

County-Wide Chaplaincy

Thanks you!

April 2026

RESURRECTION

My family did not attend church, and I knew very little about Jesus before the age of 19. All of that changed in 1969 when confronted with the need to repent and surrender my life to Christ. I experienced a spiritual resurrection like never before, newness of life that redirected all my aspirations. I know this transformation was made possible by the death and resurrection of Jesus the Messiah.

During His crucifixion, Jesus took upon Himself the punishment for our sins. The prophet Isaiah describes this perfectly, seven centuries before the actual events.

Isaiah 53:5-6 ... He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being *fell* upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed. All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him.

His sacrifice makes it possible for the holy and just God to forgive us for all our transgressions. Yet, without His resurrection, we would still be lost with no one to intercede on our behalf, to be our advocate.

1 Corinthians 15:14-18 ...if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain.... Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.

Hebrews 7:25 ...He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

1 John 2:1 ...if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous...

The resurrection of Jesus is the most important event in human history. He is our link to abundant life with our Creator and eternity as God originally intended. The historical fact of Jesus' resurrection is the foundation of Christianity.

Some say the resurrection is a myth, wishful thinking. Yet, the resurrection of Jesus has overwhelming historical evidence. Those who investigate with an open mind will come to the conclusion that Jesus did come back to life after His death on the cross.

Historical documents testify about the life of Jesus. In the first and second centuries, ten non-Christian writers mentioned Him. Two of His disciples who spent much time with Him, Matthew & John, wrote about His words and actions. Luke, a physician and careful historian, also wrote about Jesus' life within 35 years of His resurrection and ascension. These biographies were copied and widely distributed. With most of ancient history, there is only one document and one writer, sometimes written hundreds of years after the actual events.

Jesus predicted His own death and resurrection.

Matthew 16:21 From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day.

Even His enemies knew about His resurrection claims.

Matthew 27:62-63 Now on the next day, the day after the preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered together with Pilate, and said, "Sir, we remember that when He was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I *am* to rise again.'

The tomb was empty. After Jesus was placed in the tomb on a burial shelf a large stone was rolled against the entrance of the tomb. A seal was placed on the tomb's entrance. This seal was probably a cord sealed at each end with the stamp of Roman authority. The stone could not be moved without breaking the seal, which would be a violation of Roman law. A Roman guard was assigned to make sure no one removed His body.

Matthew 27:64-66 "Therefore, give orders for the grave to be made secure until the third day, lest the disciples come and steal Him away and say to the people, 'He has risen from the dead,' and the last deception will be worse than the first." Pilate said to them, "You have a guard; go, make it *as* secure as you know how." And they went and made the grave secure, and along with the guard they set a seal on the stone.

Over a period of 40 days, Jesus appeared to many people, including several women, His disciples, two travelers going to Emmaus, and to over 500 on one occasion.

Acts 1:3 To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a *period* of forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God.

1 Corinthians 15:3-6 ...He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep...

The apostles spent their lives preaching about the resurrection of Jesus and salvation in His name, and most of them died as martyrs. Though many die for what they think is true, however no one dies for what he knows to be a lie. Countless lives over hundreds of years have been changed as a result of trusting Christ Jesus, including my own life.

In 1930 Frank Morison published a book: *Who Moved the Stone?* Frank Morison was an investigative journalist and a skeptic of Christianity; he had been raised in a rationalistic environment. He set out to disprove the Christian faith by showing the resurrection of Christ to be false. Upon deeper study, Morison became convinced through compelling historical evidence that Jesus did actually rise from the dead. As a result, Morison gave his life to Christ and wrote this book.

Another investigative journalist, former legal editor of the Chicago Tribune, former atheist, Lee Strobel, wrote a book in 1998 titled, *The Case for Christ*. He found the evidence for Jesus' life, death, and resurrection so compelling that he became a believer.

Chaplain Al Walter

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