

Major Bible Themes

52 Vital Doctrines of the Scriptures Simplified and Explained

Adapted from the book *Major Bible Themes*
written by Lewis Sperry Chafer and revised by John f. Walvoord

God the Son: His Resurrection

- Resurrection in the Old Testament
 - Job, a contemporary of Abraham, affirms the doctrine of resurrection in his statement of faith in Job 19:25-27.
 - Specific prophecies predict the resurrection of the human body (Job 14:13-15; Ps 17:15; Isa 26:19; Dan 12:2; Heb 11:17-19).
 - The resurrection of Christ is taught in Ps 16:9-10 (quoted in Acts 2:24-31 & 13:34-37).
 - In Ps 118:22-24 the elevation of Christ as corner stone is defined in Acts 4:10-11 as signifying the resurrection of Christ.
 - The typology of the feast of the first fruits (Lev 23:9-14) was fulfilled when Christ led a sample resurrection (Mt 27:52-53).
 - All men will be raised (John 5:28-29 and Rev 20:4-6; 12-13).
- Christ's Predictions of His Own Resurrection
 - Frequently Christ predicts His own death and His resurrection (Matt 16:21; 17:23; 20:17-19; Mark 9:30-32; Luke 9:22; 18:31-34; John 2:19-22; 10:17-18).
- Proofs of the Resurrection of Christ
 - The N.T. presents overwhelming proof of the resurrection of Christ.
 - There are many appearances of Christ after His resurrection...
 - ✦ To Mary Magdalene (Jn 20:11-17 cf. Mk 16:9-11; Mt 28:9-10)
 - ✦ To Peter (Luke 24:34; 1 Cor 15:5)
 - ✦ To the disciples on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35)
 - ✦ To "the eleven" disciples (Luke 24:36-43; John 20:19-24)
 - ✦ To "the eleven" a week later (John 20:26-29)
 - ✦ To the seven disciples by the Sea of Galilee (John 21:1-23)
 - ✦ To the five hundred (1 Cor 15:6)
 - ✦ To James the Lord's brother (1 Cor 15:7)
 - ✦ To the disciples on the mount in Galilee (Mt 28:16-20; 1 Cor 15:7)
 - ✦ To Stephen prior to his martyrdom (Acts 7:55-56)
 - ✦ To Paul on the road to Damascus (Acts 26:12-18; 1 Cor 15:8)
 - ✦ To Paul in the temple (Acts 22:17-21)
 - ✦ To Paul in prison in Caesarea (Acts 23:11)
 - ✦ To the Apostle John (Rev 1:12-20)

- Additional supporting evidence can be found...
 - ✦ The tomb was empty (Matt 28:6; Mark 16:6).
 - ✦ The witnesses were slow to be convinced of His resurrection, but once convinced, they were willing to die for their faith in Christ.
 - ✦ The countenance of the disciples changed from sorrow to joy and hope after they learned of His resurrection.
 - ✦ There were many who had an interest in disproving the fact of the resurrection, but none were able to do so.
 - ✦ The early church shifted its day of gathering together from Saturday to Sunday (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor 16:2).
- Reasons for the Resurrection of Christ
 - Christ could not be held under the power of death (Acts 2:24).
 - Christ arose to fulfill the Davidic covenant (2 Sam 7:12-16; Ps 89:20-37; Isa 9:6-7; Luke 1:31-33; Acts 2:25-31).
 - Christ arose to be the giver of resurrection life (John 11:25-26; Eph 2:6; Col 3:1-4).
 - Christ arose that He might become the source of resurrection power and head over the Church (Eph 1:19-23).
 - Christ arose because our justification had been accomplished (Rom 4:25).
 - Christ arose to be the first fruits of the resurrection (1 Cor 15:20-23).
- The Significance of the Resurrection of Christ
 - The resurrection of Christ constitutes the most important proof of the deity of Christ.
 - It is the cornerstone of our faith – without it, our faith would be in vain (1 Cor 15:17).
 - Because Christ is raised, our Christian faith is sure, the ultimate victory of Christ is certain, and our Christian faith is completely justified.

- Questions

- Does the Bible teach that all men who die will be resurrected?
- Summarize the O.T. teaching on the resurrection of the human body.
- To what extent does the O.T. anticipate the resurrection of Jesus Christ?
- To what extent did Christ predict His own resurrection?
- Name some appearances of Christ between His resurrection and ascension.
- What appearances of Christ appeared after His ascension?
- Why are the many appearances of Christ and the circumstances surrounding them a strong confirmation of the fact of His resurrection?
- What support do the empty tomb, the character of the witnesses of His resurrection, and the extent of their convictions contribute to the doctrine of His resurrection?
- What changes took place in the disciples after the resurrection of Christ?
- Name at least seven reasons why Christ rose from the dead.
- Why is the resurrection of Christ important to the Christian faith?