

The Sign of Jonah

Then some of the Pharisees and teachers of the law said to him, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from you. He answered, "A Wicked and adulterous generation asks for a sign! But none will be given except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. (Mat 12:38-40)

Too often we want God to give us a special revelation of Himself so we might believe. God gave us a special revelation through Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. Here are a few reasons to believe in the resurrection.

First, the gospel was first preached in Jerusalem, the city where Jesus was crucified. If Jesus didn't die, these people would have known. Many of them probably would have seen him crucified. The preaching would not have lasted an hour before the disciples would have been labeled as liars.

Second, the earliest Jewish arguments against Christianity admit the empty tomb. They knew it was empty, just lied about how it became empty. They spread rumors that the body of Jesus was stolen (Mat 28:11-15). There is evidence this belief remained a century later amongst Jews.

Third, the tomb was never made into a shrine. There were many (circa 50) shrines set up in those days for the bones of holy men. If there is no shrine, there are no bones remaining in the tomb.

Fourth, the story is simple. It is told with simple facts. If I am making up stories, I will create some really cool details to make the story interesting. Think about most children's bedtime stories that you make up for your kids. If you want a good legend about the resurrection, go read "the gospel of Peter." It is a fake gospel from around 125 that has some strange details. Roman guards and people from the countryside come to witness the resurrection. Three men come out of the tomb followed by, you guessed it, a talking cross! This is not the story we read about in scripture.

Fifth, the tomb was found by women. If the story were made up, women would not be the first witnesses. Women were much lower in society than men. The men in making the story up would want to come out looking better. This helps validate the events.

THE POWER OF GOD UNTO SALVATION IS NOT IN SIGNS AND MIRACLES, BUT IN THE DEATH, BURIAL, AND RESURRECTION OF CHRIST!

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