

DEAD PROPHETS AND THE LIVING CHRIST

Introduction:

1. Throughout history, countless religious leaders and founders have appeared, each claiming to reveal truth and lead people to God.
2. Men such as Buddha, Confucius, Muhammad, Joseph Smith, and many others gathered large followings, but all of them died and remain in their graves.
3. In contrast, Jesus Christ also died, but He rose from the dead and lives forever, setting Him apart from every other religious figure.

1. The Contrast Between Dead Prophets And The Living Christ:

- a. All other religious leaders are dead and remain in their graves (**Hebrews 9:27**):
 - 1) Buddha died around 400 B.C. and was cremated.
 - 2) Confucius died in 479 B.C. and his grave remains in Qufu, China.
 - 3) Muhammad died in A.D. 632 and is buried in Medina.
- b. Christ died but conquered death by rising from the grave (**Matthew 28:5-6**):
 - 1) He foretold His death and resurrection (**Matthew 16:21**).
 - 2) The guards could not prevent His resurrection (**Matthew 27:62-66; 28:11-15**).
 - 3) The resurrection was witnessed by many (**1 Corinthians 15:3-8**).
- c. The empty tomb stands as eternal evidence that Christ is alive (**John 20:1-8**):
 - 1) The stone was rolled away, not to let Him out, but to let witnesses in.
 - 2) The grave clothes were left behind, undisturbed, as a testimony (**John 20:6-7**).
 - 3) No one has ever produced His body because He is risen (**Acts 2:31-32**).



Jesus' Sealed Tomb

2. What The Resurrection Of Christ Proves:

- a. It proves that Jesus is the Son of God with power (**Romans 1:4**):
 - 1) His miracles testified of His identity (**John 20:30-31**).
 - 2) The resurrection confirmed that He is exactly who He claimed to be (**John 11:25-26**).
 - 3) God's approval of Him is seen in raising Him from the dead (**Acts 13:32-33**).
- b. It proves that His sacrifice for sin was accepted by God (**Hebrews 10:12-14**):
 - 1) His blood was offered once for all (**Hebrews 9:11-12**).
 - 2) The veil of the temple was torn, signifying access to God (**Matthew 27:51**).
 - 3) No further sacrifice is needed (**Hebrews 10:18**).
- c. It proves that His teachings and claims are true and trustworthy (**John 14:6**):
 - 1) He claimed to be the only way to God (**John 14:6**).
 - 2) His resurrection validates every word He spoke (**Matthew 24:35**).
 - 3) His promise of eternal life is certain (**John 5:28-29**).



Jesus' Resurrection

3. The Present Ministry Of The Risen Christ And Its Meaning For Us:

- a. He is seated at the right hand of God, reigning with authority (**Hebrews 1:3**):
 - 1) All authority is given unto Him (**Matthew 28:18**).
 - 2) He rules His kingdom now (**Colossians 1:13**).
 - 3) He awaits the final victory when all enemies are subdued (**1 Corinthians 15:24-25**).
- b. He intercedes for His people as our High Priest (**Hebrews 7:25**):
 - 1) He understands our struggles (**Hebrews 4:15**).
 - 2) He pleads our case before the Father (**1 John 2:1**).
 - 3) His intercession provides ongoing forgiveness (**1 John 1:7-9**).
- c. He gives hope, assurance, and confidence to His followers today (**1 Peter 1:3-5**):
 - 1) Because He lives, we have a living hope.
 - 2) His resurrection guarantees our own resurrection (**1 Corinthians 15:20-23**).
 - 3) We can live with confidence, knowing He reigns forever (**Revelation 1:17-18**).

Conclusion:

- 1. The founders of every other religion have died and remain in their graves; only Jesus Christ has triumphed over death.
- 2. His resurrection proves His divine identity, validates His sacrifice, and confirms the truth of His message.
- 3. As Christians, we serve a living Savior who reigns, intercedes, and offers us eternal hope.

Applications:

- 1. Because Christ is alive, our faith is not based on human tradition or philosophy, but on a living relationship with the risen Lord who continues to guide, strengthen, and sustain His people (**Colossians 2:6-8**).
- 2. Since Christ reigns at the right hand of God and intercedes for us, we can approach God with confidence, knowing that our prayers are heard and our sins are forgiven through His continual advocacy (**Hebrews 4:14-16**).
- 3. The assurance of Christ's resurrection gives us courage to face trials, persecution, and even death, knowing that our future is secure and that we too shall be raised to eternal life (**2 Corinthians 4:14-18**).

Questions:

- 1. Who are some of the religious leaders that have founded other religions but remain dead?
- 2. What makes Jesus Christ unique compared to all other religious leaders?
- 3. What does the resurrection prove about Jesus' identity?
- 4. How does the resurrection show that God accepted His sacrifice for sin?
- 5. What is Jesus doing now since His ascension?
- 6. How does the empty tomb serve as evidence for the resurrection?
- 7. What hope does Christ's resurrection give to Christians today?

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Questions And Answers:

1. Who are some of the religious leaders that have founded other religions but remain dead?

Answer: Buddha, Confucius, Muhammad, Joseph Smith, and many others.

2. What makes Jesus Christ unique compared to all other religious leaders?

Answer: Jesus died but rose from the dead and lives forever, proving His divine authority and power over death (**Matthew 28:5-6**).

3. What does the resurrection prove about Jesus' identity?

Answer: It proves that He is the Son of God with power (**Romans 1:4**).

4. How does the resurrection show that God accepted His sacrifice for sin?

Answer: His resurrection demonstrates that His one offering for sins was sufficient, final, and fully accepted by God (**Hebrews 10:12-14**).

5. What is Jesus doing now since His ascension?

Answer: He reigns at the right hand of God with all authority, intercedes for His people, and provides ongoing hope and assurance (**Hebrews 7:25; Matthew 28:18**).

6. How does the empty tomb serve as evidence for the resurrection?

Answer: The stone was rolled away, His grave clothes were left behind, many eyewitnesses saw Him alive, and no one has ever produced His body (**John 20:1-8; 1 Corinthians 15:3-8**).

7. What hope does Christ's resurrection give to Christians today?

Answer: It gives the assurance of eternal life, confidence in God's promises, and the certainty that we too shall be raised to live with Him forever (**1 Peter 1:3-5; 1 Corinthians 15:20-23**).