

Resurrection: God Saves

Lecture

- We're gonna deal with "Resurrection, God saves." And let me start with a story, when I was growing up, one of my favorite people was my grandpa, George. I wanna talk about him quite a bit and he and I were close and I remember having nothing but good memories with him. When I would drive with him in his Buick, he always put suckers in his glove box, it was always really good driving the Buick with grandpa and he loved watching fake big time wrestling, so we watched it a lot and sometimes he would take me to the big time fake wrestling matches downtown in the arena and there was one occasion where he was gonna take me but I had to cancel at the last minute, I was only 10 years of age and we had a kind of a big test at school the next day and my mom was like "Marky, you know you can't go to wrestling fake downtown "with grandpa middle of the night, staying up late "with a bunch of blue collar union guys." I was like, "Dang mom!" Instead of you gotta go to school tomorrow. So I stayed home and then the next day after school I went to a friend's house, I think it might have been a Cub Scout meeting and I saw my parent's car pull up and my mom got out and I saw my mom crying and it was obvious that she was very distressed and distraught and as she walked toward me, I ran toward her, I was like, mom, what happened? And my dad was comforting her and she said, Marky, your grandpa died. He died, last night at the big time wrestling event he had a heart attack and they rushed him to the hospital, they worked on him all night, but he's passed away this afternoon and there's a lot of days as a kid you just don't remember, I remember this one vividly and I remember just thinking to myself, I can't believe that my grandpa's gone, I didn't have any concept of a future without my grandpa 'cause he was such a big part of my life. Fast forward to the funeral and I was there with my cousins, one of my cousins was afraid that grandpa was gonna need some money and so he literally climbed up into the open casket and shoved a few bucks into grandpa's coat pocket and I remember sitting there and listening to the sermon at the funeral of my grandpa and all I can remember as a little boy is being very, very angry because the pastor probably meant well, and I was only 10, so I may have not caught the gist of what he was trying to say, but what I heard and as I remember it, he said that, "Life is like the seasons, "we all go into winter and die "and this is natural "and this is the life course "and of course we miss them but nature takes its course, "this is the natural course of things" and he left it at that. He didn't tell us about heaven or the resurrection or the hope of eternity and I remember thinking as a little boy, "No, this is not natural, "something's gone terribly wrong that my grandpa's gone "and I'll never see him again, "our relationship is over." That's what I thought. Well, then some years later, when I became a Christian in college and started studying the Bible, you realize, no, no, no, no, no, the central concept of Christianity is the resurrection of Jesus Christ, which is the hope of our resurrection. And as you come to the Bible, it answers for us, what I call life's three big questions, number one is origins, where do I come from? Number two is purpose, why am I here? And number three is destiny, where am I going? And so much of life is so missed, if we don't understand who or where we come from, why we are here and where we're going. When we're talking about resurrection, we're talking about where we're going, we're talking about eternity, we're talking about destiny and we're talking about the most exclusive claim of any religious group, any spiritual tradition or any supposedly sacred

text and so we'll start by answering this question and we'll go through a number of questions and I'd love to answer your questions at the end. First question is what is resurrection? First Corinthians 15:17, if you wanna read one of the great sections on resurrection in the new Testament, it's first Corinthians 15, the whole chapter is about Jesus' resurrection and your resurrection and he says here, first Corinthians 15:17, "If Christ has not been raised "your faith is futile and you're still in your sins." What he's saying is, if Jesus is dead, then Christianity is dead, if Jesus is alive, then Christianity is alive. Everything rises or falls with the fact that Jesus fell and rose, that's the big concept and big idea. And here's what resurrection is, somebody is physically alive and then they're physically dead for some period of time and then they are physically alive in a perfected, what we'll call a glorified body that will never again taste death. So there's a difference between what I'll call someone being revived and someone being resurrected. Can you think of anybody in the Bible that they were dead and they came back? There's a guy named Lazarus who's probably the most famous. The King James Version said that he was dead for many days and he stinketh, that it says he stinketh. So, he'd been dead a long time and Jesus called him Lazarus come forth, so Lazarus came out, but he was revived, not resurrected. He was brought back from death, but he didn't yet get the perfected resurrected body that would live eternally in the presence of God, so Lazarus died again, he died again. What resurrection is, it is you are alive and then you were dead and then you're now alive but it's a brand new completely transformed you, it's a glorified you, it's a perfect you never to taste death again, that's resurrection is. So what I want to do now, I'm gonna walk through it pretty quickly, I'm gonna give you 20 reasons to believe in the resurrection of Jesus and for those of you that have family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, people you love that don't love Jesus, sometimes we can get into all kinds of tertiary, secondary debates and discussions and dialogues, I always like to bring everything down to Jesus, did he live, did he die, did he rise? That's the issue, let's just get to the issue. And I wanna give you 10 reasons to believe in the resurrection of Jesus. Number one, Jesus' resurrection was prophesied in the Old Testament, so when we looked at the Doctrine of Revelation, we looked at the fact that about 25% of the Bible was prophetic in nature predicting the future when it was written, some of that includes the prediction in advance of Jesus' resurrection. So, 1,000 years before Jesus Christ walked on the earth in Psalm 16:10, it says, "You will not abandon me to the grave, "nor will you let your Holy One," that's Jesus, "see decay." It's a promise of resurrection. Isaiah 52, the second half of the chapter and Isaiah 53, talk a lot about Jesus death, burial and resurrection so much so that some would call Isaiah the fifth gospel, but here's what he writes in that section 700 years before Jesus walked on the earth, "He was oppressed, he was afflicted "like a lamb that is led to slaughter. "By oppression and judgment he was taken away, "he was cut off from the land of living," dead, it's predicting his death, "stricken for the transgression of my people." like we looked at on the doctrine of the cross, he died for us, "They made his grave," so he's being buried, "with the wicked and with a rich man in his death." That is the post-mortem gift of the tomb of a man named Joseph of Arimathea that was given to Jesus, "Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him, "he has put him to grief, "when his soul makes an offering for guilt," after he dies "he shall see his offspring, "he shall prolong his days." What it says is he will live, his days will end and then he'll come back and his days will continue, that's resurrection "Out of the anguish of his soul, "he shall see and be satisfied by his knowledge "shall the righteous one, my servant," that's Jesus, "make many to be accounted righteous "and he shall bear their

