



RESURRECTION 101

Introducing Reasons for Confidence

2 ~ A Matter of Public Record

1 Corinthians 15.1-11 — Reminded of the Gospel

- “First importance” — literally, “among the first things.”
- “Received” & “delivered,” language of passed-on tradition (vv. 1, 3); preached by apostles (vv. 9, 11-15).
- “That” functions like an English colon used to set off the items in a list.
 - How many times does “that” appear in verses 3-5?
 - What are the events designated by “that”?
 - In terms of space devoted to them, which of the “thats” is given more attention?
- Why were the appearances so important in early church preaching?

Examples for Additional Study

Acts 2.22-36 — Peter’s sermon to a Jewish audience (Pentecost)

- “this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men” (v. 23).
- “God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, . . .” (v. 24; note: vv. 24-35, twelve of the fifteen verses in the sermon, are about the resurrection).
- “... the patriarch David was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. . . . the Christ was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption” (vv. 29, 31).
- “This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses” (v. 32).

Acts 10.34-43 — Peter’s sermon to Cornelius

- “They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, . . .” (v. 39).
- “. . . but God raised him on the third day . . .” (v. 40)
- “. . . and made him to appear, not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead” (vv. 40-41).

Acts 13.16-43 — Paul’s sermon in the Jewish synagogue in Pisidian Antioch (parallels Peter’s sermon in Acts 2)

- “And though they found in him no guilt worthy of death, they asked Pilate to have him executed” (v. 28).
- “And when they had carried out all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb” (v. 29).
- “But God raised him from the dead, . . .” (v. 30).
- “. . . and for many days he appeared to those who had come up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are now his witnesses to the people” (v. 31).

“Not Done in a Corner” (Acts 26.26)

“It cannot be stated too strongly that Christianity is an historical religion, and that it is so intimately tied to history that if the historical credibility of its sources were to be proven false, it would at once collapse as a possible claimant for our loyalty.”

Charles C. Anderson, *The Historical Jesus: A Continuing Quest*, 55

“If Christianity is not rooted in things that actually happened in first-century Palestine, we might as well be Buddhists, Marxists or almost anything else. And if Jesus never existed, or if he was quite different from what the Gospels and the church’s worship affirms him to have been, then we are indeed living in cloud-cuckoo land.”

N. T. Wright, *The Challenge of Jesus: Rediscovering Who Jesus Was and Is*, 18

1 Corinthians 15 Themes in the Sermons and Defense Speeches in Acts				
Text	Death	Burial	Resurrection	Witnesses
Acts 2	crucified & killed" (23)	not abandoned to Hades (31; cf. 27, 29)	God raised him up ... from death (24)	God raised up, we all are witnesses (32)
Acts 3	You killed the Author of life (15)		Whom God raised from the dead (15)	We are witnesses (15)
Acts 4	Jesus ... crucified (10)		Whom God raised from the dead (10)	
Acts 5	Jesus... killed on a tree (30)		God raised from the dead (30)	We are witnesses of these things (32)
Acts 10	Killed by hanging on a tree (39)		God raised on the third day (40)	Made him appear...to witnesses who ate and drank with him after... (41, 42)
Acts 13	Asked Pilate to have him executed (28)	Took from the tree and laid him in a tomb (29)	But God raised him from the dead (30; cf. 32-37)	Many days appeared to those who came with from Galilee... witnesses (31)
Acts 17	The Christ had to suffer (3)		Rise from the dead (3); preached about Jesus & resurrection (18); coming judgment proved by raising him (31)	
Acts 22	Implied in Paul's conversion report (6-10)		Implied in conversion report (6-10)	I am Jesus. . . whom you are persecuting... go to Damascus (8, 10)
Acts 23			Paul: I am on trial because of the resurrection (6)	
Acts 24			Paul: I am on trial because of the resurrection (21)	
Acts 25	Festus: dispute about a certain Jesus, who was dead (19)		Festus: But whom Paul asserted was alive (19)	
Acts 26	That Christ might suffer (23)		Why incredible to believe God raises the dead? (8); Christ... the first to rise from the dead (23)	
12 total	9 stated or implied; 1 referred to by Festus	2 stated-both to Jewish audiences	All 12: stated 10 times; implied 1 time; referred to 1 time by Festus	Stated 5 times; implied 1 time

Preaching to Persuade

"² And Paul went in [to the synagogue in Thessalonica], as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days he *reasoned* with them from the Scriptures, ³ *explaining* and *proving* that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, 'This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ.' ⁴ And some of them were *persuaded* and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women."

¹⁶ "Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷ So he *reasoned* in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸ Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, 'What does this babbler wish to say?' Others said, 'He seems to be a preacher of foreign *divinities*'—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection" (Acts 17.2-4, 16-18).

- Resurrection: History and Faith
- ➡ **A Matter of Public Record**
- These Things Must Be Explained
- "He Is Not Here . . ."
- We Have Witnesses
- Because He Lives: Declaration and Validation