

“A Resurrection to Untouchable Joy” John 20:1-18

Verse to remember:

“Therefore you too have grief now; but I will see you again, and your heart will rejoice, and no one will take your joy away from you” (John 16:22).

Prophecies of the death and resurrection of Jesus:

- Jesus died as the substitutionary sacrifice on our behalf according to prophecies of the Messiah written hundreds of years prior. He died according to the details and purpose described in Isaiah 53, the method described in Psalm 22, the location described in Genesis 22:1-18, and the timing described in Daniel 9:20-27.
- The resurrection of Jesus was foreseen in Isaiah 53:11 and Psalm 16:10.

Some reasons to trust in the resurrection of Jesus:

- Besides the amazing prophecies that point to the death and resurrection of Jesus, there is the fact of the empty tomb. Had there been a body, those opposed to Jesus would have produced it and squashed any claims of his resurrection.
- God built analogies of resurrection into this world so that we could understand that it could be possible – like a dead seed that brings life (John 12:24) or a chrysalis that transforms a caterpillar into a butterfly.
- Mary Magdalene would have been viewed as an untrustworthy witness at the time. That she is recorded as the first witness to the resurrected Jesus, means that this was not a made-up story, but actual history.
- Jesus’ disciples were also witnesses to the resurrection, and they proclaimed the resurrection even though it meant suffering and death. People don’t die for a lie if they know it is a lie. The disciples would have known whether the resurrection was true or not. If it was not true, they would have recanted in the face of suffering and threats of death. They didn’t recant; they knew it was a truth worth their very lives.

We can have untouchable joy, because the resurrection means...

1. Forgiveness of sins

- Without the resurrection we would still be in our sin. 1 Corinthians 15:17 says, “If Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.” But if we believe in the resurrected Jesus, we are forgiven (Romans 10:9).

2. Freedom from sin

- We are no longer bound by sin or any other thing. We can be united with Christ in his death and resurrection, and walk in a newness of life (Romans 6:4-7; 8:11).

3. Forever with God in resurrected bodies

- Christ was the first. The resurrection of believers is coming next (1 Cor 15:20-23).