iniquities." So number one, the old Testament told us in advance, Jesus is coming, He's gonna die and He's gonna rise, you're gonna know that it's Him. Number two, Jesus told us that He would be rising from death. Jesus predicted and prophesied his resurrection in advance. There were multiple places that he does this, I'm giving you three from Mark's gospel 'cause it's the most handsome. So the first one is, that's a joke, Mark chapter eight verse 31, "He began to teach them that the son of man," that's his favorite title for himself from Daniel, He uses it some 70 times regarding himself. "The son of man must suffer many things, "be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, "the scribes, the religious leaders, "be killed and then after three days rise again." Jesus says, here's what's gonna happen, the religious guys are gonna arrest me, kill me and then I'll be back in three days. And this is exactly what happens. And in their reckoning and accounting of a day, a day started at night in the morning, so any part of a day counted for a whole day, Jesus dies on a Friday, changes over to Saturday, changes over to Sunday, He is in the grave for some period of a duration of three days. Mark chapter nine verse 31, "The son of man is going to be delivered "in the hands of men, "they will kill Him, when He is killed, "after three days, He will rise." Jesus is very clear about this, Mark 10:33 and 34, "The son of man will be delivered over "to the chief priests and the scribes, "they will condemn him to death "and deliver him over to the Gentiles," even more details prophesying that ultimately the Roman state would put him to death, though the religious leaders were behind it, "They will mock Him, spit on him, flog Him," very specific, all of which occurred, "and kill him, "and after three days He will what? "He will rise." The old Testament said, Jesus is gonna die and rise for your sins, Jesus shows up and said, it's writing about me, I'm here to live and die and rise and after they kill me and here's exactly how they're going to kill me, three days later, I will defeat death and I'll come back resurrected. Number three, Jesus died, If I could just state the obvious, some people will say, and we'll deal with this when we get to alternate theories that Jesus didn't die on the cross, He died. He was flogged, that killed many of its victims, he was then crucified, what's the whole point of a crucifixion? It's how you kill someone. Who oversees it? The government and those military leaders who are specialists in torture and death that's their whole job. He's crucified, He dies, they declare Him dead on the cross, they run a spear through his side that punctures His heart sac, so that water and blood flows from His side so now we've got flogged, crucified, spear through the heart, wrapped in almost a hundred pounds of burial linens and spices, almost like a mummified state and put in a cold tomb, hewn out of rock with no food, water, medical care of any sort or kind. And any one of those will kill you, all together, you're dead. And so, Jesus, in fact did die. Number four, the location of Jesus tomb was well known. We looked at it in Isaiah 53 and that was that He would be buried with the rich in His death. Jesus was poor and He didn't have a burial plot, He couldn't afford one and so when He died there was one of His disciples that had been following Him sort of a distance and was a little hesitant to be publicly identified with Jesus. He stepped into the spotlight at the death of Jesus, his name was Joseph of Arimathea most think that he was some sort of regarded political business leader, a man of esteem in the community and he had a really nice tomb that he had purchased for himself. And it was carved out of rock and it belonged to him and it was his legal possession and it would have been registered just as you and I buying a piece of property or some sort of asset, we'll have it registered to us with a formal acceptance at the government, and so all of this was registered and when Jesus died, then that body was laid in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea and the location of that tomb was well known. Number one, Joseph of

