



NEW LIFE

BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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"For the Word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ" (Rev 1:9)

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My dear readers,

The Implications of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ

Introduction

In mid March 2007, it was announced that James Cameron produced a 90-minute film for the Discovery Channel entitled, *"The Lost Tomb of Jesus,"* claiming that the actual bones of Jesus of Nazareth were buried in a tomb near Jerusalem. A companion book, *The Jesus Tomb* written by Simcha Jacobovici and Charles Pellegrino, is also being printed and sold. In addition, in the tradition of the much discredited Dan Brown book entitled *The Da Vinci Code*, the film allegedly claims that these bones of "Jesus" were once married to Mary Magdalene, with whom he had a son named Judah. This is nothing further from the truth.

The Meaning of the First Easter

The life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ are the very heart of historic biblical Christianity. What do we mean by the resurrection of Christ? Jesus Christ came into this world to die as our substitute for our sins. The sinless Son of God came to give his life as a ransom for many (Matt. 20:28). On that first Good Friday, Jesus was crucified. We know he died because one of the Roman soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear to ensure his death as prophesied. Two of his disciples, Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea then buried his body in a new garden tomb (John 19:30-42).

While Jesus was alive, he had predicted that he would rise from the dead. He challenged his enemies to destroy this temple, and he will raise it again in three days (He was speaking about his body) (John 2:19-22). Jesus also told his disciples many times that he would be killed by the leaders in Jerusalem, but be raised to life on the third day. The leaders who killed Jesus were aware of this prediction that he would rise from the dead. Although they did not believe it, they wanted to ensure that it would not happen, so they set a guard around the tomb. In Matthew 27:62-66, Pilate gave the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day so that his disciples may not be able to steal the body, and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. So they secured the tomb by putting a seal on the stone and posted the guards, but to no avail.

Did the strategy of the chief priests and Pharisees succeed? No! Despite their...

Continued on Page 2...

efforts, Jesus rose from the dead. Remember how Jesus had said to Martha, "*I am the resurrection and the life?*" During his ministry on earth, Jesus brought a number of people to life from the dead, including Martha's brother Lazarus, who had been dead for four days (John 11). But the resurrection of Jesus Christ was different. It was not just resuscitation, but physical bodily resurrection from the dead. On the third day, Jesus was raised from the dead with a transformed body that was clothed with immortality and glory. His real resurrected body could appear and disappear, go through material objects, and ascend to and descend from heaven.

On the first Easter morning some women and apostles went to Jesus' tomb, expecting to find his body. But the tomb was empty, and the angel at the tomb told them, "*He is not here; he has risen!*" Later they saw their risen Lord face to face. The gospels record these events, but the earliest written report concerning the resurrection of Jesus Christ was written by Paul within twenty-five years of Christ's death in 1 Corinthians 15:3-8: "*how that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day*" and that he appeared to Peter and then to the Twelve and then to more than five hundred brethren. Later, Luke the historian wrote in his introduction to the book of Acts: Jesus showed himself to these men and gave many convincing or infallible proofs that he was alive. (Acts 1:3).

Because of the miracle of Christ's resurrection, Jesus' depressed and disappointed disciples were instantly transformed. They began to preach the gospel with power, and the resurrection of Jesus was at the heart of their preaching. Why? Without the resurrection, there is no Christianity. These disciples of Jesus willingly suffered martyrdom for their faith. The enemies of the gospel were totally unable to refute this central claim of the gospel. They could not produce the body of Jesus Christ and put a stop to Christianity. The Jewish believers, meanwhile, were so blessed by this miracle that they began to worship on the day of Christ's resurrection, Sunday, rather than on Saturday, as their custom had been.

Unbelief and the Resurrection of Christ

Many people today do not believe in the resurrection. Even in New Testament times, we find those who refused to believe in the resurrection. The Sadducees were materialists who did not believe in resurrection as did the Pharisees. Even in the church, some people did not believe in the resurrection. Paul wrote concerning this in 1 Corinthians 15. In 2 Timothy 2:17-18, Hymenaeus and Philetus were mentioned by Paul as people who did not really believe in the resurrection of the body.

