest would do after all that he had carried out in the Tent of Meeting was to come out of the Tent of Meeting once again and prove to the community that the sacrifices he had offered had been accepted by God and that for one year at least, the sin of the community would be forgiven. However, this ceremony had to be performed each and every year until the coming of Jesus, their promised Messiah.

Jesus could not have risen from the dead unless He had died in the first place, when people were being crucified the Roman soldiers were instructed to make perfectly certain that the victim was dead when the time for their last breath came, had they been found to be incorrect they themselves would have been put to death almost immediately.

Usually they would break the victim's legs but when they came to Jesus they did not do this, because He was already dead, and to fulfil God's command that of the Passover Lamb should not have any of its bones, which can be seen in Exodus chapter 12 verse 46. John chapter 19 verse 33 confirms that none of the bones of Jesus were broken, in fulfilment of that scripture from Exodus chapter 12.

John chapter 19 verse 34 tells us what the Roman Soldier did instead, to ensure that Jesus was in deed dead. "Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water." This is the medical sign of a ruptured heart, clearly when the Roman Soldier pierced Jesus side the spearhead went right through Jesus body and punctured the heart. In a condition like this it is impossible for a person to live.

Some have suggested that when Jesus was taken down from the cross and put into His tomb, that the women who went to the tomb on the Sunday morning went to the wrong one. This can be very easily dismissed through looking again at what scripture says, which is a testimony of what took place by one who was an eye witness to most of these events.

Matthew chapter 27 verses 62 to 66 read as follows: The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. "Sir," they said, "we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise again.' So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first."

"Take a guard," Pilate answered. "Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how." So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard. Matthew chapter 28 verses 1 to 15 read: "After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the

week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow.

The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: **'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.'**

Now I have told you." So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me." While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened.

When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, telling them, "You are to say, 'His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.' If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day."

How could the Roman Soldiers guarding the tomb know that Jesus disciples came and stole away the body when they were asleep at the time? There is just no sense in that argument, though the testimony of the eyewitnesses makes perfect biblical sense. If the Roman Guards had let the body of Jesus go then they would themselves have been put to death immediately, so it is obvious why a false account had to be concocted.

In Turin Cathedral in Northern Italy there is a piece of cloth which is said to be the shroud that Jesus body was wrapped in. Somehow, only to be seen in negative photographs there are marks on this cloth which show that the wearer was crucified, pierced in the side and had nails forced through His hands and His feet. On the top part is the face of a man in great pain, bearded, and one who had been wearing a crown of thorns.

This is the authentic shroud that Jesus was buried in, and is the authentic shroud which was around Jesus body when He was taken down from the cross. The face on it is the authentic face of Jesus, our Saviour, Messiah and Lord. Yes what the scriptures say about Jesus is true, amen and hallelujah, blessed be God forever.