

## TO HAVE YOUR SINS FORGIVEN

Salvation from sin is a gift from God. It must be accepted on the condition that you will let Christ deliver you from your sin and control your life.

**RECOGNIZE that you have sinned.**

"All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

**BELIEVE that God loves you and offers you mercy through the work of His Son Jesus Christ.**

"God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

**ACCEPT Christ's death and resurrection as God's provision for your forgiveness.**

Acknowledge your acceptance of Christ by praying sincerely: "Jesus, I am a sinner. I accept You as my Saviour and as Lord of my life. Make me an obedient child of God."

"As many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name" (John 1:12).

**SURRENDER your life to Christ and follow Him as Lord.**

"Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God" (Romans 6:13).

**DAILY READ GOD'S WORD to inspire you and to keep you growing spiritually.**

"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby" (1 Peter 2:2).

For additional information or requests contact:

"I am the way, the truth, and the life." – Jesus

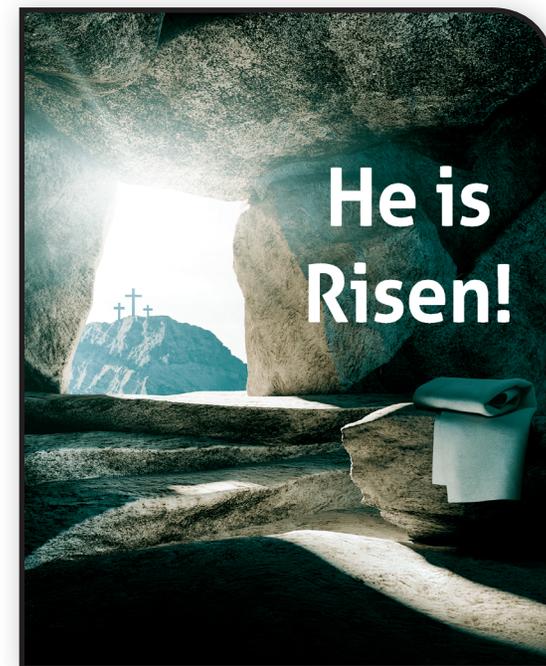
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3-20

# JUST FOR YOU



## Do You Doubt That Jesus Rose From the Dead?

Honest doubt is valuable. It protects us from fraud and motivates us to study all the evidence carefully before making a decision. After we have squarely faced our doubts, we can be confident in what we believe.

Doubts about Jesus' resurrection are not uncommon. Jesus' disciples doubted at first. Most Christians would admit they

have had occasional doubts.

However, doubt is not the problem; rather, it is unwillingness to look at the evidence.

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## Jesus is alive!

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### **Did Jesus Rise From the Dead?**

A common anti-resurrection theory is that Jesus did not die but merely fell into a swoon. In the coolness of the tomb, He revived and went His way, and His followers claimed He had risen from the dead.

But Jesus had just been horribly crucified and speared in His side. How could He, in such a state, wiggle out of the graveclothes wrapped tightly around Him along with a hundred pounds of spices? How could He move a two-ton stone from the tomb entrance? How could He get past four heavily-armed Roman guards?

Furthermore, the Bible says plainly that He died and that His death was confirmed by the Roman captain in charge (Luke 23:46, 47).

A second theory is that of theft. Someone stole Jesus' body, and the disciples affirmed that He had risen. There are four groups that could have stolen the body: the Romans, the Jewish leaders, robbers, or the disciples.

*The Romans* had no interest in the body. To them, Jesus was just another troublemaker.

*The Jewish leaders* had nothing to gain by stealing the body. If they had, they could simply have produced the body and thus put a stop to the growth of that new and rival religion, Christianity.

*Robbers* would have had to get past

the guards and break the Roman seal on the tomb (a capital offense). But grave robbers didn't steal naked corpses! They would be interested in valuables—perhaps the spices. Carrying a dead body would only slow their getaway. Furthermore, they would not have neatly rewound the graveclothes.

*The disciples* would have been the most likely group to steal the body. But remember, they had all abandoned Jesus for fear and lived behind locked doors. They would not likely have risked death to get past the Roman guards at the tomb. They did not yet even understand Jesus' words that He would rise again, so they had no desire to make it happen.

Furthermore, in later years as they preached the resurrection of Jesus, they often suffered gruesome ordeals. Ten of the eleven disciples died as martyrs. Men will die for the truth and even for lies they believe to be the truth, but not for what they know to be outright falsehood.

If the disciples had indeed stolen the body, why weren't they arrested by the authorities? The religious leaders paid the Roman guards to say the disciples had stolen the body while they were sleeping on the job (Matthew 28:13). Why weren't the guards executed (the normal penalty of those times)? And how could the guards have known the disciples stole the body if they were sleeping?

A third theory says that people did not see Jesus alive after His death, but saw only hallucinations. The problem is none of Jesus' friends expected to see Him again. When they did see Him, they believed only after great difficulty. Remember doubting Thomas (John 20:25-29)?

More than five hundred people saw Jesus on one occasion (1 Corinthians 15:6).

Five hundred people cannot have the same hallucination at the same time.

The last theory declares that the disciples went to the wrong tomb to look for Jesus' body. Not finding it, they supposed He had risen. Then why didn't the Jewish authorities and Roman guards go immediately to the correct tomb to put a stop to all the nonsense?

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## Do you know Him?

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### **Evidence That Jesus Rose From the Dead**

1. The broken seal, symbol of the authority and power of the Roman empire.
  2. The two-ton stone rolled away from the tomb.
  3. The Roman guards fleeing in spite of the death penalty for deserting their post.
  4. Jesus' graveclothes undisturbed and empty.
  5. The empty tomb. Even the authorities admitted it was empty when they paid the guards to say His body had been stolen. No one claimed to have seen the body in the tomb.
  6. The silence of the Jewish leaders when the disciples fearlessly declared Jesus' resurrection as an indisputable fact (Acts 5:27-40).
  7. Jesus' appearances during the forty days after His resurrection to His friends, to doubters, and later to His enemy Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9).
  8. The transformed lives of many millions of people in the following centuries.
- Will you give the resurrected, living Jesus the opportunity to change your life? What better evidence than to see your own life transformed!