Therefore, unbelief in the resurrection is not a recent idea, but especially in the beginning of the latter part of the seventeenth century, some within the church began to question putting faith in miracles, particularly in the miraculous resurrection of Jesus Christ. Just like the Sadduces, in England deists like John Toland refused to believe in the resurrection. Rationalists like H. S. Reimarus refused to believe in miracles and questioned the authority of the Bible and the church. The theologian David Strauss systematically denied any miracles in his work, *Life of Jesus*, and in the twentieth century Karl Barth, along with Rudolf Bultmann, also denied the resurrection of the body. Today most liberal churches deny the bodily resurrection of Christ as well as any miracle as recorded in the New Testament.

Continued on Page 3...

Such people deny the resurrection of Christ. They do not accept it as historical, though it is recorded in the New Testament. They deny it simply out of depraved reasoning and unbelief. They reason that normally the dead do not rise, and therefore Jesus could not rise from the dead. In spite of all biblical and historical evidences, such people refuse to believe in the resurrection because they trust in the ultimate authority of fallen human reasoning rather than in God's inerrant and inspired Holy Scriptures.

Although they may be members of churches, such people are without hope. If they do not believe in the resurrection. Paul speaks about them in 1 Thessalonians 4:13: *"as having no hope"* (ie they are without hope and without God in the world.) Paul says in Ephesians 2:12 *"and are without eternal life and peace with God."* They will not believe the New Testament, which declares the resurrection of Christ with great veracity and clarity.

Ramifications: if the Tomb of Christ is found

It's important to understand what this false alleged claim by James Cameron means for Christians. The ramifications if the tomb of Jesus and his bones have been found are:

- The Bible is false. The central claim of the Bible is that Jesus was physically raised from the dead after three days, rather than entombed. If this claim is proven false, the Bible cannot be believed as an honest account of the events of Jesus' life.
- The Church is false. For 2,000 years the Church has taught that Jesus rose bodily from the dead in accordance with the Scriptures. If His tomb was found, she is wrong and her claim to infallibility is gone. In addition, her teachings on the Resurrection saving us are wrong, which means . . .
- All of Christianity is dead. The Christian faith claims that Jesus died for our sins as the perfect sacrifice and that this sacrifice is what allows us to go to heaven. If Jesus died like regular men, then He is not God and thus cannot save us from our sins. The Christian faith is based upon the pillar of Christ's death and resurrection. If His body is found, then He was not resurrected as we have been told. All of our faith would then be in vain.

The Impact of the Resurrection on Us

But thank God that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is well authenticated in the Word of God and other historical documents with first century eye witness accounts and evidences (1Cor 15;1-6, Jn 19:26,27, 1Cor 15-51-58, Jn 11;24-26). What is the spiritual significance for us? Consider the following:

1. *In the resurrection of Jesus Christ we see the clear demonstration of the power of the true God.* Ephesians 1:19-21 tells us that it is the power of our heavenly Father that raised Jesus Christ from the dead.
2. *The resurrection proves that Jesus Christ is God.* This is exactly what God the Father wanted to communicate to us, as we read in Romans 1:4. The Jews...

Continued on Page 4...

crucified Jesus Christ because, to them, he was blaspheming when he said that he was the Son of God, equal to the Father. The resurrection of Jesus Christ demonstrates the truth that he is who he said he was.