Arimathea was still alive and he knew where his tomb was. Number two, the Roman government knew where the tomb was 'cause they appointed a soldier and put a seal over the entrance to guard it. In addition, the women get up and they go to the tomb, they find Jesus risen from death, but they know exactly where to go and then also Peter and John after they hear that the women have seen the two men and they're uncertain what happened to Jesus, they run to the tomb, they know exactly where to go, everybody knows where to go. Jesus died and where He was buried, was well known, easy to confirm. Number five, Jesus empty tomb was found by women. In their day women didn't have the same legal status as men, so if you're going to have a court case and let's say you had two eyewitnesses, a man and a woman, they may not even hear the woman's testimony but it would definitely not be regarded in the same category as the man's. So, if the resurrection of Jesus was something that was mythical and fabricated, it would have been more likely that those who were given as witnesses would be male rather than female, because that would hold more credibility. The fact that women were the first to find the tomb shows Jesus loves and honors and regards women that women can be the most devoted followers and disciples of Jesus and also that the story is just true 'cause if you were gonna tell a lie you would tell it in a more convincing way. Number six, Jesus disciples were transformed from cowards to courageous. Before Jesus rises from death, there is Thomas the doubter and there is Peter the denier. Thomas the doubter declares, I'm not gonna believe that Jesus rose from death unless I see with my own eyes and touch Him with my own hands. And then Jesus shows up risen from death and he shows him his crucifixion scars, Thomas falls down and worships Jesus declares my Lord and my God. He goes from one who is a doubter to one who is a worshiper and then there is Peter who is the denier as Jesus is going to be crucified, Peter is very cowardly, not courageous, he hides it a distance and when he is asked, do you know Jesus? He denies it repeatedly, he denies even knowing Christ, he's very cowardly. After Jesus rises from death, he meets with and reinstates Peter 'cause that's what Jesus does, he forgives and restores and reinstates and then Peter went forth to be a bold leader for Jesus and history outside of the Bible records that when they went to kill Peter they told him, "You need to renounce Christ "or we're going to crucify you." He said, "Well then crucify me." They said, "Well, you need to renounce Christ "or we'll crucify you shamefully, openly publicly, "just as we did Christ." And they knew that previously, it was that threat, that fear, that possibility that caused Peter to be the denier, but this time he didn't deny, in fact, what he told them was at least if the historical records are correct he told them, "Crucify me upside down, "I'm not worthy to die like my Lord." How does a guy go from being terrified of death to having no concern, regard or fear regarding death at all? He met somebody who conquered it and conquered it for him. In addition, number seven, Jesus appeared to crowds upwards of 500 people over 40 days, you can get this information in Acts chapter one, in first Corinthians 15. So when Jesus rises from death, this is not some sort of obscure historical event off to the side, 40 days, that's a long time. And he's preaching, he's teaching, he's hugging people, he's eating breakfast, he's walking around and he appears to crowds upwards of 500 people at one time. And at first Corinthians 15 it says, "And many of them are still alive "though some have fallen asleep," meaning by the time Corinthians was written, some of those who had seen Jesus alive, resurrected from death, had passed away, but many of the eyewitnesses were still alive, so you could ask them, did you see Jesus? I did, the 40 days, the crowds big and small, I was there. Number eight, Jesus followers remained loyal to him. Now, if Jesus said he was God and he was

one who had sort of great charisma it wouldn't be shocking that people were devoted to him and loyal to him, but it makes all the sense in the world to assume that if He died and did not conquer death that what would happen to those who were following him? They would cease being devoted to Him, right? After all, if what he taught led to death, I'm not going to continue in His teaching 'cause I don't want to suffer like he suffered. And what happens in the early church is there is great persecution that comes forth. There were political leaders that I think are demonic like a guy named Nero and he just had sport of killing Christians. He would have Christians drawn and quartered, meaning he would tie us hands, feet to horses with ropes, whip the horses, send them in four directions and dismember us while we're still alive. He would feed us to the animals, he would wrap us in pitch and resin and then set us on fire still alive as the torture is to aluminate his state dinner parties. Yet people kept preaching Jesus and the resurrection of Jesus from death. And my question would be, if Jesus was dead, how do you account for an entire movement of people that are walking into their death? Unless He in fact conquered death which is exactly what the scriptures say, they remained loyal to him. Number nine, Jesus tomb was not enshrined. How many of you know somebody you love them and you know where they're buried? Right, why do we pick burial plots? 'Cause we love somebody and we miss them and we wanna honor them and we wanna go there to remember them. So, I could take you to my grandpa, George's grave, I know where he's buried 'cause I love my grandpa George. In Jesus day, there is a historian named Edwin Yamauchi, he is a very well regarded historian and he did the research and he said that in the days of Jesus, in the region of Palestine, there were at least 50 Holy men, religious teachers that had died and had their tombs enshrined, meaning, it was known. Grace and I were just in Germany and we went to Martin Luther's grave and we went to Millington's grave and when we went to Scotland some years ago, they took us to John Knox grave, when we were in Israel, they took us to Luke's grave. When somebody is loved and dies, we know where they're buried yet Jesus tomb was not enshrined. Jesus was very popular, crowds flocked him, people followed him. In our day, whether it's Jim Morrison or Jimi Hendrix or Bruce Lee, we go to the grave sides of certain people and their fans show up to memorialize them. This never happened with Jesus, people went there, saw that the tomb was empty and stop going there, why? If you wanna see Jesus you don't go to the tomb, you go to the town 'cause he's there having breakfast and you can visit with him. So all over sudden, this no longer becomes a destination site because it was just a pass through point for Christ. And so, to me this is incredibly important, I've got this in the notes, I'll jump ahead 'cause it just comes to mind. Do we know where Abraham is buried? The founder of Judaism? Yes, do we know where the Buddha is buried, the founder of Buddhism? Yes, do we know where Muhammad is buried? Yes, in Medina, he is the founder of Islam. Other world religions have holy sites for their founders and leaders and people make sacred pilgrimages from around the world to come to that tomb of the dead holy man. How many of you have been to Israel? How many have been to Israel? We took the kids to Greece's, real Turkey to kinda do a Bible learning expedition some years ago and we went to Israel and there's a lot of people that come to Israel for tourism, particularly Christians. Well, what do you think we wanna to see? Where was Jesus crucified and where did he rise? And they say, "Well, we think he was crucified here, "but as far as where He rose, we don't know." That's what they told us. So, they made us pay pretty good amount of money go through this gate and there was an ancient tomb, literally just looked like a hole in a rock and that might have been what it was and

