The Resurrection of Jesus – The Most Important Moment in Christian History

Resurrection Appearances

1. Matthew 28.1-15; Mark 16.1-8; Luke 24.1-49; John 20.1-21.25)
2. The earliest Christian statement about the resurrection of Jesus (1 Corinthians 15.3-8). Scholars date this creed to within 5 years of the actual death of Jesus.
    a. [3] For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received,
    b. that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,
    c. [4] and that He was buried,
    d. and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,
    e. [5] and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.
    f. [6] After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep;
    g. [7] then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles;
    h. [8] and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also.
3. Proving that Jesus was resurrected
    a. For a thorough teaching on why we can have confidence that Jesus was raised, from a historical perspective, can be listened to for free by going to this web page kingdomready.org/blog/2007/07/19/jesus-resurrection-proved/
    b. Here is a summary of the reasons why Jesus was raised from the dead (by William Lane Craig from his article *The Resurrection of Jesus*)
        i. FACT #1: *the honorable burial*: After his crucifixion, Jesus was buried in a tomb by Joseph of Arimathea. This fact is highly significant because it means that the location of Jesus' burial site was known to Jew and Christian alike. In that case, the disciples could never have proclaimed his resurrection in Jerusalem if the tomb had not been empty.
        ii. FACT #2: *the empty tomb*: On the Sunday following the crucifixion, Jesus' tomb was found empty by a group of his women followers.
        iii. FACT #3: *resurrection appearances*: On multiple occasions and under various circumstances, different individuals and groups of people experienced appearances of Jesus alive from the dead.
        iv. FACT #4: *origin of the Christian belief in Jesus' resurrection*: The original disciples believed that Jesus was risen from the dead despite their having every predisposition to the contrary.

Resurrection in Judaism

1. Psalm 16.8-10; 17.13-15; 49.12-15: hints of awaking/being redeemed from the grave
2. Isaiah 25.6-9: messianic banquet
3. Ezekiel 37.1-14: valley of dry bones

4. Daniel 12.2: those sleeping in dust will awake to לְחַיֵּי עוֹלָם (*lu-hayey olam*) the life of the age
5. all of these references point towards a general resurrection at the end of the age, not the resurrection of one person before the end (with the possible exception of Psalm 16.8-10)

How the Christians thought about Jesus' Resurrection

1. **Vindication of Jesus as sent by God**: if God raised Jesus then that vindicates the words of Jesus as being approved by God (Acts 2.23-24; 4.10; 5.30; 10.39-40; 13.29-30)
2. **Proof that Jesus is the Messiah**: this proves that Jesus is the Son of God, the Christ, our Lord (Romans 1.1-4), the Man who will come to judge the living and the dead (Acts 17.30-32)
3. **If he is raised, we will be raised**: if God has reached into the middle of history to resurrect, that is proof that God will resurrect the righteous at the end of the age (1 Cor 15.20-23; Romans 8.11; 1 Corinthians 6.14; 2 Corinthians 4.14)
4. **Salvation implications**: he was raised for our justification (just as Jesus was delivered over because of our sins he was raised for our justification/salvation) (Romans 4.24-25; 10.9), in fact we were raised with him (Ephesians 2.6; Colossians 2.11)
5. **Moral implications**: Jesus' resurrection is something for us to identify with and spiritually experience by "dying" to sin and being "resurrected" to live for God (Romans 6.3-11; Philippians 3.10-11; Colossians 3.1; 1 Peter 3.21)
6. **If no resurrection then give up**: If Jesus was not raised then our faith is vain and we are to be pitied (1 Corinthians 15.12-19); if Christ is not raised, then let's live it up (1 Corinthians 15.32)