3. *Our salvation depends on our faith in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.* In Romans 10:9, we are told how to be saved. It says that *"if you confess with your mouth 'Jesus is Lord' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."* This means that you cannot be a Christian unless you believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. This should tell us that even if some people are in churches, if they reject the resurrection of Jesus Christ, they are not Christians.
4. *The resurrection of Jesus Christ demonstrates to us that all the teachings of Jesus Christ are true.* Everything Jesus taught was true, including his great promise in John 6:40, for everyone who looks to the Son and who believes in him shall have eternal life. Jesus' teaching concerning his person, his work, heaven, hell, and the future judgment are all true.
5. *The resurrection of Jesus Christ secured our justification.* *"Christ died for our sins and he was raised for our justification,"* Paul says in Romans 4:25. We have this access to God the Father solely because Christ has risen and has become our righteousness.
6. *Our own resurrection depends completely on the resurrection of Jesus Christ.* Read 1 Thessalonians 4:14: which states that we believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have died in times past. There are a number of other verses concerning this, including 2 Corinthians 4:14, and others.
7. *The victory for our Christian life in the present is the power of his resurrection.* We read about this in Ephesians 1:19-21, as well as in Romans 6:4: that we were therefore buried with him through baptism into death as Christ was raised from the dead we too may live a new life. People ask "How can we live this Christian life?" We can live it by the same power that raised Jesus Christ from the dead.
8. *The resurrection of Jesus Christ demonstrates Jesus Christ as appointed Supreme Judge of all the people in the world.* In Acts 17:31, Paul told the Athenians, that [God] has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead. We see the same idea in John 5:22 where Jesus said, God has entrusted all judgment to the Son. In verses 27-29 he continued, he has given him authority to judge, because he is the truly Son of Man. Some will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to condemnation. The resurrection of Jesus Christ means that he will raise up everyone who ever lived – some to eternal life and some to eternal damnation – and Jesus Christ will be the judge of the wicked. All who have trusted in their fallen reasoning and rejected the claims of Jesus Christ will be raised up from the dead by Jesus Christ himself. He will judge them accordingly one day with perfect justice when he returns soon.

Continued on Page 5...

The Present Decadent Age

We live in an age that where claims made against Christianity, no matter how preposterous, is often taken seriously. James Cameron can make up any story he likes – he even ignores much of the biblical and historical evidence in this case – and the *Discovery* channel will run it. Not because it is scientifically valid but because James Cameron has the money to widely publish his claims. In *"Larry King Live"* the film's producer, James Cameron (of *"Titanic"* fame), told the audience hypocritically that we should all *"be thankful that we now have tangible evidence that Jesus existed."* Actually, no serious historian of biblical antiquity has ever doubted that there was a historical Jesus. Yet it tells us a lot about the state of our culture that Mr. Cameron's remark, backed by pseudo-science, could be taken seriously and that the film's companion book has already shot up to No. 5 on Amazon's sales rankings. We are a novelty-haunted culture that is so historically and biblically illiterate that anything can now pass for so called knowledge of Jesus if it is new and seductively interesting enough.

The death and resurrection of Christ is strongly and clearly attested and defended in scripture and is well supported also by historical and archaeological evidences. It is a doctrine foundational to the Christian faith and is to be defended vigilantly by the Christian community. Spiritual ignorance and a lack of discernment have made the Christian community vulnerable to strange and outlandish claims from time to time. We must check this biblical illiteracy and unbelief. Our ignorance and curiosity will help men with fertile imagination like Mr. Cameron, (and Dan Brown of *Da Vinci Code* and Mel Gibson of the *Passion of the Christ*) to seek fortune at the expense of truth and reality and mislead and disparage against the historic Christian faith.

Last year we had *The Da Vinci Code* by Dan Brown and this year we have *The Tomb of Christ*. As long as our populace is so ignorant of history, there will be money made with pseudo-science and the rewriting of history by charlatans and false teachers that will do anything that will contradict authentic Christianity. The bible based and discerning Christian church is not to be deceived or distracted by these fallacious claims from preaching and witnessing of the pure gospel of Christ to the saving of souls in these last perilous days (1Thes 5;21,22, Mt 24;4-6, 24).