they said, "Yeah, it was like this." I was like, that's all I get for 20 bucks, it's like a hole in rock, they're like, "That's the best we got." I asked my non-Christian tour guide, I said, how badly do you guys wish you knew? They're like, "Oh man, that would really put the kids through college." "If we knew where Jesus was buried, we could charge a lot for that." He said, "Yeah, but nobody knows where, he's alive," I said, "Where he's buried" and I said, "Well maybe it's because he's alive." He said, "Well, that makes sense to me, sir 'cause we can't find him and everybody's looked." All right. Number 10, Jesus followers worshiped him as God. Now the early first Christians particularly the 12 disciples at least 11 of those 12 minus Judas Iscariot, of course they were devout Jewish believers, right? And they knew the 10 commandments, there's only one God, you worship that God alone. Those are the first two commandments. If you're raised in a strict traditional Hebrew home this is absolutely foundational, there's one God, we worship him alone, if you worship the wrong God, you go to hell and the real God punishes you forever. When Jesus shows up, people are singing to him, people are praying to him, people are worshipping him, He never rebukes them and after Jesus rises from death, Christianity continues and people are worshipping Jesus as God. The day that Jesus was crucified we know that there were two men crucified with Him, one on each side. Neither of them has a religion today, neither of them has a holiday, right? We don't have a whole genre of music to sing to them, we don't buy buildings and get together to honor them, right? We don't have signs and symbols to commemorate them, you know why, they're still dead. But people worshiped Jesus as God because he conquered death which proved all of his claims that he was in fact, God. Number 11, Jesus family worshiped him as God. This is a strong case. How many of you come from a big family, right? Some of you may have been raised Catholic, I was, father Mark, welcome to our mass, glad to have you, but what I was told in Catholic church was that Jesus was an only child. Well, the Bible says that Mary and Joseph didn't consummate their marriage until after Jesus was born, but then they have other children. It says in one occasion Jesus, your mother, brothers, sisters, they're here. He has family, He has half brothers and sisters and while Jesus is alive and doing ministry, they don't initially support him. They have doubts about his regard to be God and on certain occasions they literally come and they're like Jesus, you're saying your God it's time to go home. Some of you have heard maybe family members that have mental health issues. I heard a one relative was bipolar, when you're bipolar, sometimes you think of yourself as the highest being you can conceive of it. So he told us he was the Virgin Mary, right? So, I don't even understand that, he's like, "I'm the Virgin Mary," like, okay you need help. When someone is not psychologically all right, the family goes to bring them to a safe place to get the help they need, that's exactly what they did with Jesus when He was declaring himself to be God. And what he said was "No, my mother my brothers, my family are those who do the will of God." Yet what we see after the resurrection is early in the book of Acts numbered among the participants in the first church is Jesus mother, Mary, she is worshipping her son as God. How many of you are moms and you know that your son, if you have a daughter you're like, "Well, she's perfect." If you have a son, you know he's not perfect, amen. How many of you mothers raising your child, disciplining your child, you go, they may be the devil, but they're not Jesus, okay? They have profound flaws, they're not perfect. Jesus mother stepped forward and said, "He's sinless, He's God and I'm joining His church." Now she's a devout Jewish gal and if He is not the Messiah, then she is damned forever. In addition, Jesus had brothers and sisters and they worshiped him as God. Two books of the new

