

The Reason For Our Hope

TEXT: 1 Pet. 3:15

INTRODUCTION:

- A. WE MUST BE READY ALWAYS TO DEFEND OUR FAITH.
 - 1. The focal point of the Christian's hope is the resurrection from the dead.
 - 2. This hope springs from the resurrection of Jesus from the dead(**1:3**).
 - 3. If Jesus was not raised from the dead bodily, then we have no hope of a resurrection from the dead for ourselves at the end of time(**1 Cor. 15:19**).
- B. IN THIS LESSON WE WANT TO CONSIDER PETER'S TESTIMONY CONCERNING THE RESURRECTION(**Acts 2:22-36**).

I. PETER'S PROPOSITION.

- A. JESUS WAS APPROVED OF GOD BY THINGS HE DID IN JESUS(**vs. 22**).
 - 1. Nicodemus' statement(**John 3:1-2**).
 - 2. The blind man(**John 9:30-33**).
 - 3. The raising of Lazarus(**John 11:39-44**).
 - 4. **John 20:30-31**.
- B. THE CRUCIFIXION WAS A PART OF GOD'S PLAN(**vs. 23**).
 - 1. Known from before the world(**1 Pet. 1:18-20**).
 - 2. His eternal purpose, all things summed up in this(**Eph. 7-10, 3:11**).
 - 3. His death was according to the prophets (**Luke 18:31-34; Isa. 53**).
- C. BUT GOD RAISED HIM UP(**vs. 24**).
 - 1. The implications(**vs. 33-36**).
 - 2. In the resurrection lay the Hope of Israel(**Acts 24:15; 26:6-8, 22-23; 24:28**).
 - 2. The rest of Peter's remarks are his testimony.

II. PETER APPEALS TO THE PROPHETS(vs. 25-31).

- A. THE PROPHETS APPEALED TO(**Psa. 16:8-11; 2 Sam. 7:12-13**).
- B. THE JEWS BELIEVED THE PROPHETS & SEARCHED THEM(**John 5:39**).
- C. PAUL APPEALED TO THE PROPHETS(**Acts 17:2; 26:27**).
- D. REACTION OF THE JEWS(**John 5:39-40, 45-47**), AGRIPPA(**Acts 26:28**).

II. THE EVIDENCE OF THE EMPTY TOMB(vs. 29).

- A. "THE DISCIPLES STOLE THE BODY."(**2 Corinthians 4:7-10**).
- B. "THE JEWS OR ROMANS MOVED THE BODY."(**Acts 4:13-18**).
- C. "THE MOURNERS WENT TO THE WRONG TOMB."
- D. "THE SWOON THEORY." 18th CENTURY.
 - 1. Both friends and enemies certain He was dead. THE SPEAR!
 - 2. Conditions in the tomb would have killed a man in his supposed condition.
- E. THE ONLY POSSIBLE EXPLANATION FOR THE EMPTY TOMB IS THAT JESUS REALLY WAS RAISED FROM THE DEAD.

III. THE EYEWITNESSES(vs. 32).

- A. THEY WERE EITHER LYING(**2 Cor. 4:7-14**).
- B. MISTAKEN.
 - 1. These appearances took place over a period of 40 days with a great deal of

variety as to time and place. 10 distinct appearances.

2. Appeared to both groups and individuals. 500 at one time.
3. They were convinced - they gave their lives(**1 Cor. 15:5-8**).

C. **SUFFERED FROM HALLUCINATIONS.**

1. The disciples were skeptical, persuaded against their wills that Jesus arose. Mary went to anoint a dead body. She thought that Jesus was a gardener.
2. The others refused to believe her story (**Luke 24:10-11; Mark 16:9-14**).
3. The disciples thought Jesus was a ghost at first(**Luke24:36-43**).
4. Thomas was an honest unbeliever, he had to see to believe(**John 20:24-29**).

D. **THEY WERE TELLING THE TRUTH(**1 John 1:1-4; 2 Pet. 1:16**).**

IV. "THIS, WHICH YE SEE AND HEAR"(vs. 33).

A. **WHAT WAS Poured FORTH WAS EVIDENCE THAT JESUS HAD RECEIVED SOMETHING ELSE - THE PROMISE MADE TO HIM.**

1. His exaltation(**Psa. 110:1**).
2. The resurrection - Promised by David and other prophets(**vs. 25-31**).

B. **WHAT WAS Poured FORTH(**Acts 2:1-4**).** What they saw and heard.

CONCLUSION: THE REASON FOR OUR HOPE IS THE UNDENIABLE EVIDENCE OF THE RESURRECTION.