Conclusion

How should we respond to the resurrection of Christ? We are to humbly confess and repent of our sins now and believe in him who is the risen Saviour and Supreme Judge of the whole world. *"Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, and your house"* Paul told the Philippian jailer (Acts 16:31). The Lord Jesus is the Son of God who became man. He is fully God and fully man. He was crucified, he died and was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day according to the Scriptures. This same Lord Jesus Christ ascended into the heavens, is ruling and reigning even now, He will come again to rule and judge the living and the dead. Will you bow down before him and believe by faith and accept Him and be saved forever? Let us do it now before it is too late!

*Rev Jack Sin
Maranatha B-P Church, S'pore*

WELCOME TO NEW LIFE B-P CHURCH LONDON

CHURCH THEME: WALK IN THE NEWNESS OF LIFE (Romans 6:4)

Our **worship services** begin promptly at **11.00 am and 4.00 pm**.

Please stay back for Bible Study and fellowship lunch after the morning worship and for tea after the evening service. Do invite your friends to come to Church.

Worship Services			WELCOME
Morning	Today: 08/04/2007	Next Week: 15/04/2007	We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day. We welcome Nardia Bennett and Lucy Leitao to our morning worship service last week.
<i>Chairman:</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Seetoh Yoong Chiang	
<i>Speaker:</i>	Rev Jack Sin	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	
<i>Message:</i>	The Case for the Resurrection	Faith is The Victory	
<i>Text:</i>	1 Corinthians 15:1-22	1 John 5:4	
<i>Organist:</i>	Anthony	Yanning	
Evening			
<i>Chairman:</i>	John Poh	Jonathan Kim	<p style="text-align: center;">NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECM, 8 April 07: A reminder for the Extraordinary Congregational Meeting to be held immediately after the Easter morning worship service. Rev Jack Sin will be moderating the ECM. • Easter Monday Gospel Rally: A gospel rally will be held tomorrow at 11:30am. Rev Jack Sin will be speaking on "<i>The Quest for Abundant and Everlasting Life.</i>" Do invite your family and friends to come along for the gospel rally. • Journey Mercies: Pray for journey mercies for those for those who are travelling especially the Easter church campers. Also, pray for Rev Jack & Mrs Angie Sin as they travel back to S'pore. • Pray for Mdm Van: Mdm Van (Esmeralda's grandma) suffered a stroke on 7 Apr. Pray for the Lord's mercy to be with her and her family. • Students Examination: Pray for the students that God will grant them good time management and wisdom as they prepare for their examinations.
<i>Speaker:</i>	Rev Jack Sin	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	
<i>Message:</i>	Why We are 6 Day Creationists?	The Names of God: Jehovah-Rophi	
<i>Text:</i>	Acts 17:15-30	Exodus 15:26	
<i>Pianist:</i>	Feng Qian	Anthony	
Other Duties			
	Today: 08/04/2007	Next Week: 15/04/2007	
<i>Ushers</i>	Daniel/Joyce	Wah Soon/Sharon	
<i>Sunday Sch:</i>	No Sunday School	Joyce	
<i>Lunch:</i>	Maureen	Constance	
<i>Washing-up:</i>	Volunteers	Volunteers	
<i>Bible Study:</i>	No Bible Study	BBK / DHW	
Appointments of the Week			
Fri 13 Apr	7:30 pm	Young Adults Fellowship: Led by: Tbd	
Sat 14 Apr	4.00 pm	Prayer Meeting & Bible Study: Spkr: Yoong Chiang	
Last Week's Worship Service Collections			
Offering:	£492.21	Good Friday	
Lunch:	£41.97	Offering:	
Maasai Mission:	£2.10	£464.82; S\$1.40	
Book Sales:	£3.25	Lunch:	
		£18.49	
Memory Verse			
<i>Previous Week (Apr 07 Wk 1): Acts 11:26</i>			
And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.			
<i>This Week (Apr07 Wk 2): 1 Corinthians 15:3-4</i>			
For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.			