Testament are written by Jesus half-brothers, so James and Jude are written by Jesus half-brothers, they worshiped him as God. How many of you couldn't get your sibling to start your religion? Amen, how many of you, like I texted my brother yesterday he's a drag car racer and he loves me and I love him, but if I called him and said, "I'm starting a new world religion "and I need you to sort of get "on the ground floor of this thing." I'm very sure that the answer would be no. What's the tenance? Well, you worship me, you sing songs to me, you pray to me, maybe make some statues of me buy some buildings for me and if possible, get a band 'cause I really liked to hear that, so, are you in? Answer, no. Jesus brothers worship Him as God. Furthermore, when they go to kill the brothers, they tell them if you will deny Christ we will spare your life. This is history outside of the Bible and they didn't fear death 'cause they saw their brother beat death and when one of those brothers died it was another half-brother that history records his name is Simon or Simeon, depending upon the sort of the translation of the ancient text you read. He stepped forward to fill the gaps, so they killed Jesus, so another brother steps in, they kill that brother, so another brother steps in and says, we don't fear death, we follow Jesus and Jesus has defeated death. Number 12, Jesus followers changed the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday. So, in the Jewish world, there's a seven day week, and six days you work and one day you rest and that day is your Sabbath. What day was that? It was Saturday, the whole calendar, the seasons in cycles, everything was based. And we looked at this in creation that God created in seven days, six days rather, and on the seventh day he rested and so that was the prototype and precedent for history and it was one of the Ten Commandments, you're supposed to honor the Sabbath and keep it holy, yet after Jesus rises from death, these devout believers stop worshiping on Saturday and they start worshiping on Sunday, why? 'Cause that was the day Jesus rose from death. And for them, you need to know that would have been a work day, Saturday was their day off, Sunday was their Monday, meaning they would have had to have had church early in the morning or late in the evening 'cause in the mid hours of the day, you gotta go to work. Why would you deviate from history for thousands of years, all of the traditions of your family, the oversight of your entire nation and inconvenience yourself to start meeting on another day Which is a opposed, unless that's the day He rose. Again, you're gonna see burden of proof in a lot of these examples and case study points and the burden of proof is of Jesus is dead, how do you explain this? If Jesus is alive, then this is explained quite easily and this would be one of those instances. Number 13, Jesus followers practice communion and baptism, these are the two sacraments and communion is remembering the broken body and shed blood of Jesus and baptism is representing, showing, celebrating, honoring the resurrection of Jesus . And so we take somebody and we put them under water, as Jesus went under the grave and we bring them forth identified with Christ and as water cleanses us from filth, so Jesus cleanses us from sin and as Jesus conquered death through faith in him, we too will share in His victory, and the point and question is if Jesus didn't die and rise then why did Christians start partaking in practicing of communion and baptism and thousands of years later this is still the practice among God's people. Number 14, Jesus enemy Paul was converted. As we read of Saul of Tarsus which was his original name in the book of Acts, he was the equivalent in our day of a religious terrorist. He believes that he's on a holy war he's on his version of a Jewish jihad, if you will and he is going to stop this new movement of Christians who are worshiping this man named Jesus and leading people away from the religion of his family, fathers and traditions. So he is out

harassing Christians, arresting Christians, he is abusing Christians so much so that he oversees the murder of an early church deacon, a man named Stephen early in the book of Acts. And it says that this angry mob laid their cloaks at the feet of Saul and went and murdered Stephen. Laying the cloaks at the feet of Saul is the way of identifying him as the leader. You're in charge, we're gonna go murder this early church servant and leader and we're going to do it in your honor and under your authority and according to your command. In that day with the Christians, he was like Osama Bin Laden. He was like Kim in North Korea, right? He was like Saddam Hussein and then all of a sudden what happened? He converts and he starts worshiping Jesus as God. Now at first, the Christians didn't believe that they were like, "Oh, I don't know." Paul would be like, "Hey, I wanna come to your Bible study at your house." "No, no we're good." All right, everybody close your eyes for prayer, no we're not doing that, we're not doing that at all. There was real suspicion that he was just trying to infiltrate the harm, but did he genuinely convert and believe in the resurrection of Jesus? He did, and one of the reasons he says is because, and he says this in first Corinthians 15 that Jesus appeared to him post resurrection and so he had to come to grips with reality regarding the resurrection. And so you may say, well, his parents loved him, his friends loved him and kind of, they made up this story while his enemies didn't love him and they wouldn't make up any story where he was victorious and triumphant and confirmed to be God, but that is exactly what happened to the Apostle Paul. Number 15, Jesus' resurrection was recorded shortly after it occurred. Sometimes people will say, "Okay, this guy named Jesus lived "and then a long time later "books of the Bible were written, "but there was such a gap of time "that there was sufficient opportunity "for myth legend, fable, folklore to accrue, "so that by the time we get to the written documents "the eyewitnesses are no longer alive "and the facts are no longer clear "and that's how we got the myth," they would say, "Of the resurrection." But, more recent manuscript evidence and finding of New Testament documents confirms that the gospel of Mark was written probably around 37 AD. That is Jesus lived till somewhere around 30 AD, his death burial, resurrection and ascension and so it's within a few short years. It is believed by many New Testament scholars that first Corinthians is one of the first books written for the new Testament and they believe that first Corinthians 15 and again, in first Corinthians 15, it's one of the longest explanations of resurrection in the whole scripture but it rhymes in the original text. Most scholars believe or many scholars believe that that was an early church creed that was one of their worship songs and it made it into the scriptures because it was accurate and if so, then it would date to about 30, 33 somewhere in that neighborhood AD. And again, in first Corinthians 15, Paul says many of the eyewitnesses are still alive, so when he's writing, he's saying it's not been that long and the people who were there you can go ask him for yourself. And so there wasn't sufficient time for this story to be altered because Jesus' resurrection was recorded shortly after it occurred. Number 16, Jesus' resurrection is unique in history. We don't have accounts of somebody being alive, dead, and then resurrected not just revived, not just a near death experience not just to coming back from the blinding light on the other side to die again, but fully resurrected. Furthermore, there is no other major world religion where the founder says he is God or does anything in the same category of resurrection. It's unprecedented in the history of the world, it's off in its own category. There are no other people of note or regard that are making this claim. Number 17, Jesus' resurrection is verified by history. Some will say that, yes, the Bible says Jesus rose from death, but what about other

