

Jesus is Alive



As Christians, our faith is in a *God who really exists* and we are saved because of *events which really happened* in history. We are concerned with **facts**. The most important events are the death and resurrection of Jesus.

● Fact 1 – Jesus died

* John Ch 19: v 28-37

To speed up death by crucifixion, the legs of the victim were broken making it more difficult to breathe.

Did they need to break the legs of Jesus? _____

Why? _____

What was done to make sure that Jesus was dead?

● Fact 2 – Jesus was buried

* John Ch 19: v 38-42

What was done with the body of Jesus after it was taken down from the cross?

_____ (v 40)

Where was the body put? _____

Facts – faith – feelings

You may not always *feel* very close to God. It may be that there is sin in your life which is causing the problem — in which case you must repent. But *feelings* are not always very reliable and as human beings we tend to go up and down with the events of life.

Our faith is based on *fact* not feelings. God does not disappear or forsake us because we do not feel too good!

• Consider the facts

- Jesus really did come to earth and die for my sin.
- Jesus really did rise again and will return.
- I have become a Christian — I have repented and have been forgiven.
- God loves me and cares for me — I am his child and he is my Father.
- God has a plan and purpose for my life.
- I can look back and see how God has worked in my life since I believed.
- Jesus has promised his power and his presence whatever the circumstances and however I feel — Jesus is alive!

(Reading the Bible will help you consider the facts.)

• Exercise faith

Put your trust in God based on the facts — thank him for his goodness — praise him in all circumstances.

• Rule your feelings

Walk in the power of God exercising faith and you will increasingly find that you are not ruled by your feelings but that you will rule them with God's strength!



* Romans Ch 8: v 34

Where is Christ now? _____

What is he doing? _____

* Galatians Ch 2: v 20

Where else does he live? _____

* Matthew Ch 28: v 20

How long will he stay? _____

● **Fact 3 – Jesus was raised from the dead**

* John Ch 20: v 1-9

Who was the first at the tomb on Sunday morning?

What did she see? _____

What did Peter and John see inside the tomb?

Jesus had risen from the dead

...there is no other adequate explanation!

Some inadequate theories

Many people have tried to disprove the resurrection — here are some attempts:

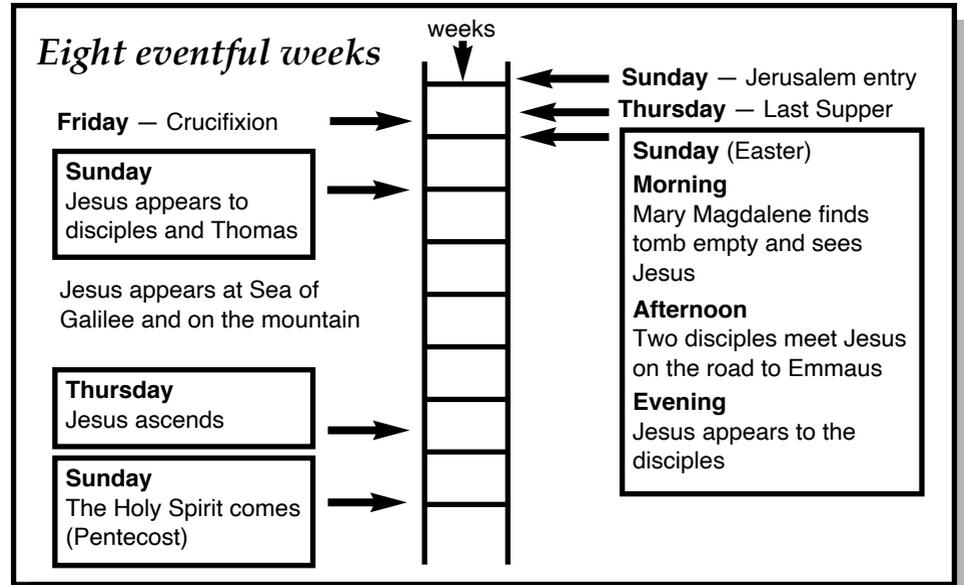
- **Jesus did not really die but revived in the tomb**
— but a man with the injuries which Jesus suffered could not have unwrapped himself, rolled a stone away from the tomb, overcome a Roman guard (see Matthew) and given a convincing show of being raised from the dead!
- **The disciples stole the body**
— but all the evidence is that the disciples were shocked and fearful after the crucifixion. Remember too that these disciples later suffered persecution and gave their lives for their faith in the risen Jesus. Surely they were not liars!
- **The authorities stole the body**
— but why didn't they produce it again when the disciples started preaching about the resurrection!

* Luke Ch 24: v 36-43

In what *three* ways did Jesus prove that his body had really risen from the dead?

- _____
- _____
- _____

• *Jesus kept appearing to his disciples for several weeks*



* 1 Corinthians Ch 15: v 3-8

Paul wrote this letter about 25 years later. Notice which things he thought were most important — Jesus *died*, was *buried* and was *raised*.

Which three individuals are mentioned as having seen Jesus after his resurrection?

- _____
- _____
- _____

How many people saw Jesus risen on one occasion? _____

* 1 Corinthians Ch 15: v 12-20

The fact of the resurrection is crucial.

If Christ was not raised then _____

and _____ (v 17)

Why is the raising of Christ a *first fruit*?

* Romans Ch 10: v 9 How are we saved?

- _____
- _____