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The Magnitude Of The Resurrection

Matthew 28:1-6 - *Early on Sunday morning, as the new day was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went out to visit the tomb. ² Suddenly there was a great earthquake! For an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled aside the stone, and sat on it. ³ His face shone like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow. ⁴ The guards shook with fear when they saw him, and they fell into a dead faint. ⁵ Then the angel spoke to the women. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶ He isn't here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying.*

The Stone Wasn't Rolled Away To Let Jesus Out, But For Others To See That Jesus Had Truly Risen From The Dead

Matthew 20:17-19 - *As Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside privately and told them what was going to happen to him. ¹⁸ "Listen," he said, "we're going up to Jerusalem, where the Son of Man will be betrayed to the leading priests and the teachers of religious law. They will sentence him to die. ¹⁹ Then they will hand him over to the Romans to be mocked, flogged with a whip, and crucified. But on the third day he will be raised from the dead."*

What We Believe About This Life And The Afterlife Depends On What Jesus Did With Death

1 Corinthians 15:1-8 - *Let me now remind you, dear brothers and sisters, of the Good News I preached to you before. You welcomed it then, and you still stand firm in it. ² It is this Good News that saves you if you continue to believe the message I told you—unless, of course, you believed something that was never true in the first place. ³ I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. ⁴ He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. ⁵ He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve. ⁶ After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷ Then he was seen by James and later by all the apostles. ⁸ Last of all, as though I had been born at the wrong time, I also saw him.*

Paul's Radical Change In His Life Was Enough Evidence That The Lord Had Truly Been Raised From The Dead

1 Timothy 1:16 - *But God had mercy on me so that Christ Jesus could use me as a prime example of his great patience with even the worst sinners. Then others will realize that they, too, can believe in him and receive eternal life.*

Easter Reminds Us Of The Message We Believed And Our Need To Hold Firmly To It

1. Christ Died For Our Sins.

Psalms 16:8-11 - *I know the LORD is always with me. I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me. ⁹ No wonder my heart is glad, and I rejoice. My body rests in safety. ¹⁰ For you will not leave my soul among the dead or allow your holy one to rot in the grave.*

Isaiah 53:5-6 - *But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. ⁶ All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the LORD laid on him the sins of us all.*

2. He Was Buried.

3. He Was Raised On The Third Day.

Matthew 12:40 - *For as Jonah was in the belly of the great fish for three days and three nights, so will the Son of Man be in the heart of the earth for three days and three nights.*

Romans 4:25 - *He was handed over to die because of our sins, and he was raised to life to make us right with God.*

1) His Death Was Real.

2) Darkness Had Been Conquered.

3) Christ Rose From The Grave.

Isaiah 53:11 - *When he sees all that is accomplished by his anguish, he will be satisfied. And because of his experience, my righteous servant will make it possible for many to be counted righteous, for he will bear all their sins.*