documents? Is there any historical record? There is, there are many Tacitus, Pliny the Younger the one I will give you is a quote from Josephus, he was born a few years after Jesus rose from death, and he is a historian and as Christianity is spreading he is commissioned to go investigate and report why we're hearing something about Christians and they're meeting and there was early rumors that we were cannibals and we heard that they eat flesh and drink blood. There was all these misperceptions of Christianity. Please go explore and investigate and then bring a report back to us. And so here's what Josephus reports quote, "There lived Jesus a wise man, "if indeed one ought to call him a man "for he was one who wrote surprising feats." What he's saying is he did miracles. Now, this is a man who's not a believer but is just reporting what he is investigated historically. "He was the Christ when Pilate," So this is all historically accurate, "Upon hearing him accused by men "had condemned him to be crucified, "those who had in the first place come to love him "did not give up their affection for him." He said, yeah, a lot of people loved him and then when he died, they kept loving him and here's what he says, "On the third day, he appeared to them restored to life." You know why we kept loving him cause he kept living, "But the prophets of God had prophesied these," I gave you some of the prophets "And their prophecies had prophesied these "and other countless marvelous things about him "and the tribe of Christian so-called after him "has still to this day, not disappeared." That's a secular historical report, now, just to be fair academically, that is criticized, but of course it's criticized. It's verifying the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead from non-Christian historical sources that did investigate and had an opportunity, if they so choose to examine the testimony of the eyewitnesses. You start to see the, I'll call this the cumulative case care theory, as you put all of this together, it's a cumulative case. It's like a legal brief or an argument, the lines of evidence and reasoning are many, they're aligned, they're compelling and there's no alternate explanation that could explain this kind of cause and effect particularly point number 18, Jesus' church has stood the test of time. Christianity is today the largest movement of any kind in the history of the world. There are a few billion people on earth who professed to be Christians. There have been in the history of the world entire nations and dictatorial regimes that have sought to destroy Christianity and it keeps going, it keeps growing, why? Cause effect, Jesus is alive and the church is sort of the tsunami in the wake of his resurrection. Jesus comes back to life and the church rolls out throughout all of human history and it stood the test of time, completely stood the test of time, to this day, Christianity is the most popular and populated movement as I said, of any sort of kind in the history of the world, furthermore, it's global more nations are following Jesus than any leader in the history of the world. Billions of people today claim to be Christians and ultimately we divide our calendar by the life of this man Jesus into BC, before Christ and AD, Anno Domini the year of our Lord. And my whole point is simply this, if we're talking about a broke dead Jewish virgin and how do you explain Christianity, cause effect. If he didn't do anything, then how did he achieve all of these historically unprecedented results over nations of the earth, over the course of thousands of years. A dead poor virgin who did nothing more does not have that kind of effect, only a risen Jesus explains the existence of the church. Number 19, Jesus is alive and he's changing lives to this day. This is the personal testimony of the believer. How many of you, Jesus is alive and he changed your life? That's my story, and sometimes people need to hear all of the biblical evidence, sometimes they need to hear the historical evidence, sometimes they need to hear the cumulative case, sometimes they just need to hear your story. Jesus says after he rises from

death, you will be my witnesses. A witness is one who goes out and then tells the story of what Jesus has done, not just in history, but in their history. My question would be, well, if the Jesus is dead, who changed my life? And because at 19 in college reading the Bible, my whole life changed and I love Jesus and I follow Jesus and Jesus is as real to me as my wife Grace. I do life with both of them every single day. She talks to me, he talks to me, she walks with me, he walks with me. Now, some people will say "Oh, that's crazy talk "if Jesus is alive then this all makes perfect sense." And so what I would simply say is how has Jesus changed your life? And by sharing that testimony, that witness, you are helping to add credibility to the historical resurrection of Jesus through your personal transformation. How many of you, it was the testimony of a believer that really helped you come to faith in Christ? Right, you didn't agree with them, but they're like, "Okay, let me tell you my story, "here's where I was and I met Jesus "and here's what he's done in my life "and here's what he's doing in my life presently" and all of a sudden you're like, "Well, I don't know, I didn't think that was true "but you're an honest person "and I have seen the change in your life "and I can't deny that something has happened" and it opens people up to considering Christ. Number 20, Jesus' resurrection defies any alternate explanation and I'll deal with some of the alternative theories in a moment. The Bible in history says, Jesus lived, Jesus died, Jesus rose. If that's not true, then what other possible theory could be postulated to explain the impact of Christianity and those who were the first and subsequent followers of Jesus. Furthermore if all of this is just a concocted myth and it's a lie what benefit is it to those who created it? I don't know about you, when we lie, we usually lie to benefit ourselves, Amen and if you tried online dating you're like you said that, but that's not totally true. You said you were quirky and you're homicidal. That's different, right? You didn't fully disclose. When we lie, we tend to lie so that the lies would benefit us. If you are a devout Jewish person in the first century and Jesus was so hated that the government and the religious leaders put him to death, why in the world would you then stand up and say, Caesar is not Lord, Jesus is Lord, you can kill me, I don't fear death 'cause I belong to Jesus who defeated death. Why would you say that if it wasn't true? You know you're gonna be removed from your family, you know you're gonna be ostracized by your community, you know you could be put to death by your government and then when all is said and done, you stand before God to go to hell. There's no benefit whatsoever. There was a historian named Thomas Arnold, he was professor of modern history at Oxford. He surveyed all the cumulative case evidence and he says quote, "No one fact in the history of mankind is proved, "no one fact in the history of mankind is proved "by better and fuller evidence of every sort "than the fact that, Christ died and rose from the dead." Historian at Oxford says I've looked at all the historical records, the resurrection of Jesus is the most thoroughly established historical fact from antiquity, that's a significant statement. What are the primary objections? Some people will have objections or alternate theories. Number one, the Swoon Theory, the Swoon Theory is, he didn't die on the cross, he passed out. This is taught by some Jehovah's Witness, excuse me, by Christian Science and Islam, the Swoon theory. Well, again, we looked at flogging, crucifixions, spear through the heart, buried in a tomb with no medical care, that's a death, that's not a Swoon. Furthermore, the entire point of crucifixion and those who oversaw it their entire job description was death, that's what they do, he died. Any concept of Swoon, it's like, how does a guy survive a scourging? How does he survive a crucifixion? I don't know about you, it seems like once the spear goes into his heart, it's definitely over then. And then we lay him in a cold, dark hewn

