

CONSIDERING THE RESURRECTION

A Factor To Be Reckoned With

The earliest preachers of the Christian message ('the Gospel') emphasised the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead as truth. For instance, the apostle Peter stood up in Jerusalem – the very place where the Lord Jesus had been crucified just a few days earlier – and said, ***“This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses” (Acts 2:32).*** He was either crazy or telling the truth because all it would have taken to prove him wrong was to produce the dead body. But no one ever did. Not even Jesus' enemies who wanted Christianity stopped. Why? Because His grave was now empty. The Lord Jesus really had risen from the dead and appeared to people.



Professor Josh McDowell tells the following story: *“A student at the University of Uruguay said to me, ‘Professor McDowell, why can’t you refute Christianity?’ I answered, ‘For a very simple reason – the resurrection of Jesus Christ.’”* McDowell then did over 700 hours of investigation before concluding it was true. Consider that!

Popular Objections

“The Bible has been changed down the years.”

This is a popular objection put forward by people rejecting Christianity. They claim that because the Bible was written many years ago it has suffered ‘the Chinese Whispers effect’. That is to say, it has been confused and changed over thousands of years as it was passed from one person to another. Today, they say, the Bible is an unreliable Book. However, if you ask people what it said before they can’t tell you. They just believe (have faith) that it has been changed! But the weight of evidence is in favour of an unchanged Bible – not a changed one.



Take, for instance, the Dead Sea Scrolls, discovered in 1948, which included ‘the Isaiah scroll’ pictured above. These scrolls (about 500 whole or incomplete books, including 100 Hebrew Old Testament texts) were nearly 1000 years older than our previous manuscripts of Scripture. Yet they showed how accurate our Bible translations are, not how wrong they were! The same can be said for the New Testament. We have literally thousands of ancient documents (papyri, uncials, cursives, lectionaries, etc) which allow us to produce an accurate English translation of the Bible. And the numbers are growing as more are discovered. Arguably, it is the best attested document in history. After all, ***“the word of the LORD endures forever” (1 Peter 1:25).***