

JESUS—The Story Continues

April 26, 2015 Various Texts by Bob Branch
Exploring The Foundations of Our Faith, Part 3

MAIN IDEA: The atoning death of Jesus on the cross was not the end of the story! He lives *and* His story envelops us as it continues! (**Apostles' Creed**)

The third day he rose again from the dead.

RAISED... Resurrection:

Rez was very public truth.

- 1) The tomb was empty
- 2) Eyewitnesses... died defending it!
- 3) The rapid expansion of the church;
- 4) Christians claim to have known Him!

What is the significance of the Resurrection?

- It marked Jesus out as the Son of God.

"He was shown to be the Son of God when he was raised from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit. He is Jesus Christ our Lord." **Romans 1:4** NLT

- It demonstrated victory over death.

"But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him." **Acts 2:24**

- It guaranteed the believer's forgiveness and justification and our own future resurrection.

"He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification." **Romans 4:25** (1 Cor. 15:17-18)

- It brings us into the reality of the resurrection now.

"We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." **Romans 6:4** (Eph. 2:5-6; 1:18-21)

He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty

REIGNING... Ascension

To Heaven: "where God lives." (Acts 1:3, 6-11)

Ascended: "Jesus the Savior Reigns!"

"he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet."
1 Corinthians 15:25

Ascension is about the victory of Jesus.

- **He is interceding for you;** you have an **Advocate** in the Father's presence! (Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25; 9:24; 1 John 2:1)
- **You can enjoy hidden life of fellowship with Jesus and Father now.** Can't be separated. (READ Romans 8:31-39)
- **Victory has intruded into life's defeat,** and ultimate victory is assured! (Rev. 17:14)

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

RETURNING & RECKONING... Return & Judgment:

He will come...

"For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done." **Matthew 16:27**

(Mat. 24:4-5; 11; 23-27, 30-31; 24:36-39; 24:40-44; 25:1-13, 31-46; Luke 12:37-38, 40; 17:28-30; 21:34-36; Mark 8:38; John 14:1-3)

To Judge the living and the dead...

"Day of the Lord"

Part of the Good News: Acts 10:39-43 (Rev. 19:11,15-16)

- **For Oppressed, Judge is great comfort.** (Ps. 98:9; 96:10)
- **For All, it is a sobering sense of accountability.** (2 Cor. 5:10; Mat. 12:36; Heb. 4:13; 1 Pet. 4:5)
- **God's justice will be complete at his return, but he is still bringing judgment on sin, satan and evil.** (John 9:39; Acts 5:1-11; 1 Cor. 11:29-30; Heb. 10:30-31; Rev. 2-3)