tomb for days and then the question would be well then how does he wake up, take the burial wrappings off, remove the stone, get away from the guard walk into town and look very triumphant? Number two, some would say that Jesus had a spiritual resurrection in their hearts not a physical resurrection in their world. This is taught by the cult of Jehovah's Witnesses, they don't believe in a physical resurrection only a spiritual resurrection. When Jesus rose from death, he met with Thomas and he said here's my hands, here's my side, touch the scars for yourself and Thomas the doubter did. Furthermore it's says that after he rose from death Jesus came to his disciples, they'd gone back to their old job of fishing that well, it's over and they're having breakfast and Jesus walks up and what he tells them as what? I'm hungry, can I have some breakfast? Well, that at least tell you if you're eating breakfast it's official, it's a physical resurrection, right? Furthermore, he goes into town and people can hug him and see him and meet with him and he's publicly available, so it's not just a spiritual, it is a physical resurrection. Number three, some say everybody went to the wrong tomb. Well, we looked at it, the tomb belonged to Joseph of Arimathea, the Roman government put its seal on it and it was basically like a protected crime scene. That would be sort of the equivalent in our day and the women went to the tomb and the disciples went to the tomb and everybody knew where the tomb was and my question would be, even if they went to the wrong tomb, how do you get Jesus alive, right? He was dead and he's alive and they're like, they went to the wrong tomb, okay they didn't and okay just flush that, the dead guy is alive, let's go back to my original point just because they got the wrong address, doesn't explain the dead guy who's doing better. Some would say this was the original explanation of the Jewish leaders, Jesus body was stolen. This is what the Jewish leader said or the Jewish religious leaders, there were Jews who loved Jesus and Jesus is Jewish, so I wanna make that differentiation. Well, the Roman government, again, put a seal and a soldier at the tomb to make sure that the body wasn't stolen. Furthermore, if the body was stolen, what kind of body was it? A dead body, and then Jesus is alive. It still doesn't deal with the issue. Well, they stole the dead guy's body, okay whatever, he's alive. What about that? Number five, some say Jesus had a body double. He's like a stunt double, okay? He doesn't do his own stunts, Jesus hired some guy. Well, firstly, there's no historical record that Jesus had a body double. In addition, after he rose from death, who knew him that confirmed it was him? His best friends, his mom, his brothers and sisters and the point is if it was somebody else who died we were all there at the cross and we see Jesus risen and if it is not him, these people would be the first to know. Well, how many of you, you know who your brother is? How many of you, you know who your best friend is? How many of you, you know who your son is? I know who he is and I know who he's not. It doesn't make any sense, it defies logic to me, you need more faith to believe in that than the resurrection 'cause at least the resurrection has evidence and that is just fanciful hope. Number six, some say that Jesus' resurrection was a mass hallucination. Okay, how many, now don't raise your hand but how many of you have been high? Okay, you've been high, okay? When you were high, did others share in your trip? Yes or no? Hey, all the children of the '60s and '70s please testify, okay? So let's say hypothetically, you take some foreign substance into your body, you have a hallucination, do other people participate in that? No, hallucination is private. The resurrection of Jesus was public, Acts chapter one, first Corinthians 15, says he appears for 40 days to 500 people at a time, right? If they're all like yeah, we all had the same acid trip, 500 of us at once. Now something happened and you were all present for it because the hallucination is a private,

