

He's ALIVE!!!

I went to a psychologist friend and said if 500 people claimed to see Jesus after he died, it was just a hallucination. He said hallucinations are an individual event. If 500 people have the same hallucination, that's a bigger miracle than the resurrection.

-Lee Strobel

Can you imagine what it would have been like to have been a follower of Jesus at the time of His crucifixion... It would have been frightening and devastating to say the very least...

**At that moment the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, rocks split apart,**

**The Roman officer and the other soldiers at the crucifixion were terrified by the earthquake and all that had happened. They said, "This man truly was the Son of God!"**

(Matthew 27:51, 54 NLT)

The prophesied Messiah had finally come... Only to be killed on a Cross instead of becoming their King and freeing them from the Romans as they had thought and hoped...

**And when all the crowd that came to see the crucifixion saw what had happened, they went home in deep sorrow.**

(Luke 23:48 NLT)

Then Sunday came and the miracle of ALL miracles happened... And ALL the despair and disappointment turned into JOY and HOPE...

**Then the angel spoke to the women. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He isn't here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying.**

**The women ran quickly from the tomb. They were very frightened but also filled with great joy, and they rushed to give the disciples the angel's message.**

(Matthew 28:5-6, 8 NLT)

OH... To have been a witness would have been amazing.... Praise God that HE left us with eye witness accounts of what happened...

**So many others have tried their hand at putting together a story of the wonderful harvest of Scripture and history that took place among us, using reports handed down by the original eyewitnesses who served this Word with their very lives. Since I have investigated all the reports in close detail, starting from the story's beginning, I decided to write it all out for you, most honorable Theophilus, so you can know beyond the shadow of a doubt the reliability of what you were taught.**

(Luke 1:1-4 MSG)

So that we may share in the excitement and bewilderment of the resurrection of Christ... So we may hear His thoughts... Words... AND reassurance for ourselves...

**But the story sounded like nonsense to the men, so they didn't believe it.**

(Luke 24:11 NLT)

**Jesus words to them and US:**

**"You foolish people! You find it so hard to believe all that the prophets wrote in the Scriptures.**

**Wasn't it clearly predicted that the Messiah would have to suffer all these things before entering his glory?"** (Luke 24:25-26 NLT)

So we may be filled with HOPE now TODAY... Just as they were almost 2000 years ago... Hope for a future and a NEW LIFE... In HIM....

**What a God we have! And how fortunate we are to have him, this Father of our Master Jesus! Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we've been given a brand-new life and have everything to live for, including a future in heaven—and the future starts now! God is keeping careful watch over us and the future. The Day is coming when you'll have it all—life healed and whole.**

(1 Peter 1:3-5 MSG)

When Christ ROSE from the DEAD...

We ROSE right along with HIM...

He conquered death FOR US...

**My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.**

(Galatians 2:20 NLT)

My prayer for us today is that we Give Thanks For this UNDESERVED New Life we have been given through Christ... May we handle it with care... And live it the way HE desires...

ALL FOR HIS GLORY!!!!

**May we feel like Paul:**

**The first thing I did was place before you what was placed so emphatically before me: that the Messiah died for our sins, exactly as Scripture tells it; that he was buried; that he was raised from death on the third day, again exactly as Scripture says; that he presented himself alive to Peter, then to his closest followers, and later to more than five hundred of his followers all at the same time, most of them still around (although a few have since died); that he then spent time with James and the rest of those he commissioned to represent him; and that he finally presented himself alive to me (us) It was fitting that I (we) bring up the rear. I (we) don't deserve to be included in that inner circle, as you well know....**

(1 Corinthians 15:3-9 MSG)

BUT..... We ARE..... AMEN!!

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