

**(3) The Resurrection Was A Necessary In Order To Fulfill Biblical Prophecy.**

In Acts chapter 2 Peter argued that the resurrection was biblically necessary, citing David's words in Psalm 16:10: "Because Thou wilt not abandon my soul to Hades, Nor allow Thy Holy One to undergo decay" (Acts 2:27) "For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption." Peter argued from Psalm 16 that David could not have referred to himself, but rather to his Son, Messiah, Whom God would raise from the dead. The Old Testament Scriptures were understood by the apostles to foretell the resurrection of Christ. The resurrection of Christ was thus a biblical necessity.

**(4) The Resurrection Of Christ Was Also A Logical Necessity**



In his message in the second chapter of Acts, Peter also contended that the resurrection of Christ, the Messiah, was a logical as well as a biblical necessity. "And God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power" (Acts 2:24). Peter argued here that it is impossible for God to remain in the grave and to decay, as men do. By virtue of being God, Christ could not have been left in that tomb, dead.

**(5) The Resurrection Of Christ Is Vital Because It Is A Necessary Element Of A Saving Faith**



**Confess With Your Mouth** The New Testament believer must be a resurrection faith. Jesus said, "I Am the Resurrection and the Life; he who believes in Me shall live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?" (John 11:25-26) The apostle Paul wrote, "... if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved (Romans 10:9). Personal faith in the resurrection of Christ is therefore necessary because it is a vital element in a faith that leads to salvation.

**"The Urgency Of Our Response To Christ's Resurrection"**

The resurrection of Christ is not just a matter of fact, which can be taken lightly-- it is literally a matter of eternal life or death. The resurrection is not simply a fact to be believed or rejected, it is a fact to which our response will determine our eternal destiny. The resurrection of our Lord was a kind of watershed event in the New Testament. The resurrection of our Lord assures all men, saved or unsaved, of being resurrected from the grave, but it in no way assures all men of experiencing the same blessings: "And many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt" (Daniel 12:2). I urge you to trust in Him, in His death, burial, and resurrection, not only in an intellectual and academic way, but in a very personal way, as God's only provision for your salvation.

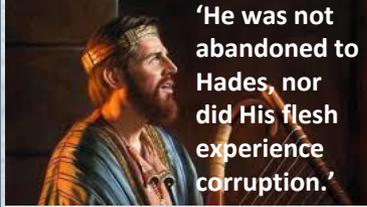


The significance of resurrection of our Lord is first to be seen in the uniqueness of His resurrection from the dead. There are several facets of the uniqueness of the resurrection of our Lord which we shall focus on:

**(1) The Resurrection Of Our Lord Was Unique Because Of His Deity**

The significance in the event of the resurrection is intertwined with the significance of the Person Who was raised. It was no mere mortal who rose from the dead on that Easter morning, it was the Son of God. Throughout His life, Jesus had claimed to be the Son of God, for which reason the religious leaders sought to put Him to death (John 8:31-59). At the sight of our Lord's death, a soldier standing nearby declared, "Truly this man was the Son of God!" (Mark 15:39). Beyond this, the resurrection was proof positive that the Lord Jesus was the Son of God, even as He had declared (Romans 1:3-4) "The Gospel concerning His Son, Who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord..." In his message on the resurrection of Christ, one of Peter's arguments was that if the Lord Jesus was indeed God, it would be impossible for God to have remained dead, to decompose in a tomb.

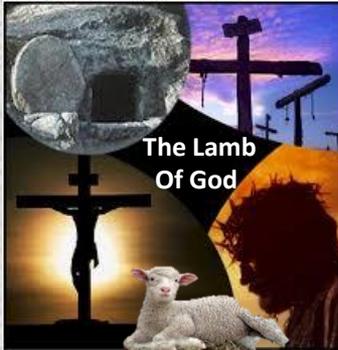
**King David Spoke Of The Resurrection Of The Messiah**



(Acts 2:24-32) "But God raised Him up, having freed Him from death, because it was impossible for Him to be held in its power. For David says concerning Him, 'I saw the Lord always before me, for He is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; therefore my heart

was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover my flesh will live in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with Your presence.' "Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, 'He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did His flesh experience corruption.' This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses." For anyone to have been raised from the dead would have been significant; for the Son of God to have been raised is all the more so.

(2) The Resurrection Of Our Lord Was Unique Because Of The Death Which Preceded And Necessitated His Resurrection.



The Lamb Of God

The death of Christ was the death of one Who was sinless, on behalf of those who were sinners. Over the years there have been some who have sought to show that the death of Christ was less noble than it is. A few have thought that it was our Lord's own folly that brought about His death. After all, they might say, He made ridiculous claims to be God Himself, and He persistently offended the religious leaders by publicly attacking and ridiculing them. No wonder He died, some would

say, because this "Man" did not have the sense to recognize His own humanity or the diplomacy to pacify the power structure of that day. Most men would not dare to go so far, but would rather look upon the death of Christ as a great tragedy. It was not our Lord's folly, but the "fickle hand of fate" or the "evil plots of a few threatened men" which brought about the premature death of Jesus, before He could establish His ideal kingdom on earth. The death of Christ was unique, however, because it was a part of God's eternal plan that Christ would die as an innocent sacrificial lamb, as a substitute payment for the sins of men. The sacrifices of the Old Testament system anticipated Him Who was to come as the "Lamb of God Who takes away the sins of the world" (John 1:29)." (1 Corinthians 5:7) "Clean out the old yeast so that you may be a new batch, as you really are unleavened. For our paschal lamb, Christ, has been sacrificed." From eternity past, Christ was designated as the perfect sacrifice, without spot or blemish, Whose death could thus atone for the sins of others. (Isaiah 53:7) "He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so He did not open His mouth." (1 Peter 1:18-20) "You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake."

(3) The Resurrection Of Our Lord Was Unique As An Event Which Had No Precedent

Never before had anyone been raised from the grave in such a way as to be completely transformed and thus beyond the icy fingers of death. Our Lord's resurrection was the first genuine resurrection in the history of man. His resurrection is referred to as "The First Fruits," for there will be many who will follow after Him (1 Cor. 15:23). "But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at His coming those who belong to Christ."

(1) "THE NECESSITY OF OUR LORD'S RESURRECTION"



The resurrection of Christ was necessary to prove that Jesus Christ was Who He claimed to be. Our Lord had clearly claimed to be the son of God, which was the reason why the religious leaders conspired to kill Him (John 19:7) "The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God." The resurrection was God's proof that the Lord Jesus

was Who He claimed to be: "The Son of God." Who was declared with power to be the Son of God by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord (Romans 1:4) "And was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord..."

(2) The Resurrection Of Christ Was Necessary To Prove That Jesus Christ Had Accomplished What He Had Promised.

The death of our Lord alone would not have sufficed, since it is by our identification with Him in His death, burial, and resurrection that we are saved. "Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life." (Romans 5:9-10). In 1 Corinthians chapter 15, that great resurrection chapter of the New Testament, Paul argues that apart from Christ's resurrection, we would have no hope: "But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain. . . . For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins." (1 Corinthians 15:13-14; 16-17). In his message at Pentecost, Peter taught that the resurrection of Christ by the Father (through the Holy Spirit) was God's vindication of His Son, His message, and His work: "This Man, delivered up by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death. And God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its powers. . . . This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses. Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear. . . . Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ--this Jesus Whom you crucified" (Acts 2:23-24, 32-33, 36).