not a public, it's an individual, not a corporate experience. Just like right now, we're not having a hallucination, we're all here. Number seven, the concept of a bodily resurrection was borrowed from pagans. How many of you have heard this? Yeah, they just stole that idea. Now, firstly, the Jewish concept of resurrection is that all of God's people will rise together on the last day of human history, they did not have a concept that one individual would rise alone in the middle of history. So the Jews didn't have a concept of one guy rising, it was to be a national event and they would have based this on Daniel chapter 12 verse two, where Daniel says that "Multitudes that sleep "in the dust of the earth shall arise, "some to everlasting life, "some to everlasting death." Everybody gets up on the last day, some go to heaven, some go to hell. So the Jew did not have, according to their Old Testament, a full understanding of Jesus individual resurrection. In addition, in the Greek world and they would say they stole this concept from Greek mythology. Greek mythology not only didn't have a concept of the bodily resurrection, it had a disdain for even the possibility of a bodily resurrection because Greek philosophy, Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Parmenides, Alexander the Great, they believe that you are one person in two parts that your body is bad but your soul is good and so the entire goal is to die so that your soul could be released from the prison house of the body and for them the thought of resurrection was absolutely antithetical, that's exactly what they didn't want. They didn't want a body, they just wanted the soul. So there's a man who studied these documents historically, his name is N.T Wright. He studied at Oxford, he taught at St. Andrews, he wrote the greatest tome on the resurrection in my opinion, called "The Resurrection of the Son of God." It's this thick and he goes back to all of the ancient Greek sources and just looks at the evidence, so I'll read a lengthy summation from him. "In so far as the ancient non-Jewish world had a Bible, "it's Old Testament was Homer "and in so far as Homer has anything "to say about resurrection, "he is quite blunt, it doesn't happen. "The idea of resurrection is denied in ancient paganism "from Homer all the way to the Athenian dramatists "who wrote", and here's a quote, "Once a man has died and the dust has soaked up his blood, "there is no resurrection." Couldn't be any clearer than that. According to Wright, quote, "Neither in Plato nor Aristotle "did we find any suggestion that resurrection, "the return to bodily life of the dead person "was either desirable or possible." Wright goes on to say, quote, "Christianity was born into a world "where its central claim was known to be false. "Many believed that the dead "were nonexistent outside of Judaism. "Nobody believed resurrection." And then Wright concludes, "Nobody in the pagan world "of Jesus day and there after actually claimed "that someone had been truly dead "and then had come to be truly and bodily alive once more." Death was a one way street, you die, your body is gone forever, your soul is moved on into eternity, whatever that case may be. And so, if you even look at the timeline to some of the scriptures it is more likely that some of the pagans stole the concept of resurrection after Jesus' resurrection. I'll close with this, and then answer your questions. What is the hope of Jesus' resurrection? All right, is there any hope for us? I'd say, people need food water, air, shelter, and hope to live. A lot of have food, water, air, and shelter and they take their own life 'cause they don't have any hope. We need hope. Our hope is in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. First Corinthians 15:20 through 22, "In fact Christ has been raised from the dead, "the first fruits," that means he's first and best, and that means we're next, that means you're next. "Of those who have fallen asleep," when the Bible speaks of those who die apart from faith in Christ, it calls them the dead. When someone dies with faith in Christ, it uses the language that they fallen asleep

because their body is laying in the ground and their soul is in the presence of the Lord, but one day their body will go and reunite with the soul and the soul will reunite with the body at the resurrection and it's almost like getting up from a long sleep. "For as by a man came death," who's that? Let's say, Adam, we looked at that in the Doctrine of the Fall, "by a man has also come the resurrection of the dead. "For as in Adam all die, "so also in Christ shall all be made alive." Here's the hope everybody fell into sin and death because of Adam, but everyone who has faith in Jesus Christ overcome sin and death with resurrection. Some of you are sick, some of you are older and the finish line is now insight. The question is, well, what's on the other side? Well, trust the one who went there, came back and told you and prepared a way for you to be there with him. I love this, he says we would, second Corinthians 5:8, "We would rather be away from the body "and at home with the Lord." What he's talking about there is home is wherever the Lord is and your soul will go to be with the Lord when you die, and then you'll receive your resurrected body and then you'll be in the presence of God forever. I'll close with this, Philippians 1:21, "To live is Christ, to die as what?"

- [Congregation] Gain.

- It's gain, it's an upgrade. People who die and believe in Jesus died differently than those who don't believe in Jesus. I'll close with a story, told you that my grandpa died and what I was told or at least what I heard wasn't about resurrection and hope and it angered me, Some years ago, Grace's dad died. His name was Gib, we call him grandpa Gib. He was a pastor, he loved Jesus, Bible teacher, a good man. And when he died I had to explain to the kids what happened. The kids were younger, this was some years ago. And I remember explaining it to the kids, when their grandpa died, we went to his hospital bed and said our goodbyes and he passed away. And one of my youngest children was having a hard time understanding, "Well, where's grandpa, where did he go? "What's he doing?" And I said, "Well, he's with Jesus." "Okay, well, what's it like?" "Well, the Bible says that the kingdom of God "is a sunny place where the sun is always shining "and nobody's sick and everybody is happy "and they're making great memories "and everybody loves each other. "And the people from all the nations "of the earth are there." And my kid looked at me and he's like, "Did he move to Disneyland?" That's what my kid asked, "Did grandpa Gib move to Disneyland?" 'Cause for them, right? Sun shining everybody is happy, it's an amazing place, all the nations are present. I think everybody who goes to Disneyland in their heart really wants to go to heaven. I think they want a king and a kingdom, and we got one greater than Mickey and there's no entry fee and the churros aren't 20 bucks, it's amazing. But I looked at my little kid and I said, "You know, that's a good way to look at it." He moved, and then they said, "Oh but we're gonna see them again, right? "We're gonna move there too." I said, "Yeah, actually, grandpa moved to an awesome place, "Jesus moved there first, grandpa moved there with Jesus "and one day we're all gonna rise from the dead "and we're gonna move there and be together forever." They said, "Oh, so he's hanging out with Jesus "till we see them again?" "Yeah," there was hope and there was peace. And there will be a day when my grandpa and their grandpa rise from the dead and we're together forever. No sin, no sickness, no suffering, no death no devastation, no destruction. We'll deal with this, we get into the doctrine of the kingdom but the resurrection of Jesus is the beginning of the revealing of the eternity that God has planned for his people.