

# JESUS ROSE AGAIN THE THIRD DAY

*“If Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!”* argued the apostle Paul in defense of the gospel (I Corinthians 15:17). True Christianity stands or falls on the whether or not Jesus Christ was raised from the dead. IF He was not resurrected, THEN He is not the Son of God because the power of the resurrection declares His Sonship (Romans 1:4). The gospel is a lie. And men have no hope because their sins still alienate them from their holy God and Creator.

*“Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.”* (I Corinthians 15:20). The historical Biblical records give the account of the crucifixion of Jesus. He died on a Roman cross on a hill called Golgotha, meaning the Place of a Skull (John 19:17-18). Confirmed dead by the centurion, His body was laid in a tomb cut out of rock (Mark 15:43-46). Then according to the Scriptures *“He rose again the third day”* (I Corinthians 15:4). Not only was the Messiah’s death and the purpose of His death foretold (cf. Isaiah 53), God’s prophet David revealed that God’s Holy One would not experience the corruption of a decaying body, nor would His soul remain in Hades (Psalm 16:10). David lived approximately 1,000 years before the time of Jesus. The power of God was at work. Therefore, Peter was able to preach with certainty regarding David’s psalm, *“...He, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ”* (Acts 2:31).

The apostles unashamedly declared, *“This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses.”* (Act 2:32) Rational minds understand the importance of eye witnesses when trying to present the truthfulness and accuracy of an event to others who have not observed the event under examination. The preaching of the resurrected Lord Jesus did not grow out of hearsay, nor wishful thinking. Men and women saw Jesus in the flesh, still bearing the wounds in his hands, his feet, his side and his back. On Pentecost twelve men boldly announced that God raised up the Holy One, whom the Jews and Romans had put to death (Acts 2). An empty tomb, which had been previously secured, shouted out in silent confirmation to what was being preached. The apostles were not the only witnesses to the resurrected Lord. On one occasion over five hundred brethren saw that the Christ and Savior was alive again (I Corinthians 15:6).

God has ordained one Man to judge the world in righteousness. We can be assured of this future event because God raised up that Man from the dead (Acts 17:31). Therefore, repent and be converted.